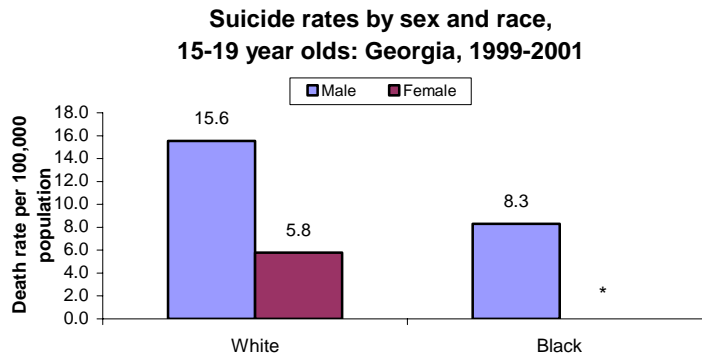


Youth Suicide in Georgia, 1999-2001

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-19 year olds after unintentional injuries and homicides. Suicide and suicide attempts are preventable.

How many 15-19 year olds die of suicide?

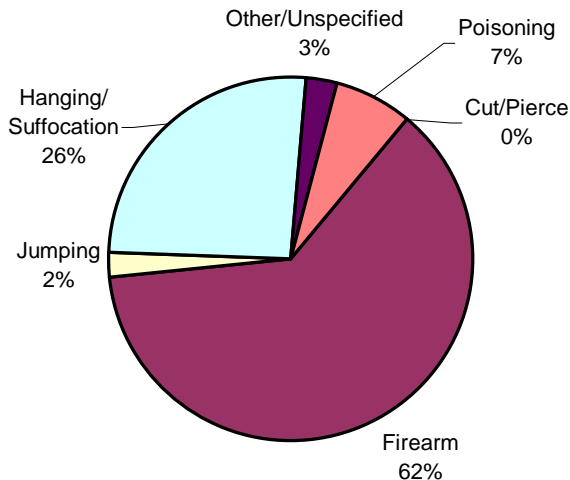
- From 1999-2001, 143 youth (15-19 year olds) committed suicide in Georgia.
- More males die (110) than females (33) and white youth are more likely to commit suicide than black youth.



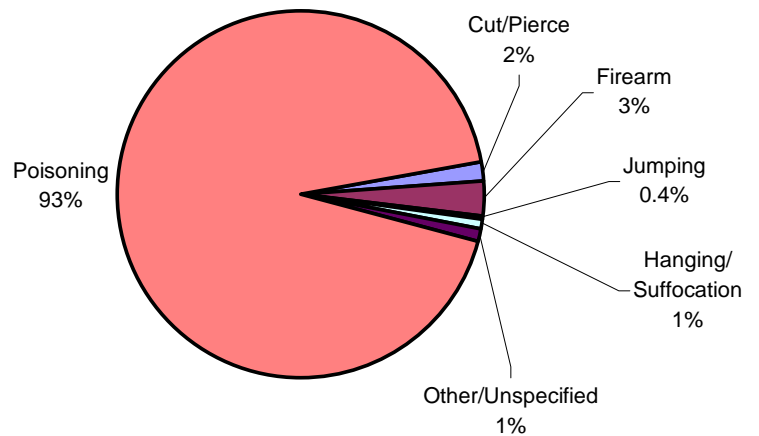
* Did not calculate rate because less than 10 deaths

What are the most common methods for suicides and suicides attempts resulting in hospitalization?

**Suicide by method used for 15-19 year olds:
Georgia, 1999-2001**



**Suicide attempt resulting in hospitalization
by method used, for 15-19 year olds:
Georgia, 1999-2001**



- Most (62%) suicides were committed with firearms.
- Most suicide attempts (93%) resulting in hospitalization were due to poisoning.
- Poisoning suicide attempt methods include: pain/inflammation/fever reliever medication (46%); tranquilizers/other psychotropic agents (26%); barbiturates, other sedatives/hypnotics (24%); other specified drugs/medicine, corrosive/caustic substances, plant food/fertilizers, unspecified solid/liquid substances (3%).

How many 15-19 year olds attempt suicide*?

- From 1999-2001, 807 youth (15-19 year olds) were reported hospitalized for a suicide attempt, averaging 269 attempts per year.
- More females (509) were reported hospitalized for suicide attempts than males (298).

How much are the hospital charges for suicide attempts by 15-19 year olds?

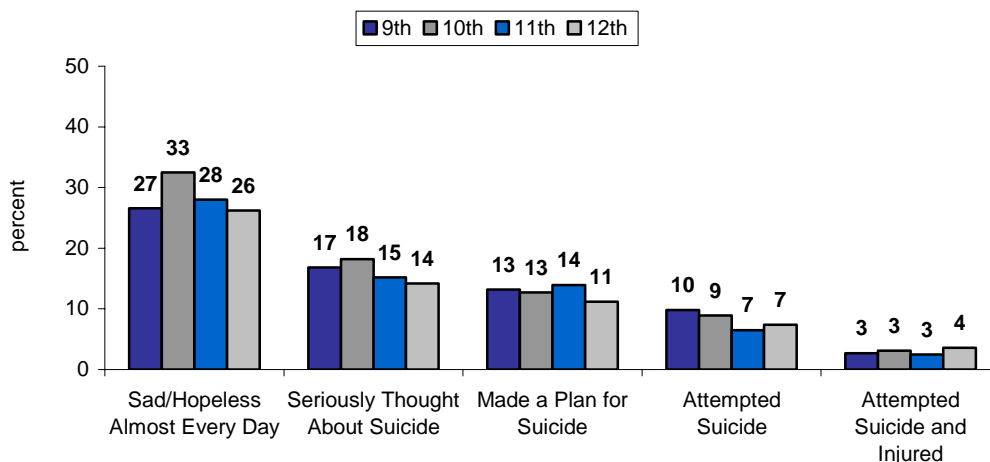
- On average, reported suicide attempts by 15-19 year olds result in approximately \$1,700,000 in hospital charges each year.

How prevalent are suicidal thoughts among Georgia's youth?

The 2003 Georgia Student Health Profile Survey was conducted by the Department of Education and the Department of Human Resources at a random sample of public middle and high schools. The findings are generalizable to all Georgia public middle and high school students. The findings for high school students indicate the following:

- **29%** felt so sad/hopeless every day for 2+ weeks that they stopped their usual activities
- **16%** seriously thought about suicide in the past 12 months
- **13%** made a plan for suicide in the last 12 months
- **9%** attempted suicide 1 or more times in the last 12 months
- **3%** attempted suicide in the last 12 months resulting in a medically treated injury

Suicidal Behaviors by Grade



Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Injury Prevention Section
Division of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-657-6233
www.ph.dhr.state.ga.us

* Suicide attempts are typically underreported in hospital patient records; therefore, these data may not reflect all hospitalizations for attempted suicide in Georgia. These statistics reflect only those patients admitted to the hospital for an inpatient stay of 24 hours or longer, to an acute-care general hospital and do not include patients discharged through the ER.