

**TABLE 7-3
NUMBER OF SUICIDES BY FIREARMS, AND TOTAL SUICIDES BY AGE GROUP AND YEAR, ARIZONA RESIDENTS, 2001-2011**

Age group	Cause	¹ 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
5-14	All Suicides	9	12	8	*	11	11	*	8	*	9	12
	# by Firearms	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15-19	All Suicides	40	39	39	49	61	57	38	56	49	39	50
	# by Firearms	20	26	17	25	30	28	17	24	21	13	19
20-44	All Suicides	257	383	395	386	403	388	432	314	408	412	447
	# by Firearms	141	222	202	202	191	197	242	168	194	212	242
45-64	All Suicides	181	256	219	263	275	295	350	326	389	422	420
	# by Firearms	104	153	141	145	156	182	166	198	212	236	254
65 and over	All Suicides	113	165	145	154	164	196	166	172	209	188	182
	# by Firearms	92	140	112	126	126	142	161	136	169	138	149
All Ages ²	Total Suicides	767	855	807	850†	915	948	990†	968	1,060†	1,070	1,113
	# by Firearms	470†	540†	480†	500†	510†	550†	540†	530†	600†	600†	670†
	% by Firearms	61.0	63.6	57.1	58.3	55.4	58.4	54.9	60.4	56.2	56.3	60.1

Notes: * cell suppressed due to count less than 6; † sum rounded to nearest tens unit due to addend less than 6; before, data for 2000 mortality medical information was based on manual coding of an underlying death for each certificate in accordance with WHO rules, and done locally by the Office of Vital Records; effective with the 2000 data year, cause-of-death data presented in this publication were coded by the National Center for Health Statistics, using computerized procedures of SuperMICAR (Mortality Medical Indexing and Retrieval) and ACME (Automated Classification of Medical Entities) systems; the conversion to computerized coding contributed to at least some of the breaks in comparability over time of cause-of-death statistics for drug-induced deaths, intentional self-harm (suicide), firearm-suicide, and accidental discharge of firearms;¹ Caution must be exercised when interpreting the 2001 data; ² may

Data year	2001		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	unmodified	modified										
Suicide	600	767	855	807	854	915	948	986	968	1,060	1,070	1,113
Suicide by firearms	358	468	544	476	498	507	554	541	529	596	602	669
Accidental discharge of firearms	114	6	26	13	13	15	9	13	9	7	11	8

Unprecedented decline in 2001 in the number of suicides and the equally unprecedented increase in the number of firearm deaths classified as accidental obviously are associated. Approximately 100 firearm fatalities that would have been classified as suicides had the manual coding system been in place were classified as accidents in 2001 because the "manner of death" was not indicated and the automated coding system defaulted to accidental injury. Table 3-1 provides two data columns for 2001: unmodified and modified for the misclassification of the underlying cause of death. The majority of firearm suicides misclassified as accidents were White non-Hispanic males. The numbers and rates used in the "modified" column for 2001 are from the WISQARS site at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.