



Youth Suicide

National

- Males are four times more likely to die from suicide than females.
- Suicide is the eight leading cause of death for all American men.
- Between 1999-2003, suicide was the third leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24.

Oklahoma

- Between 1999-2003, there were 2,334 suicide deaths in Oklahoma; average of 466 per year.
- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death for all ages
 - It was the second leading cause of death for young people 15-34 years of age.
 - It was the third leading cause of death for children 10-14 years of age.
- There were 339 deaths among persons 15-24 years of age (12.9 per 100,000).
- Among persons 15-24, males were approximately 6 times more likely to commit suicide than females (21.5 per 100,000 population compared to 3.8 per 100,000 population).
- Whites had the highest rate (13.9 per 100,000) followed by blacks and Native Americans (11.8 and 8.6, respectively).
- Firearms were the leading method of suicide (66%), followed by hanging (25%), and drug/overdose (7%).

Recommendations

- Expand suicide prevention efforts among young adults, and ensure that suicide prevention programs are linked with professional mental health resources in the community.
- Parents should be taught to recognize the warning signs for suicide and encouraged to restrict their teenagers' access to lethal means.
- Emphasize to physicians and other health providers the importance of screening families with children regarding access to firearms, drugs, or other lethal methods.
- Develop and implement a suicide prevention/intervention/post-intervention train-the-trainer program.