

# U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2008 OFFICIAL FINAL DATA

	Number	Per Day	Rate	% of Deaths	Group (Number of Suicides)	Rate
Nation.....	36,035	98.5	11.8	1.5	White Male (25,801).....	21.2
Males.....	28,450	77.7	19.0	2.3	White Female (6,843).....	5.5
Females.....	7,585	20.7	4.9	0.6	Nonwhite Male (2,649).....	9.3
Whites.....	32,644	89.2	13.3	1.5	Nonwhite Female (742).....	2.4
Nonwhites.....	3,391	9.3	5.7	1.0	Black Male (1,759).....	9.1
Blacks.....	2,106	5.8	5.2	0.7	Black Female (347).....	1.6
Elderly (65+ yrs.).....	5,755	15.7	14.8	0.3	Hispanic (2,345).....	5.0
Young (15-24 yrs.).....	4,298	11.7	10.0	13.3	Native Americans (409).....	11.9
					Asian/Pacific Islanders (876).....	5.8

## Fatal Outcomes (Suicides):

*a rate increase in 2007 was followed by another increase in 2008*

- Average of 1 person every 14.6 minutes killed themselves
- Average of 1 old person every 1 hour and 32 minutes killed themselves
- Average of 1 young person every 2 hours and 3 minutes killed themselves. (If the 222 suicides below age 15 are included, 1 young person every 1 hour and 57 minutes)

- 10th ranking cause of death in U.S.— 3rd for **young**----->> Cause Number Rate
- 3.75 male deaths by suicide for each female death by suicide
- Suicide ranks 10th as a cause of death; Homicide ranks 15th

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

- 900,875 annual attempts in U.S. (using 25:1 ratio); 2009 SAMHSA study: 1.1 million adults (18 and up)
- Translates to one attempt every 35 seconds (based on 900,875 attempts) [1.1 million = 1 every 29 seconds]
- 25 attempts for every death by suicide for nation (one estimate); 100-200:1 for young; 4:1 for elderly
- 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 780,138 suicides from 1984 through 2008, estimated that the number of survivors of suicides in the U.S. is 4.68 million (1 of every 65 Americans in 2008); number grew by at least 216,210 in 2008
- If there is a suicide every 14.6 minutes, then there are at least 6 new survivors every 14.6 minutes as well

Suicide Methods	Number	Rate	Percent of Total		Number	Rate	Percent of Total
Firearm suicides	18,223	6.0	50.6%	All but Firearms	17,812	5.9	49.4%
Suffocation/Hanging	8,578	2.8	23.8%	Poisoning	6,442	2.1	17.9%
Cut/pierce	666	0.2	1.8%	Drowning	407	0.1	1.1%

U.S.A. Suicide Rates 1998-2008											15 Leading Causes of Death in the U.S.A., 2008					
(Rates per 100,000 population)											(total of 2,471,984 deaths; 812.2 rate)					
Group/ Age	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Group/ Age	Rank	Cause of Death	Rate	Deaths
5-14	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	5-14	1	Diseases of heart (heart disease)	202.7	616,828
15-24	11.1	10.3	10.4	9.9	9.9	9.7	10.3	10.0	9.9	9.7	10.0	15-24	2	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	185.8	565,469
25-34	13.8	13.5	12.8	12.8	12.6	12.7	12.4	12.3	13.0	12.9	12.9	25-34	3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	46.4	141,090
35-44	15.4	14.4	14.6	14.7	15.3	14.9	15.0	14.9	15.1	15.6	15.9	35-44	4	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	44.1	134,148
45-54	14.8	14.2	14.6	15.2	15.7	15.9	16.6	16.5	17.2	17.7	18.7	45-54	5	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	40.1	121,902
55-64	13.1	12.4	12.3	13.1	13.6	13.8	13.8	13.9	14.5	15.5	16.3	55-64	6	Alzheimer's disease	27.1	82,435
65-74	14.1	13.6	12.6	13.3	13.5	12.7	12.3	12.6	12.6	13.9	12.6	65-74	7	Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	23.2	70,553
75-84	19.7	18.3	17.7	17.4	17.7	16.4	16.3	16.9	15.9	16.3	16.0	75-84	8	Influenza & pneumonia	18.5	56,284
85+	21.0	19.2	19.4	17.5	18.0	16.9	16.4	16.9	15.9	15.6	15.6	85+	9	Nephritis, nephrosis (kidney disease)	15.9	48,237
65+	16.9	15.9	15.3	15.3	15.6	14.6	14.3	14.7	14.2	14.3	14.8	65+	10	<b>Suicide [Intentional Self-Harm]</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>36,035</b>
Total	11.3	10.7	10.7	10.8	11.0	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.5	11.8	Total	11	Septicemia	11.8	35,927
Men	18.6	17.6	17.5	17.6	17.9	17.6	17.7	17.7	17.8	18.3	19.0	Men	12	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.8	29,963
Women	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9	Women	13	Essential hypertension and renal disease	8.5	25,742
White	12.4	11.7	11.7	11.9	12.2	12.1	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.9	13.3	White	14	Parkinson's disease	6.7	20,483
Nonwh	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	NonWh	15	Homicide [Assault]	5.9	17,826
Black	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.2	Black	-	All other causes (Residual)	154.1	469,062

Old made up 12.7% of 2008 population but represented 16.0% of the suicides.

Young were 14.1% of 2008 population and comprised 11.9% of the suicides.

1,043,591\* Years of Potential Life Lost Before Age 75 (33,076 of 36,035 suicides are below age 75)

\* WISQARS YPLL figure: 1,042,845 using individual years rather than 10-year age groups as above.

Mortality figures appearing here are derived or calculated from data in the following official data source:  
obtained 12 September from CDC's WISQARS website <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

SAMHSA 2009 study: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/090917suicide0907.aspx>

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

**Suicide Data Page: 2008**

13 September 2011

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

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## Rate, Number, and Ranking of Suicide for Each U.S.A. State\*, 2008

Region [Subdivision Abbreviations]	Rate	Number
West (M, P) .....	13.1 .....	9,229
South (ESC, WSC, SA).....	12.5 .....	14,020
<b>Nation .....</b>	<b>11.8 .....</b>	<b>36,035</b>
Midwest (WNC, ENC).....	11.8 .....	7,835
Northeast (NE, MA).....	9.0 .....	4,951

### Source:

Mortality figures appearing here are derived or calculated from data in the following *official data source* :obtained 13 September from CDC's WISQARS website <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

[data are by place of residence]

[Suicide = ICD-10 Codes X60-X84, Y87.0, U03]

Note: All rates are per 100,000 population.

\*including the District of Columbia.

State-level data are not yet available. Below is the notice posted at the WISQARS website as downloaded on 12 September 2011:

**\*2008 State-level death and death rate data are projected to be available by October 1st, 2011**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in an agreement with the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) has implemented a new, more restrictive rule for reporting 2008 state- and county-level death data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) in order to avoid inadvertent disclosure of cases. Therefore, the Office of Statistics and Programming, NCIPC is currently modifying WISQARS to accommodate the new data suppression rule; i.e., no figure, including totals, should be less than 10 in tabulations for sub-national geographic areas, regardless of the number of years combined with the 2008 data. Tabulations, charts, and maps produced by WISQARS using only NVSS death data for years prior to 2008 are not affected by this new rule.

When state-level data are posted, this sheet will be updated as possible with state suicide figures.

JLM 13 September 2011

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Suicide State Data Page: 2008

13 September 2011

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*“to understand and prevent suicide  
as a means of promoting human well-being”*

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Visit the AAS website at:

<http://www.suicidology.org>

For other suicide data, and an archive of state data, visit the website below and click on the dropdown “Suicide Stats” menu:

<http://mypage.iusb.edu/~jmcintos/>