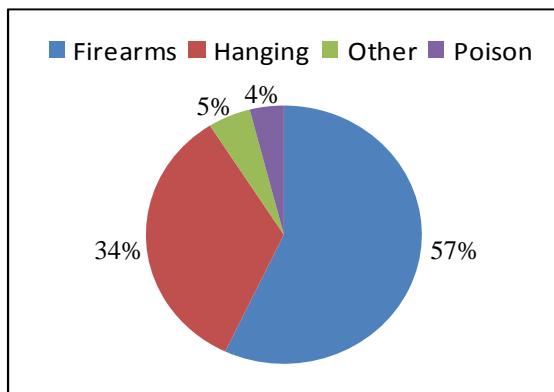


Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Education, Resources and Support — It's Up to All of Us.

Youth, 15-24, Suicides by Method



Suicide:

- From 2001-2005 there were a total of 810 suicides in Maine. Of those suicides, 101 were youth: five youth aged 10-14; forty-three 15-19 year olds; and fifty-three young adults aged 20-24. This represents an average of 20 youth suicides per year.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth aged 15-34, and the 3rd leading cause of death for youth aged 10-14.
- More young people die by suicide than from homicide. For every homicide among 15-24 year olds, there are 4 to 5 suicides.
- More male youth die by suicide than female. Of every 5 suicides, 4 are males.
- From 2001-2005, a firearm was used in nearly 6 of 10 youth suicides. Access to and availability of firearms is a significant factor in youth suicide, because most suicide attempts by firearm are fatal. A firearm was used in 65% of male and 30% of female youth (ages 10-24) suicides.
- The second leading method of youth suicide is hanging, accounting for almost 4 of 10 suicides. Hanging accounted for 34% of male suicides and 47% of female suicides between 2001 and 2005 in the 10 to 24 year old category.

For more information or youth suicide prevention materials, call 1-800-499-0027
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Email the Information and Resource Center
osa.ircosa@maine.gov

or

Visit the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program Web Site at:
www.mainesuicideprevention.org

Statewide Toll Free Crisis Line:
1-888-568-1112

Data from the Maine Office of Data, Research, & Vital Statistics, Maine Hospital Discharge Databases, and Maine YRBS.

Self-Inflicted Injuries:

- Most suicidal behavior is non-fatal. It is estimated that, for every death by suicide, there are from 25 to 100 non-fatal youth suicide attempts. Rates of self-inflicted injuries for females are higher than rates for males.
- From 2003-2005, there were 1,082 hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries among children and youth aged 10-24 or 361 a year. Children aged 10-14 made 135 visits, adolescents were hospitalized 532 times, and adults between the ages of 20-24 made 408 visits. The female 15-19 age group had the highest overall rate of hospitalization for self-inflicted injuries across all age groups.
- In the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 11.2% of high school and 17% of middle school students reported seriously considering suicide in the past year. 4.8% of high school and 6% of middle school students reported making at least one attempt. Two percent of high school students reported receiving medical attention for a self-injury, poisoning, or overdose.
- Poisoning is the most common method of non-fatal self-inflicted injuries for both males and females.

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