

# Suicide

## Facts at a Glance

2012

### Suicide

- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death for all ages in 2010.<sup>1</sup>
- There were 38,364 suicides in 2010 in the United States--an average of 105 each day.<sup>1</sup>
- Based on data about suicides in 16 National Violent Death Reporting System states in 2009, 33.3% of suicide decedents tested positive for alcohol, 23% for antidepressants, and 20.8% for opiates, including heroin and prescription pain killers.<sup>2</sup>
- Suicide results in an estimated \$34.6 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.<sup>1</sup>

### Nonfatal Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

- Among adults aged ≥18 years in the United States during 2008-2009:<sup>3</sup>
  - An estimated 8.3 million adults (3.7% of the adult U.S. population) reported having suicidal thoughts in the past year.
  - An estimated 2.2 million adults (1.0% of the adult U.S. population) reported having made suicide plans in the past year.
  - An estimated 1 million adults (0.5% of the U.S. adult population) reported making a suicide attempt in the past year.
- There is one suicide for every 25 attempted suicides.<sup>3</sup>
- Among young adults ages 15 to 24 years old, there are approximately 100-200 attempts for every completed suicide.<sup>4</sup>
- In a 2011 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:<sup>5</sup>
  - 15.8% of students reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey;

- 12.8% of students reported that they made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey;
- 7.8% of students reported that they had attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months preceding the survey; and
- 2.4% of students reported that they had made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that required medical attention.

### Gender Disparities

- Suicide among males is four times higher than among females and represents 79% of all U.S. suicides.<sup>1</sup>
- Females are more likely than males to have had suicidal thoughts.<sup>3</sup>
- Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males (56%).<sup>1</sup>
- Poisoning is the most common method of suicide for females (37.4%).<sup>1</sup>

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Among American Indians/Alaska Natives aged 15- to 34-years, suicide is the second leading cause of death.<sup>1</sup>
- The suicide rate among American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 34 (31 per 100,000) is 2.5 times higher than the national average for that age group (12.2 per 100,000).<sup>1</sup>
- Of students in grades 9-12, significantly more Hispanic female students (13.5%) reported attempting suicide in the last year than Black, non-Hispanic female students (8.8%) and White, non-Hispanic female students (7.9%).<sup>5</sup>

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## Age Group Differences

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among persons aged 15-24 years, the second among persons aged 25-34 years, the fourth among person aged 35-54 years, and the eighth among person 55-64 years.<sup>1</sup>
- Among 15- to 24-year olds, suicide accounts for 20% of all deaths annually.<sup>1</sup>
- Suicide rates for females are highest among those aged 45-54 (rate 9 per 100,000 population).<sup>1</sup>
- Suicide rates for males are highest among those aged 75 and older (rate 36 per 100,000).<sup>1</sup>
- The rate of suicide for adults aged 75 years and older was 16.3 per 100,000.<sup>1</sup>
- The prevalence of suicidal thoughts, suicide planning, and suicide attempts is significantly higher among young adults aged 18-29 years than among adults aged ≥30 years.<sup>3</sup>

## Nonfatal, Self-Inflicted Injuries\*

- In 2011, 487,700 people were treated in emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries.<sup>1</sup>
- Nonfatal, self-inflicted injuries result in an estimated \$6.5 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.<sup>1</sup>

## References

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2. Karch DL, Logan J, McDaniel D, Parks S, Patel N. Surveillance for violent deaths—National Violent Death Reporting System, 16 States, 2009. *MMWR Surveillance Summary* 2012; 61:1-43. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6106a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss6106a1\\_e#tab6](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6106a1.htm?s_cid=ss6106a1_e#tab6).
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4. Goldsmith SK, Pellmar TC, Kleinman AM, Bunney WE, editors. *Reducing suicide: a national imperative*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2002.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2011. *MMWR, Surveillance Summaries* 2012;61(no. 55-4). Available from [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf)

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