VIRGINIA, 2013-2014

Size
Divided into 95 counties and 38 independent cities covering 39,000 square miles

Population
12th most populated state with 8.4 million residents

Race/ethnicity of state population
63% White non-Hispanic, 20% Black, 9% Hispanic or Latino, 7% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3% two or more races

NVDRS participation
Virginia Violent Death Reporting System (VAVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2002; first year of data collection in 2003

A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN VIRGINIA

MANNER OF DEATH

LEGAL INTERVENTION 1%
UNDETERMINED 5%
UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM 1%
SUICIDE 72%
HOMICIDE 21%

SUICIDE METHOD By Sex

SUICIDE AND NON-SUICIDE* FIREARM DEATH RATES By Age and Sex

10-24 YRS
25-44 YRS
45-64 YRS
65+ YRS

TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN VIRGINIA

- Nearly all (94%) violent deaths occurring in Virginia in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in Virginia (N=2211, 72%), occurring 3.4 times more often than homicide (N=656, 21%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=149, 5%), legal intervention (N=28, 1%), and unintentional firearm death (N=18, 1%).

SUICIDE IN VIRGINIA

- State/U.S. comparison. The suicide rate in Virginia was 1% higher than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was tied with North Carolina for the seventh lowest of all NVDRS states.
- Race/ethnicity. Suicide victims were 85% White, 9% Black, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 3% Hispanic, and 1% other/two or more races/unknown.
- Sex. Males accounted for 78% of suicide victims (24.2/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 22% (6.7/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 65+ (32.3/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was highest among those ages 45-64 (9.1/100,000).

* Non-suicide deaths include homicides, legal interventions, unintentional firearm deaths, and undetermined manner (intent) deaths that may have resulted from violence.
SUICIDE METHODS
- Firearms were used in 55% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (22%) and poisoning (15%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for males (60%), and the use of a firearm (36%) and poisoning (36%) were both the most common methods for females. Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (27.0/100,000). (See infographic)

ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS
- Veterans. Twenty-one percent (21%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 44% of victims ages 65+.
- Sexual orientation. Thirty-four (34) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- Homeless status. Fifteen (15) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- Marital status. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of victims were married, 34% were never married, 21% were divorced, 7% were widowed, and 11% had another or unknown marital status.
- Education level. Among victims ages 25+, 39% were a high school or GED graduate, 13% had less than a high school education, 46% had some college or a college degree, and 2% had an unknown education level.

SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES
- In 97% of Virginia’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=2150).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (59%), current or past mental health treatment (54%), history of suicidal thoughts or plans (48%), a recent/imminent crisis (44%), relationship problems (43%), current depressed mood (40%), intimate partner problem (34%), and disclosed suicide intent (31%). A suicide note was left in 39% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.