Suicide in the USA - Based on 2011 Data (2014)

Prevalence:
- In 2011 (the latest year for which we have national statistics), there were 39,518 suicides.
- There are 108.3 suicides per day, one every 13.3 minutes.
- The annual suicide rate is 12.7 per 100,000.
- Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death.

Gender:
- Males complete suicide at a rate 3.74 times that of females. (In 2011, men had a suicide rate of 20.2, and women had a rate of 5.4.)
- However, females attempt suicide three more often than males.
- Of those who died by suicide in 2011, 78.5% were male and 21.5% were female.

Rates Over Time:
- The 2011 suicide rate (12.7) is the highest US rate in 10 years, but still less than many rates in the 1980s.
- Suicides rates steadily decreased from 1980 (12.3/100,000) to 2000 (10.40 per every 100,000).
- However since 2000 to 2011, suicide rates have been gradually rising each year – up to 12.7 per 100,000 in 2011.

Age:
- Suicide rates are highest among those aged 45-54 (19.8 per 100,000 in 2011).
- Elderly adults (aged 85+) have the second highest rates of suicide (16.9 per 100,000 in 2011).
- Youth (ages 15-24) suicide rates increased more than 200% from the 1950’s to the late 1970’s. Between 2000 and 2010, rates have ranged only between 9.7 and 11.00 per 100,000.
- Suicide ranks second as a cause of death among young (15-24) Americans (more suicides than homicides).
- The ratio of suicide attempts to suicide death in youth is estimated to be about 25:1, compared to about 4:1 in the elderly. (AFSP)

State By State:
- Rates of suicide are highest in the Mountain states; The Middle Atlantic states have the lowest rates.
- From 2004-2011, the five states consistently with the top five highest suicide rates have been: (no particular order) Alaska, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. In recent years they have rates of close to 20 per 100,000.
- From 2004-2011, the four states consistently present in the lowest five suicide rates have been: (no particular order) Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. These states have rates below 10 per 100,000.

Method:
- 50.6% of suicides in 2011 used firearms.
- 25.1% of suicides in 2011 used suffocation/hanging.
- Poisoning at 16.6%.
- Male’s method of choice is most often firearms; female’s is most often poisoning.
**Race:**

- White Suicides account for 90.5% of the suicides in 2011.
- Caucasians (14.5 per 100,000) have higher rates of completed suicides than Asian/Pacific Islanders (5.9 per 100,000), African Americans (5.3 per 100,000) or Hispanics (5.2 per 100,000).
- American-Indian/Alaskan Native women aged 15-24 have the highest suicide rate compared to all racial/ethnic groups.

**Cost:**

- Suicide results in an estimated $34.6 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.

**Attempts:**

- Although there are no official national statistics on attempted suicide, it is estimated that there are 25 attempts for each death by suicide.
- Ratios of attempted to completed suicides for youth are estimated to range between 100-200 to 1.

**References:**


https://www.afsp.org/understanding-suicide/facts-and-figures