

Stark County Suicide Report 2015

Stark County Suicide Rates Compared to National Suicide Rates

YEAR	STARK COUNTY SUICIDES	STARK COUNTY RATE PER 100,000	NATIONAL RATE PER 100,000	STARK COUNTY POPULATION
1980	47	12.4	11.9	378,823 1980 CENSUS
1981	53	14.0	12.3	
1982	41	10.8	12.2	
1983	40	10.6	12.1	
1984	55	14.6	12.4	
1985	50	13.2	12.3	
1986	48	12.7	12.8	
1987	44	11.6	12.7	
1988	41	10.8	12.4	
1989	49	13.0	12.2	
1990	30	8.2	12.4	367,585 1990 CENSUS
1991	38	10.4	12.2	
1992	45	12.1	12.0	372,123 1992 CENSUS EST.
1993	38	10.2	12.1	
1994	45	12.0	12.0	374,615 1994 CENSUS EST.
1995	34	9.1	11.9	
1996	35	9.3	11.6	
1997	43	11.5	11.4	
1998	53	14.1	11.3	
1999	33	8.8	10.7	
2000	37	9.9	10.7	378,098 2000 CENSUS
2001	36	9.6	10.8	
2002	32	8.5	11.0	
2003	38	9.9	10.8	
2004	43	11.3	11.0	
2005	30	7.8	11.0	380,608 2005 CENSUS EST.
2006	44	11.3	11.1	
2007	35	9.4	11.5	
2008	45	11.6	11.8	
2009	40	10.5	12.0	
2010	58	15.4	12.0	375,586 2010 CENSUS
2011	49	13.1	12.7	
2012	56	14.9	12.9	
2013	62	16.5	13.0	
2014	57	15.2	13.4	
2015	59	15.7		375,736 (CEN. EST.)
TOTAL	1,583			

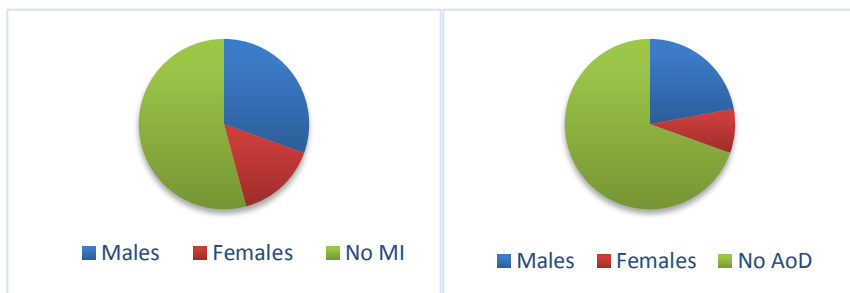
The Stark County suicide rate for 2015 is 59, two more than the previous year. Based on the average of 25 attempts for each suicide completion, Stark County had an estimated 1,475 suicide attempts in 2015.

In the United States, for the calendar year 2014 (latest year for national statistics), suicide is the tenth (10) ranking cause of death. In 2014, 42,773 individuals completed suicide. On average, one person every 12.3 minutes killed himself/herself, or 117.2 lives lost to suicide each day. An estimated 25 suicide attempts occurred for each suicide completion, or an estimated 1,069,325 suicide attempts. This translates to one suicide attempt every 30 seconds in the United States in 2014. (American Association of Suicidology)

Risk Factors for Suicide

Suicide is a complex behavior usually caused by a combination of factors. Psychological autopsy studies reflect that more than 90% of individuals who completed suicide had one or more mental illness disorders and/or substance abuse disorders. Major depression is the psychiatric diagnosis most commonly associated with suicide. The risk of suicide in people with major depression is about 20 times that of the general population. The risk of suicide in persons with alcohol dependence is 50-70 per cent higher than the general population, according to the American Association of Suicidology.

Stark County, 2015	Mental Illness		Substance Abuse	
Males	18/42	42.8%	13/42	30.9%
Females	9/17	52.9%	5/17	29.4%
Total	27/59	45.7%	18/59	30.5%



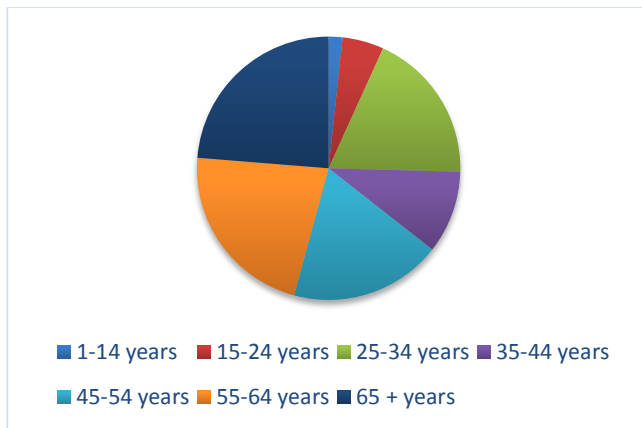
Stark County’s 2015 statistics above show that 45.7% of the individuals who completed suicide had one or more mental disorders, with depression the most common disorder. However, most of the information about mental illness was provided by surviving family members or friends.

Stark County’s 2015 statistics above also show that 30.5% of the individuals who completed suicide in 2015 tested positive for either alcohol and/or drugs at the time of their deaths.

Age

Of the 59 individuals who completed suicide in 2015, the three youngest individuals were 14, 16, and 18 years of age. The two oldest individuals completing suicide were 92 and 93. The charts below list the percentages and numbers of suicides in Stark County by age groups (designated by national research organizations, such as the American Association of Suicidology). According to national research organizations, suicide rates for men rise with age, most significantly after age 75. The suicide rates for women typically decline after age 60, after peaking in middle adulthood.

Stark County Percentages/Numbers

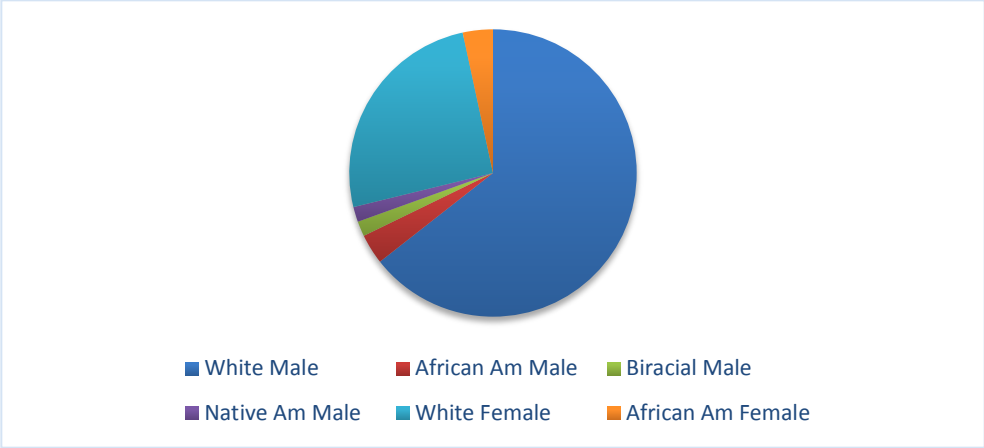


Stark County 2015	Males	Females
1-14 yrs	1	0
15-24 yrs	1	2
25-34 yrs	7	4
35-44 yrs	4	2
45-54 yrs	8	3
55-64 yrs	10	3
65+ yrs	11	3
Totals	42	17

Race/Ethnicity

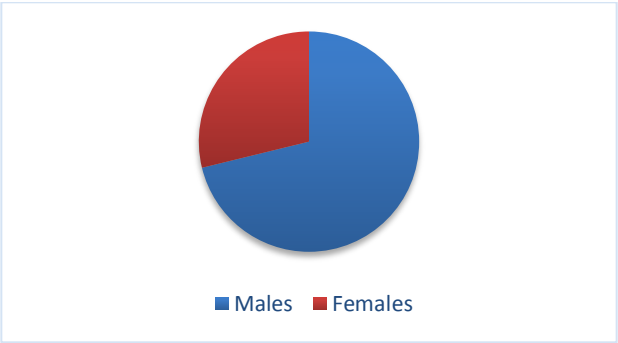
Suicide cuts across all ages, economic levels, social, race and ethnic boundaries. Nationally, white suicide rates in 2014 were 106.0 per day; non-whites were 11.2 per day. White males had the highest suicide rate, 29,971 of the nation's 42,773 suicides. Black females had the lowest rate, 475 of the nation's 42,773. Stark County's percentages and numbers by race/ethnicity for 2015 are identified below.

Stark County 2015	Count	Percentage
White Males	38	64.4%
African American Males	2	3.4%
Biracial Male	1	1.7%
Native American Male	1	1.7%
White Females	15	25.4%
African American Females	2	3.4%
Total	59	



Gender

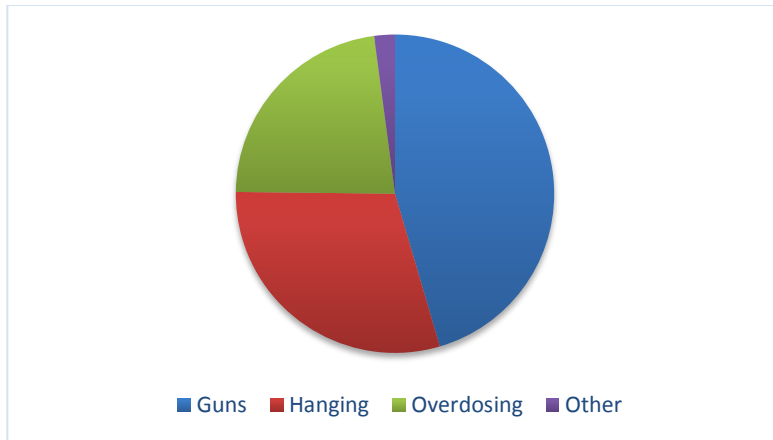
Nationally, males complete suicide at the rate of 3.4 suicides for each female suicide. However, females attempt suicide at the rate of 3 attempts for each male attempt. In Stark County in 2015, females completed suicide at a rate slightly higher than the national average: 42 males (71.1%) to 17 females (28.8%) or 2.5 male suicides for each female suicide. Stark County percentages are identified in the chart below.



Methods of Suicide

According to the national statistics for 2014, firearms continue to be the leading method for suicide, 49.9%. Suffocation/hanging and poisoning are the next two highest methods, 26.7% and 15.9% respectively. In Stark County, firearms also continued to be the leading method in 2015. The charts below identify all the methods used by both genders to complete suicide in 2015 in Stark County.

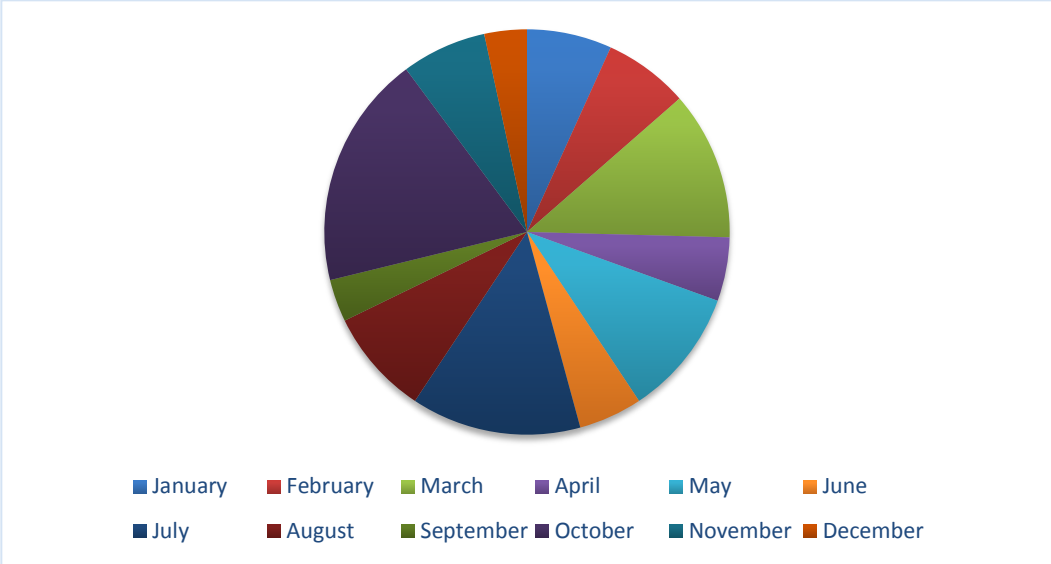
Stark County 2015	Guns	Suffocation/Hanging	Overdosing	Other (car crash, cutting/slashing)
Males	21	11	7	3
Females	5	6	6	0
Totals	26	17	13	3



Suicides by Month in Stark County

The question often arises if suicides increase during the holidays. National statistics do not support this idea. Most recently, according to the American Association of Suicidology, more suicides occur during the spring and summer months. The charts below identify the months suicides occurred in Stark County in 2015 by numbers and percentages.

Stark County 2015	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Males	3	3	5	2	5	2	7	3	2	6	2	2
Females	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	5	2	0



Stark County Locations

Stark County 2015	Males	Females	Total	%
Alliance	4	1	5	8.5%
Bethlehem Twp	0	1	1	1.7%
Brewster	1	0	1	1.7%
Canal Fulton	0	1	1	1.7%
Canton	14	4	18	30.5%
Canton Twp	3	0	3	5.1%
Jackson Twp	5	4	9	15.3%
Lake Twp	2	0	2	3.4%
Lawrence Twp	1	0	1	1.7%
Louisville	1	0	1	1.7%
Massillon	0	1	1	1.7%
North Canton	0	1	1	1.7%
Perry Twp	3	1	4	6.8%
Plain Twp	4	2	6	10.2%
Pike Twp	1	0	1	1.7%
Sugar Creek Twp	1	0	1	1.7%
Tuscarawas Twp	1	1	2	3.4%
Washington Twp	1	0	1	1.7%

As the above suicide rates demonstrate, cities and townships, both large and small, experience suicides. Suicide does not discriminate based on a person’s residence, which is typically the chosen location for a suicide completion. According to the American Association of Suicidology, certain states and their

locations tend to have higher rates of suicide. Rates of suicide are the highest in the inter-mountain states. In the United States for the calendar year 2014 (the latest year that statistics are available), Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado-all states in the Mountain Division-took six of the top ten ranked states for numbers of suicides.

In 2014, Ohio was ranked 38 out of a total of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Ohio's rate was 12.9 suicides for every 100,000 individuals, lower than the national rate of 13.4. Stark County in 2015 had a rate of 15.7 suicides for every 100,000 individuals.

The chart below shows the percentage of suicides per area as they were investigated by the law enforcement department responsible for that jurisdiction in Stark County, 2015. Law enforcement agencies investigate suicides to rule out the possibility of homicide; suicides are no longer considered a crime in the United States.

