Iowa Violent Death Reporting System Special Report on Suicide in Iowa, 2018

September 2020

TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS AMONG IOWA RESIDENTS

- In 2018, the majority of violent deaths in Iowa were classified as suicide, 78.5%.
- The remaining deaths from violence in Iowa were attributed to homicide (12.5%), undetermined (6.8%), and legal intervention (1.5%).

SUICIDE IN IOWA

- State Rates. Iowa’s suicide rate in 2018 was 15.3 per 100,000 residents.
- State/U.S. Comparison. The suicide rate in Iowa was slightly higher than the national average of 14.8 per 100,000 residents.
- Sex. Males accounted for 82.2% of deaths from suicide and females accounted for 17.8% of deaths from suicide in 2018.

Suicide Cause of Death

Injuries from firearms were the cause of deaths in 47.9% of suicides, followed by asphyxiation (30.8%), and poisoning (14.6%).

Differences in cause by sex

Female deaths from suicide:
Poisoning (33.3%), asphyxiation (31.0%), injury from firearms (27.4%)

Male deaths from suicide:
Injuries from firearms (52.3%), asphyxiation (30.8%), poisoning (10.6%)

More information on suicide prevention efforts and resources can be found at Your Life Iowa (http://www.yourlifeiowa.org), 1-855-581-8111 (telephone) and 1-855-895-8398 (TEXT).

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References


State Rates – Iowa VDRS (for numbers of deaths). Bureau of Census (for population estimates).