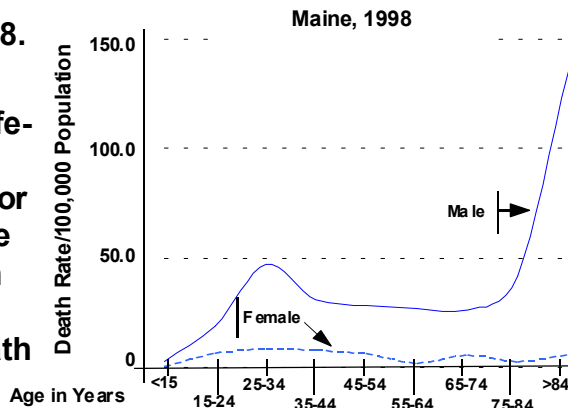


SUICIDES IN MAINE

Maine Residents: 1998 (preliminary)

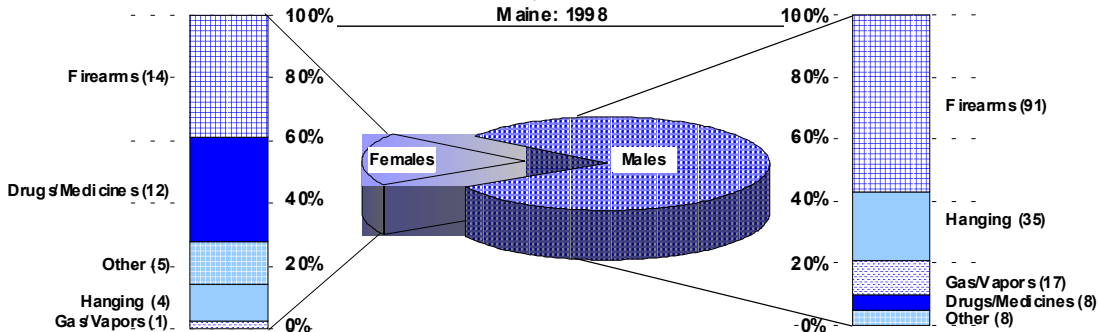
- ➔ In 1998, 195 Maine residents committed suicide. This resulted in a statewide death rate of 14.4 deaths/100,000 population. This was significantly greater than the national rate of 11.2.
- ➔ The number of Maine deaths from this cause, 195, reflected the greatest number of suicide deaths in the state in the past 2 decades. The increase was enough to move suicide from 10th leading cause of death for Maine residents in 1997 to 8th in 1998.
- ➔ In spite of this, over the 20 year period, 1979 to 1998, there was no significant change in the death rate in Maine.
- ➔ Nationally, there was a small increase in the number of suicides between 1997 and 1998 (1/2%) and a significant decline in the suicide death rate during the period 1979 to 1998.
- ➔ Maine males died from suicide at nearly 4½ times the frequency of females; in fact, the male death rate was greater than the female rate for each 10 year age group. While the death rate for males younger than 65 years old was 4 times that of their female counterparts, the death rate for males 65 and older was 8 times greater than for females.
- ➔ Firearms accounted for more than half (54%) of all suicides in Maine, 57% of male suicides and 39% of female suicides. Another 20% of suicides were the result of hanging.

Suicide Death Rates by Age and Gender



Suicide Deaths by Gender and Method

Maine: 1998



Notes: Suicide deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes 950-959. All rates are for underlying cause of death, and are age-adjusted to the US, 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. All national data (national data are for whites only) were obtained from CDC Wonder.

Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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at 35 Anthony Avenue, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Cathy St. Pierre - (207) 624-5445 624-5512 (TTY)

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

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

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