Overview

- In 2012, 2,357 African Americans completed suicide in the U.S. Of these, 1,908 (80.95%) were males (rate of 9.23 per 100,000). The suicide rate for females was 1.99 per 100,000. The overall rate was 5.46 per 100,000.

- The suicide rate for African Americans ages 10-19 was 2.98 per 100,000.

- For African American youth (aged 10-19), the rate of male suicides (4.42 per 100,000) was 3.08 times higher than that of females (1.49 per 100,000).

- Males accounted for 89.1% of African American elderly (65 and older) suicides. Whereas, males accounted for 83.8% of Caucasian elderly suicides.

- Firearms were the predominant method of suicide among African Americans regardless of gender or age, accounting for 48.45% of all suicides. Suffocation was the second most commonly used method (26.69%).

- From 1993 to 2002, the rate of suicide for African Americans (all ages) showed a small but steady decline. In 2002, the rate has remained fairly flat, varying only between 4.9 and 5.25 per 100,000 annually.