

Suicide in Georgia, 1999-2001

How many Georgians die of suicide?

- From 1999-2001, 2,620 Georgians committed suicide, an average of 873 per year.
- More persons die of suicide than homicide each year.
- Approximately 2,200 persons per year are hospitalized for attempted suicide.

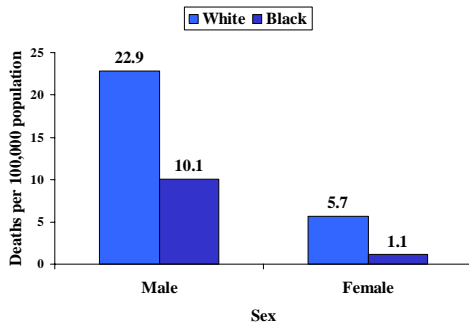
Who is at risk?

- Men are five times more likely than women to commit suicide.
- Whites are three times more likely than blacks to commit suicide.
- Although many suicides are committed by young people, suicide rates increase with age.
- Suicide rates are higher in Georgia's rural counties than in urban counties.
- Suicide rates are highest for widowed and divorced persons and lowest for married persons.
- The hospitalization rate for attempted suicide is 1.5 times higher for women than for men.

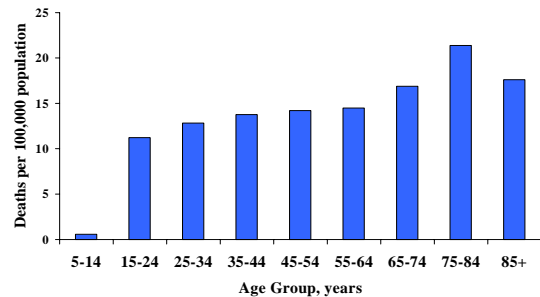
How do people commit suicide?

- Most (70%) suicides in Georgia are committed with firearms.

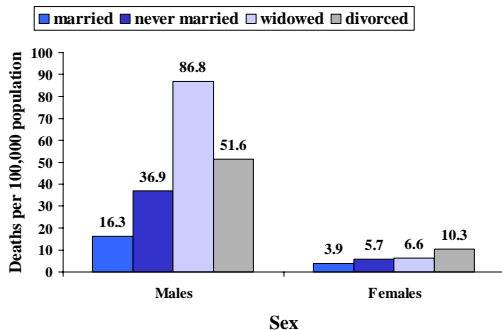
Age-adjusted suicide rates by race and sex, Georgia, 1999-2001



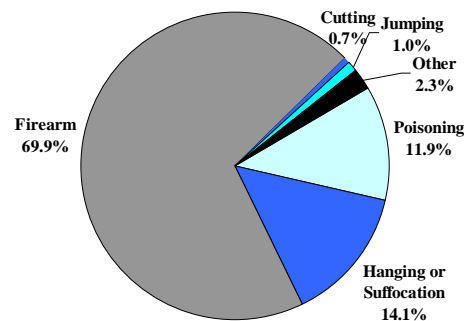
Age-specific suicide rates, Georgia, 1999-2001



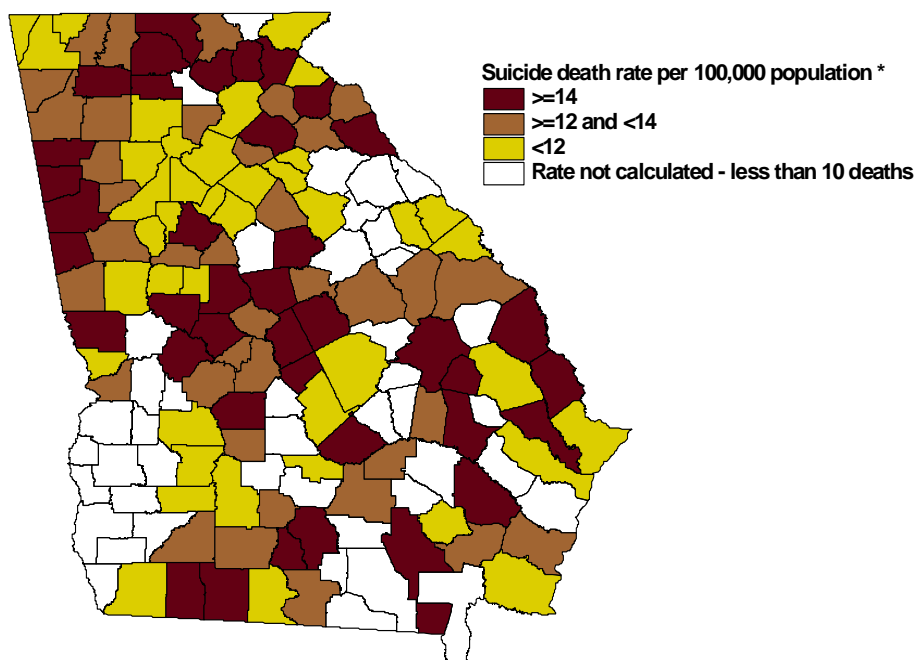
Age-adjusted suicide rates by marital status and sex, persons ≥15 years, Georgia, 1999-2001



Suicide by method used, Georgia, 1999-2001



Age-adjusted suicide rates by county, Georgia, 1994-2001



* County death rates were ranked from highest to lowest and categorized into tertiles.

Selected Goals of the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan:

- Promote awareness that suicide is a serious public health problem and that many suicides are preventable.
- Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.
- Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention (e.g. prevention programs in schools, universities, worksites, corrections facilities, and nursing homes).
- Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means of self-harm.
- Improve access to and community linkages with mental health and substance abuse services.
- Promote and support research and evaluation on suicide prevention.
- Improve and expand systems for data collection.



Information compiled by the Chronic Disease, Injury, and Environmental Epidemiology Section; Epidemiology Branch; Division of Public Health.

For more information and copies of the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan, contact the Injury Prevention Section (404-657-6322).