Overview

• In 2012 (the latest year for which we have national statistics), there were 40,600 suicides.

• There are 110.9 suicides per day, one every 13 minutes.

• The annual suicide rate is 12.9 per 100,000.

• Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death.

Rates Over Time

• The 2012 suicide rate (12.9) 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 2012, suicide rates have been gradually rising each year – up to 12.9 per 100,000 in 2012.

Rates Over Time

• Rates of suicide are highest in the Mountain states; The Northeastern Atlantic States have the lowest.

• From 2004-2012, 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 2004-2012, 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.

Gender

• Males complete suicide at a rate 3.6 times that of females. (In 2012, men had a suicide rate of 20.57, and women had a rate of 5.53.)

Age

• Suicide rates are highest among those aged 45-54 (20 per 100,000 in 2012).
Age (continued)
- Adults (aged 55-64) have the second highest rates of suicide (18 per 100,000 in 2012).
- 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)

Method
- 50.9% of suicides in 2012 used firearms.
- 24.8% of suicides in 2012 used suffocation.
- Poisoning at 16.6%.
- Male’s method of choice is most often firearms; female’s is most often poisoning.

Race
- Caucasian Suicides account for 90.2% of all suicides in 2012.
- Caucasians (14.75 per 100,000) have higher rates of completed suicides than Asian/Pacific Islanders (6.36 per 100,000), African Americans (5.46 per 100,000) or Hispanics (5.36 per 100,000)

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.

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

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