

Suicide

Facts At A Glance

SUMMER 2007

Fatal Suicidal Behavior

In 2004:

- Suicide was the eleventh leading cause of death for all ages (CDC 2005).
- Suicides accounted for 1.4% of all deaths in the U.S. (CDC 2005).
- More than 32,000 suicides occurred in the U.S. This is the equivalent of 89 suicides per day; one suicide every 16 minutes or 11.05 suicides per 100,000 population (CDC 2005).
- The National Violent Death Reporting System examined toxicology tests of those who committed suicide in 13 states: 33.3% tested positive for alcohol; 16.4% for opiates; 9.4% for cocaine; 7.7% for marijuana; and 3.9% for amphetamines (Karch et al. 2006).

Nonfatal Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

- Among young adults ages 15 to 24 years old, there is 1 suicide for every 100-200 attempts (Goldsmith et al. 2002).
- Among adults ages 65 years and older, there is 1 suicide for every 4 suicide attempts (Goldsmith et al. 2002).
- In 2005, 16.9% of U.S. high school students reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey. More than 8% of students reported that they had actually attempted suicide one or more times during the same period (Eaton et al. 2006).

Gender Disparities

- Males take their own lives at nearly four times the rate of females and represent 78.8% of all U.S. suicides (CDC 2005).
- During their lifetime, women attempt suicide about two to three times as often as men (Krug et al. 2002).
- Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for males and the sixteenth leading cause for females (CDC 2005).
- Among males, adults ages 75 years and older have the highest rate of suicide (rate 37.4 per 100,000 population) (CDC 2005).
- Among females, those in their 40s and 50s have the highest rate of suicide (rate 8.0 per 100,000 population) (CDC 2005).
- Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males (56.8%) (CDC 2005).
- Poisoning is the most common method of suicide for females (37.8%) (CDC 2005).

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Among American Indians/Alaska Natives ages 15- to 34-years, suicide is the second leading cause of death (CDC 2005).
- Suicide rates among American Indian/Alaskan Native adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 34 (21.4 per 100,000) are 1.9 times higher than the national average for that age group (11.5 per 100,000). (CDC 2005).
- Hispanic female high school students in grades 9-12 reported a higher percentage of suicide attempts (14.9%) than their White, non-Hispanic (9.3%) or Black, non-Hispanic (9.8%) counterparts. (Eaton et al. 2006).



Suicide Facts At A Glance

Age Group Differences

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 25-34 year olds and the third leading cause of death among 15- and 24-year olds (CDC 2005).
- Among 15- to 24-year olds, suicide accounts for 12.9% of all deaths annually (CDC 2005).
- The rate of suicide for adults aged 65 years and older was 14.3 per 100,000 (CDC 2005).

Nonfatal, Self-Inflicted Injuries*

- In 2005, 372,722 people were treated in emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries (McCaig 2006).
- In 2005, 154,598 people were hospitalized due to self-inflicted injury (CDC 2005).
- There is one suicide for every 25 attempted suicides (Goldsmith et al. 2002).

Suicide-Related Behaviors among U.S. High School Students

In 2005:

- 16.9% of students, grade 9-12, seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months (21.8% of females and 12.0% of males) (Eaton et al. 2006).
- 8.4% of students reported making at least one suicide attempt in the previous 12 months (10.8% of females and 6.0% of males) (Eaton et al. 2006).
- 2.3% of students reported making at least one suicide attempt in the previous 12 months that required medical attention (2.9% of females and 1.8% of males) (Eaton et al. 2006).

**The term "self-inflicted injuries" refers to suicidal and non-suicidal behaviors such as self-mutilation.*

References

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