

Celestial Grace Ministry

Suicide – A World Wide Problem

Over one million people die by suicide worldwide each year. The global suicide rate is 16 per 100,000 population. On average, one person dies by suicide every 40 seconds somewhere in the world. Global suicide rates have increased 60% in the past 45 years.

U.S. suicides have soared since 1999, The U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention report states.

U.S. suicide trends:

Among men and women alike, suicide rates surged between 1999 and 2015, a new study finds.

Driven by stark increases in the numbers of white women and Native Americans who are intentionally killing themselves, suicide rates in the United States jumped 25% in the years between 1999 and 2015, says a new government report.

Following a slow-but-steady rise in suicides from 2009, the yearly increase in suicide rates accelerated after 2006, as Americans' financial woes mounted and a battering recession settled in. Between 2006 and 2014, the report shows, the yearly hike in the U.S. suicide rate jumped from 1% to 2%. Suicide rates climbed among men and women, and in all age groups between 10 and 74 years old.

Suicide rates among non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives were, in 1999, already the highest of any ethnic group, despite being widely underreported. By 2014, roughly 1 in 2,000 men in this ethnic group committed suicide, a 60% increase over the suicide rate among male American Indians and Alaska Natives that prevailed in 1999.

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Among all men under 75, suicides surged. In the age group most prone to fatal self-harm -- 45 to 64 -- almost 30 in 1,000 men committed suicide in 2014, a 43% increase over 1999's rate. Non-Hispanic black males were the only racial or ethnic group of either gender to have a lower suicide rate in 2014 than in 1999.

U.S. Army tries to identify soldiers most likely to commit suicide

All told, some 42,773 Americans died of suicide in 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That made suicide the 10th leading cause of death for all ages.

"This is definitely harrowing: The overall massiveness of the increase is to me the biggest shocker--the fact that it touched pretty much every group," said Katherine A. Hempstead, who recently published an analysis of U.S. suicide trends in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Hempstead, director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, noted that surging suicides among women--a group that has traditionally committed suicide at a far lower rate than men--was especially significant. While nearly four times as many men as women kill themselves, suicide rates among women grew much faster than those among men, and the gap between men and women narrowed.

Among all women younger than 75, suicide rates grew across the age spectrum. But in the age of greatest vulnerability--women between the ages of 45 and 64--the rate of suicide in 2014 vaulted 80% higher over 1999's rates.

Among girls 5 to 15 years old--a segment of the population among whom suicide was a rare phenomenon in 1999, rates of suicide tripled between 1999 and 2014, with one suicide yearly for every 6,660 such girls.

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Nearly 9% of Americans are angry, impulsive - and have a gun, study says

"That we've started to see the gender gap close is shocking," said Hempstead, who was not involved in the current study.

Hempstead's earlier published study of American suicide rates ended with 2010, and had documented a steep rise that appeared strongly related to financial distress and job problems.

That that trend continued for four more years may reflect that "the benefits of the recovery have not been shared by all," said Hempstead.

Recent reports that nonfatal forms self-harm--drug overdoses and alcohol-related diseases--have begun to erode Americans' life expectancy also underscore the lingering effects of economic hardship on many, she added.

The new report, issued early Thursday by the CDC's Center for Health Statistics, also offers a grim look into the changing means by which American suicide victims took their lives.

Among both men and women, the 1999-2014 period saw a shift away from the use of firearms, pills and poisons. In 2014, 1 in 4 suicides was by suffocation (hanging, strangulation or suffocation), up from 1 in 5 in 1999.

Firearms continued to be the means of suicide most chosen by male suicide victims, used by 55.4% in 2014. Among women, firearms followed close behind poisoning as a means of suicide, accounting for 31% of female suicides in 2014.

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That fact underscores the importance of coaxing from those in crisis the pills, poison or guns they might use to carry out a suicide, said Catherine Barber, director of the Means Matter Campaign at Harvard's School of Public Health.

Research suggests that many who attempt suicide act on impulse-- and when a gun is available, their attempts are vastly more likely to succeed. By contrast, 9 out of 10 people who attempt suicide and survive will not go on to die by their own hand, suggesting that removing the means to commit such an act is not a gesture doomed to fail.

"Often, the moment for a friend to intervene is related to a crisis that is going to resolve, like a divorce," said Barber. "A friend can offer optimism: 'We'll get through this,'" said Barber. "A friendly way of showing concern" would be to offer to hold a distressed person's firearms until the crisis has passed, she added.

Suicide is a tragedy that occurs in all times and places. However, suicide rates vary around the world. For most of the countries shown in the chart below, suicide rate data comes from the World Health Organization. The WHO's mortality database is based on reports from governmental agencies from different countries. Most of the WHO data thus comes from more developed countries.

For developing countries, numerous political, cultural, and religious hurdles make getting accurate information on suicide much more difficult.

Suicides are most prominent in Asia and Eastern Europe. Lithuania has the highest suicide rate among the countries for which we have data, with 28.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 people, followed closely by South Korea with 26.3 deaths per 100,000 people

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A list of the countries along with their most recently available suicide rates in deaths per 100,000 populations and the year the data was compiled.

Country	Year	Deaths per 100,000 People	Country	Year	Deaths per 100,000 People
Lithuania	2009	28.6	Germany	2010	8.8
South Korea	2009	26.3	Serbia	2010	8.8
Belarus	2009	24.0	El Salvador	2008	8.7
Kazakhstan	2009	23.5	Singapore	2009	8.1
Russia	2009	22.8	Netherlands	2010	8.0
China	2011	22.2	Bulgaria	2010	7.9
India	2010	22.0	Argentina	2008	7.5
Sri Lanka	2006	19.8	Australia	2006	7.4
Japan	2009	19.1	Mauritius	2010	7.4
Hungary	2009	19.0	Puerto Rico	2005	7.1
Latvia	2009	18.6	Ecuador	2009	7.0
Ukraine	2010	16.6	Portugal	2010	7.0
Moldova	2010	16.3	Costa Rica	2009	6.0
Slovenia	2009	16.2	United Kingdom	2010	6.0
Finland	2010	15.9	Panama	2008	5.7
Belgium	2006	15.2	Spain	2009	5.6
Poland	2009	14.3	Israel	2009	5.4
Uruguay	2004	14.3	Uzbekistan	2005	5.2
Montenegro	2009	13.6	Colombia	2007	5.1
Estonia	2010	13.5	Thailand	2006	5.0
France	2008	13.3	Brazil	2008	4.8
Switzerland	2007	13.3	Italy	2008	4.8
Croatia	2010	12.7	Albania	2004	4.7
New Zealand	2008	11.8	Guatemala	2008	4.2
Czech Republic	2010	11.4	Mexico	2008	4.2
Reunion	2008	11.4	Paraguay	2008	3.9
Austria	2010	11.3	Georgia	2009	3.6
Hong Kong SAR	2009	11.3	Venezuela	2007	3.5
Ireland	2009	11.3	Cyprus	2009	3.4
Chile	2007	10.8	Fiji	2009	3.3
Romania	2010	10.6	Greece	2009	2.7
Trinidad & Tobago	2006	10.3	Bahrain	2009	2.5
United States	2007	10.3	Philippines	2008	2.3
Canada	2004	10.1	Qatar	2009	2.3
Norway	2010	10.1	Armenia	2009	1.5
Sweden	2010	10.1	Kuwait	2009	1.3
Cuba	2008	9.9	South Africa	2008	1.0
Denmark	2006	9.3	Azerbaijan	2007	0.6
Kyrgyzstan	2009	9.1	Oman	2009	0.5
Slovakia	2009	9.0	Egypt	2010	0.1

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Sincerely,

Pastor Andy Anderson

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May the grace of God be with you always --- Amen

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