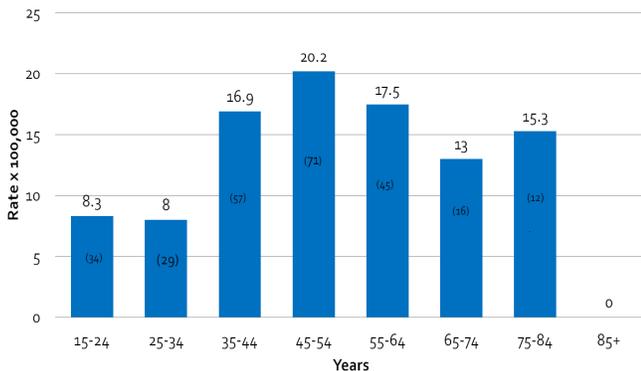


# Suicide: Dane County Data

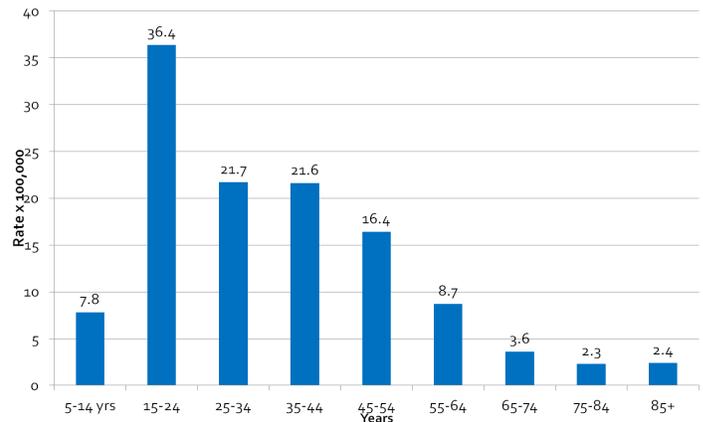
**Suicide is a significant public health problem in Dane County and can have lasting, harmful effects on individuals, families and communities.**

- Suicide is among the top ten leading causes of all death.
- Over 1/4 (25%) of the injury-related deaths are a result of suicide.
- In 2011, there were 74 suicide deaths, a 41% increase over the annual average (52) of the previous 5 years.
- In 2011, there were over 835 individuals that went to the hospital for self-inflicted injuries (ED visits and hospitalizations).
- While all age groups are impacted by suicide, the suicide rate is highest for those aged 45-54.
- The highest rates for self-inflicted hospital visits (emergency department visits and hospitalizations) are for younger individuals, aged 15-24.

**SUICIDE DEATHS BY AGE GROUP**  
Dane County, 2006-2010

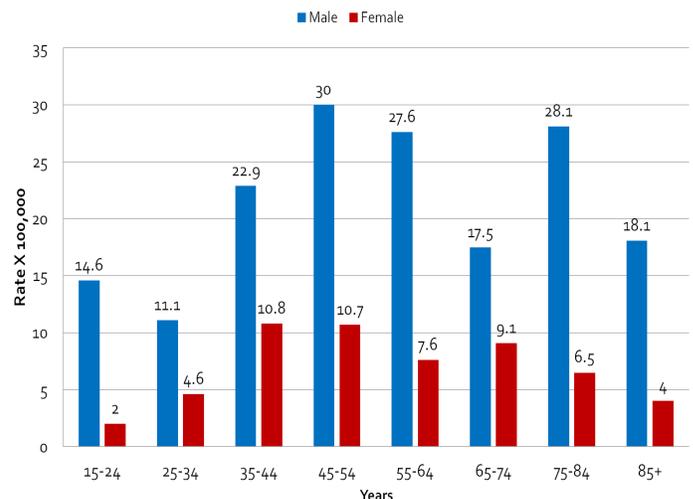


**SELF-INFLICTED HOSPITALIZATIONS & ED VISITS BY AGE GROUP**  
Dane County, 2007-2011

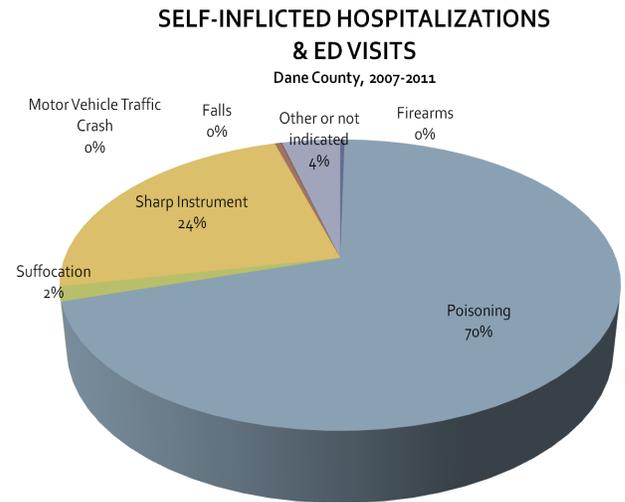
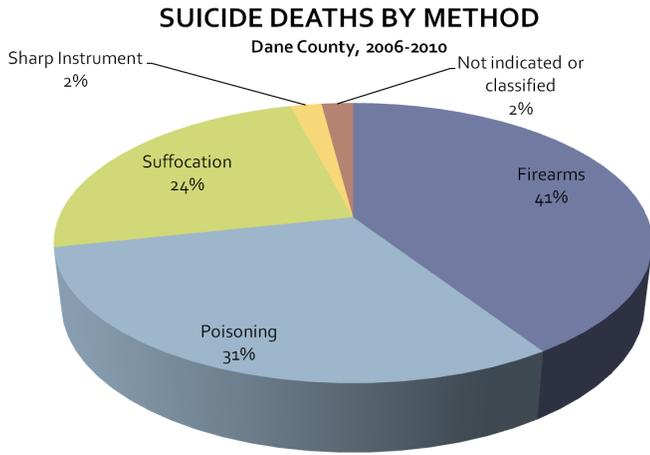


- Males are almost three times more likely than females to complete suicide, regardless of age. Among females, the suicide rate was highest for ages 35-44 and for males at ages 45-54.
- Females are almost double males for suicide attempts (self-inflicted ED visits and hospitalizations).

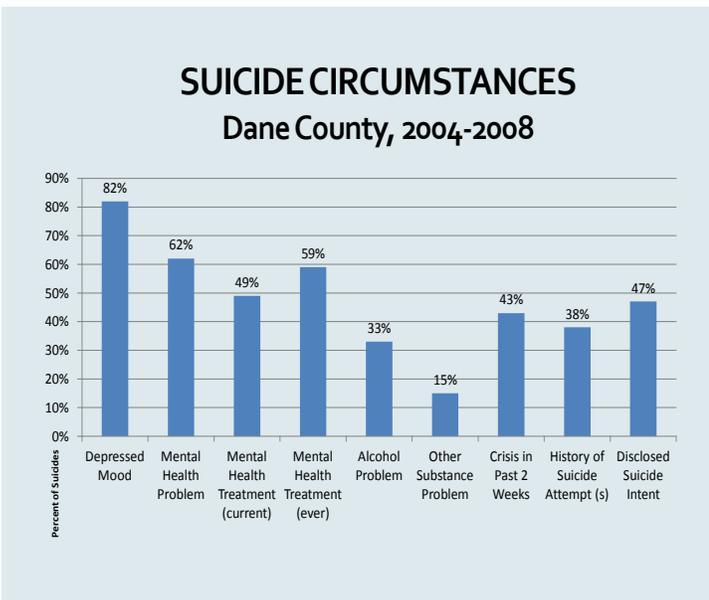
**Suicide Death By Age & Gender**



[Data sources: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics in Health (Death:2006-2010, Hospitalization:2007-2011); Dane County Medical Examiner: 2011-2012]



- The leading method of suicide (lethal means) is firearms (38%), followed by poisoning (29%) and hanging (23%).
- In 2011, 39% of suicide victims used firearms, 28% hanging and 14% were from poisoning (overdose/overmedication). [Data Source: Dane County Medical Examiner]
- For those that end up in the hospital (hospitalizations & ED visits), poisoning (72%) is the leading method of attempted suicide, followed by cutting and piercing (19%).
- The poisoning substances most commonly used in poisoning-related suicides are medications (prescription and over-the-counter).  
[Data Source: Public Health Madison & Dane County]
- In 2012, 12.3 % of Dane County 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they had suicidal thoughts in the past 30 days and 4.6% (1,179) reported that they had attempted suicide in the past 12 months.  
[Data Source: Dane County Youth Assessment 2012]



- Mental health related issues were often implicated with suicide victims:
  - More than 80% were characterized as being depressed.
  - 62 % as having a current mental health problem.
  - 49% were currently in treatment for mental illness
  - 59% were ever treated for a mental illness.
- 48% of suicide victims had a substance problem (33% alcohol problem and 15% another substance problem).
- 38% had experienced a crisis within two weeks of death.
- 38% had history of prior suicide attempts.

For further questions about data, including original charts, contact

Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne at 608-444-3542 or email [lbullardcawthorne@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:lbullardcawthorne@publichealthmdc.com)