

The Public Health Impact of Suicide in Los Angeles County, 2011

Los Angeles County Suicide Trends

- There were 769 suicide deaths among Los Angeles County residents in 2011.
- There were 3,965 hospitalizations for suicide attempts and 2,595 emergency department (ED) visits for suicide attempts in 2011.
- Suicide is the 6th leading cause of premature death with 21,754 years of potential life lost in 2011.
- Firearms were the most common mechanism of suicide overall, followed by suffocation/hanging, and poisoning.
- Poisoning was the most common mechanism of suicide attempts treated in the ED and in hospital admissions.
- The projected total economic impact of suicides and suicide attempts was nearly \$1 billion.

Populations Impacted by Suicide in Los Angeles County

- Males most often died by firearm while females most often died by poisoning.
- Whites had the highest rates of suicide and suicide attempts requiring hospitalization.
- African Americans had the highest rates of suicide attempts treated in the ED, and the second highest rate of suicide attempts requiring hospitalization.
- Males account for the majority of suicide deaths (596 vs. 173) and have rates more than 3 times that of females (12.4 per 100,000 vs. 3.3 per 100,000). However, females have the highest rates of suicide attempts including hospitalizations and ED visits.
- Suicide rates are the highest among adults age 45 and older, while rates of hospitalizations and ED visits for suicide attempts were highest among teens and young adults ages 15-29.
- Annual suicide rates were highest in Service Planning Area (SPA) 1 (Antelope Valley) at 13.5 per 100,000 and SPA 5 (West) at 10.7 per 100,000 and lowest in SPA 6 (South) at 4.2 per 100,000.

Suicide and suicidal behaviors are significant but preventable public health problems that when addressed comprehensively, can greatly reduce premature deaths and injuries.

**For more information, email ivpp@ph.lacounty.gov
or visit www.ph.lacounty.gov/ivpp.**

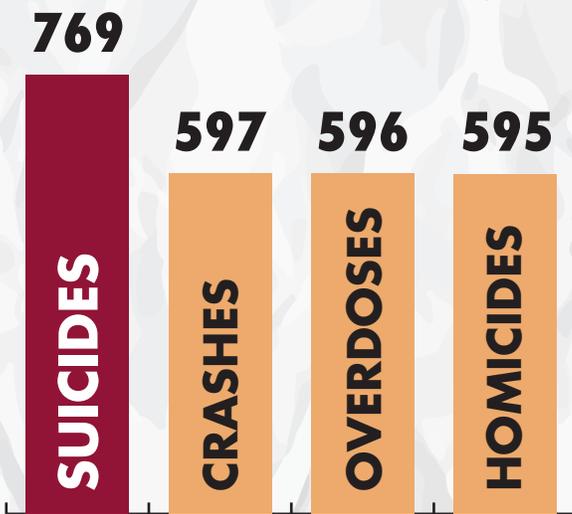
If you are thinking of hurting yourself, or if you are concerned about someone else, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273 TALK (8255).

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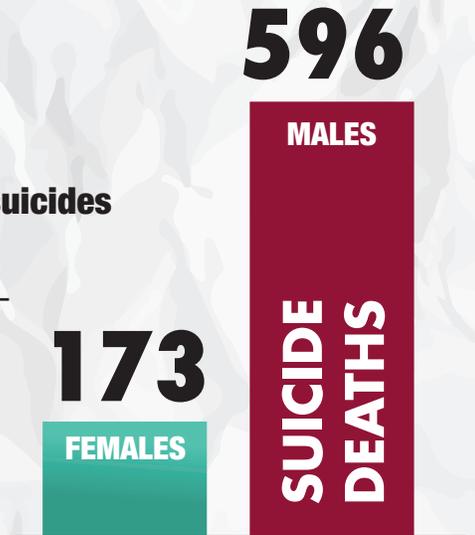


1 billion

Total projected economic impact of suicides and attempted suicides in 2011.*



In 2011, more Los Angeles County residents died by suicide than motor vehicle crashes, unintentional drug overdoses, or homicides.



Males account for the majority of suicide deaths and have rates more than 3 times that of females.

each day

2 Two residents died by suicide.



11 Eleven were hospitalized for a suicide attempt.



7 Seven were treated in the emergency department for a suicide attempt.



* Projected costs for suicides and suicide attempts in Los Angeles County during 2010, based on 2005 U.S. cost estimates. Office of Statistics and Programming, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC (2013).