
Manner: SUICIDE

Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries with evidence of intent to end one's life. Evidence of intent includes an explicit expression, such as a suicide note or verbal threat, or an act constituting implicit intent, such as deliberately placing a gun to one's head or rigging a vehicle's exhaust. In 2005 there were 233 suicides, accounting for 12% (233/1,945) of the deaths that the King County Medical Examiner's Office investigated.

Firearms were responsible for forty-one percent (96/233) of the 2005 suicide deaths. The number of gunshot suicides (96) in 2005 is one more than in 2004 but less than in 2003 when there were 95 and 101, respectively. Hanging accounted for 18% (42/233) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 9% (22/233). Drugs and poisons accounted for 17% (39/233) of all suicides, while carbon monoxide caused death in 6% (13/233) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons."

Blood alcohol tests were performed in 97% (225/233) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 30% (69/233) of cases tested.

Suicides in the age group 60 years and older represented 22% (50/233) of all suicides in 2005.

Firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for all age groups in 2005.

In 2005, there were seven deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by adults 60 years of age and over. In 2005, as in 2004, there was one suicide attributed to drugs and/or poisons among youths 19 years and younger.

In 2005, there were eight suicides among persons 19 years and younger (3.4% of all suicides, 8/233), which is comparable to 2004 when there were eight suicides in this age group (8/229, 3.5%). Firearms were the primary method of death (50%, 4/8) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger.

Graph 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

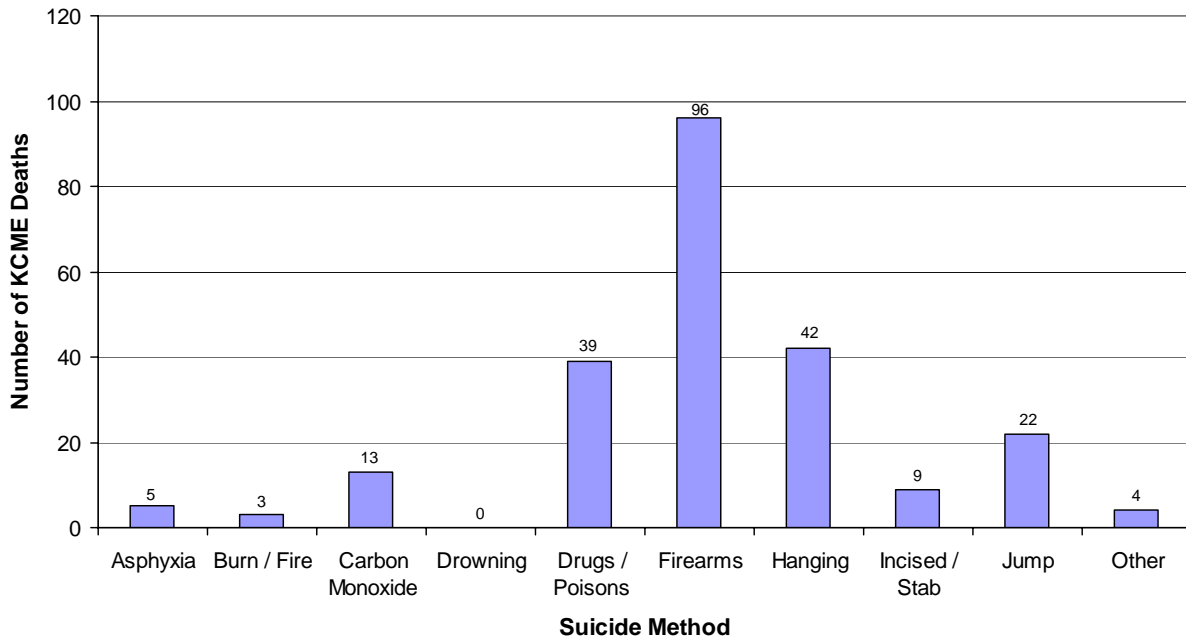
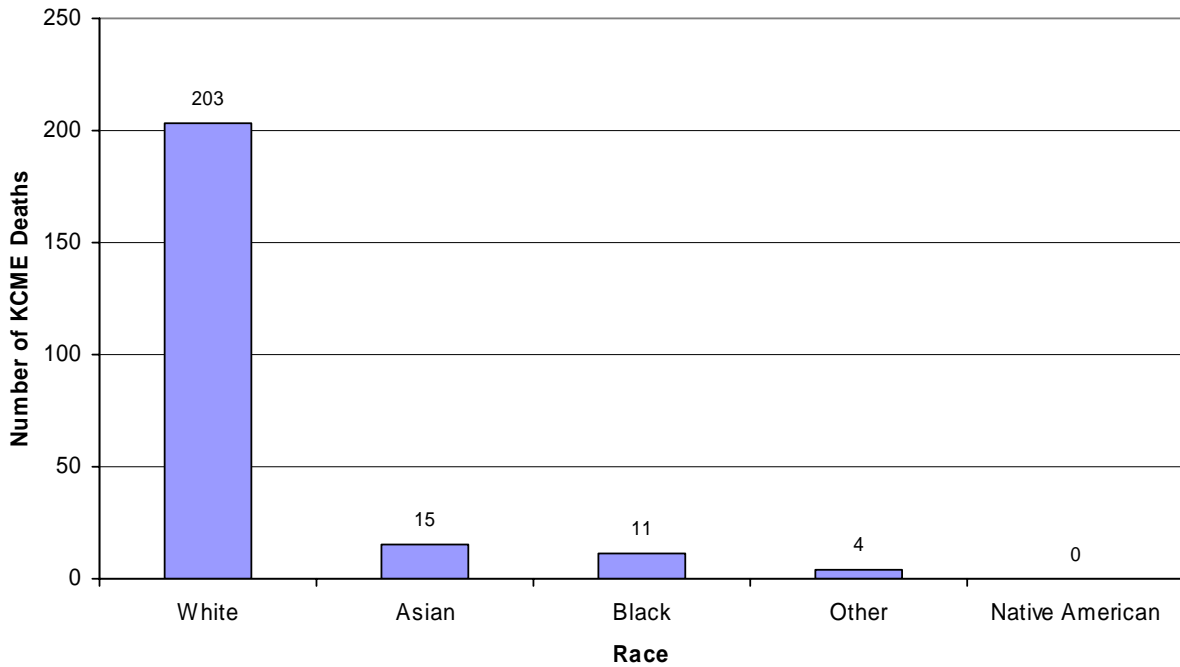


Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHE R		
Asphyxia	5	0	0	0	0		5
<i>Male</i>	4	0	0	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	2	0	0	0	1		3
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	1	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	13	0	0	0	0		13
<i>Male</i>	8	0	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0		0
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs / Poisons	37	1	0	0	1		39
<i>Male</i>	20	1	0	0	1	22	
<i>Female</i>	17	0	0	0	0	17	
Firearms	90	2	3	0	1		96
<i>Male</i>	81	2	3	0	1	87	
<i>Female</i>	9	0	0	0	0	9	
Hanging	31	3	7	0	1		42
<i>Male</i>	27	2	6	0	1	36	
<i>Female</i>	4	1	1	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	7	1	1	0	0		9
<i>Male</i>	7	1	1	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jumping	16	3	3	0	0		22
<i>Male</i>	9	2	2	0	0	13	
<i>Female</i>	7	1	1	0	0	9	
Other	2	1	1	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	1	1	1	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Totals	203	11	15	0	4		233
Percent	87.1%	4.7%	6.5%	0%	1.7%		100%

Graph 6-2 Suicide Deaths / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2005



Graph 6-3 Suicide Deaths / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

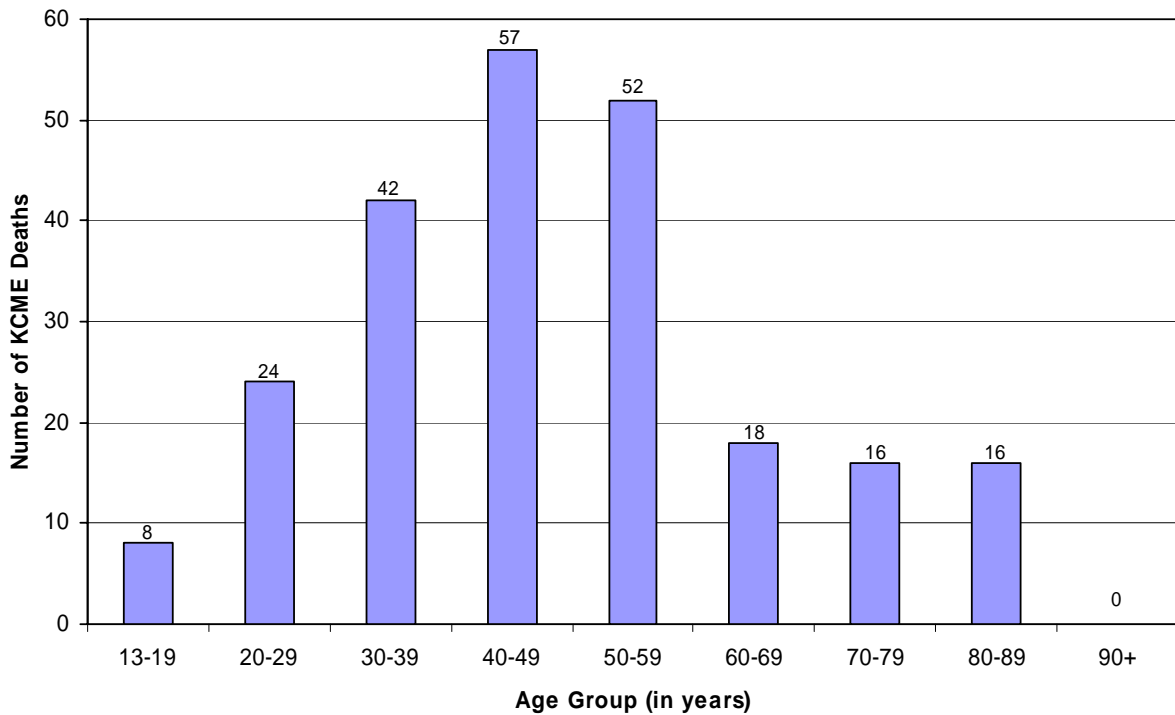


Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

INJURY METHOD/ SEX	AGE GROUP (YEARS)									SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	13 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0		5
<i>Male</i>	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	0	1	2	6	3	1	0	0	0		13
<i>Male</i>	0	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	5	
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs / Poisons	1	2	7	14	8	2	3	2	0		39
<i>Male</i>	1	0	5	9	4	1	2	0	0	22	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	2	5	4	1	1	2	0	17	
Firearms	4	9	12	20	22	6	12	11	0		96
<i>Male</i>	4	9	12	17	19	6	10	10	0	87	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	9	
Hanging	1	8	11	9	6	6	0	1	0		42
<i>Male</i>	1	7	10	6	5	6	0	1	0	36	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	0		9
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jumping	2	3	5	2	7	1	0	2	0		22
<i>Male</i>	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	2	0	13	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	9	
Other	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Totals	8	24	42	57	52	18	16	16	0		233
Percent	3%	10%	18%	25%	22%	8%	7%	7%	0%		100%

Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

INJURY METHOD	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	4	1	5
Burns/ Fire	2	1	3
Carbon Monoxide	8	5	13
Drowning	0	0	0
Drugs / Poisons	22	17	39
Firearms	87	9	96
Hanging	36	6	42
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	9	0	9
Jumping	13	9	22
Other	3	1	4
Totals	184	49	233
Percent	79%	21%	100%

Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods / Marital Status / Sex / KCME / 2005

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	MARITAL STATUS					Sub Total	Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Unknown		
Asphyxia	3	0	0	2	0	5	
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	1	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	0	3	0	0	0	3	
<i>Male</i>	0	2	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	7	3	2	1	0	13	
<i>Male</i>	5	2	1	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	1	1	0	5	
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs / Poisons	18	6	8	5	2	39	
<i>Male</i>	12	4	4	1	1	22	
<i>Female</i>	6	2	4	4	1	17	
Firearms	30	35	24	7	0	96	
<i>Male</i>	29	30	22	6	0	87	
<i>Female</i>	1	5	2	1	0	9	
Hanging	16	11	14	0	1	42	
<i>Male</i>	14	9	12	0	1	36	
<i>Female</i>	2	2	2	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	3	3	3	0	0	9	
<i>Male</i>	3	3	3	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jumping	14	3	4	0	1	22	
<i>Male</i>	9	2	1	0	1	13	
<i>Female</i>	5	1	3	0	0	9	
Other	2	1	0	1	0	4	
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	1	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Totals	93	65	55	16	4	233	
Percent	40%	28%	23%	7%	2%	100%	

Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods / Blood Alcohol / KCME / 2005

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	2	3	0	5
Burns/ Fire	0	3	0	3
Carbon Monoxide	11	2	0	13
Drowning	-	-	-	0
Drugs / Poisons	9	28	2	39
Firearms	35	58	3	96
Hanging	8	33	1	42
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	1	6	2	9
Jumping	3	19	0	22
Other	0	4	0	4
Totals	69	156	8	233
Percent	30%	67%	3%	100%