Suicide

Facts at a Glance 2015

**Suicide**
- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death for all ages in 2013.¹
- There were 41,149 suicides in 2013 in the United States—a rate of 12.6 per 100,000 is equal to 113 suicides each day or one every 13 minutes.¹
- Based on data about suicides in 16 National Violent Death Reporting System states in 2010, 33.4% of suicide decedents tested positive for alcohol, 23.8% for antidepressants, and 20.0% for opiates, including heroin and prescription pain killers.²
- Suicide results in an estimated $51 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.¹

**Nonfatal Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior**
- Among adults aged ≥18 years in the United States during 2013:³
  - An estimated 9.3 million adults (3.9% of the adult U.S. population) reported having suicidal thoughts in the past year.
  - The percentage of adults having serious thoughts about suicide was highest among adults aged 18 to 25 (7.4%), followed by adults aged 26 to 49 (4.0%), then by adults aged 50 or older (2.7%).
  - An estimated 2.7 million people (1.1%) made a plan about how they would attempt suicide in the past year.
  - The percentage of adults who made a suicide plan in the past year was higher among adults aged 18 to 25 (2.5%) than among adults aged 26 to 49 (1.35%) and those aged 50 or older (0.6%).
  - An estimated 1.3 million adults aged 18 or older (0.6%) attempted suicide in the past year. Among these adults who attempted suicide, 1.1 million also reported making suicide plans (0.2 million did not make suicide plans).

**Gender Disparities**
- Males take their own lives at nearly four times the rate of females and represent 77.9% of all suicides.¹
- Females are more likely than males to have suicidal thoughts.³
- Suicide is the seventh leading cause of death for males and the fourteenth leading cause for females.¹
- Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males (56.9%).¹
- Poisoning is the most common method of suicide for females (34.8%).¹

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¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
² Division of Violence Prevention
Suicide Facts at a Glance 2015

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death among American Indians/Alaska Natives across all ages.\(^1\)
- Among American Indians/Alaska Natives aged 10 to 34 years, suicide is the second leading cause of death.\(^1\)
- The suicide rate among American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 34 (19.5 per 100,000) is 1.5 times higher than the national average for that age group (12.9 per 100,000).\(^1\)
- The percentages of adults aged 18 or older having suicidal thoughts in the previous 12 months were 2.9% among blacks, 3.3% among Asians, 3.6% among Hispanics, 4.1% among whites, 4.6% among Native Hawaiians /Other Pacific Islanders, 4.8% among American Indians/Alaska Natives, and 7.9% among adults reporting two or more races.\(^3\)
- Among Hispanic students in grades 9-12, the prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide (18.9%), having made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (15.7%), having attempted suicide (11.3%), and having made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that required medical attention (4.1%) was consistently higher than white and black students.\(^4\)

Age Group Differences

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among persons aged 10-14, the second among persons aged 15-34 years, the fourth among persons aged 35-44 years, the fifth among persons aged 45-54 years, the eighth among person 55-64 years, and the seventeenth among persons 65 years and older.\(^1\)
- In 2011, middle-aged adults accounted for the largest proportion of suicides (56%)\(^1\), and from 1999-2010, the suicide rate among this group increased by nearly 30%\(^5\).
- Among adults aged 18-22 years, similar percentages of full-time college students and other adults in this age group had suicidal thoughts (8.0 and 8.7%, respectively) or made suicide plans (2.4 and 3.1%).\(^1\)
- Full-time college students aged 18-22 years were less likely to attempt suicide (0.9 vs. 1.9 percent) or receive medical attention as a result of a suicide attempt in the previous 12 months (0.3 vs. 0.7%).\(^3\)

Nonfatal, Self-Inflicted Injuries*

- In 2013, 494,169 people were treated in emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries.\(^1\)
- Nonfatal, self-inflicted injuries (including hospitalized and emergency department treated and released) resulted in an estimated $10.4 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.\(^1\)

References


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