

DOC and Suicide Prevention

- As a result of ongoing work to continually improve our suicide-prevention capabilities, DOC's average inmate suicide rate is *less than half the national average for jails*.
- From 2011 through 2015, our five-year average annual suicide rate was 14 per 100,000, vs. an annual average of 43 per 100,000 for jails nationally (using the most recent data available national data from 2011 through 2013).
- Our efforts include inmate peer Suicide Prevention Aides, who are trained, paid for their work and on duty in high-risk, specialty housing areas 24/7.
- Suicide prevention and intervention is taught at our Correction Academy, and we also have annual officer retraining on the subject.
- All of our facilities except AMKC have a mental health clinician on duty 16 hours a day, 7 days per week and the remaining facility.
- AMKC, which has a large population of mentally ill inmates, has a clinician on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- An 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course was rolled out in August 2014 for new recruits. This training assists staff with identifying signs and symptoms of mental illness. In-Service classes started April 2015.
- In October 2014, DOC announced a three-year partnership with the Vera Institute of Justice and the health department's Bureau of Correctional Health Services to study the causes of these tragic incidents, so that we can reduce their prevalence and improve the safety of all those within our jails. (<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/495-14/city-launches-initiative-address-suicides-self-harm-incident-new-york-city-jails>)
- The chart below has number of suicides of inmates in DOC custody, the resulting suicide rate and the national suicide rate.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
# of Suicides	1	2	3	0	2
Suicide Rate per 100,000 jail inmates	8	17	26	0	21
National Jail Suicide Rate	43	40	46		

- Agency-wide efforts to prevent inmate suicides began to show significant results starting in 2006. From 1996 through 2006, DOC's average annual suicide rate was 28.6 per 100,000 inmates. From 2006 through 2015, however, DOC cut its average annual inmate suicide rate nearly in half, to 14.5 per 100,000 inmates.
- Because of this decrease, we can estimate that, over the past 10 years, 17 to 18 inmate suicides didn't happen that might otherwise have taken place if DOC had not reduced its average annual suicide rate.

