

# Violent Deaths Among WI Residents (2004-2011)

From Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System



## VIOLENT DEATH OVERVIEW

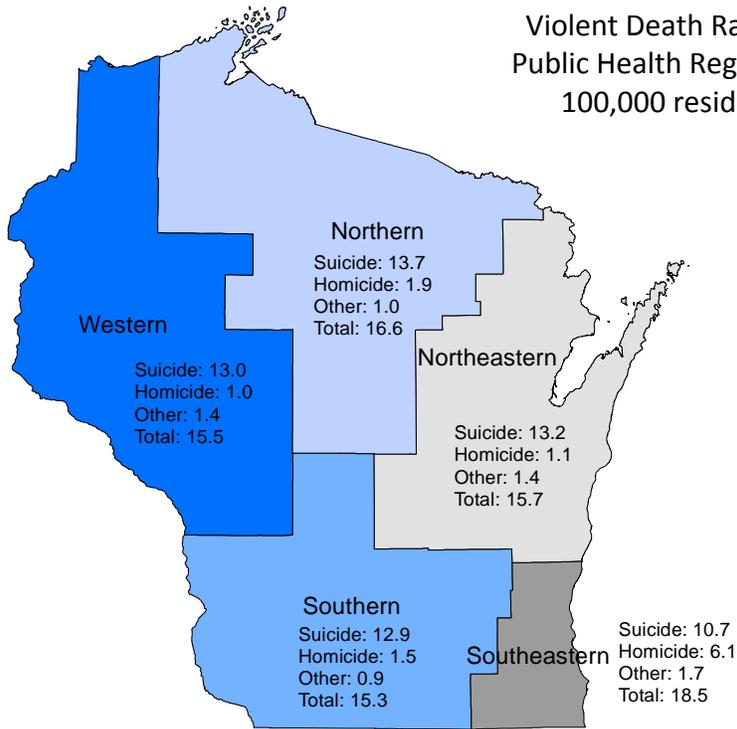
### State of WI

For every 100,000 residents:

- 17 died by violent death
- 12 died by suicide\*\*
- 3 died by homicide
- 1 died by other violent means

Rates of suicide, homicide, and all types of violent death varied by public health region

### Violent Death Rates for Public Health Regions per 100,000 residents

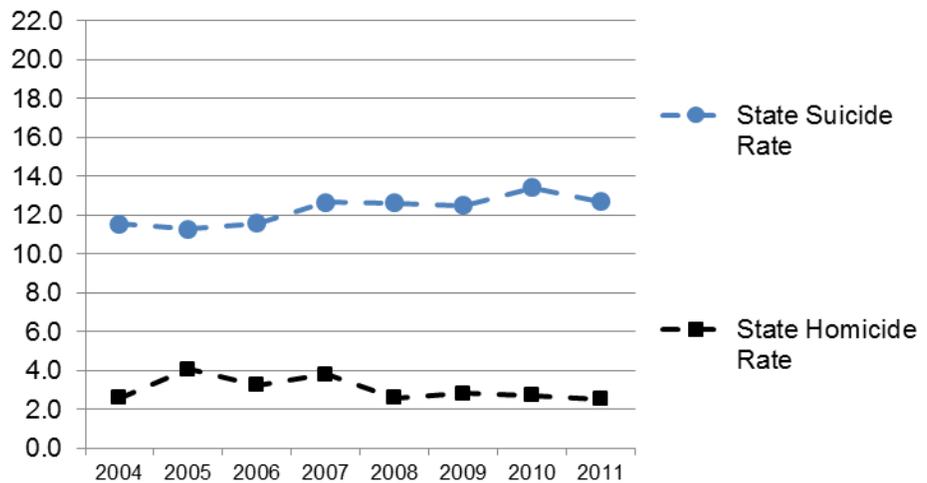


\*\*Suicide rates are for the entire population, but are typically calculated for the 10 and older population. Suicide rates presented here are comparable to the other violent death rates, but are lower than the true suicide rate.

## RATES OF VIOLENT DEATH OVER TIME (2004-2011)

- Rates of suicide\*\* have increased for the state.
- Rates of homicide have decreased for the state.

### Rates of Violent Death Over Time (per 100,000 in population)





## CHARACTERISTICS: STATE SUICIDE DEATHS

### AGE

- Greatest proportion occurred among 45 to 54-year-olds (23%), followed by 35 to 44-year-olds (20%)

### SEX

- More occurred among males (79%) than females (21%)

### TOP 3 MEANS

- Primarily involved firearms (46%), hanging/strangulation/suffocation (25%), or poisoning (21%)

### TOP 3 CIRCUMSTANCES

- Primarily involved current depressed mood (61%), current or prior mental health issue (55%), and/or interpersonal problem (45%)

## CHARACTERISTICS: STATE HOMICIDE DEATHS

### AGE

- Greatest proportion occurred among victims aged 15 to 24 (30%), followed by victims aged 25 to 34 (23%)

### SEX

- More victims were male (73%) than female (27%)

### TOP 3 MEANS

- Primarily involved firearms (62%), sharp instruments (14%), or strangulation/suffocation (5%)

### TOP 3 CIRCUMSTANCES

- Primarily involved argument/abuse/conflict not related to money, property, or drugs (41%), precipitated by another crime (28%), and/or alcohol involved (26%)

## PREVENTION

Overall, changes in suicide and homicide rates in Wisconsin have been modest. The suicide rate has increased slightly, and the homicide rate has decreased slightly from 2004-2011. Improvement in these rates is warranted considering their costs to society.

Examining the characteristics of these types of deaths, the following may be important to consider for prevention strategies:

- Improving mental health and the availability of services
- Promote strategies to improve firearm safety
- Improving personal relationships and methods to decrease interpersonal conflict
- Decreasing alcohol and other substance issues
- Tailoring interventions to specific age groups or sexes to enhance their effectiveness.

DHS Injury Prevention Program: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/injuryprevention/>