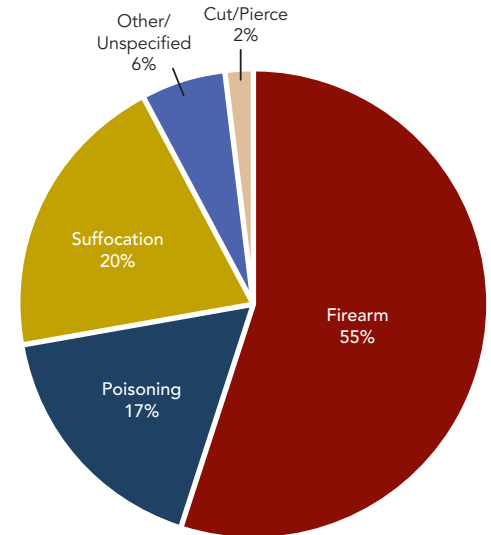


Suicide in the United States: A Fact Sheet

- There are over 30,000 suicides in the United States each year: about one completed suicide each 16 minutes and one attempt every minute.¹
- Internationally, about one million people die by suicide each year – more than war and homicide combined.²
- Two thirds of suicidal deaths occur on the first attempt.³
- While men complete suicide four times as often as women (17.7 per 100,000 for men versus 4.6 per 100,000 for women), women attempt suicide twice as often as men.⁴
- About 5 percent of people who engage in deliberate self harm (e.g., cutting) die by suicide within five to 10 years.⁵
- More than 90 percent of persons who complete suicide have a mental disorder at the time of death, most commonly depression, alcohol abuse, or both.⁶
- Almost 75 percent of suicides are completed by white males, who have a twofold higher risk for suicide than black males (19.1 per 100,000 versus 10.4 per 100,000).⁷
- The average medical cost per completed suicide: \$3,875; The average work-loss cost per completed suicide: \$1,178,684⁸
- Native Americans also are at high risk for suicide (12.9 per 100,000).⁹
- 972,264 Years of Potential Life Lost to suicide each year.¹⁰
- Each suicide intimately affects at least six people.¹¹
- During the previous 12 months, more than one-fourth of adults reported having symptoms that would qualify them for a diagnosis of a mental disorder; and most of those disorders can be classified as serious or moderate.¹²
- More Americans suffer from depression than coronary heart disease (7 million), cancer (6 million) and AIDS (200,000) combined.¹³

Suicides by Method



From: Suicide Prevention Resource Center: Suicide 1999-2003, Fact Sheet

¹ American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (n.d.) Facts and figures: National Statistics. Retrieved on September 30, 2007 from www.afsp.org.

² American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (n.d.) Facts and figures: International statistics. Retrieved on September 30, 2007 from www.afsp.org.

³ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Screening for Suicide Risk: Recommendation and Rationale*. May 2004. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/suicide/suiciderr.htm>.

⁴ American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (n.d.) Facts and figures by gender. Retrieved on September 30, 2007 from www.afsp.org.

⁵ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Suicide Prevention Resource Center (n.d.) Fact sheet. Retrieved on September 30, 2007 from www.sprc.org.

⁹ CDC's WISQARS website "Fatal Injury Reports" and "Leading Cause of Deaths Reports": <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>. Retrieved September 30, 2007.

¹⁰ Ibid

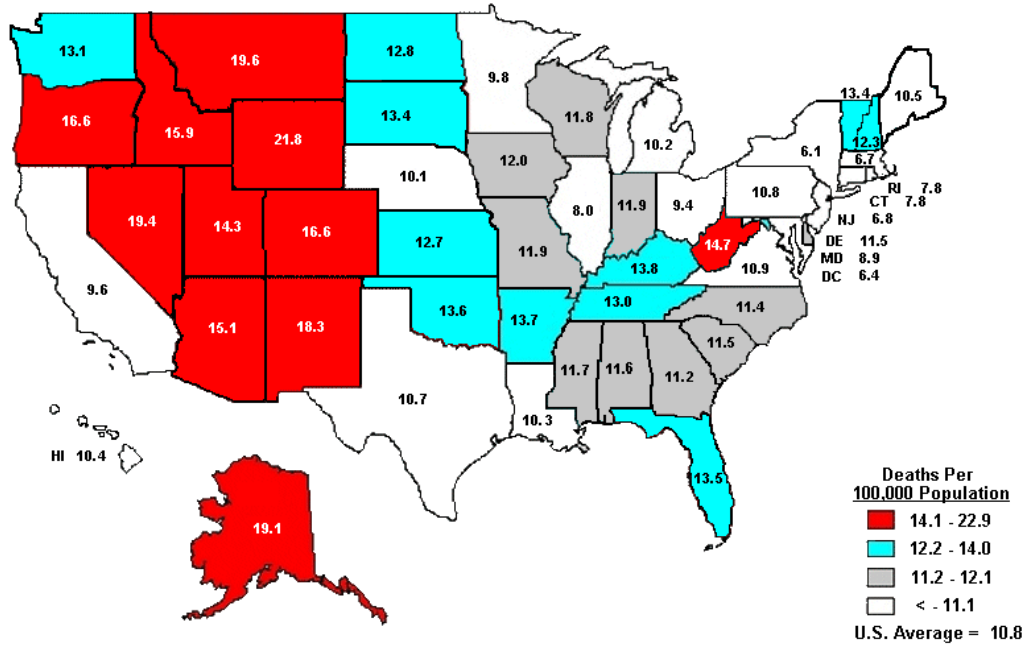
¹¹ Ibid

¹² Kessler, R., Chiu, W., Demler, P. & Walters, E. (2005). Prevalence, severity, and comorbidity of 12-Month DSM-IV disorders in the national comorbidity survey replication *Archives of General Psychiatry*, *62*, 617-627.

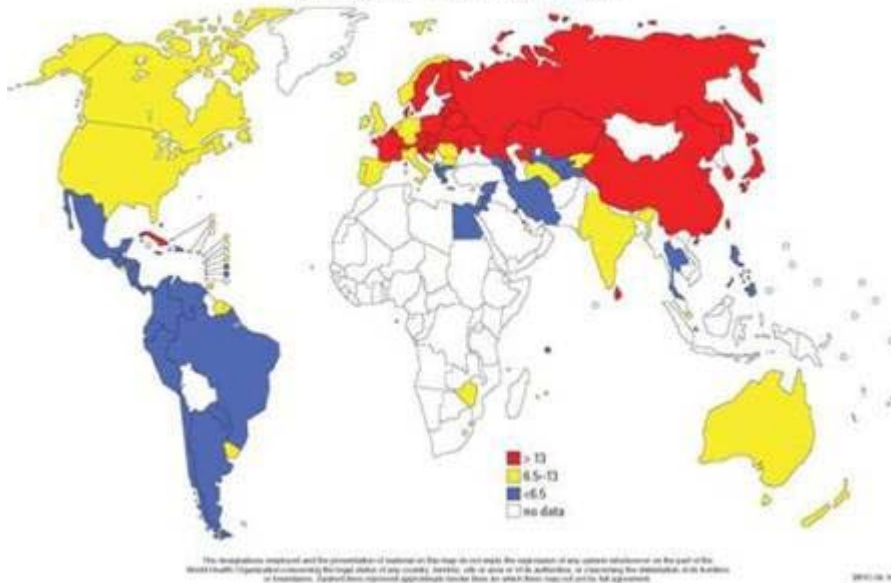
¹³ American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (n.d.) Facts and Figures: National statistics. Retrieved on September 30, 2007 from www.afsp.org.

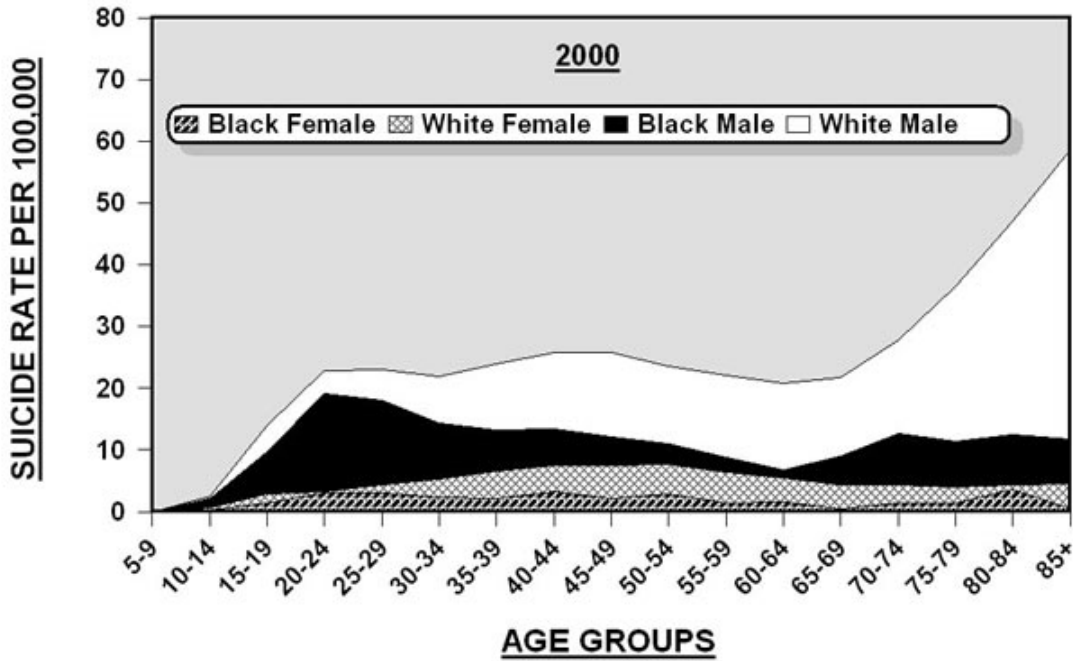


**Suicide Death Rates
United States, 2003**



Map of suicide rates
(per 100 000, most recent year available as of 2006)





Source: National Institute of Mental Health
 Data: Centers for Disease Control And Prevention, National Center For Health Statistics