

Celestial Grace Temple

Suicide Rate in America and World Wide is Rising

With the nation seeing the highest suicide rate in three decades, it can be a complexity understood only in numbers.

And even those are difficult to grasp.

There were an average 117 suicides every day in the United States in 2014, with increases in every age group except for older adults. The number of women who killed themselves rose significantly, according to a recent study through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

"The numbers are going up," said Wanda Laird, executive director of the National Alliance of Mental Illness office in Montgomery. "Overall, people are not seeking treatment quickly enough.

Number two, sometimes it's a long wait to schedule appointments. And, the lack of Medicaid expansion could be another factor in seeking help quickly enough."

In Alabama, 719 people died by suicide in 2013, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health's 2015 Suicide Fact Sheet. It is the 11th leading cause of death in the state.

It is estimated about 90 percent of people who die by suicide experience mental illness, according to NAMI. Suicide can also come as a result of intoxication, substance abuses, a history of trauma or prolonged stress.

"It takes everyone working together to help someone on the road to recovery," Laird said of those living with mental illnesses.

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"We want to give someone hope and inspiration on the road to recovery. Because recovery is possible."

By the numbers

There were 42,773 people in the U.S. who took their life in 2014, compared to 29,199 in 1999. With more than 100 million annual suicide attempts, the suicide rate rose by 2 percent a year starting in 2006 in the U.S. It is the No. 2 leading cause of death in ages 10 through 34 and is the 10th leading cause of death, according to the CDC's [National Vital Statistics System of the National Center for Health Statistics](#).

Heart disease ranks the highest with 614,348 deaths in 2014, according to the study.

The overall suicide rate rose by 24 percent from 1999 to 2014, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, and as reported in the *New York Times*.

The increases lifted the nation's suicide rate to 13 per 100,000 people, the highest since 1986.

From 1999 through 2014, the age-adjusted suicide rate in the United States increased 24 percent, from 10.5 to 13.0 per 100,000 population, with the pace of increase greater after 2006.

Suicide rates increased from 1999 through 2014 for both males and females and for all ages 10 years old to 74 years old.

The percent increase in suicide rates for females was greatest for those aged 10 years old to 14 years old, and for males, those aged 45 years old to 64 years old.

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The most frequent suicide method in 2014 for males involved the use of firearms (55.4 percent), while poisoning was the most frequent method for females (34.1 percent).

Percentages of suicides attributable to suffocation increased for both sexes between 1999 and 2014.

Pastor Andy Anderson

Celestial Grace Ministry