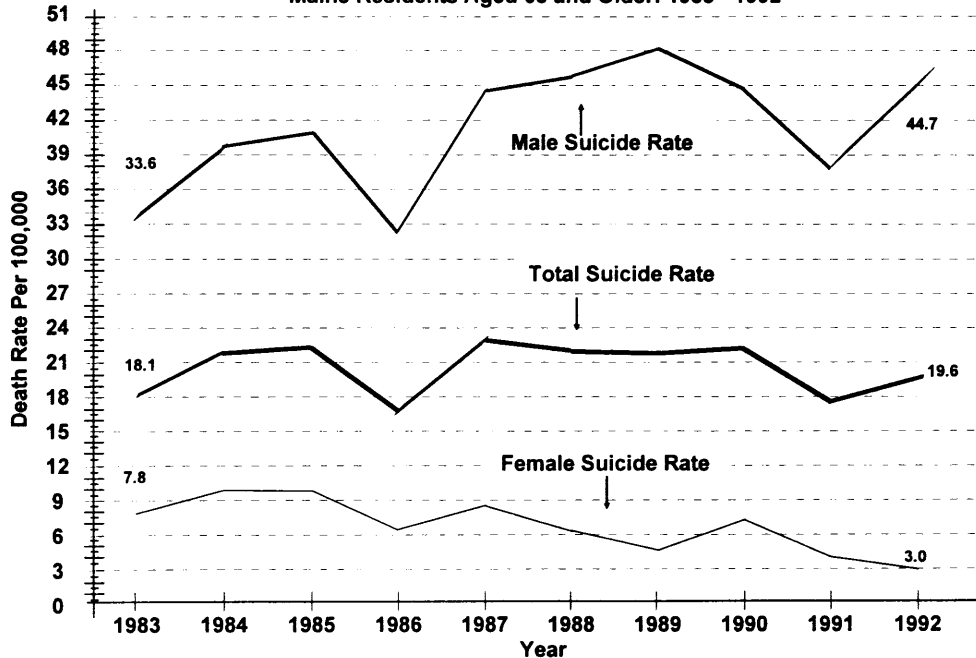


# ELDERLY SUICIDES IN MAINE

Maine Residents, Aged 65 Years Old and Older: 1983 - 1992

- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1983 to 1992, 324 elderly Maine residents committed suicide: 261 men and 63 women. This represented the highest suicide death rate for any age group in Maine, 20.5 deaths per 100,000 elderly population.
- ➔ The most common means of committing suicide by men was through the use of firearms; for women it was through use of poisons.
- ➔ As with suicides of all ages, the rate of elderly male suicide is significantly higher, 41.3 100,000, than the rate of elderly female suicide, 6.6.

Death Rate Due to Suicide by Sex and Year  
Maine Residents Aged 65 and Older: 1983 - 1992



- ➔ Over the course of this period, the overall trends were: an increase in the suicide rate of elderly men, a decrease (by more than half) of the suicide rate of elderly women, and a relatively flat rate for the age group as a whole.
- ➔ During this 10 year period, the highest county death rate for elderly suicide was in Kennebec county, 28.7 per 100,000 population, a rate significantly greater than the state rate (20.5). The lowest rate, in Washington county (9.0/100,000), was not significantly different than the state rate.
- ➔ In 1992, the death rate due to elderly suicide in Maine, 19.6/100,000 elderly residents, was comparable to the national rate of 20.4.

*Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone. U.S. rates are for the white population only.*

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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The contact person(s) is: Catherine St. Pierre - (207) 624-5445

**For prevention information, please contact: Cheryl DiCara at 287-3311**

Angus S. King, Jr.  
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Kevin W. Concannon  
Commissioner

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