Suicide in Virginia: 2003-2012

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Virginia Violent Death Reporting System
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Virginia Department of Health

Presentation for the Joint Commission on Health Care
Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee
June 17, 2015
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Data Source
The Virginia Violent Death Reporting System (VVDRS)
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Part of the CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System

Located in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Annual numbers and rates
Examining trends over an 11-year period
Annual Number of Suicides in Virginia (N = 10,211)

- Number of Suicides: 928, 797, 818, 857, 873, 867, 936, 956, 982, 1,037, 1,039, 1,049

Number of Suicides

Annual Suicide Rates in Virginia

- Rate per 100,000: 11.9, 10.8, 11.0, 11.3, 11.4, 11.2, 12.0, 12.1, 12.3, 12.8, 12.7, 12.7

Rate of Suicide
Who is at risk
Gender, race, ethnicity, and age

- Males (77%)
- Whites (87%)
- White males (67%)
Gender, Race, Ethnicity

Suicide Rate for Select Groups in Virginia

Suicide Numbers and Rates by Age Group in Virginia

Age
students

Annual Student Suicides by Elementary/Middle School (n = 26), High School (n = 231), and College (n = 207) in Virginia

Students
### College Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>College Students</th>
<th>All Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Fatal Injury</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanging/Suffocation</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Method of Fatal Injury**

**Select Method of Suicide Fatal Injury by Gender in Virginia**

- **Firearm**:
  - Total: 56.4%
  - Male: 63.0%
  - Female: 34.0%
- **Hanging/Suffocation**:
  - Total: 20.6%
  - Male: 21.0%
  - Female: 19.4%
- **Poison**:
  - Total: 17.3%

**Select Method of Suicide Fatal Injury by Age Group in Virginia**

- **Firearm**:
  - Avg.: 3.8%
  - 10-14: 17.3%
  - 15-19: 34.0%
  - 20-24: 20.6%
  - 25-34: 56.4%
  - 35-44: 62.3%
  - 45-54: 74.3%
  - 55-64: 9.5%
  - 65-74: 8.6%
  - 75-84: 9.5%
  - 85+: 3.8%

**Method of Fatal Injury**
How suicide is distributed across the Commonwealth

Average suicide rate for Virginia is 11.8
Geography

Average suicide rate for Virginia is 11.8

Further Information

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