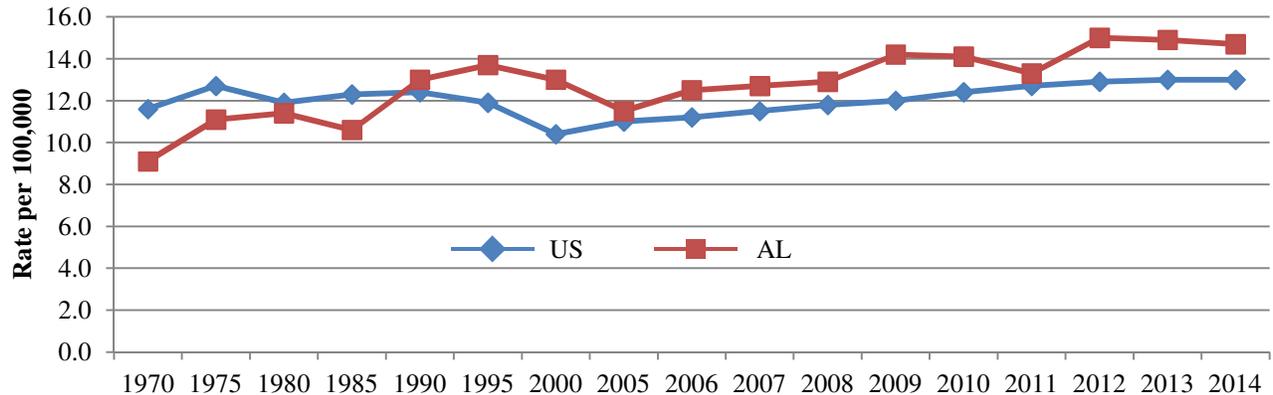


Alabama Suicide Fact Sheet

Nationally, suicide is the **10th leading cause of death** and the **2nd leading cause of death** for youth and young adults between the ages of 15-24 years. A person dies by suicide every 13 minutes in the United States. Every day, over 100 Americans take their own lives. There are over one million annual attempts in the United States, which translates to one attempt every 31 seconds. For each suicide, it is estimated that at least 6 other people are intimately affected.

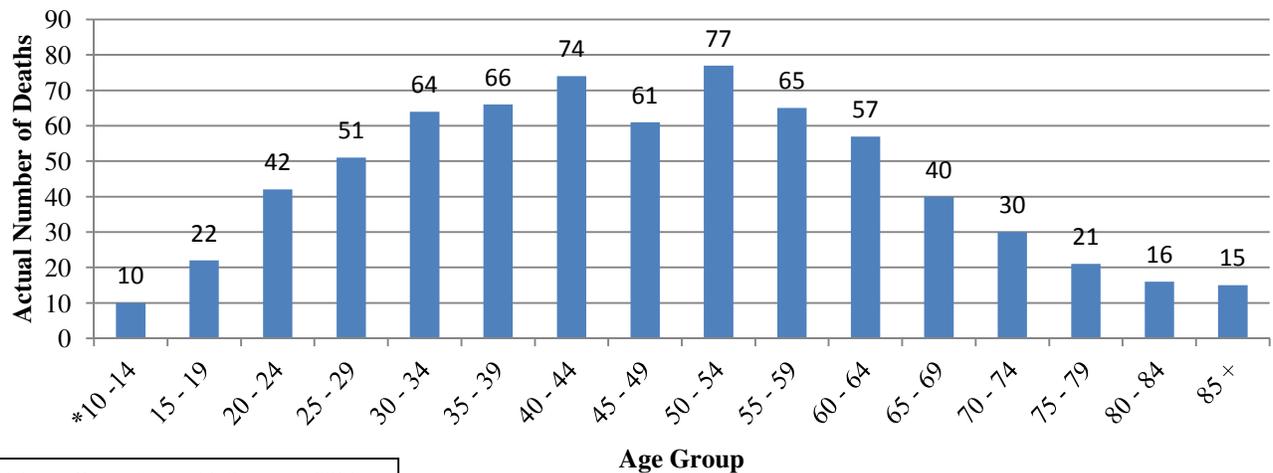
Suicide Rates in U.S. and Alabama 1970-Present



Alabama Center for Health Statistics, 2016

The 2014 suicide rate in Alabama was 14.7 per 100,000 population. Alabama has shown a pattern of higher rates than the U.S. national average since 1990, including the most recently available national rate of 13.0 (2014). It was the 11th leading cause of death in Alabama with **711 citizens lost to suicide** in 2014, as compared to **375 deaths due to homicide**. Seventy-four youth and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24 died by suicide in 2013 with 42 of those deaths in young people ages 20-24. Suicide rates are highest among the White, non-Hispanic population, particularly males. Of the 711 suicides in Alabama, 505 were completed among the White, non-Hispanic population. It is **the sixth leading cause of death among White males**. The number of suicides among older adults is low due to death from other causes. However, suicide rates are relatively high particularly among White males ages 85 and over.

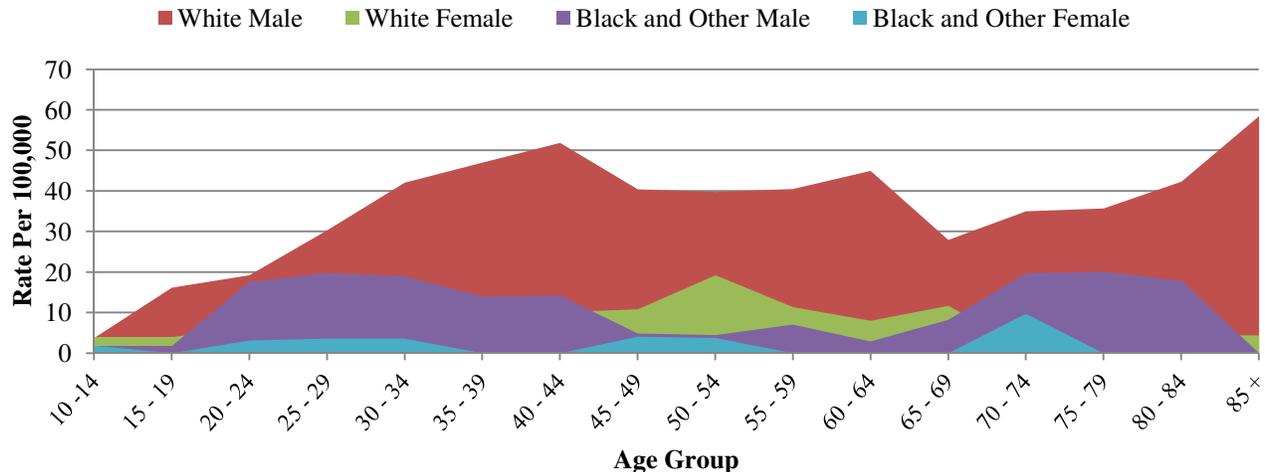
Alabama Suicide by Age Group, 2014



Alabama Center for Health Statistics, 2016

* The state of Alabama abides by the mandate of the World Health Organization which states that any death of a child under the age of 10 cannot be declared a suicide.

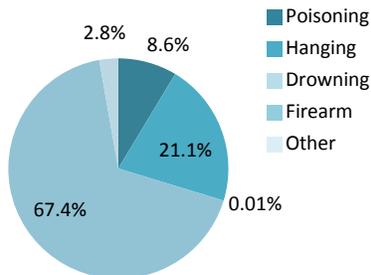
2014 Alabama Suicide Rates by Age, Race, and Sex



2014 Alabama Suicide by Method

67%

Of Suicides are by firearms in Alabama



Alabama has a higher percentage of suicides by firearms (67%) than the U.S. average of 50%. This is true for both women (69%) and men (60%). The second most common method is by hanging or suffocation (21%). Suicide by poison (9%) is mostly by use of medication.

Myths About Suicide:

- No one can stop a suicide.
Fact: If a young person gets the help they need, they are less likely to be suicidal again.
- Confronting a person about suicide will only make them angry and increase the risk of suicide.
Fact: Asking about suicide lowers anxiety, opens up communication, and lowers impulsive acts.
- Suicidal people keep their plans to themselves.
Fact: Most suicidal people communicate their intent at some point near their attempt.
- Those who talk about suicide don't do it.
Fact: People who talk about suicide may try or even complete it.
- Once a person decides to complete suicide, there is nothing anyone can do to stop them.
Fact: Suicide is the most preventable kind of death.
- Most suicides happen during the holidays.
Fact: There are seasonal variations in suicide rates.

Risk Factors:

- Previous suicide attempt
- Current talk of suicide or making a plan
- Strong wish to die or preoccupied with death
- Giving away prized possessions
- Depression
- Feeling hopeless, helpless, or worthless
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Recent attempt by friend or family member
- Mental Illness
- Social Isolation

Protective Factors:

- Network of family or friends (social support)
- Religiosity or Spirituality
- Marital Status
- Reduced access to lethal means

How Can I Help?

- Ask "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
- Listen to their problems
- Stay with them until they get help or are in a safe place
- Lock up firearms and prescription drugs
- Do not tell them everything is going to be okay
- Do not promise to keep it a secret
- Let them know help is available

For more information:

Alabama Department of Public Health
www.adph.org/suicideprevention
 Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resource Coalition
www.asparc.org
 American Association of Suicidology
www.suicidology.org
 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
www.afsp.org

TOLLFREE HOTLINE NUMBER
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)
1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

Updated by Betsy Cagle.
 Alabama Department of Public Health
 November 2016