

## U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2001 OFFICIAL FINAL DATA

	Number	Per Day	Rate	% of Deaths	Group (Number of Sui.)	Rate
Nation .....	30,622	83.9	10.8	1.3	White Male (22,328)	19.5
Males .....	24,672	67.6	17.6	2.1	White Female (5,382)	4.6
Females.....	5,950	16.3	4.1	0.5	Nonwhite Male (2,344)	9.3
Whites.....	27,710	75.9	11.9	1.3	Nonwhite Female (568)	2.1
Nonwhites.....	2,912	8.0	5.6	0.9	Black Male (1,627)	9.2
Blacks.....	1,957	5.4	5.3	0.7	Black Female (330)	1.7
Elderly (65+ yrs.) .....	5,393	14.8	15.3	0.3	Hispanic (1850)	5.0
Young (15-24 yrs.).....	3,971	10.9	9.9	12.3		

**Completions:** *suicide rate increased slightly in 2001 (from 2000) after declines for six consecutive years and a steady 2000 rate*

- Average of 1 person every 17.2 minutes killed themselves.
- Average of 1 old person every 1 hour 37.5 minutes killed themselves.
- Average of 1 young person every 2 hours 12.4 minutes killed themselves. (If the 279 suicides below age 15 are included, 1 young person every 2 hours 3.7 minutes)

	Cause	Number	Rate
• 11th ranking cause of death in U.S.— 3rd for <b>young</b> .....	All Causes	32,252	80.7
• 4.1 male deaths by suicide for each female death by suicide.	1-Accidents	14,411	36.1
• Suicide ranks 11th as a cause of death; Homicide ranks 13th	2-Homicide	5,297	13.3
	3-Suicide	3,971	9.9

**Attempts** (figures are estimates; no official U.S. national data are compiled):

- 765,000 annual attempts in U.S. (using 25:1 ratio)
- 25 attempts for every death by suicide for nation. 100-200:1 for young; 4:1 for elderly.
- 5 million living Americans (estimate) have attempted to kill themselves.
- 3 female attempts for each male attempt.

**Survivors** (i.e., family members and friends of a loved one who died by suicide):

- Each suicide intimately affects at least 6 other people. (estimate)
- Based on the over 742,000 suicides from 1977 through 2001, estimated that the number of survivors of suicides in the U.S. is 4.45 million (1 of every 64 Americans in 2001); number grew by nearly 184,000 in 2001.
- If there is a suicide every 17 minutes, then there are 6 new survivors every 17 minutes as well.

<u>Suicide Methods</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Firearm suicides	16,869	5.9	55.1%	All Other	13,753	4.8	44.9%
Suffocation/Hanging	6,198	2.2	20.2%	Poisoning	5,191	1.8	17.0%
Falls	651	0.2	2.1%	Cut/pierce	458	0.2	1.5%
Drowning	339	0.1	1.1%	Fire/flame	147	0.1	0.5%

<u>U.S.A. Suicide Rates 1990-2001</u> (Rates per 100,000 population)												<u>15 Leading Causes of Death in the U.S.A., 2001</u> (total of 2,416,425 deaths; 848.5 rate)			
Group/ Age	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Rank & Cause of Death	Rate	Deaths
5-14	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	1 Diseases of heart (heart disease)	245.8	700,142
15-24	13.2	13.1	13.0	13.5	13.8	13.3	12.0	11.4	11.1	10.3	10.4	9.9	2 Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	194.4	553,768
25-34	15.2	15.2	14.5	15.1	15.4	15.4	14.5	14.3	13.8	13.5	12.8	12.8	3 Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	57.4	163,538
35-44	15.3	14.7	15.1	15.1	15.3	15.2	15.5	15.3	15.4	14.4	14.6	14.7	4 Chronic lower respiratory diseases	43.2	123,013
45-54	14.8	15.5	14.7	14.5	14.4	14.6	14.9	14.7	14.8	14.2	14.6	15.2	5 Accidents (unintentional injuries)	35.7	101,537
55-64	16.0	15.4	14.8	14.6	13.4	13.3	13.7	13.5	13.1	12.4	12.3	13.1	6 Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	25.1	71,372
65-74	17.9	16.9	16.5	16.3	15.3	15.8	15.0	14.4	14.1	13.6	12.6	13.3	7 Influenza & pneumonia	21.8	62,034
75-84	24.9	23.5	22.8	22.3	21.3	20.7	20.0	19.3	19.7	18.3	17.7	17.4	8 Alzheimer's disease	18.9	53,852
85+	22.2	24.0	21.9	22.8	23.0	21.6	20.2	20.8	21.0	19.2	19.4	17.5	9 Nephritis, nephrosis (kidney disease)	13.9	39,480
65+	20.5	19.7	19.1	19.0	18.1	18.1	17.3	16.8	16.9	15.9	15.3	15.3	10 Septicemia	11.3	32,238
Total	12.4	12.2	12.0	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.3	10.7	10.7	10.8	11 Suicide [Intentional Self-Harm]	10.8	30,622
Men	20.4	20.1	19.6	19.9	19.8	19.8	19.3	18.7	18.6	17.6	17.5	17.6	12 Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.5	27,035
Women	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	13 Homicide [Assault]	7.1	20,308
White	13.5	13.3	13.0	13.1	12.9	12.9	12.7	12.4	12.4	11.7	11.7	11.9	14 Essential hypertension and renal disease	6.8	19,250
Nonwh	7.0	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.6	15 Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	6.1	17,301
Black	6.9	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.3	- All other causes (Residual)	140.8	400,935

Old made up 12.4% of 2001 population but represented 17.6% of the suicides.

Young were 14.0% of 2001 population and comprised 13.0% of the suicides.

*Official data source:* Arias, E., Anderson, R.N., Kung, H.C., Murphy, S.L., & Kochanek, K.D. (2003). Deaths: Final data for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 52(3). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2003-1120. [Data to be published in the CD-ROM annual volume entitled *Vital Statistics of the United States, Mortality, 2001*.]

*Population figures source:* Table I, p. 106, of the National Center for Health Statistics (Arias et al., 2003) publication above.

$$\text{suicide rate} = \frac{\text{number of suicides by group}}{\text{population of group}} \times 100,000$$

**Suicide Data Page: 2001**

26 September 2003

**Prepared for AAS by John L. McIntosh, Ph.D.**