

## Stark County Suicide Report 2016

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	
2005	43	11.3	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	13.8	375,736 (CEN. EST.)
2016	77	20.4	UNK	
TOTAL	1,660			

Stark County Suicide Rates Compared to National Suicide Rates

The Stark County suicide rate for 2016 is 77, the highest rate recorded in Stark County since the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center began keeping statistics in 1980. Based on the average of 25 attempts for each suicide completion, Stark County had an estimated 1,925 suicide attempts in 2016.

In the United States, for the calendar year 2015 (latest year for national statistics), suicide is the tenth (10) ranking cause of death. In 2015, 44,193 individuals completed suicide. On average, one person every 11.9 minutes killed himself/herself, or 121.1 lives lost to suicide each day. An estimated 25 suicide attempts occurred for each suicide completion, or an estimated 1,104,825 suicide attempts. According to a SAMHSA study of suicide in 2015, 1.4 million adults (18 and up) attempted suicide. This translates to one suicide attempt every 23 seconds in the United States in 2015. (American Association of Suicidology)

### **Risk Factors for Suicide**

Suicide is a complex behavior usually caused by a combination of factors. National 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 does not have an accurate account of the two top risk factors for suicide: mental illness and substance use disorders. Information about the individual who completed suicide is gathered by the coroner's investigators who interview family members. Family members may or may not have specific information about the mental illness and/or substance abuse issues of their loved ones. However, information about a variety of risk factors is obtained by these investigators as they speak with family members. In 2016, the following risk factors were identified by family members who shared what information they had with the coroner's investigators.

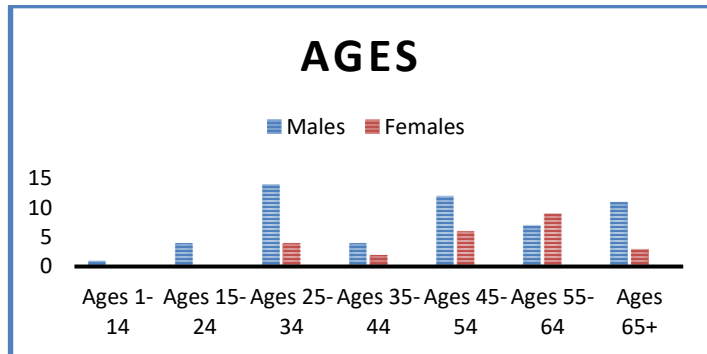
**2016, Stark County Risk Factors: mental illness, especially depression and bipolar disorder; alcohol abuse; relationship conflicts, several of which resulted in both suicide and homicide; legal problems, with an imminent jail/prison sentence; major medical problems, but not necessarily a terminal illness; major losses, such as a loved one's death, job loss; previous suicide attempts**

### **Age**

Of the 77 individuals who completed suicide in 2016, the youngest individual was a 13 year old white male and the oldest individual was a 90 year old white male. 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, ages 45-49.

### Stark County Numbers

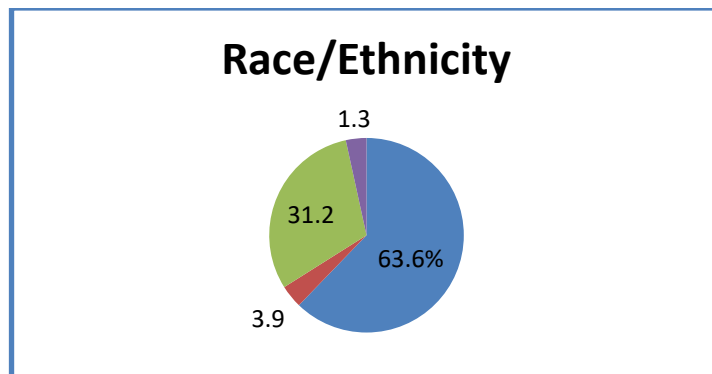
Stark County 2016	Males	Females
1-14 yrs	1	0
15-24 yrs	4	0
25-34 yrs	14	4
35-44 yrs	4	2
45-54 yrs	12	6
55-64 yrs	7	9
65+ yrs	11	3
Totals	53	24



### Race/Ethnicity

Suicide cuts across all ages, economic levels, social, race and ethnic boundaries. Nationally, white suicide rates in 2015 were 109.0 per day; non-whites were 12.1 per day. White males had the highest suicide rate, 30,658 of the nation's 44,193 suicides. Black females had the lowest rate, 481 of the nation's 44,193. Stark County's percentages and numbers by race/ethnicity for 2016 are identified below.

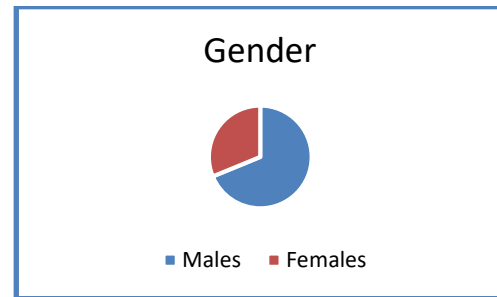
Stark County 2016		
White Males	49	63.6%
Black Males	3	3.9%
White Females	24	31.2%
Asian Males	1	1.3%
Total	77	



## Gender

Nationally in 2015, males completed suicide at the rate of 3.3 suicides for each female suicide. However, females attempted suicide at the rate of 3 attempts for each male attempt. In Stark County in 2016, males completed suicide at a rate lower than the national average: 53 males (68.8%) to 24 females (31.2%). Stark County percentages are identified in the chart below.

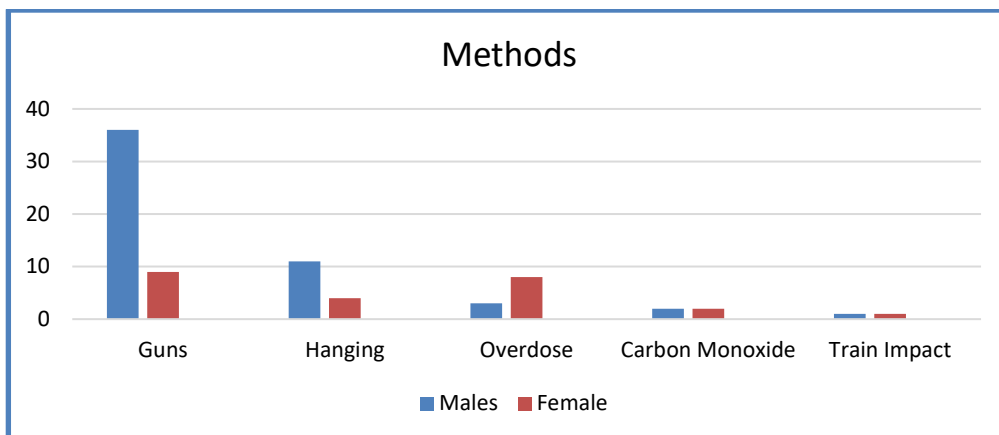
Stark County	2016
Males	Females
White - 49	White - 24
African American - 3	
Asian - 1	



## Methods of Suicide

According to the national statistics for 2015, firearms continue to be the leading method for suicide, 49.8%. Suffocation/hanging and poisoning are the next two highest methods, 26.8% and 15.4% respectively. In Stark County, firearms also continued to be the leading method in 2016. The charts below identify all the methods used by both genders to complete suicide in 2016 in Stark County.

Stark County 2016	Guns	Suffocation/Hanging	Carbon Monoxide	Train Impact	Overdosing
Males	36	11	2	1	3
Females	9	4	2	1	8
Totals	45	15	4	2	11



### 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 2016. No particular pattern of either male or female suicide completions is evident.

Stark County 2016	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Males	7	8	3	4	2	7	6	3	3	2	5	3
Females	1	0	0	4	3	1	4	1	2	3	1	4

### Stark County Locations

Stark County 2016	Males	Females	Total	%
Alliance	1	1	2	2.5%
Bethlehem Twp	1	1	2	2.5%
Canal Fulton	3	1	4	5.2%
Canton	11	5	16	20.8%
Canton Twp	2	0	2	2.5%
Jackson Twp	7	2	9	11.7%
Lake Twp	1	3	4	5.2%
Lawrence Twp	0	1	1	1.3%
Lexington Twp	0	1	1	1.3%
Marlboro Twp	1	0	1	1.3%
Massillon	5	2	7	9.1%
Minerva	1	0	1	1.3%
Nimishillen Twp	3	0	3	3.9%
North Canton	2	0	2	2.5%
Paris Twp	1	0	1	1.3%
Perry Twp	5	2	7	9.1%
Pike Twp	1	0	1	1.3%
Plain Twp	4	3	7	9.1%
Sandy Twp	0	1	1	1.3%
Sugarcreek Twp	1	0	1	1.3%
Tuscarawas Twp	2	0	2	2.5%
Uniontown	0	1	1	1.3%
Wilmot	1	0	1	1.3%

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 2015 (the latest year that statistics are available), Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Alaska, Colorado, Utah-all states in the West/Mountain Divisions-took seven of the top ten ranked states for numbers of suicides. In 2015, Ohio was ranked 32 out of a total of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Ohio's rate was 14.2 suicides for every 100,000 individuals, higher than the national rate of 13.8. Stark County in 2015 had a rate of 15.7 suicides for every 100,000 individuals. In 2016, Stark County had 77 suicides, 20.4 suicides for every 100,000 individuals.

The chart below shows the suicides per area as they were investigated by the law enforcement department responsible for that jurisdiction in Stark County, 2016. Law enforcement agencies investigate suicides to rule out the possibility of homicide; suicides are no longer considered a crime in the United States.

