

SS-32 To Be or Not To Be:  
The Dilemma of Suicide in  
America

## Presenters

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# Suicide Trends and Disparities

## Data from the National Vital Statistics System

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# 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States, 2009

	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Malignant Neoplasms	Homicide	<b>Suicide</b>	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms
3	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	Homicide	Heart Disease	Unintentional Injury	Chronic Lower Resp Disease	Chronic Lower Resp Disease	Chronic Lower Resp Disease
4	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	Unintentional Injury	Cerebrovascular	Cerebrovascular
5	Congenital Anomalies	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Homicide	Liver Disease	Diabetes Mellitus	Alzheimer's Disease	Unintentional Injury
6	Influenza & Pneumonia	Congenital Anomalies	HIV	Liver Disease	Cerebrovascular	Cerebrovascular	Diabetes Mellitus	Alzheimer's Disease
7	Heart Disease	Influenza & Pneumonia	Influenza & Pneumonia	HIV	Diabetes Mellitus	Liver Disease	Influenza & Pneumonia	Diabetes Mellitus
8	Chronic Lower Resp Disease	Complicated Pregnancy	Diabetes Mellitus	Cerebrovascular	Chronic Lower Resp Disease	<b>Suicide</b>	Nephritis	Influenza & Pneumonia
9	Benign Neoplasms	Cerebrovascular	Cerebrovascular	Diabetes Mellitus	HIV	Nephritis	Unintentional Injury	Nephritis
10	Cerebrovascular	Chronic Lower Resp Disease	Liver Disease	Influenza & Pneumonia	Influenza & Pneumonia	Septicemia	Septicemia	<b>Suicide</b>

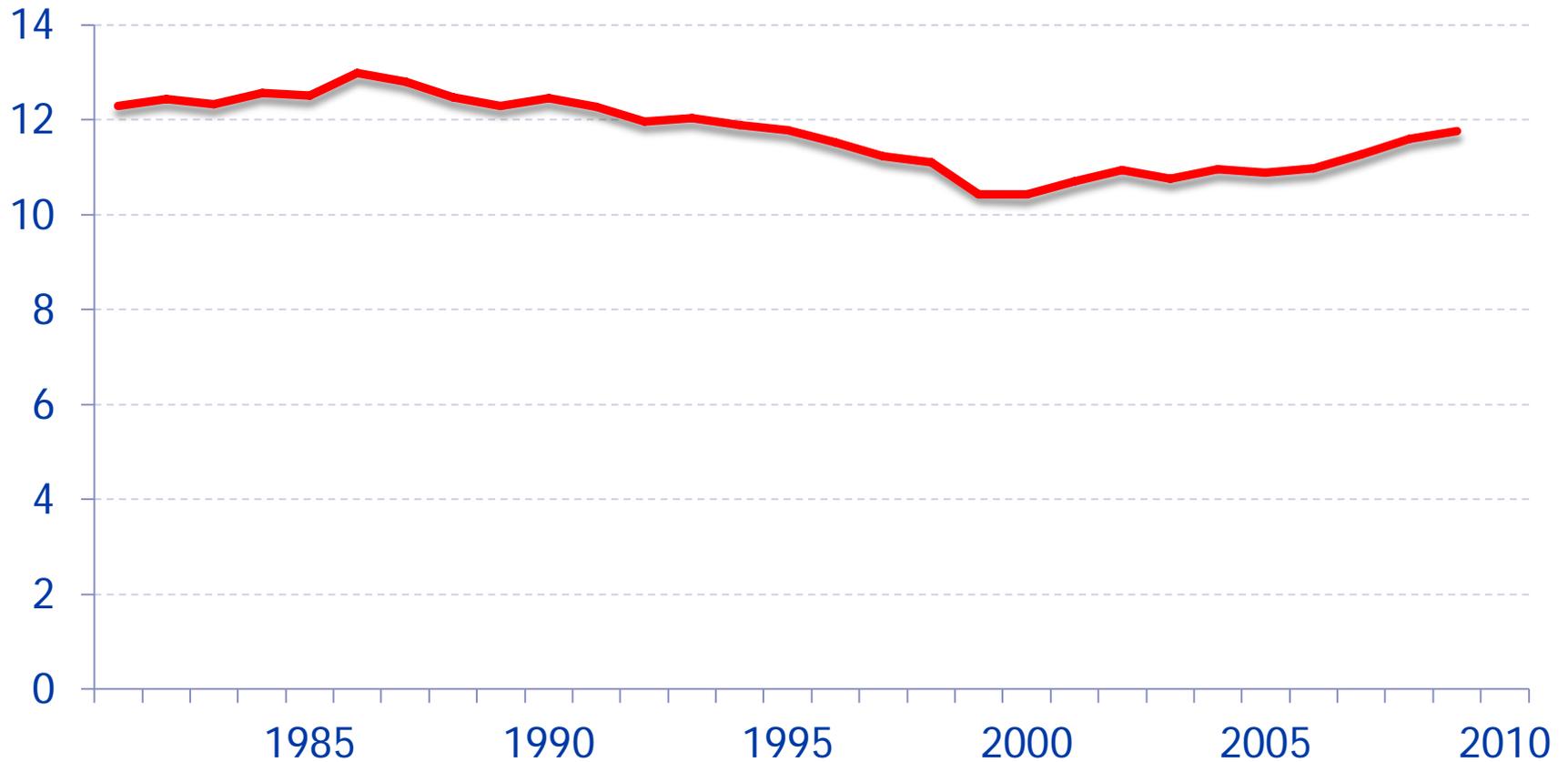
## National Vital Statistics System, Mortality Data (NVSS-MCOD)

- Compiled from information on death certificates
- Includes all resident deaths in US
- Includes age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and other demographic variables
- Death certificate includes section to describe the causal chain of events leading to the death
- Causes of death are coded using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

# Age-adjusted Suicide Rate

## United States, 1981-2009

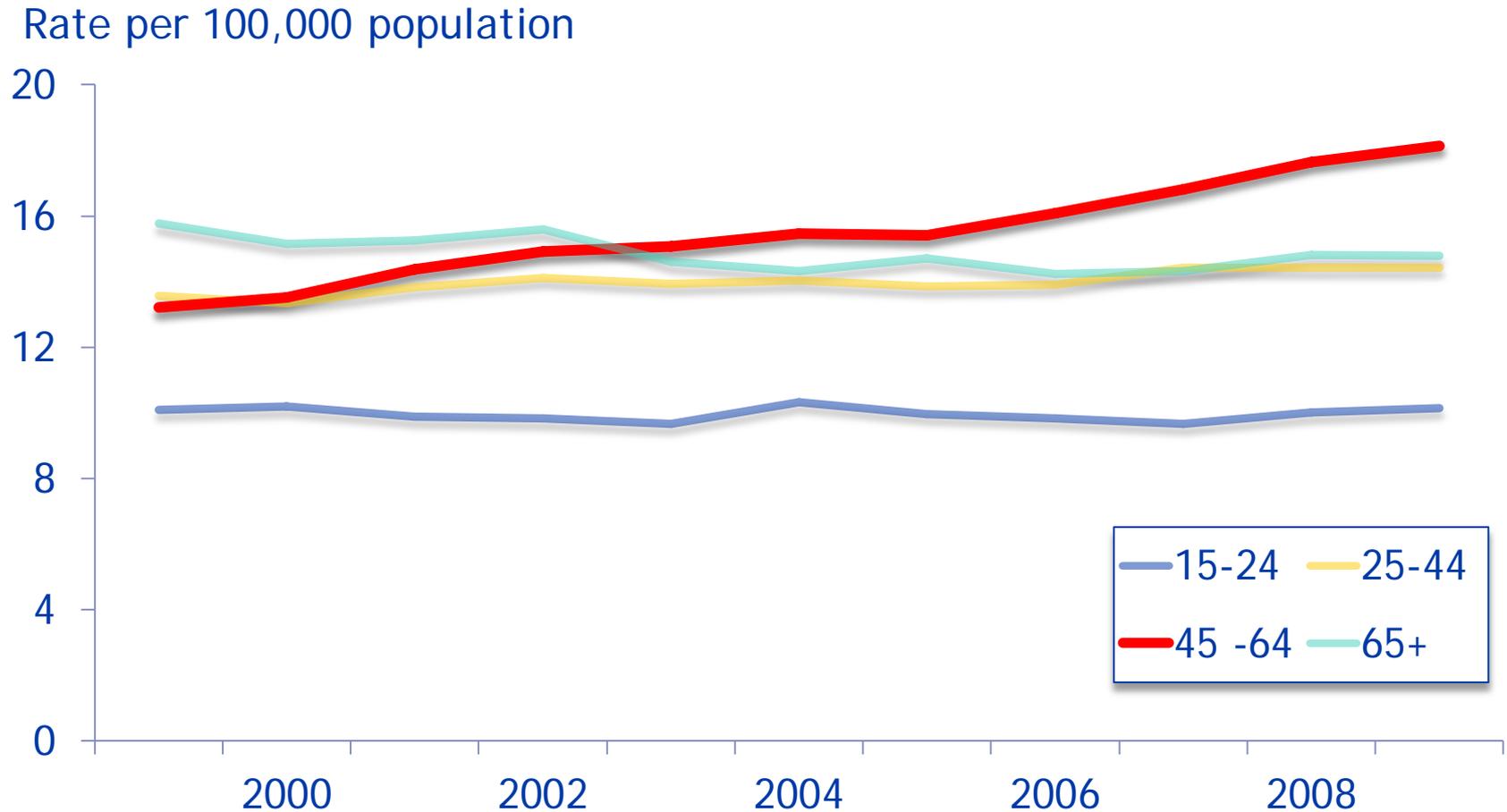
Rate per 100,000 population



Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Suicide Rate, by Age Group

## United States, 1999-2009

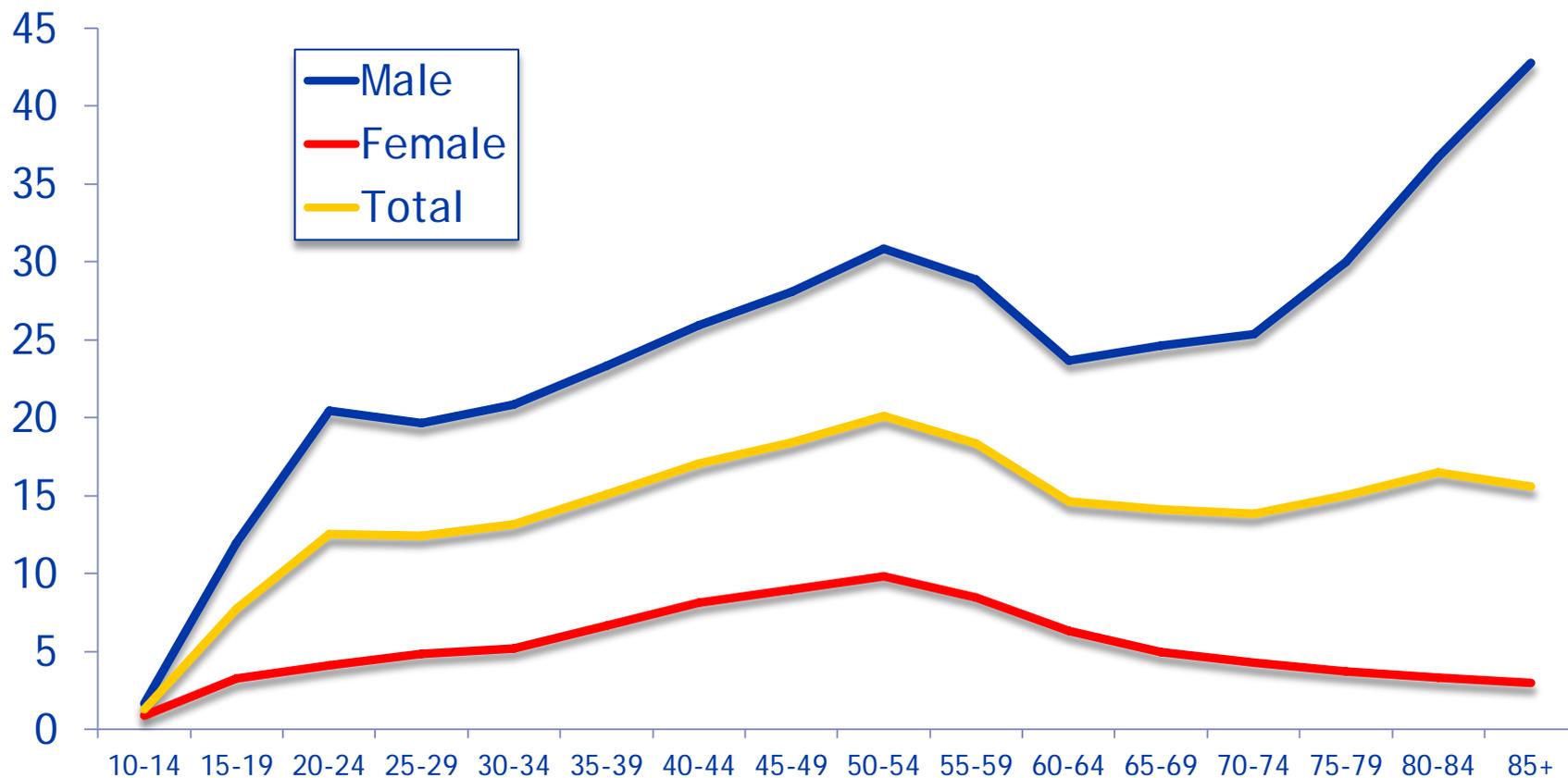


Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Suicide Rate, by Age Group & Sex

## United States, 2009

Rate per 100,000 population



Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Age-adjusted Suicide Rate, by Race/Ethnicity Group United States, 2009

Race/Ethnicity Group	Number of suicides	Age-adjusted rate <sup>+</sup>
White, non-Hispanic	30,813	14.3
Hispanic	2,573	5.9
Black*	2,034	5.3
Asian/Pacific Islander*	934	6.3
American Indian/Alaska Native *	407	15.0
Unknown	148	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,909</b>	<b>11.8</b>

\*Non-Hispanic

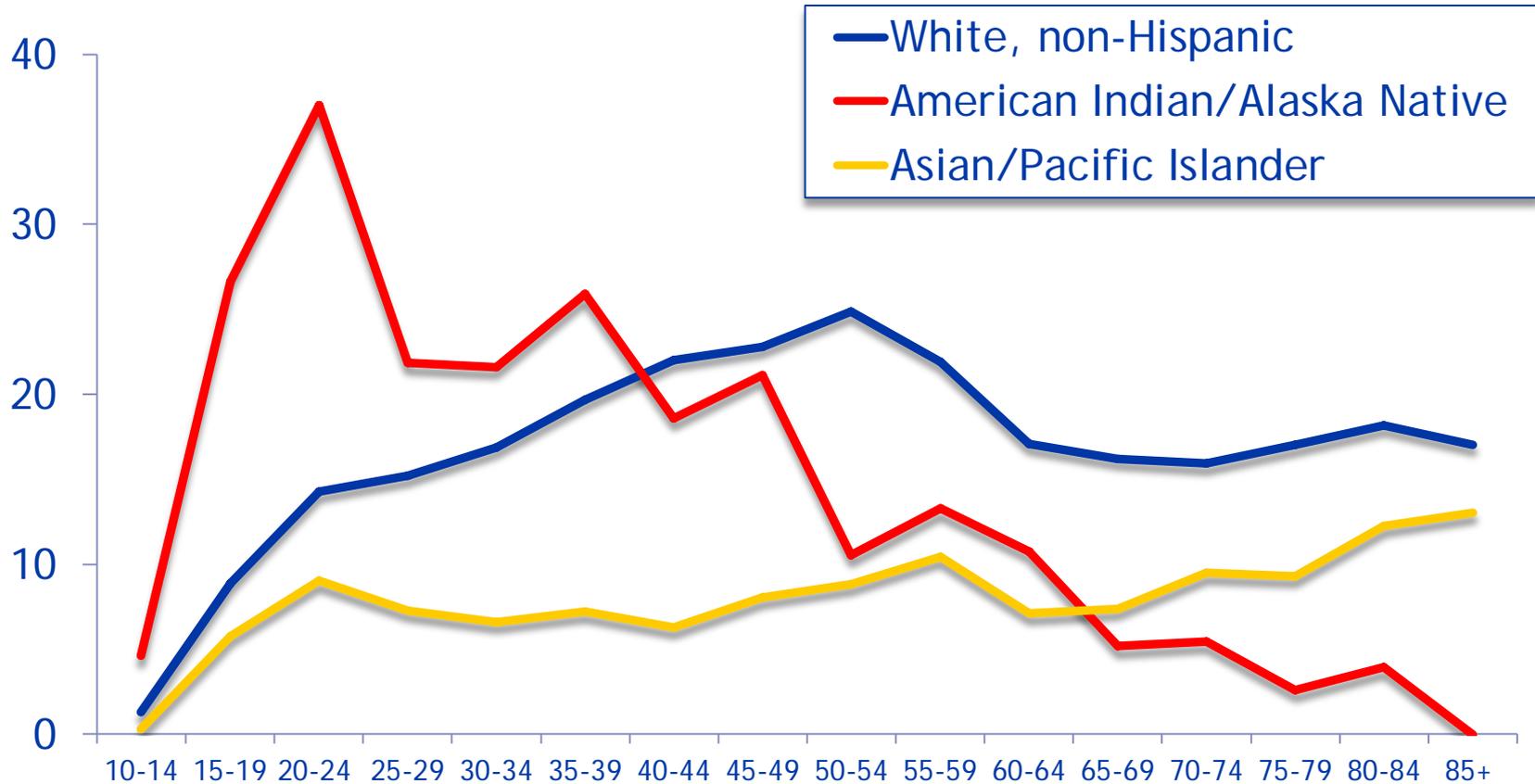
<sup>+</sup>Deaths per 100,000 population

Data from CDC WONDER at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>

# Suicide Rate, by Race/Ethnicity & Age Group

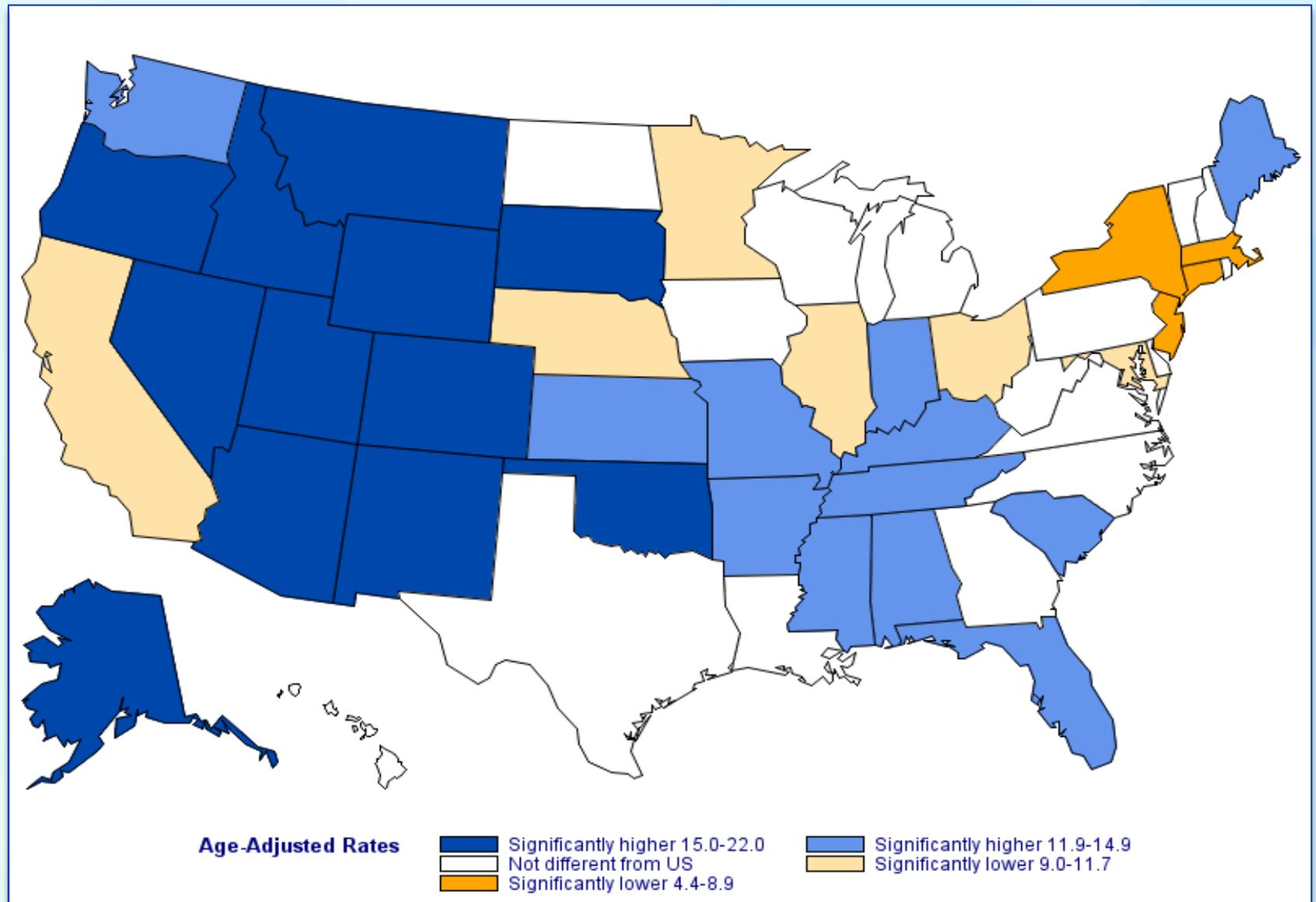
## United States, 2009

Rate per 100,000 population



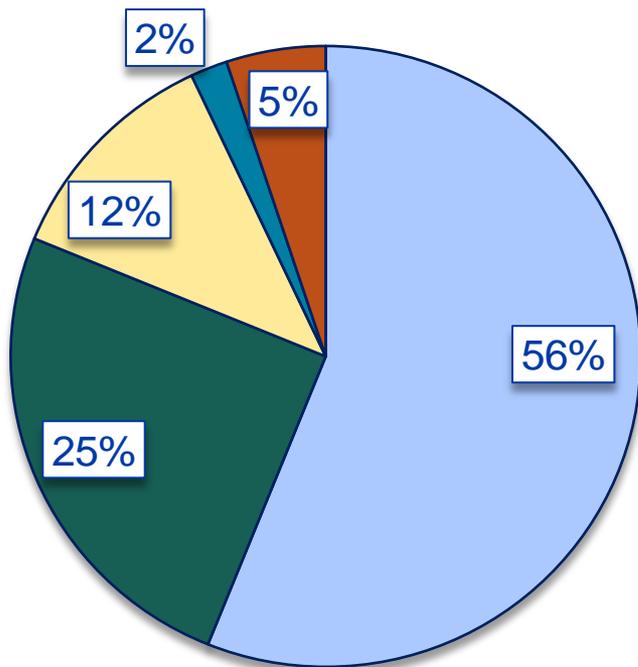
Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate, by State, 2009

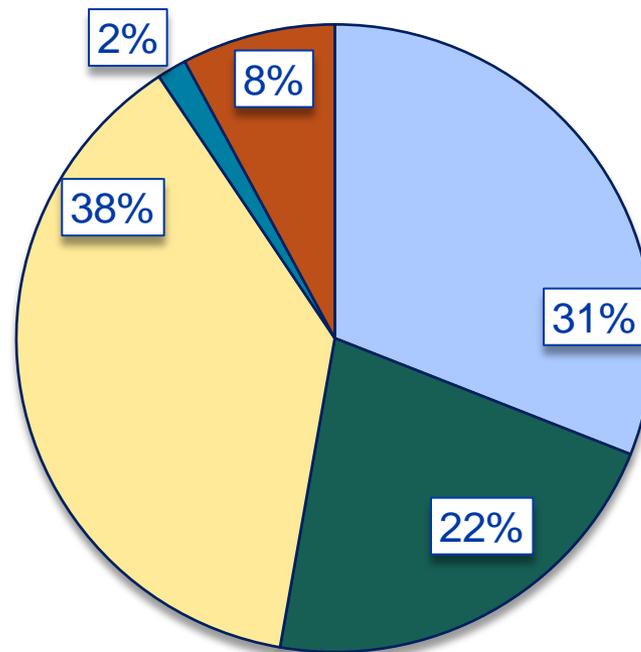


# Percent of Suicides, by Method & Sex United States, 2009

**Male**  
N=29,089

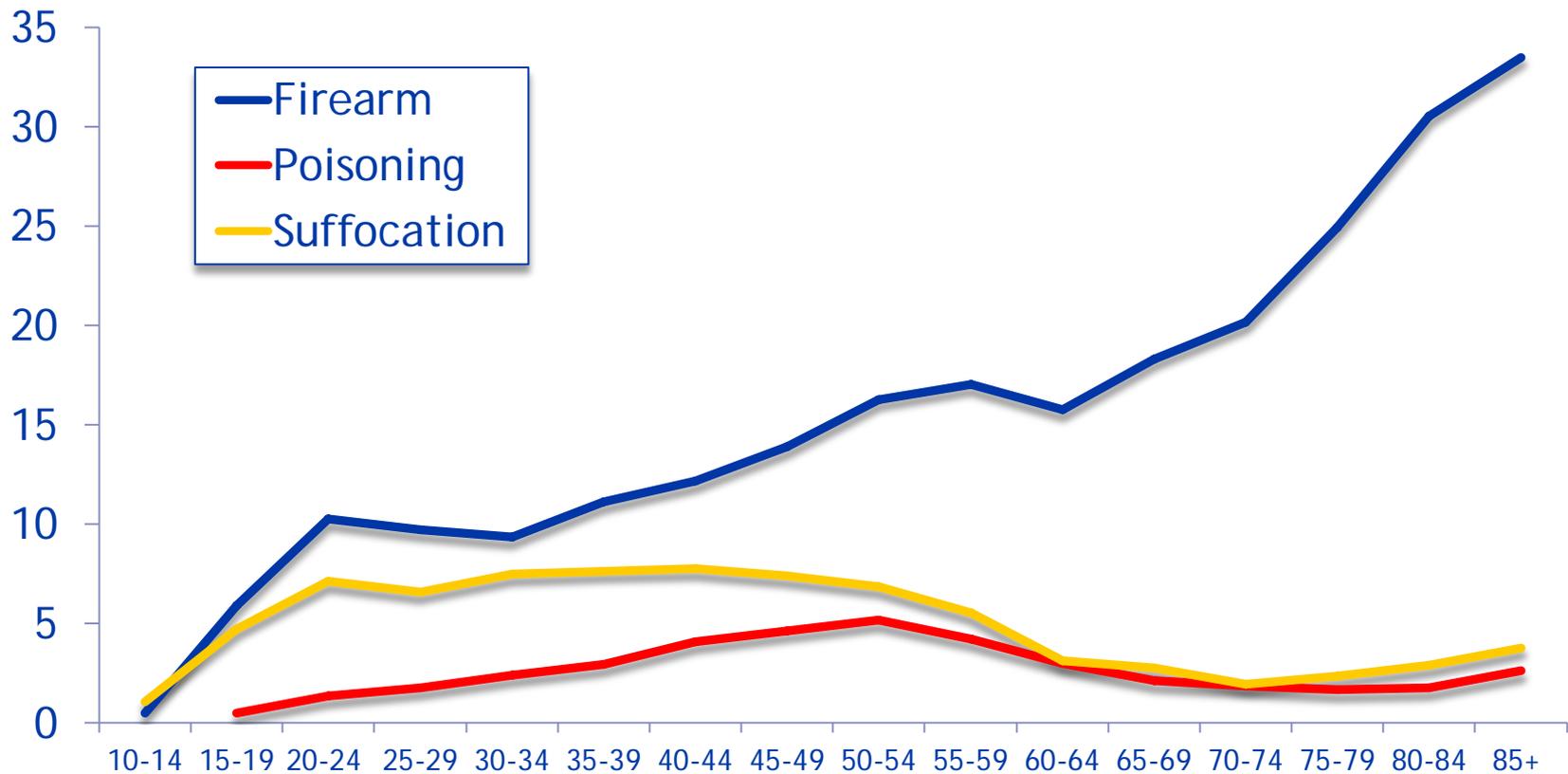


**Female**  
N=7,820



# Suicide Rate, by Method & Age Group, Male United States, 2009

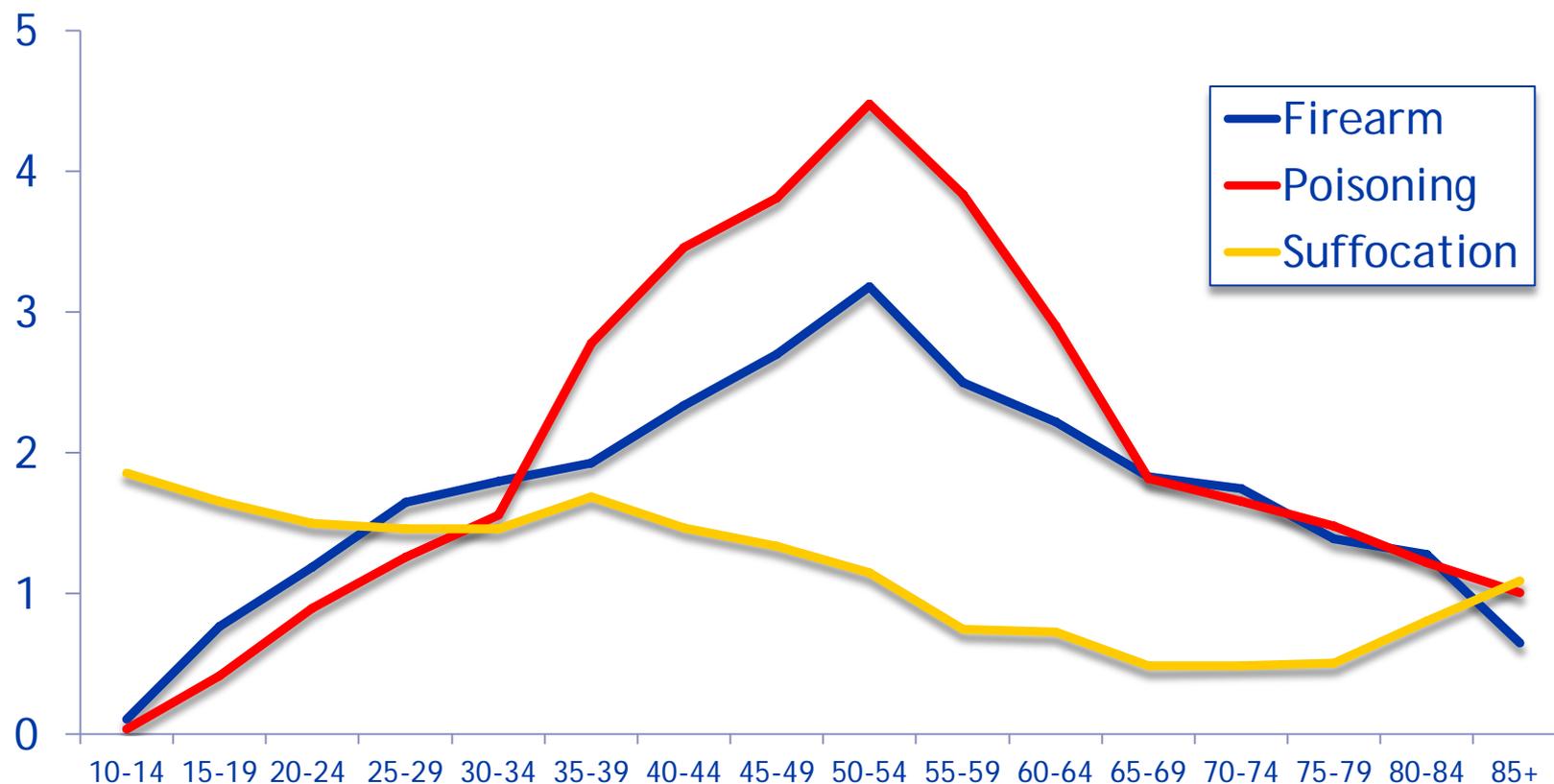
Rate per 100,000 population



Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Suicide Rate, by Method & Age Group, Female United States, 2009

Rate per 100,000 population



Data from CDC WISQARS at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

# Age-adjusted Suicide Rate\*, by Method & Sex

## United States, 1999-2009

Method	1999	2004	2009
Male			
Firearm	11.1	10.3	10.9
Poisoning/Overdose	2.1	2.2	2.2
<b>Suffocation/Hanging</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Female			
Firearm	1.5	1.5	1.5
Poisoning/Overdose	1.5	1.7	1.8
<b>Suffocation/Hanging</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>

\*Deaths per 100,000 population

Data from CDC WONDER at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>

# Summary

- Suicide rates vary by
  - **Age group:** Highest rates for ages 50-54 (total and women), rates increase with age for men
  - **Sex:** Men > women
  - **Race/ethnicity:** American Indian/Alaska Natives and white, non-Hispanics > other race/ethnicity groups
  - **Geographic area:** Western US > other areas of US
  - **Mechanism used:** Men--Firearms Women--Poisoning
- Rates have been increasing over the past decade particularly for ages 45-64, with increased rates for deaths due to suffocation/hanging

## For more information

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