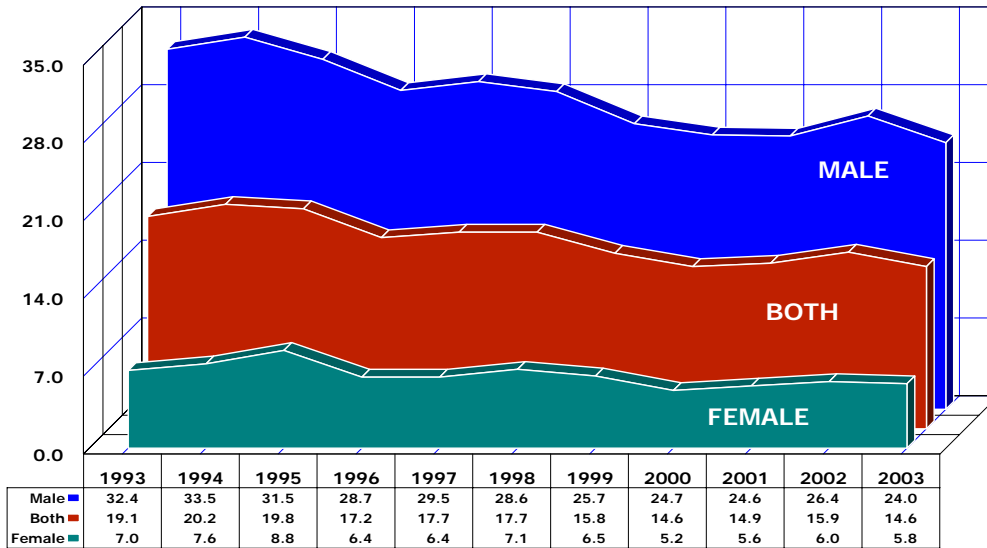


INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-1
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm (suicide) by Gender and Year, Arizona, 1993-2003



Number of deaths per 100,000 population age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard

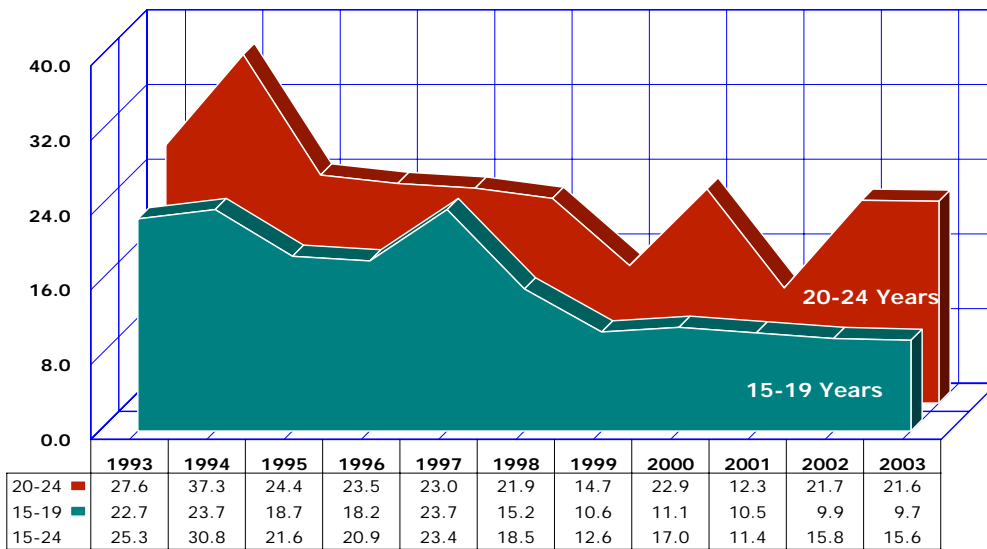
Note: the numerators used to compute the 2001 rates include approximately 110 firearm suicides originally misclassified by the automated coding system as accidents. See footnote to Table 3-1.

The suicide rate decreased by 8.2 percent from 15.9/100,000 in 2002 to 14.6/100,000 in 2003. (Figure 3-1, Table 3-1).

In the 1993-2003 period, no suicide death rate among Arizona's males was below 24.0/100,000. In contrast, none of the annual female death rates from suicide exceeded 8.8/100,000 during that period.

The 2003 male risk for intentional self-harm (24.0/100,000) exceeded 4.1 times the female risk of 5.8/100,000.

Figure 3-2
Suicide Mortality Rates by Year for Adolescents 15-19 Years Old and Young Adults Ages 20-24, Arizona, 1993-2003



Number of suicide deaths per 100,000 population in specified age group

The suicide rate for adolescents 15-19 years old declined for the third consecutive year, from 11.1 per 100,000 in 2000 to 9.7 per 100,000 in 2003 (Figure 3-2, Table 3-3). The latter was the lowest suicide rate for Arizona adolescents in two decades.

In contrast, the annual suicide rates for young adults 20-24 years old varied considerably from year to year. The suicide rate for this age group substantially decreased from 37.3 per 100,000 in 1994 to 14.7 per 100,000 in 1999, but it increased to 22.9 per 100,000 in 2000. The rate declined again in 2001. Following another increase in 2002, the suicide rate for young adults 20-24 years old remained unchanged at 21.6 per 100,000.

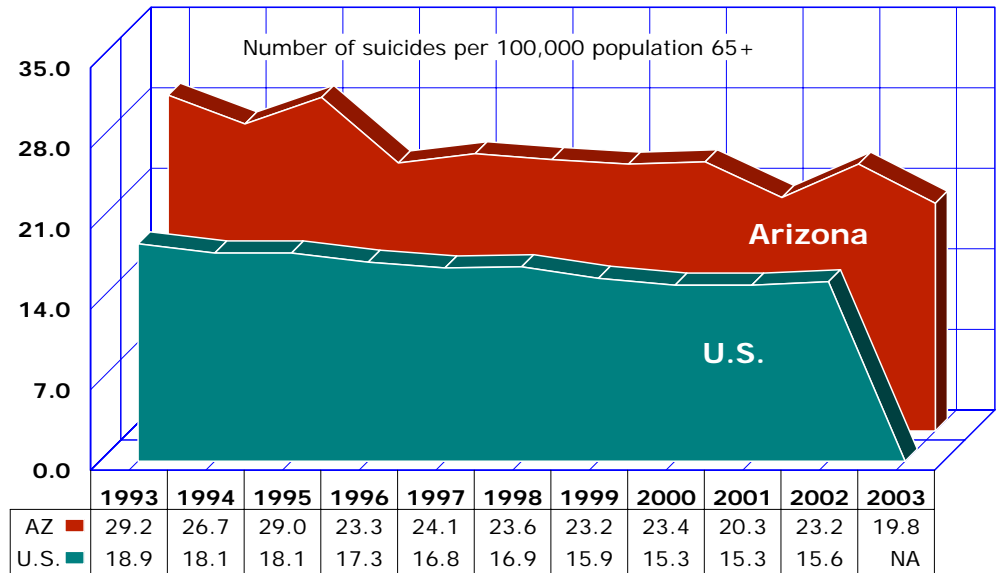
INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

In 1993-2003, all annual age-specific suicide mortality rates among elderly Arizonans aged 65 and older exceeded by at least 33 percent the corresponding U.S. rates (**Figure 3-3, Table 3-2**). However, the elderly suicide rates were lower in the years ending (2000-2003) than the years starting (1993-1995) the eleven-year period discussed here.

Compared to 1993, the Arizona elderly residents 65 years and older were 32 percent less likely to kill themselves in 2003.

Figure 3-3
Suicide Mortality Rates by Year for Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 1993-2003

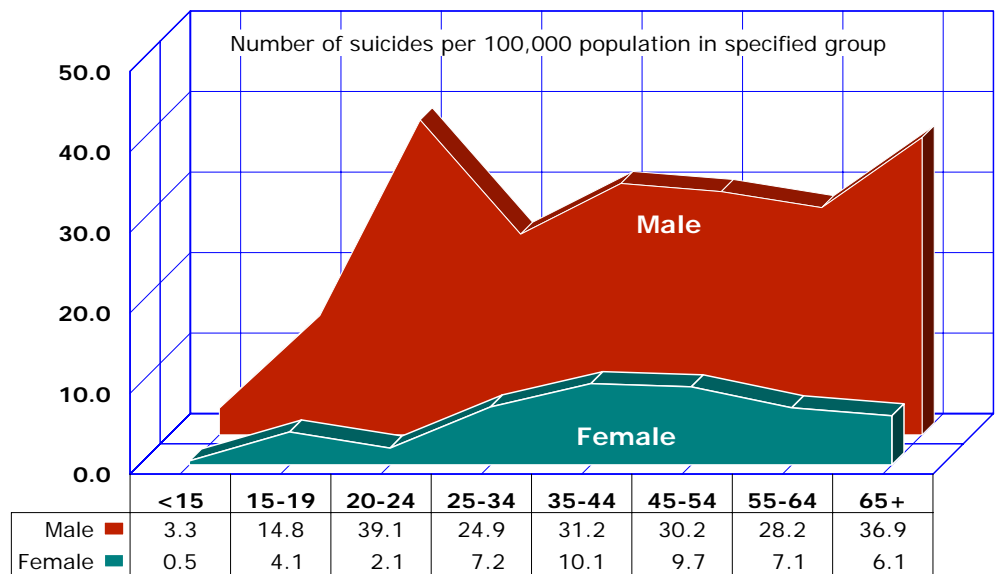


Note: the 2001 rate for Arizona elderly was revised to correct for the misclassification of firearm suicides as accidents. See footnote to Table 3-1.

Among males, the 2003 suicide mortality curve was bimodal (**Figure 3-4, Table 3-5**) reaching the first peak at ages 20-24 years (39.1/100,000), tapering off to 24.9/100,000 at ages 25-34, and rising to a second peak among the elderly 65 years and older (36.9/100,000). Among females, the highest suicide rate was among those 35-44 years old (10.1 suicides per 100,000).

The 2003 suicide death rate among males 20-24 years old was 18.6 times greater than the corresponding female rate of 2.1/100,000.

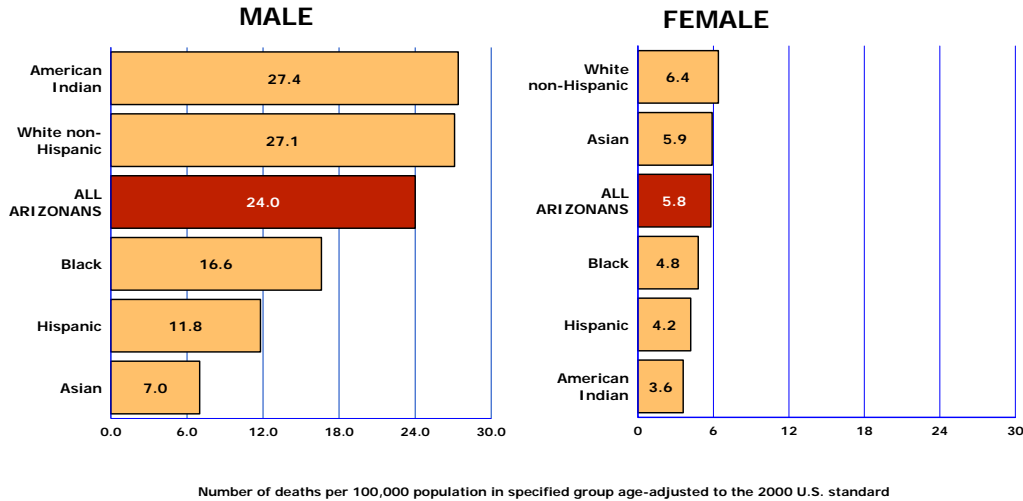
Figure 3-4
Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group and Gender, Arizona, 2003



INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1993-2003

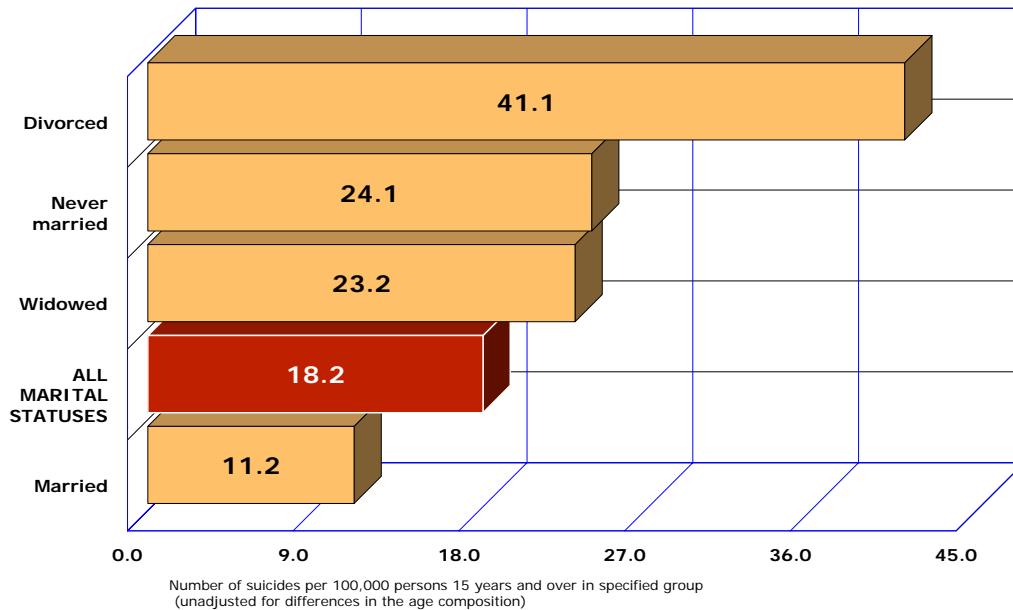
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-5
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Suicide by Gender and Race/Ethnic Group, Arizona, 2003



The suicide rate for American Indian males was the highest gender-specific rate in 2003 among the race/ethnic groups in Arizona (Figure 3-5, Table 2B-4 in *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2003*). In contrast, the suicide rate among American Indian females was the lowest rate among the race/ethnic groups in 2003.

Figure 3-6
Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm (suicide) by Marital Status, Arizona, 2003



Married Arizonans clearly were the least likely to end their own lives in 2003 compared to Arizonans in other marital statuses (Figure 3-6, Table 3-6). Marital disruption in the form of divorce or death of a spouse was a factor that increased the risk of committing suicide. A divorced person was 3.7 times, a never married person 2.2 times and a widowed person 2.1 times more likely to end his/her own life than a married Arizonan.

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3-7
Percent Distribution of Suicides by Means of Injury and Race/Ethnic Group, Arizona, 2003

Firearms accounted for two out of three (65.2 percent) suicides among Arizona's Blacks (**Figure 3-7**, based on data shown in **Table 3-7**). Asian and American Indian suicides were more likely to die from hanging or strangulation (83.3 percent and 53.2 percent, respectively) than firearm use.

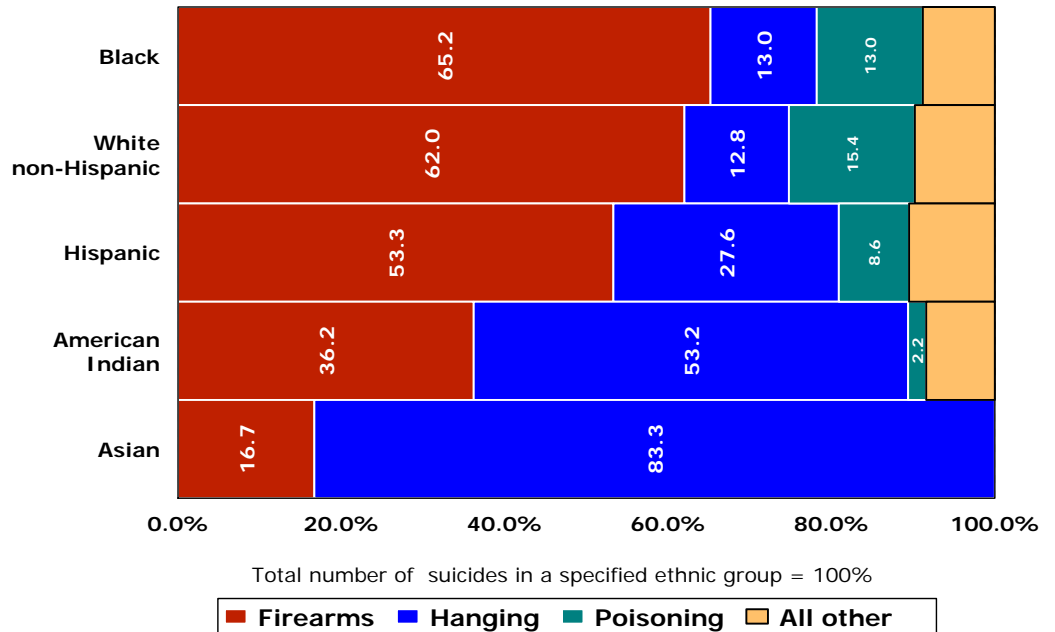
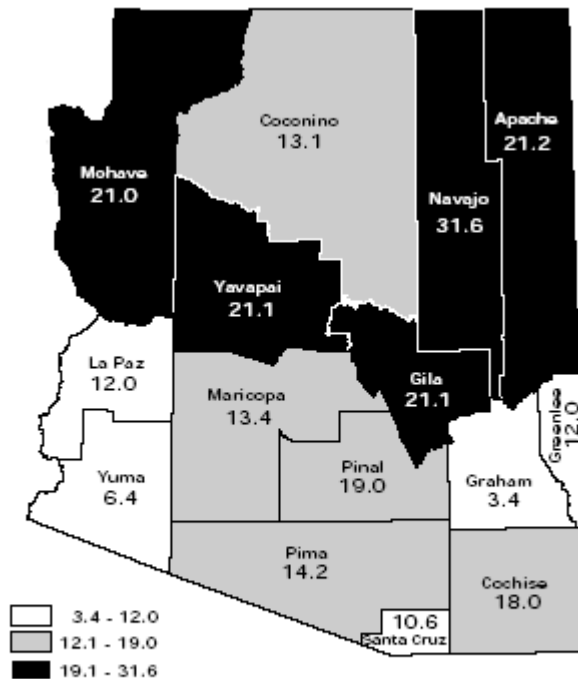


Figure 3-8
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) By County of Residence, Arizona, 2003

The age-adjusted suicide mortality rates varied in Arizona in 2003 from 3.4 suicides per 100,000 residents of Graham County, to 31.6 suicides per 100,000 residents of Navajo County (**Figure 3-8**, **Table 5E-11 in Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2003**). There were 21 suicides per 100,000 resident population in Apache, Gila, Mohave and Yavapai counties.



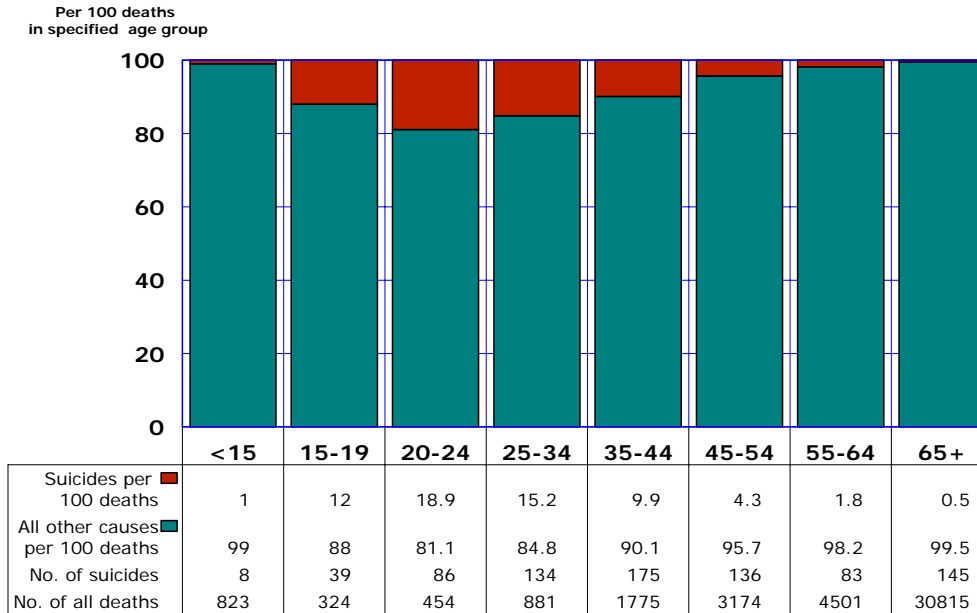
NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION
(age-adjusted to 2000 standard)

ARIZONA RATE = 14.6

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM (SUICIDE), ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

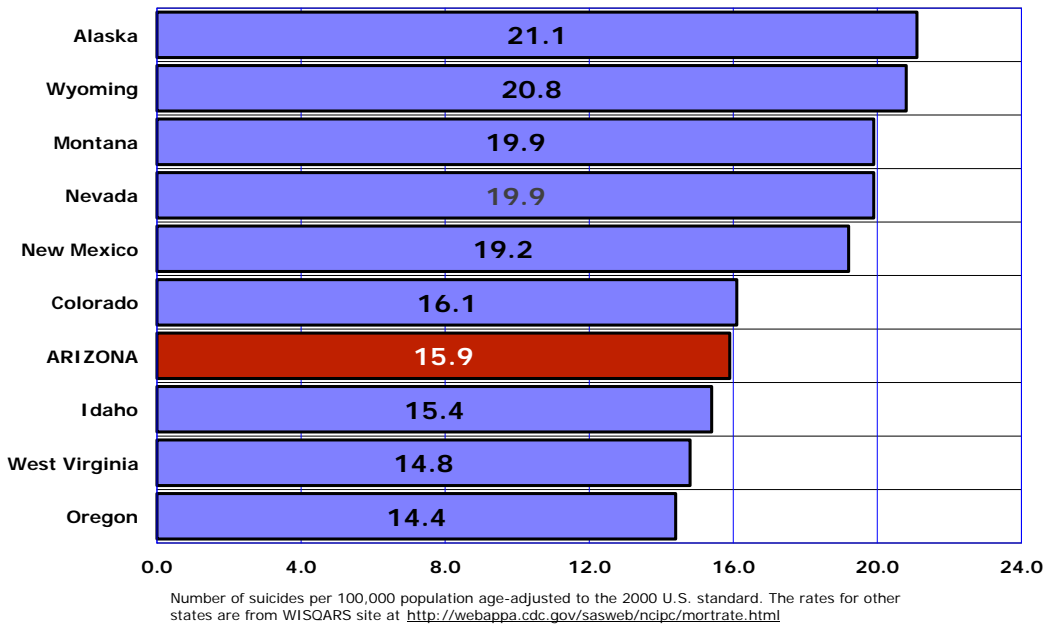
Figure 3-9
Suicides Per 100 Deaths by Age Group,
Arizona, 2003



Suicide has been and continues to be a relatively rare event. In 2003, suicide accounted for 1.9 percent of the 42,830 total deaths of Arizona residents. Among Arizonans aged 65 and older who died in 2003, only 0.5 percent were suicides.

Twenty years earlier, in 1984, suicide accounted for 2.2 percent of total deaths of Arizonans of all ages and 0.7 percent of elderly deaths that year.

Figure 3-10
Ten States with the Highest Age-Adjusted Mortality
Rates in 2002



In 2002 (the latest year for which the suicide rates are available by state), the age-adjusted suicide mortality rates ranged from 5.1 per 100,000 population in the District of Columbia to 21.1 in Alaska. Arizona ranked seventh highest among the 50 state and the District of Columbia in its suicide mortality rate for all ages (Figure 3-10).