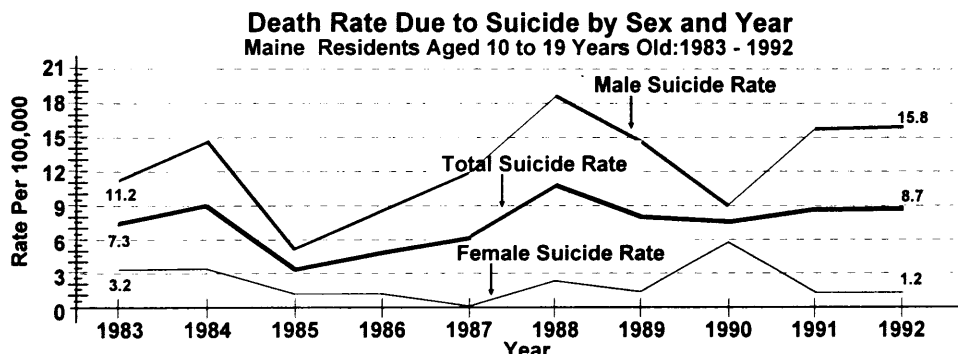


ADOLESCENT SUICIDES IN MAINE

Maine Residents, Aged 10 to 19 Years Old: 1983 - 1992

- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1983 to 1992, 133 Maine adolescents committed suicide: 115 males and 18 females, an average death rate of 7.4 deaths per 100,000 adolescent residents.
- ➔ The most common means of committing suicide was through use of firearms; unlike other age groups, this was true for females as well as males.
- ➔ The male suicide rate, 12.5/100,000 is not statistically different in the adolescent population than the female suicide rate, 2.0/100,000, probably due to the very small number of female suicides (1 or 2 per year).



- ➔ Consistent with the other age groups, during the 10 year period: the suicide rate increased for adolescent males, the female rate decreased (by more than half), and the overall rate remained relatively flat.
- ➔ Overall, the county with the highest death rate for adolescent suicide for the period was Oxford county (15.5 per 100,000) and the lowest was in Sagadahoc county (2.1).
- ➔ In the 10 to 14 year old age group, 15 children committed suicide between 1983 and 1992; 14 males and 1 female. With one exception, these very young Maine residents chose firearms or hanging and suffocation as the method of suicide.
- ➔ During all but one year of this 10 year period, suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death (after unintentional injuries) for adolescents 15 - 19 years old; for the 10 - 14 year olds, suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death (after unintentional injuries and cancer) in 3 of the last ten years including the two most recent years of data, 1991 and 1992.
- ➔ In 1992, the death rate due to adolescent suicide in Maine, 8.7/100,000 adolescent residents, was comparable to the national rate of 6.4.

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

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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