Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death and the leading cause of violence-related death in Georgia. The number of suicides is about 40% greater than the number of homicides each year.

How many Georgians die of suicide?
- From 2002-2006, 4,611 Georgians completed suicide, an average of 922 deaths per year
- There were 26,202 years of potential life lost due to suicide in 2006, making it the 6th largest contributor to premature death (death before 75 years of age)

What are common suicide methods and circumstances?
- The most common method in completed suicides in 2006 was use of a firearm (65%); the second most common method was hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (19%)
- The most commonly reported suicide circumstance in 2006 was experiencing a crisis in the past two weeks (34%); the second most common circumstance was having a current mental health problem (33%)

Who is at risk?
- White males had the highest number (2,937) and rate (22.4 per 100,000) of suicide between 2002-2006
- White females had the second highest number (765) and black males had the second highest rate (9.3 per 100,000) of suicide between 2002-2006
• Among males, the rates of suicide were highest in the older age groups during 2002-2006
• Males (727) and females (214) aged 35-44 years and males (717) and females (224) aged 45-54 years had the highest number of suicides during 2002-2006

What are the facts about suicide attempts? 

- From 2002-2006, there were 16,160 hospitalizations for suicide attempts, an average of 3,232 hospitalizations per year, resulting in an average of 6,427 hospital days and $20 million in hospital charges per year
- Persons aged 20-24 years (59.1 per 100,000) and 35-44 years (61.0 per 100,000) had the highest rates of hospitalization after suicide attempts in 2006
- From 2002-2006, Georgians had 27,483 emergency room visits for suicide attempts, resulting in an average of 5,497 ER visits per year and $11 million per year in ER charges
- Persons aged 15-19 years (171.8 per 100,000) and 20-24 years (128.6 per 100,000) had the highest rates of ER visits for suicide attempts in 2006

Data sources:
1. CDC Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)
2. Georgia Emergency Room Visit Data (2002-2006)
3. Georgia Hospital Discharge Data (2002-2006)
5. Georgia Vital Records Data (2002-2006)

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