



suicide

TARRANT COUNTY
2001 - 2005

Suicide in Tarrant County 2001-2005



Tarrant County Public Health

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I. ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES

This report presents data on suicide in Tarrant County for the years 2001 through 2005 by gender, race/ethnicity, age group, education level, geographic distribution, method of suicide, and other characteristics such as marital status, veteran status, and seasonal differences. Comparisons are also made with the suicide rates of both Texas and the United States.

DATA SOURCES AND METHODS

The data used in this report are from death records received by the Texas Department of State Health Services for the years 2001 through 2005. Population values used to calculate the suicide rates are based on data from the Texas State Data Center Population Estimates and Projections Program and the U.S. Census Bureau. When applicable, suicide rates were age-adjusted to the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 standard population.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

- From 2001 through 2005, 771 Tarrant County residents committed suicide with an overall age-adjusted suicide rate of 10.2 suicides per 100,000 population.
- The suicide rate in Tarrant County increased 20 percent from 2001 to 2005, an increase ten times greater than at the national level.
- Men committed suicide at nearly four times the rate of women, accounting for more than 75 percent of all suicides.
- The suicide rate for Whites (13.5 per 100,000 population) was three times higher than for Blacks and Hispanics (4.8 and 4.1 per 100,000 population respectively).
- Of the three age-groups reported - Adolescents/Young Adults (ages 10 to 24 years), Working-Aged Adults (ages 25 to 64 years), and Older Adults (ages 65 years and older) – Working-aged adults had the highest rate of suicide at 13.8 per 100,000 population.

II. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, Tarrant County had the highest rate of suicide in the North Central Texas region¹ and the second highest rate among the ten most populous counties in Texas.² From 2001 through 2005, only motor vehicle accidents out-ranked suicide among non-natural causes of death in Tarrant County and suicides outnumbered homicides almost two to one.³

The devastating consequences of suicide are not excluded to just the person who takes his own life. The American Association of Suicidology reports that no less than six family members and friends endure the lifelong hardship brought on by the suicidal death of a loved one.⁴ In addition, for every completed suicide there are an estimated eight to 25 suicide attempts.⁵ This estimate brings to light the important role of proper identification of suicidal risk factors and the effect early intervention could have on this form of preventable death.

In order to better understand suicide trends in Tarrant County, this report presents data for the years 2001 through 2005 by gender, race/ethnicity, age, education level, geographic distribution, method of suicide, and other characteristics such as marital status, veteran status, and seasonal differences. In addition, this report presents suicide data for three distinct age groups: adolescents and young adults, working-aged adults, and older adults. Comparisons are also made with the suicide rates of both Texas and the United States. This report should prove helpful to those desiring basic information regarding suicide in Tarrant County, including community-based agencies, government agencies, businesses, schools, healthcare, media, and private citizens.

¹North Central Texas region, as defined by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, includes the following 16 counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwell, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise. Available at www.nctcog.org

²Texas State Data Center reports the 10 most populous counties in Texas in 2005 (in order) as Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, El Paso, Hidalgo, Collin, Denton, and Fort Bend. Available at www.txsdcenter.org

³Texas Department of State Health Services. Available at www.dshs.state.tx.us

⁴American Association of Suicidology, *Suicide in the U.S.A.* Available at www.suicidology.org

⁵National Institute of Mental Health, *NIH Publication No. 06-4594*. Available at www.nimh.nih.gov

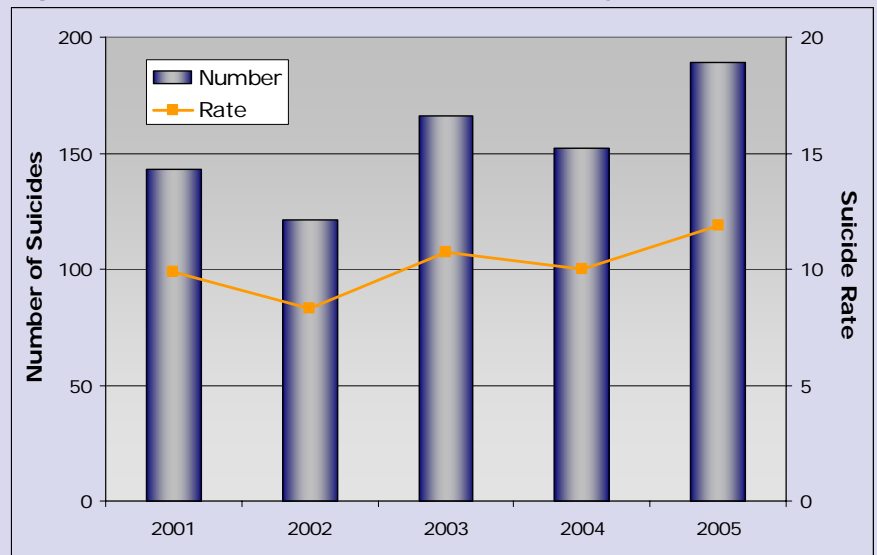
III. OVERALL RESULTS

There were a total of 771 suicide deaths in Tarrant County for the five-year period spanning from 2001 to 2005. Although the number of suicides fluctuated each year, there was an overall increase of 32 percent in the number of suicides from 2001 (n=143) to 2005 (n=189) (Figure 1). After adjusting

for the population increase during that time, the age-adjusted rate of suicide increased 20 percent from 9.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 population to 11.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 population. This increase is considerably higher than the suicide trends across Texas and the United States (Table

1 and Figure 2). The suicide rate in Texas was the same for both 2001 and 2005 (10.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 population) and varied only four percent from its highest rate of 11.0 to its lowest of 10.6 for that time period. Nationally, the suicide rate went from 10.7 in 2001 to 10.9 in 2005 (an increase of two percent). In 2005, Tarrant County's suicide rate was higher than both Texas and the United States and was more than twice as high as the *Healthy People 2010* objective of 5.0 suicide deaths per 100,000 population.

Figure 1. Suicide deaths, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Rate per 100,000 population age-adjusted to 2000 standard population
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Table 1. Suicide deaths in Tarrant County, Texas, and the United States, 2001-2005

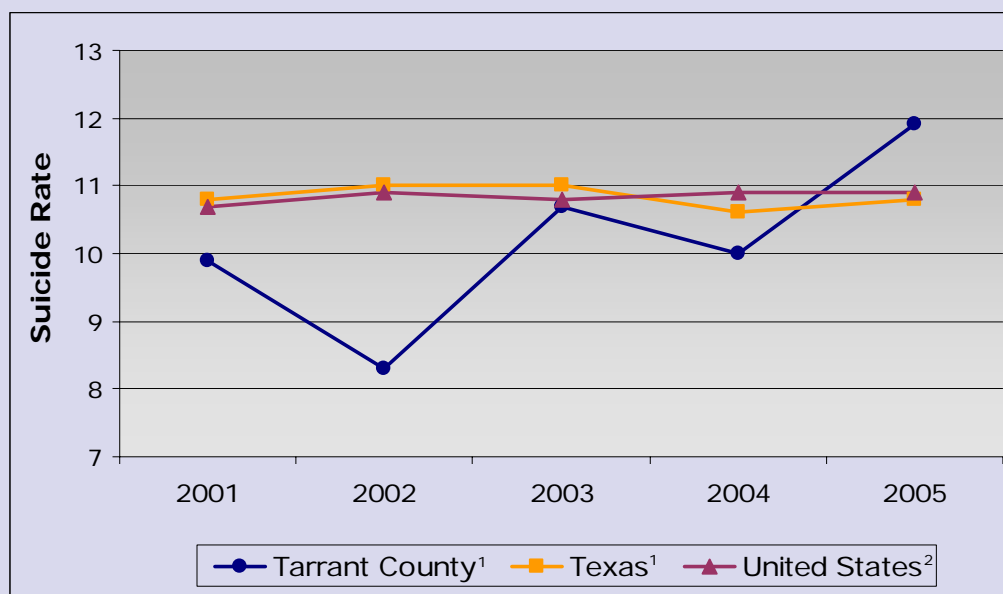
	Tarrant County ¹		Texas ¹		United States ²	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	143	9.9	2,214	10.8	30,622	10.7
2002	121	8.3	2,305	11.0	31,655	10.9
2003	166	10.7	2,355	11.0	31,484	10.8
2004	152	10.0	2,290	10.6	32,439	10.9
2005	189	11.9	2,400	10.8	32,637	10.9
2001-2005	771	10.2	11,564	10.8	158,837	10.8

Rate per 100,000 population age-adjusted to 2000 standard population

¹Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

²Data source: National Center for Health Statistics

Figure 2. Suicide rate in Tarrant County, Texas, and the United States, 2001-2005



Rate per 100,000 population age-adjusted to 2000 standard population

¹Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

²Data source: National Center for Health Statistics

Suicide was the ninth leading cause of death overall for Tarrant County residents and accounted for two percent of all deaths for the combined years of 2001 through 2005 (Table 2). This varied by age-group, with suicide as the third leading cause of death for those 15 to 24 years old and the second leading cause of death for those 25 to 34 years old.

Table 2. Leading cause of death by age group, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Rank	<1 yr (n=993)	1-4 yrs (n=153)	5-14 yrs (n=173)	15-24 yrs (n=865)	25-34 yrs (n=1,070)	35-44 yrs (n=2,350)	45-54 yrs (n=4,312)	55-64 yrs (n=5,915)	65-74 yrs (n=8,498)	75+ yrs (n=24,241)	All Ages (n=48,591)
1	Congenital malformation 192 (19%)	Accidents 57 (37%)	Accidents 54 (31%)	Accidents 437 (51%)	Accidents 306 (29%)	Accidents 423 (18%)	Cancer 1,163 (27%)	Cancer 2,060 (35%)	Cancer 2,775 (33%)	Diseases of the heart 7,717 (32%)	Diseases of the heart 13,087 (28%)
2	Maternal complication 145 (15%)	Homicide 16 (10%)	Cancer 25 (14%)	Homicide 109 (13%)	Suicide 140 (13%)	Diseases of the heart 413 (18%)	Diseases of the heart 998 (23%)	Diseases of the heart 1,554 (26%)	Diseases of the heart 2,235 (26%)	Cancer 4,069 (17%)	Cancer 10,636 (21%)
3	Short gest / LBW 139 (14%)	Congenital malformation 11 (7%)	Homicide 14 (8%)	Suicide 102 (12%)	Diseases of the heart 101 (9%)	Cancer 395 (17%)	Accidents 341 (8%)	Diabetes 292 (5%)	CLRD 699 (8%)	Stroke 2,594 (11%)	Stroke 3,620 (7%)
4	SIDS 135 (14%)	Cancer 8 (5%)	Diseases of the heart 10 (6%)	Cancer 41 (5%)	Homicide 101 (9%)	Suicide 185 (8%)	Chronic liver 216 (5%)	CLRD 278 (5%)	Stroke 474 (6%)	CLRD 1,503 (6%)	CLRD 2,637 (5%)
5	Other perinatal 100 (10%)	Diseases of the heart 5 (3%)	CLRD 8 (5%)	Diseases of the heart 35 (4%)	Cancer 97 (9%)	HIV 141 (6%)	Stroke 182 (4%)	Stroke 254 (4%)	Diabetes 376 (4%)	Alzheimer's 1,204 (5%)	Accidents 2,279 (5%)
6	Resp perinatal 41 (4%)	***	Congenital malformation / Suicide 7 (4%)	Congenital malformation 16 (2%)	HIV 56 (5%)	Chronic liver 96 (4%)	Suicide 162 (4%)	Accidents 161 (3%)	Accidents 137 (2%)	Diabetes 647 (3%)	Diabetes 1,544 (3%)
7	Infactions perinatal 35 (4%)	***	***	HIV 8 (1%)	Diabetes 21 (2%)	Homicide 84 (4%)	Diabetes 145 (3%)	Chronic liver 140 (2%)	Chronic kidney 109 (1%)	Flu & Pneum 568 (2%)	Alzheimer's 1,337 (3%)
8	Resp distress 34 (3%)	***	***	Stroke 6 (1%)	Stroke 16 (1%)	Stroke 75 (3%)	HIV 102 (2%)	Suicide 93 (2%)	Alzheimer's 108 (1%)	Chronic kidney 384 (2%)	Flu & Pneum 829 (2%)
9	Diseases of the heart / Hypoxia-Birth Asphyxia 14 (1%)	***	***	Flu & Pneum / Pregnancy-Childbirth 5 (1%)	CLRD / Flu & Pneum / Congenital malformation 12 (1%)	Diabetes 55 (2%)	CLRD 94 (2%)	Septicemia 89 (2%)	Chronic liver 106 (1%)	Parkinson's 374 (2%)	Suicide 771 (2%)
10		***	***			CLRD 31 (1%)	Septicemia 62 (1%)	Chronic kidney 69 (1%)	Septicemia 102 (1%)	Septicemia 349 (1%)	Chronic liver 657 (1%)

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

LBW = Low Birth Weight

CLRD=Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

SUICIDE BY GENDER

The age-adjusted suicide rate for Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005 was almost four times as high for men (16.4 per 100,000) as it was for women (4.5 per 100,000) (Table 3) and increased over time for both genders (Figure 3). More than 75 percent of all suicide victims in Tarrant County are male.

Table 3. Suicide by gender, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

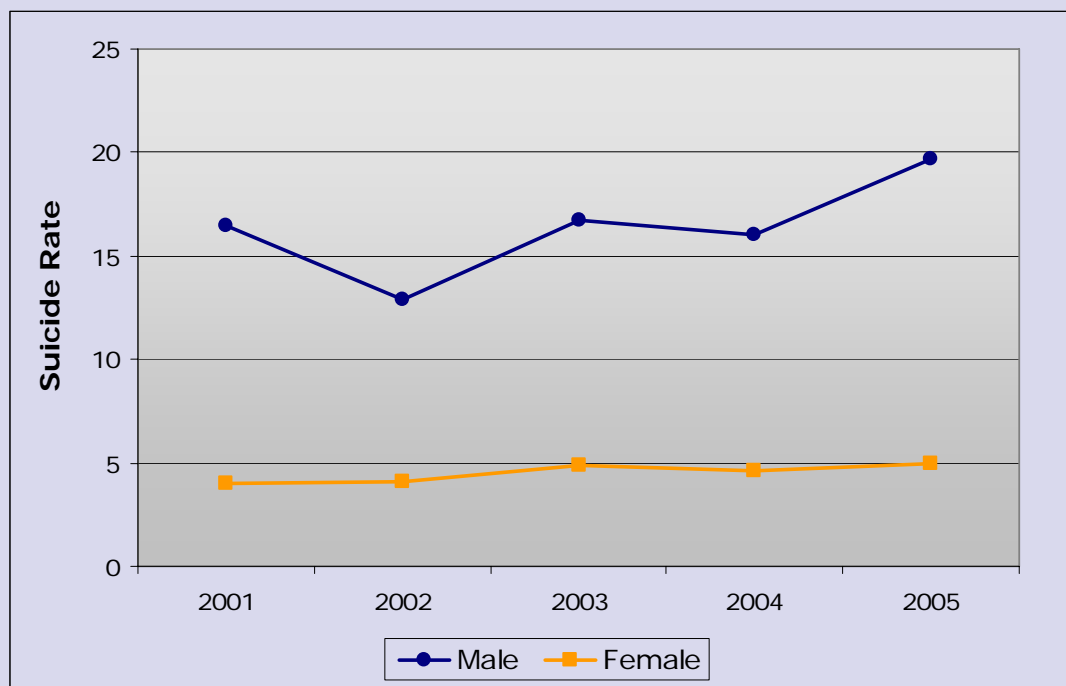
Year	Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	114	16.5	29	4.0
2002	90	12.9	31	4.1
2003	128	16.7	38	4.9
2004	116	16.0	36	4.6
2005	147	19.7	42	5.0
2001-2005	595	16.4	176	4.5

Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 standard population
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services



*Men take their
own lives at nearly
4 times the rate
of women*

Figure 3. Suicide by gender, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 standard population
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

SUICIDE BY RACE/ETHNICITY

The suicide rate for Whites in Tarrant County (13.5 per 100,000) was three times higher than for both Blacks and Hispanics (4.8 and 4.1 per 100,000 respectively) during 2001 through 2005 (Table 4). The rates in all race/ethnicities fluctuated over time, but increased overall from 2001 to 2005 (Figure 4).

Table 4. Suicide by race/ethnicity, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	White		Black		Hispanic		Other	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	116	12.4	9	4.2	11	4.2	7	10.1
2002	103	10.9	9	5.1	9	3.3	0	-
2003	141	14.4	8	3.8	13	3.5	<5	-
2004	133	14.3	6	4.1	12	3.9	<5	-
2005	148	15.5	17	7.5	21	5.5	<5	-
2001-2005	641	13.5	49	4.8	66	4.1	15	3.7

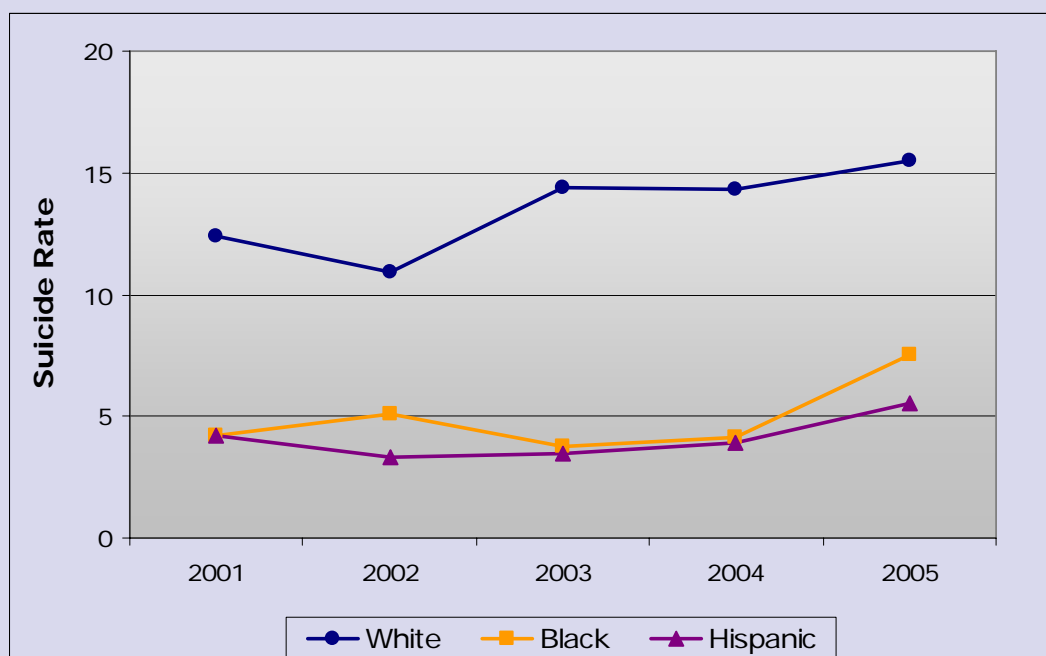
Rate per 100,000 population age-adjusted to 2000 standard population

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 4. Suicide by race/ethnicity, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Rate per 100,000 population age-adjusted to 2000 standard population
"Other" race/ethnicity not included in graph due to small number of deaths

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

**83% of all
suicide
victims in
Tarrant
County
are
White**

SUICIDE BY AGE GROUP

Tarrant County suicides have been stratified into three age groups: Adolescents/Young Adults (ages 10 to 24 years), Working-Aged Adults (ages 25 to 64 years), and Older Adults (ages 65 years and older). Overall for 2001 through 2005, working-aged adults had the highest rate of suicide (13.8 per 100,000) followed by older adults (12.7 per 100,000) and adolescents/young adults (6.3 per 100,000) (Table 5). Older adults had the highest rate of suicide in 2002 and 2004, but the rates are considered unstable due to the small number of deaths in this age group and should therefore be interpreted with caution (Figure 5).

Table 5. Suicide by age group, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Adolescent / Young Adult (Age 10-24 yrs)		Working-Aged Adults (Age 25-64 yrs)		Older Adults (Age 65+ yrs)	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	27	8.2	102	12.8	14	11.4
2002	16	4.7	88	10.7	17	13.5
2003	20	5.8	135	16.1	10	7.8
2004	23	6.5	108	12.6	21	16.1
2005	23	6.5	147	16.8	19	14.3
2001-2005	109	6.3	580	13.8	81	12.7

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age group specific

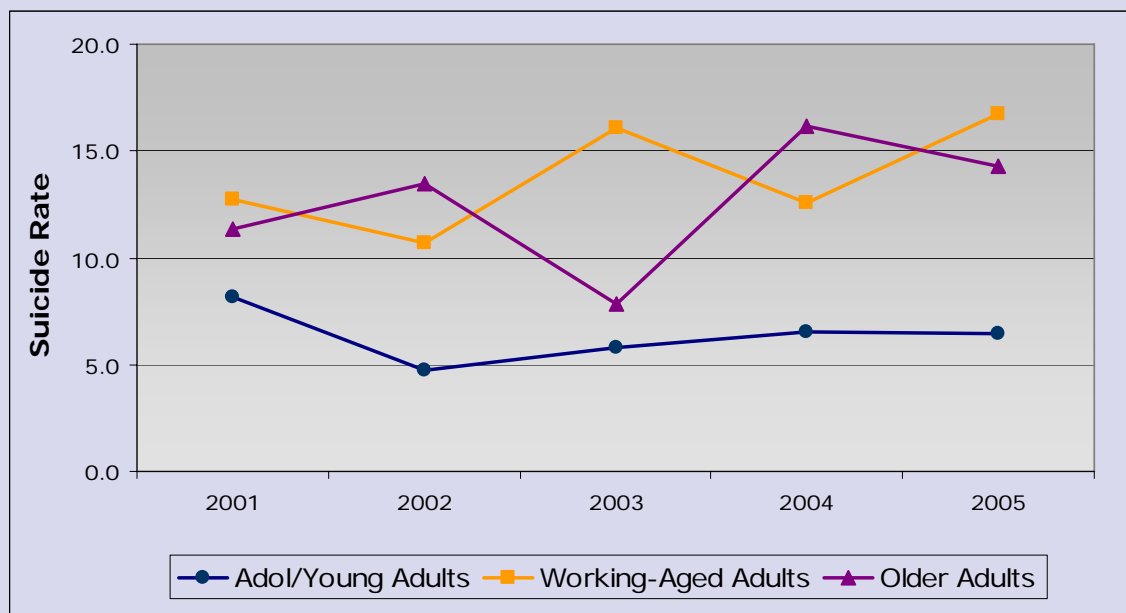
Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services



*White men age 75 and
older have the
highest rate of suicide
(35.1 per 100,000
population)*

Figure 5. Suicide by age group, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

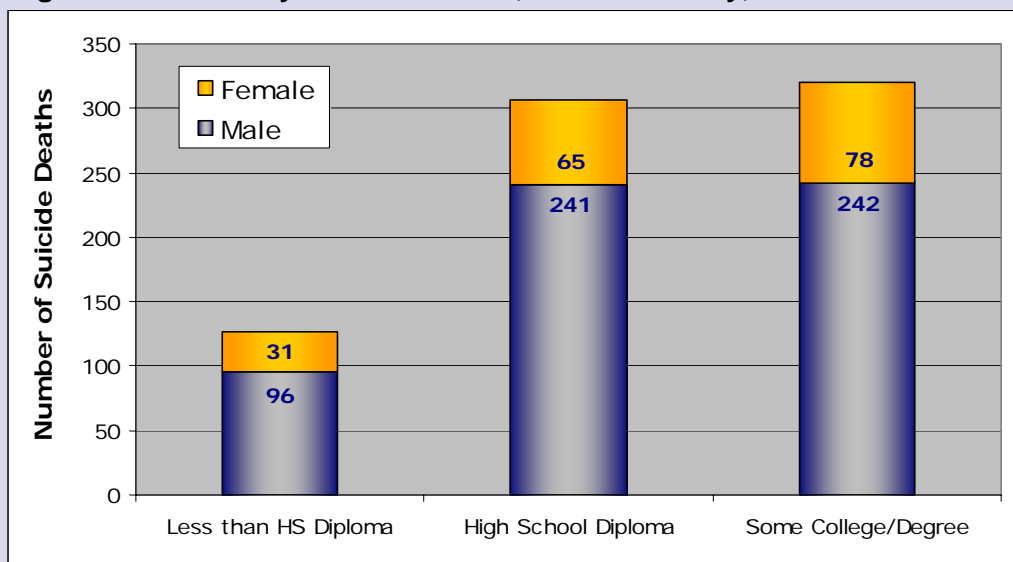


*Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age group specific
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services*

SUICIDE BY EDUCATION LEVEL

The majority of Tarrant County residents who committed suicide from 2001 through 2005 were high school graduates (Figure 6). Seventeen percent of suicide victims did not have a high school diploma and a greater proportion of suicide victims were male than female, regardless of education level.

Figure 6. Suicide by education level, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

***42% of all
suicide
victims
have at
least
some
college
education***

SUICIDE BY GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

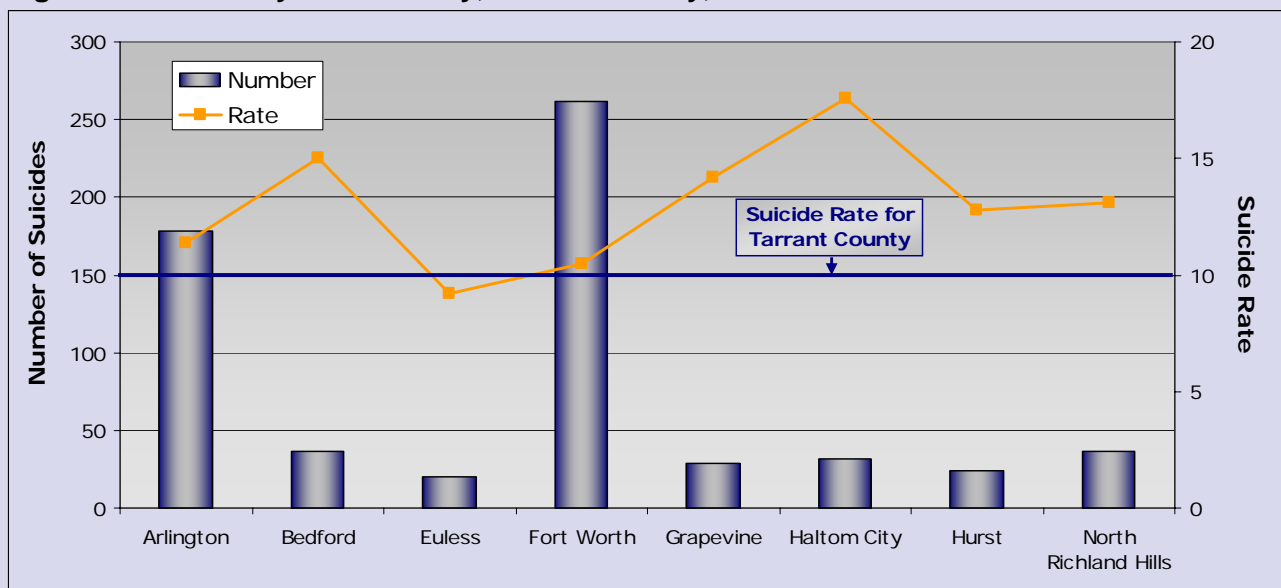
Twenty-eight cities within Tarrant County reported at least one suicide death from 2001 to 2005 and eight cities reported 20 or more suicide deaths in that timeframe (Table 6). Approximately 80 percent of all the suicide deaths in Tarrant County occurred within these eight cities: Arlington, Bedford, Euless, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Haltom City, Hurst, and North Richland Hills. Of these cities, Haltom City had the highest rate of suicide at 17.6 per 100,000 population. Also, among these eight cities, all but one city (Euless) had a suicide rate higher than Tarrant County for the combined years of 2001 through 2005 (Figure 7). For a depiction of suicides by ZIP code, please refer to Figure 8.

Table 6. Suicide by selected city, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

City	Number	Rate
Arlington	178	11.4
Bedford	36	15.0
Euless	20	9.2
Fort Worth	262	10.5
Grapevine	29	14.2
Haltom City	32	17.6
Hurst	24	12.8
North Richland Hills	36	13.1
Tarrant County	771	10.2

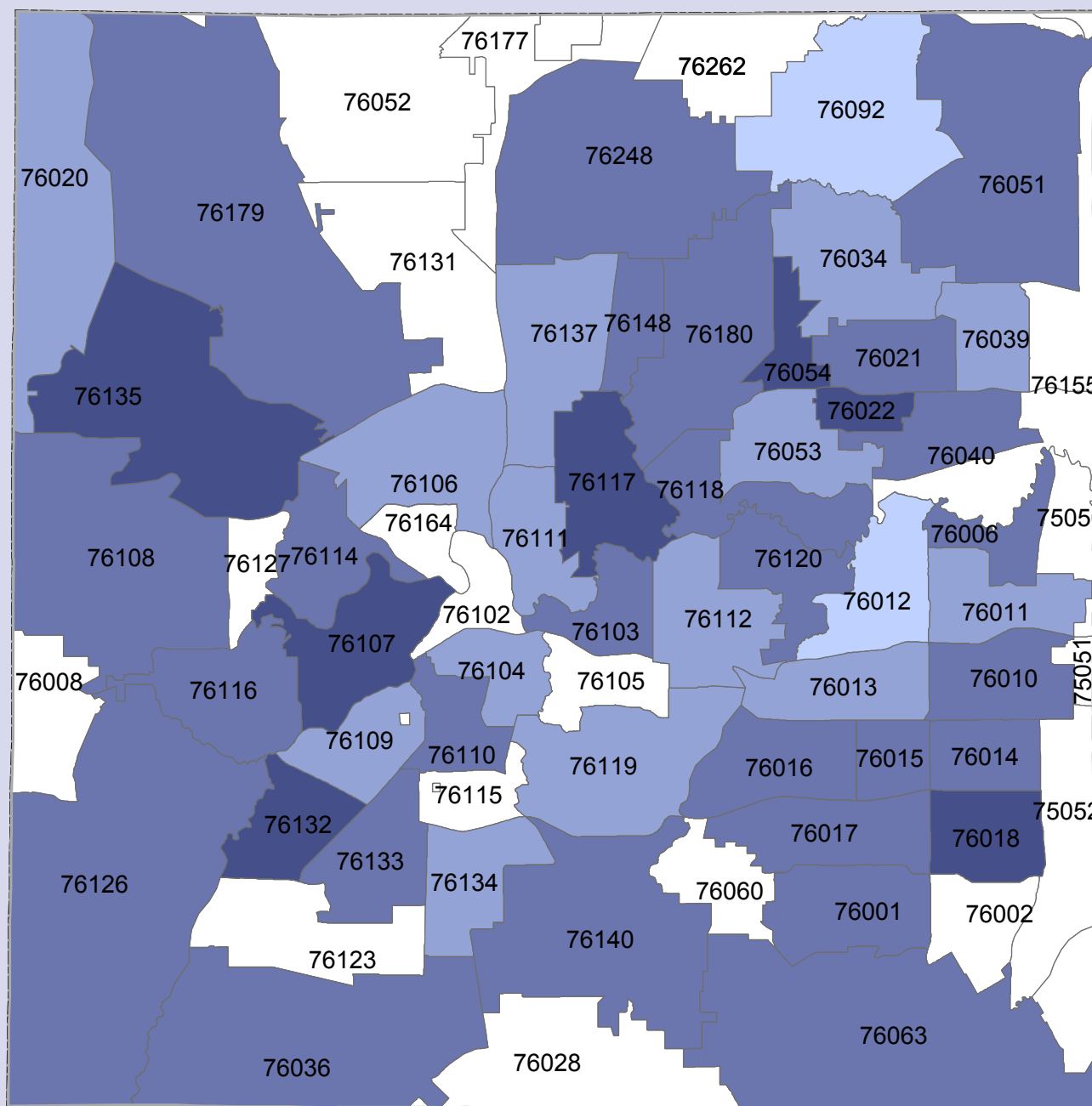
*Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 population
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services*

Figure 7. Suicide by selected city, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

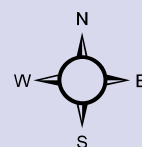
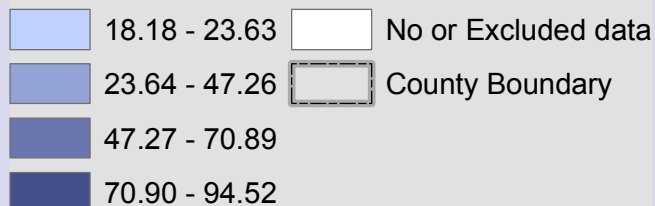


*Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 population
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services*

Figure 8. Geographic distribution of Suicide Deaths by ZIP code, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Crude Death Rate



1 in = 4.5 miles

These data were prepared by Tarrant County Public Health for its use, and may be revised any time, without notification. Tarrant County Public Health does not guarantee the correctness or accuracy of any features on this map. Tarrant County assumes no responsibility in connection therewith.

Said data should not be edited by anyone other than designated personnel, or through written approval by GIS Manager. These data are for informational purposes only and should not create liability on the part of Tarrant County Government, any officer and/or employees thereof.

SUICIDE BY MARITAL STATUS

From 2001 through 2005 among men 15 years of age and older, the suicide rate was lowest for married men (13.3 per 100,000) and highest among widowers (106.5 per 100,000) (Table 7 and Figure 9). Among women 15 years and older, rates were also lowest among those who were married (2.6 per 100,000), but highest among those women who had never been married (9.1 per 100,000).

*The **lowest rate of suicide** is found among men and women who are **married***



Table 7. Suicide by marital status, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

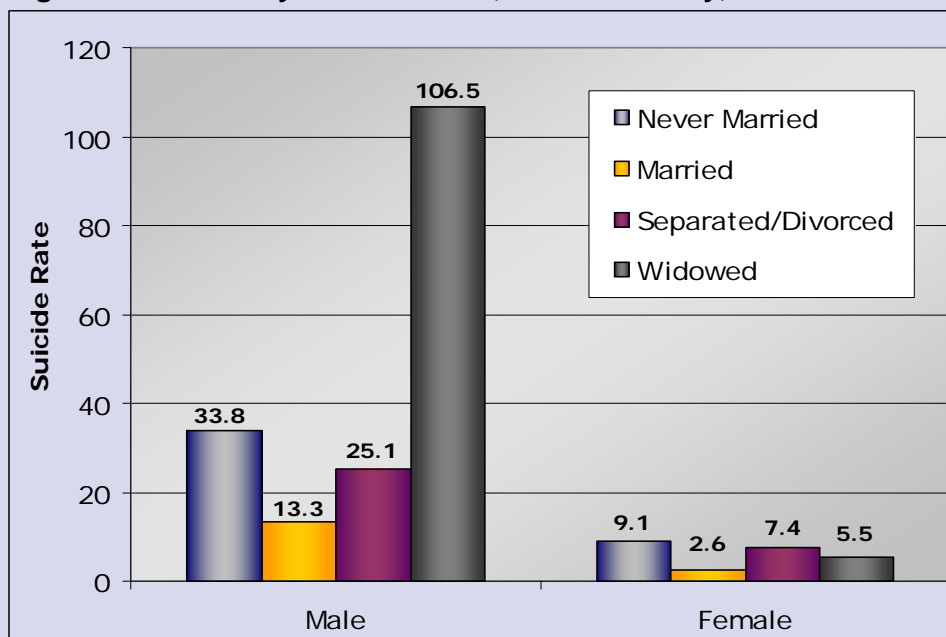
Marital Status	Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Never Married	199	33.8	51	9.1
Married	232	13.3	55	2.6
Separated/Divorced	135	25.1	57	7.4
Widowed	27	106.5	13	5.5

Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 population

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 9. Suicide by marital status, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 2000 population

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

SUICIDE BY VETERAN STATUS

Veterans accounted for approximately 20 percent of all suicide deaths in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005. Veteran status was ascertained from the death certificate question, "Was decedent ever in the U.S. armed forces?" This includes any branch of the military, as well as the National Guard or Reserves and also includes active military. According to the 2000 US Census, 12 percent of Tarrant County residents aged 18 years and over were veterans. However, the Census definition does not include active military, unlike the definition used for death certificate classification. Because of this difference in military classification, is it not possible to calculate a rate of suicide by veteran status. Therefore, the proportion of victims with veteran status is reported instead (Table 8 and Figure 10).

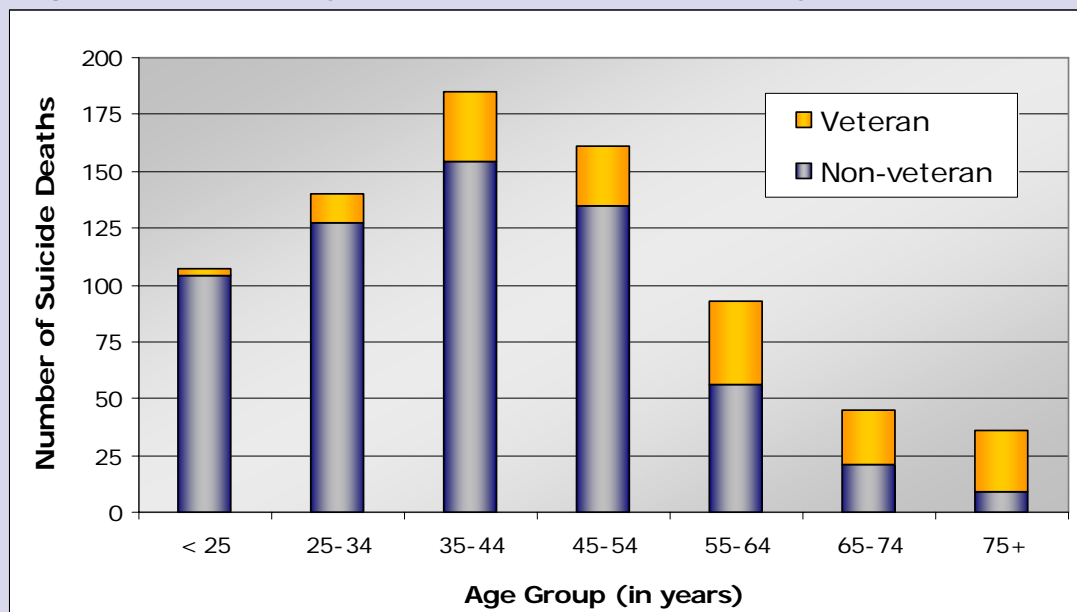
Table 8. Suicide by veteran status, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Age Group (in years)	Veteran	Non-veteran	Percent Veteran
< 25	< 5	104	-
25-34	13	127	9%
35-44	31	154	17%
45-54	26	135	16%
55-64	37	56	40%
65-74	24	21	53%
75+	27	9	75%

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 10. Suicide by veteran status, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Data source: Texas Department of State Health



The proportion of suicide victims with veteran status increased greatly as the age of the victim increased (Table 8 and Figure 10). Over half of all suicides aged 55 years and older were veterans.

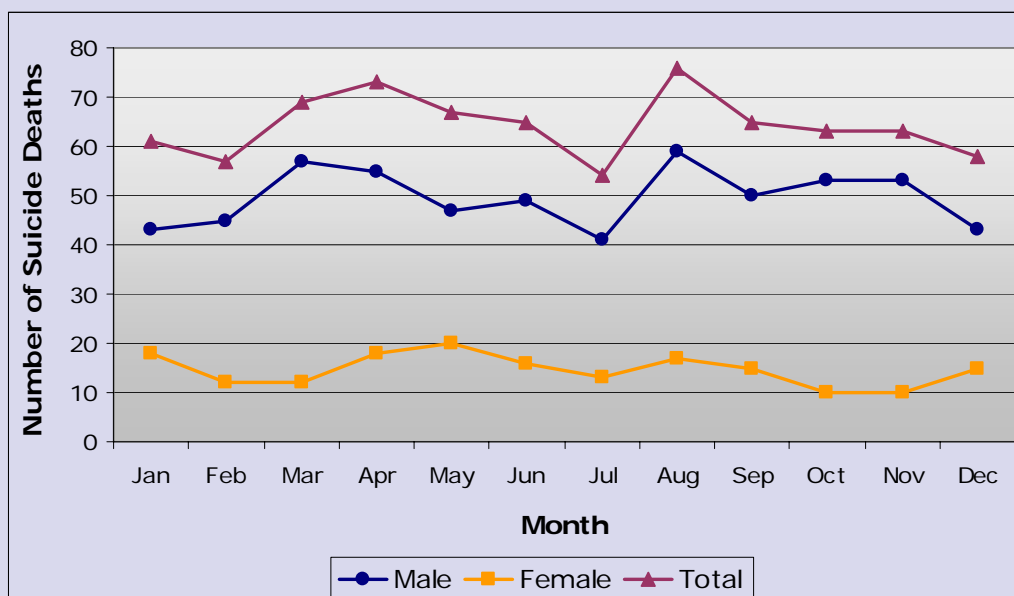
***One out of every five
suicide victims is a
veteran***

SUICIDE BY SEASON



A common myth regarding suicide is that the rates are highest during the winter months and especially during the Christmas holiday season. Neither national nor local statistics support this claim[†]. Overall for Tarrant County, the months with the highest number of suicides were August, April, and March, respectively (Figure 11). July had the lowest number of suicides overall, followed by February and then December. August had the highest number of suicide deaths for men, while May saw the most for women.

Figure 11. Suicide by month, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

***August
has the
most
suicides
followed
by April
and March***

[†]The Annenberg Public Policy Center. *The Holiday-Suicide Myth*. December 8, 2008.

SUICIDE BY METHOD

The majority of suicides in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005 were committed using a firearm (Figure 12). Hanging / Suffocation was used in 23 percent of suicide cases and poisoning was used 15 percent of the time. Men were more likely to use firearms than women (60% vs. 44%) and women were more likely to use poison (30% vs. 11%) (Figures 13 and 14).

Figure 12. Suicide by method, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

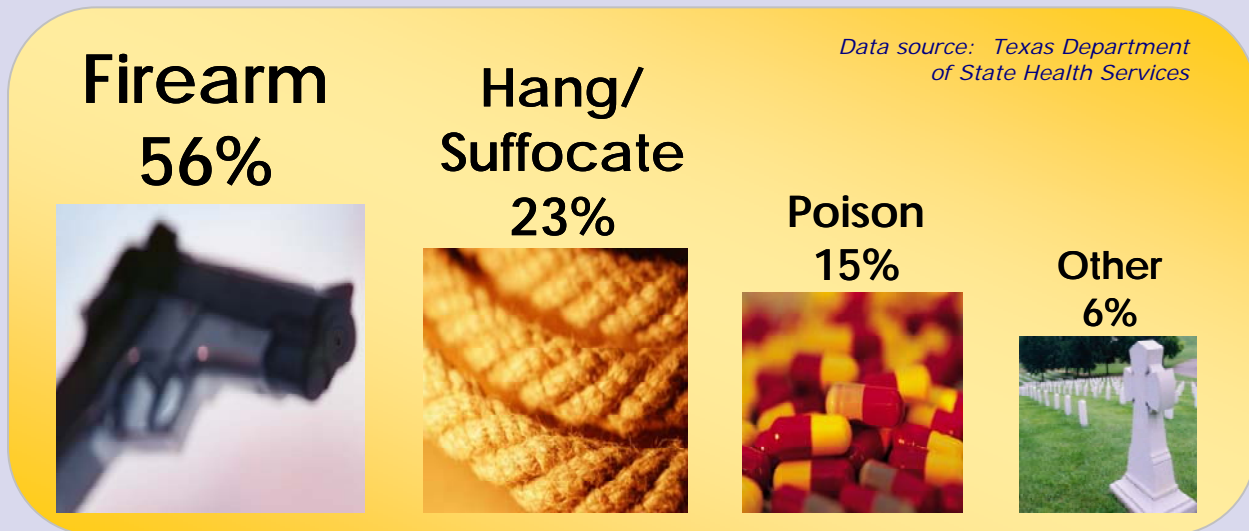
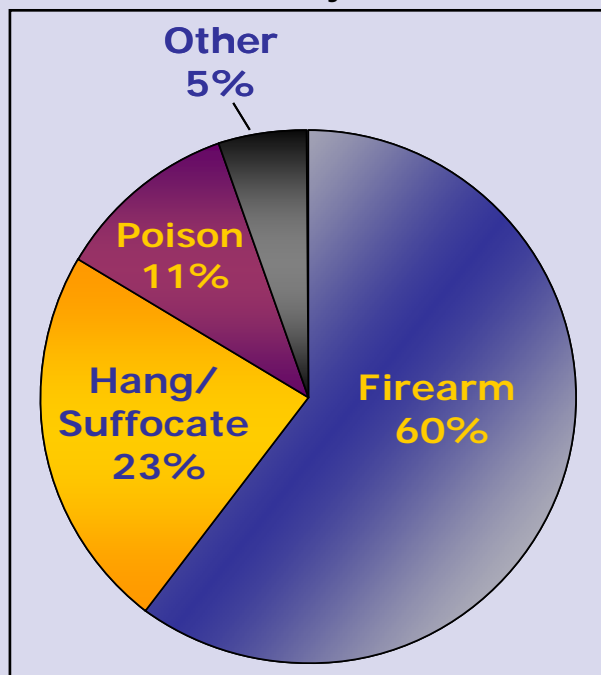
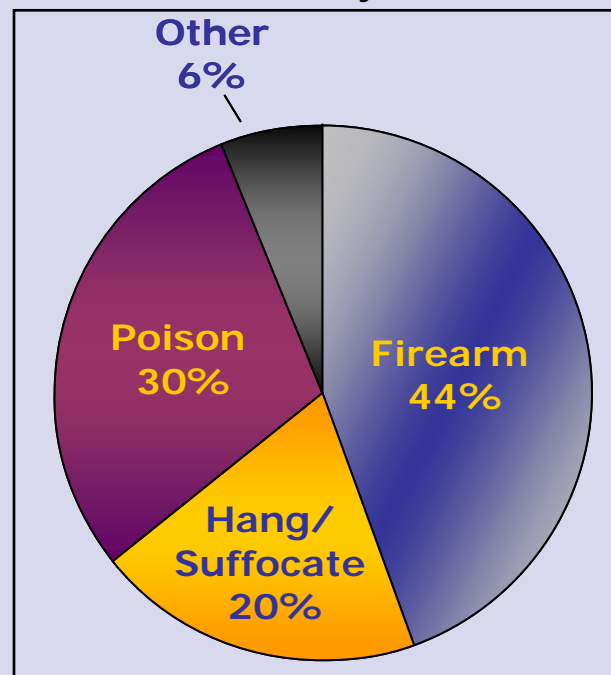


Figure 13. Suicide by method among males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 14. Suicide by method among females, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

IV. SUICIDE AMONG ADOLESCENTS / YOUNG ADULTS

There were a total of 109 suicide deaths among adolescents and young adults (ages 10 to 24 years) in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005, comprising 14 percent of all suicides for that time period. The highest rate of suicide among this age group was in 2001 at 8.2 per 100,000 population (Table 9). The next year, 2002, saw the lowest rate at 4.7 per 100,000 population. Adolescents and young adults had a 21 percent decrease in the suicide rate from 2001 to 2005.

Table 9. Suicides among adolescents and young adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Adolescent / Young Adult (Age 10-24 yrs)	
	Number	Rate
2001	27	8.2
2002	16	4.7
2003	20	5.8
2004	23	6.5
2005	23	6.5
2001-2005	109	6.3

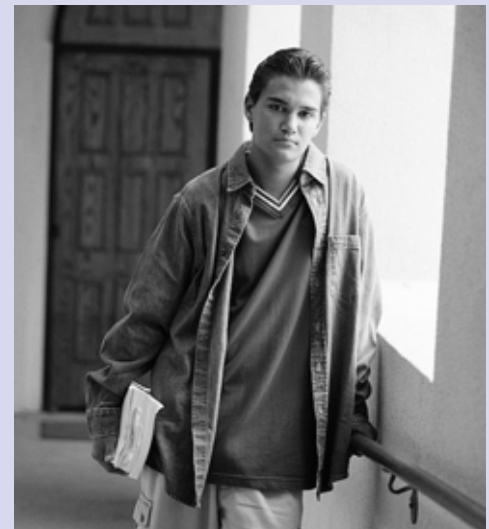
*Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age group specific
Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services*

SUICIDE BY GENDER (AGES 10 TO 24 YEARS)

Adolescent and young adult males committed suicide at a rate three times higher than their female counterparts, accounting for 77 percent of all suicides in that age group (Table 10). However, there was a 44 percent decrease in the number of suicides among young males between 2001 and 2005 (Figure 15), while the number of suicides among young females increased during this same time.

Table 10. Suicide by gender among adolescents and young adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Adolescent / Young Adult (Age 10-24 yrs)			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	25	14.9	< 5	-
2002	12	7.0	< 5	-
2003	14	8.0	6	3.5
2004	19	10.7	< 5	-
2005	14	7.7	9	5.1
2001-2005	84	9.6	25	3.0



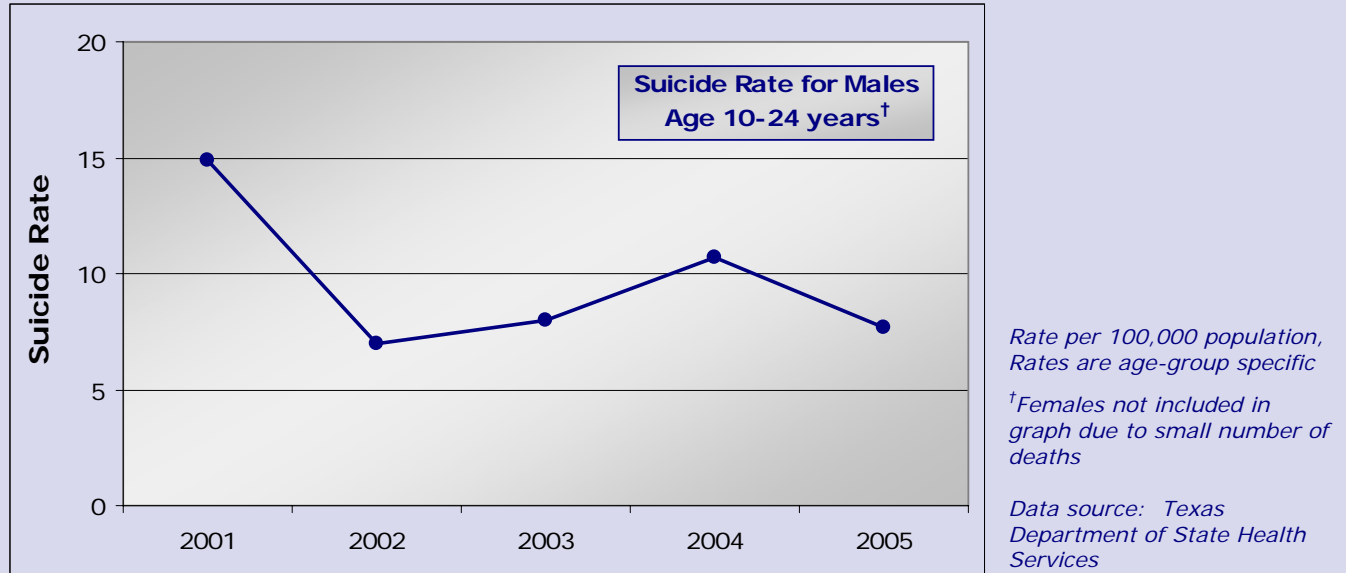
Rate per 100,000 population Rates are age-group specific

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 15. Suicide among adolescent and young adult males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



14% of all suicides are committed by persons 10 to 24 years old

SUICIDE BY RACE/ETHNICITY (AGES 10 TO 24 YEARS)

The rate of suicide among Whites age 10 to 24 years old (8.8 per 100,000 population) was more than twice as high as it was for Hispanics (4.1 per 100,000) and almost three times higher than it was for Blacks (3.0 per 100,000 population) (Figure 16 and Table 11).

Figure 16. Suicide by race/ethnicity among adolescents and young adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

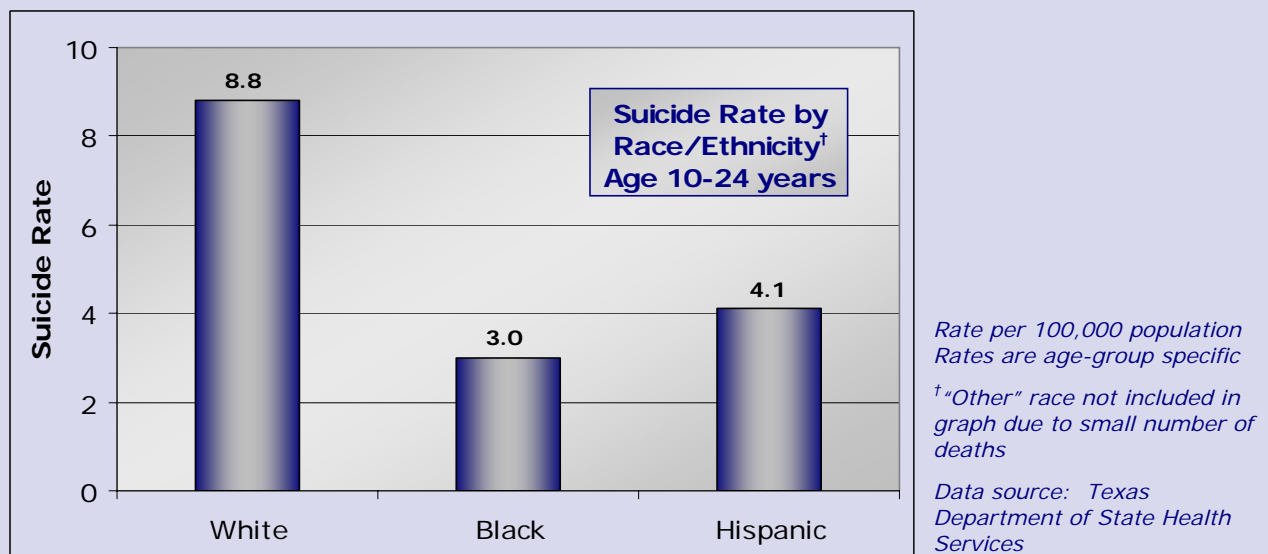


Table 11. Suicide by race/ethnicity among adolescents and young adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Adolescent / Young Adult (Age 10-24 yrs)		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Rate
White	77	8.8
Black	8	3.0
Hispanic	20	4.1
Other	< 5	-

71% of all suicide victims age 10 to 24 years old are **White**

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age-group specific

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

SUICIDE BY METHOD (AGES 10 TO 24 YEARS)

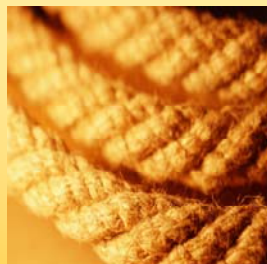
Over half of suicides among adolescents and young adults in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005 were committed using a firearm (Figure 17). Hanging / Suffocation was used in 38 percent of suicide cases and poisoning was used four percent of the time. Young males were more likely to use firearms than females (58% vs. 32%) and young females were twice as likely to commit suicide by means of hanging or suffocation as their male peers (60% vs. 31%) (Figures 18 and 19).

Figure 17. Suicide by method among adolescents and young adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]

Firearm
52%



**Hang/
Suffocate**
38%



Other
6%

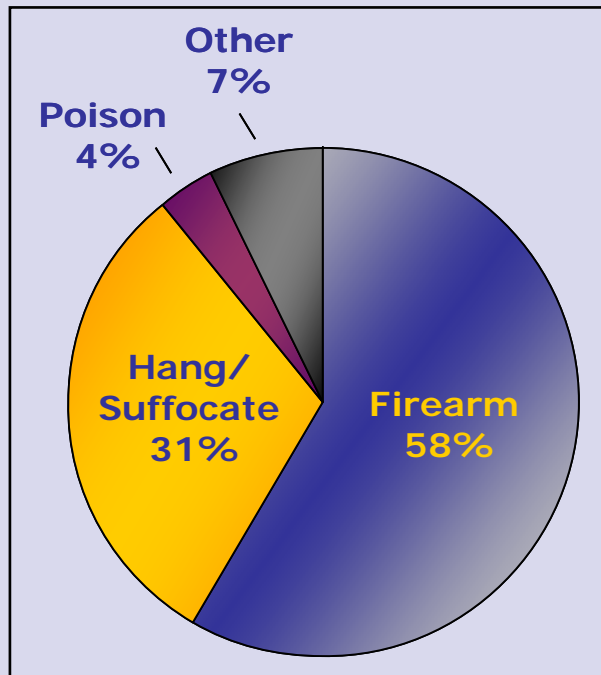


Poison
4%



[†]Age 10 to 24 years
Data source: Texas Department
of State Health Services

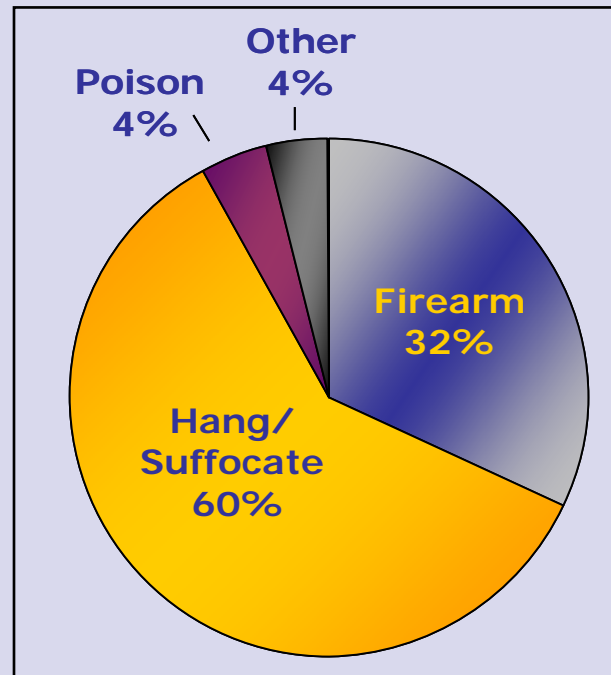
Figure 18. Suicide by method among young males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 10 to 24 years

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 19. Suicide by method among young females, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 10 to 24 years

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

V. SUICIDE AMONG WORKING-AGED ADULTS

There were a total of 580 suicide deaths among working-aged adults (ages 25 to 64 years) in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005, comprising 75 percent of all suicides for that time period. The highest rate of suicide among this age group was in 2005 at 16.8 per 100,000 population (Table 12). The year 2002 saw the lowest rate of suicide at 10.7 per 100,000 population. Working-aged adults had a 31 percent increase in the suicide rate from 2001 to 2005.

Table 12. Suicide among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Working-Aged Adults (Age 25-64 yrs)	
	Number	Rate
2001	102	12.8
2002	88	10.7
2003	135	16.1
2004	108	12.6
2005	147	16.8
2001-2005	580	13.8

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age group specific
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

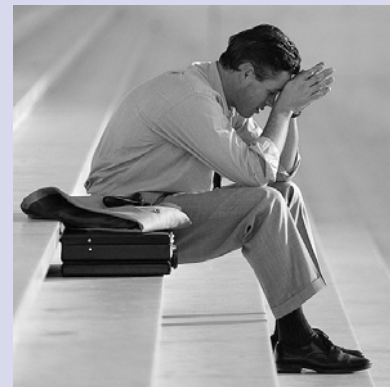
SUICIDE BY GENDER (AGES 25 TO 64 YEARS)

Working-aged adult males committed suicide at a rate three times higher than their female counterparts, accounting for 77 percent of all suicides in that age group (Table 13). There was an overall increase in the suicide rate among both working-aged males and females between 2001 and 2005 (Figure 20), however, the increase among males (34%) was greater than that among females (22%).

*Males 25 to 64 years
old commit suicide
**at a rate three
times higher**
than females in the
same age group*

Table 13. Suicide by gender among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

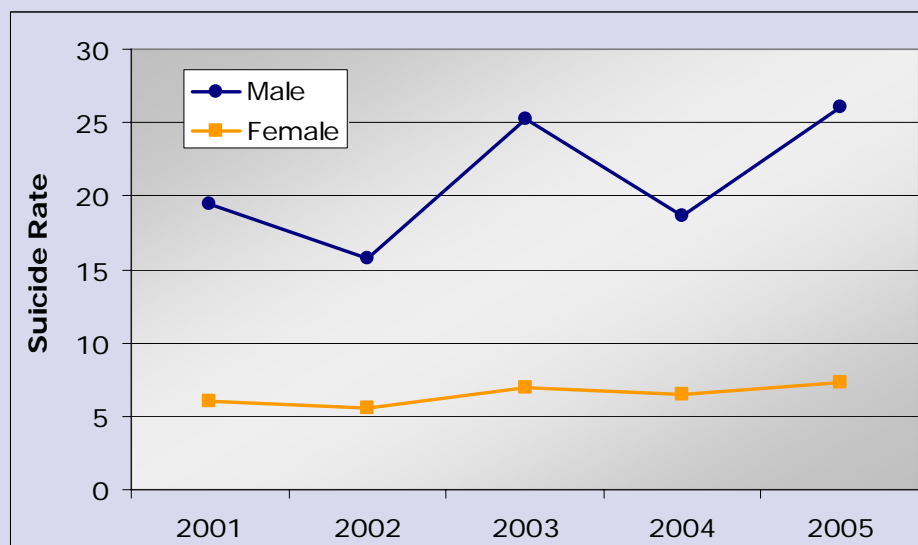
Year	Working-Aged Adults (Age 25-64 yrs)			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	78	19.5	24	6.0
2002	65	15.8	23	5.6
2003	106	25.2	29	6.9
2004	80	18.6	28	6.5
2005	115	26.1	32	7.3
2001-2005	444	21.1	136	6.5



*Rate per 100,000 population
Rates are age-group specific*

*Data source: Texas Department of
State Health Services*

Figure 20. Suicide by gender among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 25-64 years

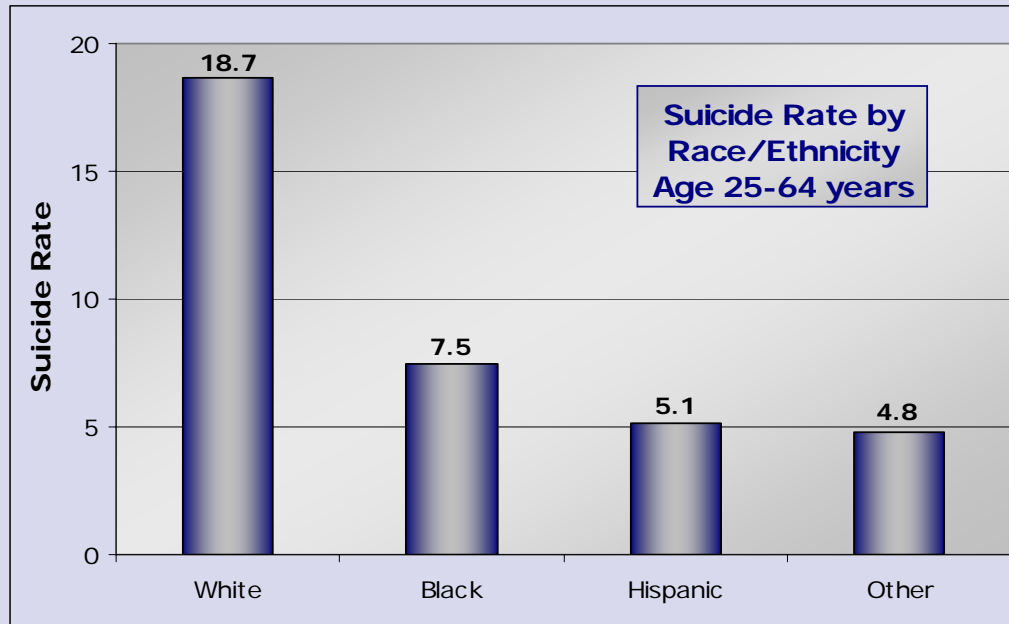
*Rate per 100,000 population
Rates are age-group specific*

*Data source: Texas Department of
State Health Services*

SUICIDE BY RACE/ETHNICITY (AGES 25 TO 64 YEARS)

The rate of suicide among Whites aged 25 to 64 years old (18.7 per 100,000 population) was more than twice as high as it was for Blacks (7.5 per 100,000) and over three times higher than it was for Hispanics (5.1 per 100,000 population) (Figure 21 and Table 14).

Figure 21. Suicide by race/ethnicity among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



*Rate per 100,000 population
Rates are age-group specific*

*Data source: Texas
Department of State Health
Services*

Table 14. Suicide by race/ethnicity among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Working-Aged Adults (Age 25-64 yrs)		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Rate
White	487	18.7
Black	39	7.5
Hispanic	43	5.1
Other	11	4.8

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age-group specific

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

84% of all suicide
victims age 25 to
64 years old are
White

SUICIDE BY METHOD (AGES 25 TO 64 YEARS)

Over half of suicides among working-aged adults in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005 were committed using a firearm (Figure 22). Hanging / Suffocation was used in 22 percent of suicide cases and poisoning was used 18 percent of the time. Men were more likely to use firearms than women (58% vs. 43%) and women were almost three times more likely to commit suicide by poisoning than their male peers (37% vs. 13%) (Figures 23 and 24).

Figure 22. Suicide by method among working-aged adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]

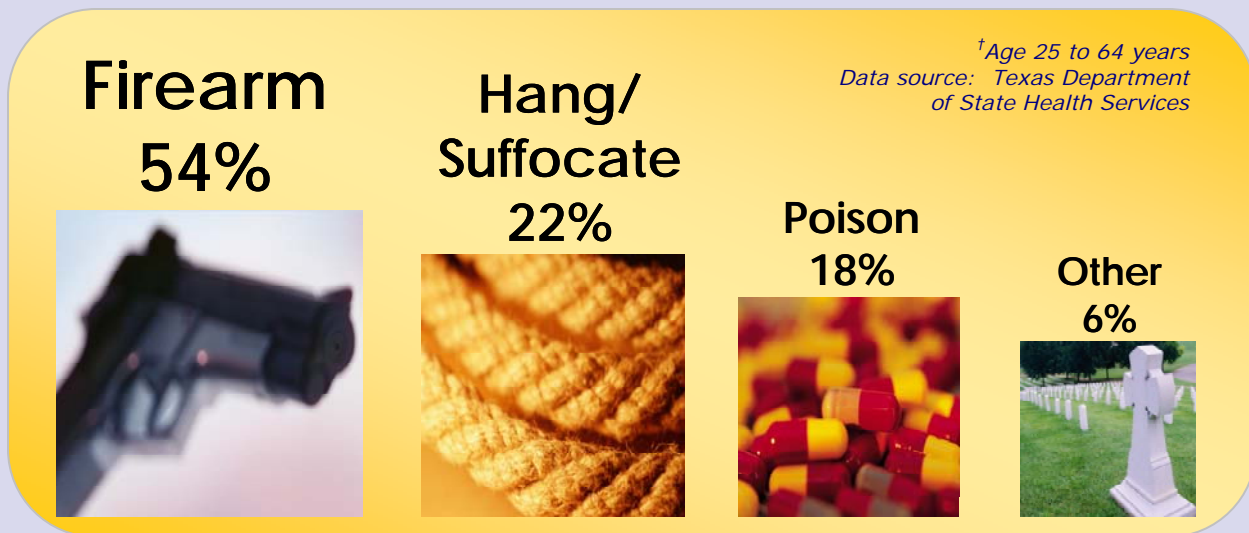
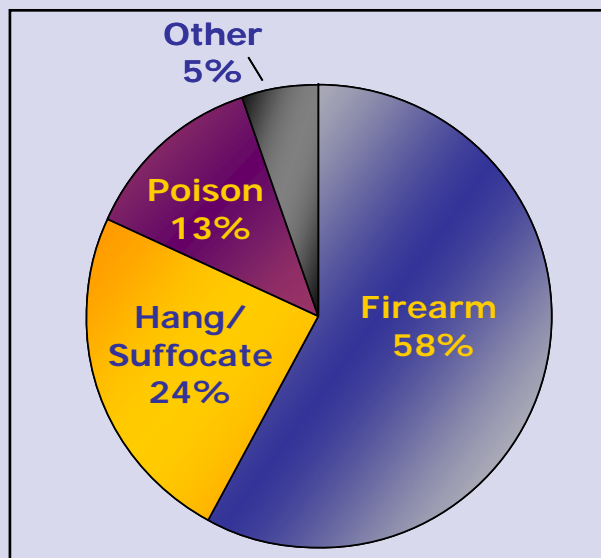
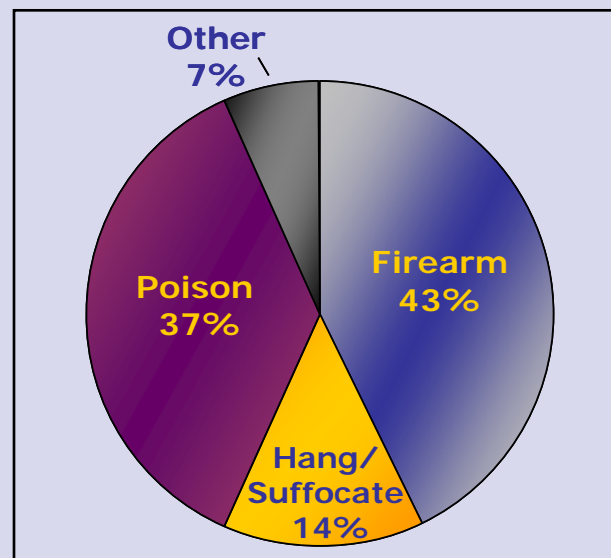


Figure 23. Suicide by method among working-aged males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 25 to 64 years
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 24. Suicide by method among working-aged females, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 25 to 64 years
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

VI. SUICIDE AMONG OLDER ADULTS

There were a total of 81 suicide deaths among older adults (age 65 years and older) in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005, comprising 11 percent of all suicides for that time period. The highest rate of suicide among this age group was in 2004 at 16.1 per 100,000 population (Table 15). The year 2003 had the lowest rate at 7.8 per 100,000 population. Older adults had a 25 percent increase in the suicide rate from 2001 to 2005.

Table 15. Suicide among older adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Older Adults (Age 65+ yrs)	
	Number	Rate
2001	14	11.4
2002	17	13.5
2003	10	7.8
2004	21	16.1
2005	19	14.3
2001-2005	81	12.7

*Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age group specific
Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services*

SUICIDE BY GENDER (AGES 65 YEARS AND OLDER)

Older adult males committed suicide at a rate six times higher than their female counterparts, accounting for 81 percent of all suicides in that age group (Table 16). In addition, there was a 48 percent increase in the suicide rate among older males between 2001 and 2005 (Figure 25). Females in this age category averaged three suicide deaths per year during the reporting period.



Table 16. Suicide by gender among older adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Year	Older Adults (Age 65+ yrs)			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	11	22.0	< 5	-
2002	13	25.3	< 5	-
2003	7	13.3	< 5	-
2004	17	31.5	< 5	-
2005	18	32.5	< 5	-
2001-2005	66	25.1	15	4.0

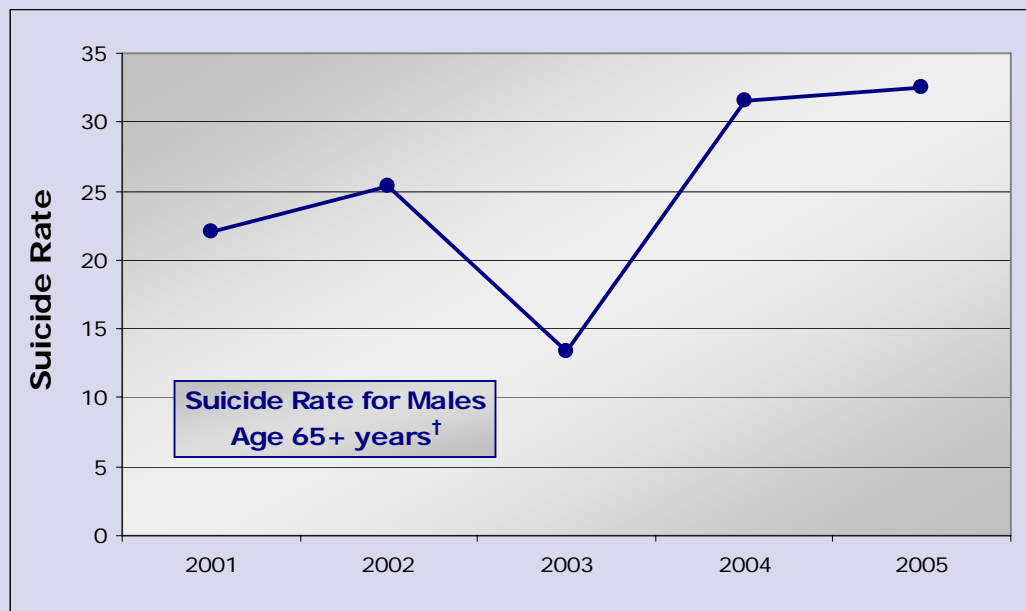
*Rate per 100,000 population
Rates are age-group specific*

Note: Rates based on numbers less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 25. Suicide among older adult males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005



*Older adult males commit suicide at a rate **six times higher** than their female peers*

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age-group specific

†Females not included in graph due to small number of deaths

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

SUICIDE BY RACE/ETHNICITY (AGES 65 YEARS AND OLDER)

Ninety-four percent of all suicide victims age 65 years and older were White. There were less than five suicides each among Blacks and Hispanics for this age category from 2001 through 2005 and no suicides among those classified as Other (Table 17).

Table 17. Suicide by race/ethnicity among older adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005

Older Adults (Age 65+ yrs)		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Rate
White	76	14.7
Black	< 5	-
Hispanic	< 5	-
Other	0	-

Rate per 100,000 population, Rates are age-group specific

Less than five cases not reported

Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

94%** of all suicide victims age 65 years and older are **White

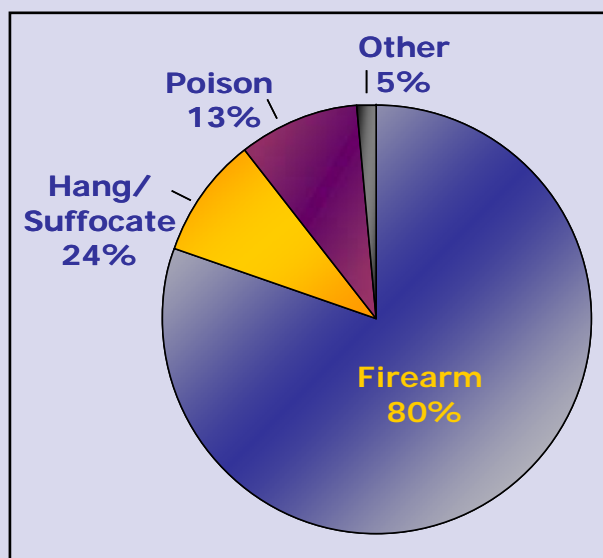
SUICIDE BY METHOD (AGES 65 YEARS AND OLDER)

Firearms were used in 80 percent of all suicides among older adults in Tarrant County from 2001 through 2005 (Figure 26). Hanging / Suffocation and poisoning were each used in nine percent of suicide cases. Older men and women used firearms equally (80% each), however, men were three times more likely to commit suicide by means of hanging / suffocation than women (24% vs. 7%) and almost twice as likely to use poisoning (13% vs. 7%).

Figure 26. Suicide by method among older adults, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]

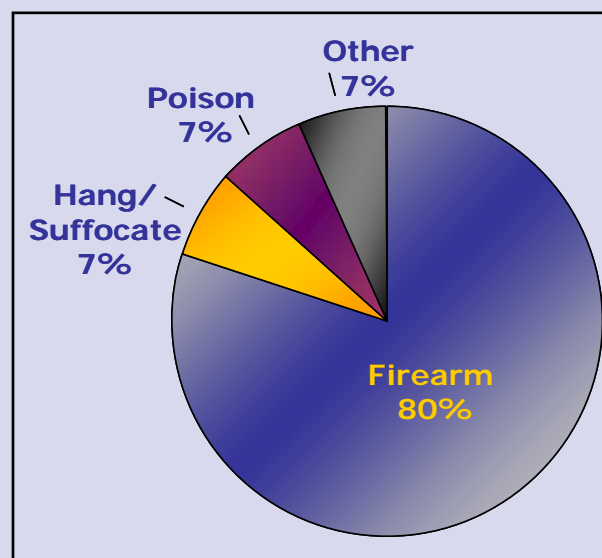


Figure 27. Suicide by method among older adult males, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 65 years and older
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

Figure 28. Suicide by method among older adult females, Tarrant County, 2001-2005[†]



[†]Age 65 years and older
Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services

VII. CONCLUSIONS

This report decidedly shows that suicide is a public health concern for our community. Even though suicide is a preventable means of death, the suicide rate increased 20 percent in Tarrant County from 2001 to 2005, an increase ten times greater than at the national level. Suicide was ranked as the second highest non-natural cause of death in Tarrant County and is a proven area of health disparity, especially among men and Whites.

A decade ago, then-Surgeon General David Satcher issued a *Call to Action to Prevent Suicide*, unveiling a blueprint for suicide prevention in America[†]. Promoting public awareness of this issue was one of the prominent recommendations made by his office. *Suicide in Tarrant County, 2001-2005* is part of Tarrant County Public Health's continuing endeavor to raise awareness regarding suicide in our community. This report provides information on suicide trends and identifies those groups with the highest risk of suicide. However, that identification is only one step in addressing the suicide dilemma. Determining strategies for effective intervention and prevention are key to ending suicide attempts and the taking of one's life. The information herein is a tool which program and policy intervention professionals can utilize to decrease suicide among our residents and carry on the mission to safeguard our community's health.

[†]U.S. Public Health Service, *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide*. Washington, DC: 1999.

APPENDIX

SUICIDE IN TARRANT COUNTY, 2001-2005 FACTS AT A GLANCE

SUICIDE DEATHS OVERALL

- Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death overall for Tarrant County.
- Suicide accounts for approximately 2% of all deaths in Tarrant County.
- From 2001 through 2005, 771 suicides occurred in Tarrant County at a rate of 10.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

GENDER DIFFERENCES

- Men take their own lives at nearly four times the rate of women and represent 77% of all Tarrant County suicides.
- Suicide is the seventh leading cause of death for males and the sixteenth leading cause for females.
- Among males, adults age 75 years and older have the highest rate of suicide (30.6 per 100,000 population).
- Among females, those age 45 to 54 have the highest rate of suicide (8.9 per 100,000 population).
- Firearms are a more common method of suicide among males than females (60% vs. 44%).
- Poisoning is a more common method of suicide among females than males (30% vs. 11%).

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES

- The highest rate of suicide is among Whites (13.5 per 100,000 population), a rate three times higher than for both Blacks and Hispanics (4.8 and 4.1 per 100,000 population respectively).
- Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death among Whites, the eleventh leading cause among Hispanics, and the seventeenth leading cause among Blacks.

AGE GROUP DIFFERENCES

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 25 to 34 year olds and the third leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year olds.
- The rate of suicide for adolescents/young adults (age 10 to 24 years) is 6.3 per 100,000 population.
- For working-aged adults (age 25 to 64) the suicide rate is 13.8 per 100,000 population.
- The rate of suicide for adults age 65 years and older is 12.7 per 100,000 population.
- From 2001 to 2005, the suicide rate increased 31% among working-aged adults and 25% among older adults, but decreased 21% among adolescents/young adults.



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