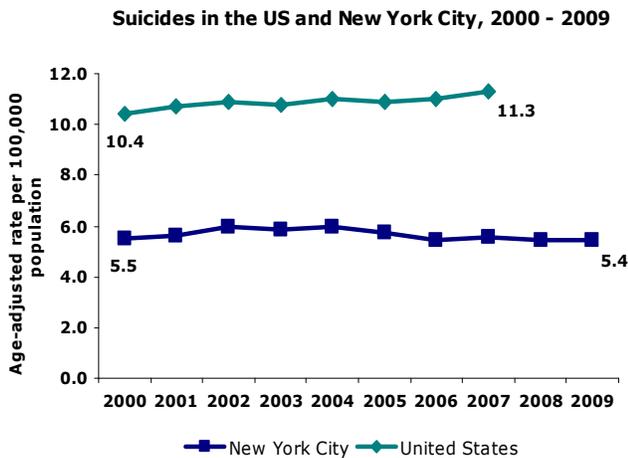




**New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**  
**Injury Statistics Brief**  
 Suicides in New York City, 2007-2009

**I. Trends and Burden**



- Between 2000 and 2009, there were 4,747 suicides in NYC, with an average of 475 suicide deaths per year.
- Suicide rates in NYC have been relatively stable over time; in 2009 there were 5.4 suicides for every 100,000 people in NYC.
- During this period, suicide rates nationwide were almost twice as high as NYC rates and have increased slightly over time.<sup>i</sup>

**II. Key Demographic Findings**

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of New York City (NYC) suicide victims are men, similar to national counts (79%).
- NYC suicide rates were highest among 45 to 54 year olds. National data also suggest that this group has high risk.
- More than half of suicides occurred among whites, who have the highest rate for any racial/ethnic group in the city (7.5 per 100,000). Nationally, American Indians / Alaskan Natives have the highest suicide rates (14.4 per 100,000), followed by whites (13.2 per 100,000).
- Among racial/ethnic minority groups in NYC the suicide rate is highest among Asians (5.5 per 100,000 vs. 3.7 for blacks and 3.9 for Hispanics). The rate among NYC Asians is comparable to their national rates (5.8 per 100,000).
- While there is little variation in suicide rates by borough of residence, Manhattan (5.5 per 100,000) and Bronx (5.4 per 100,000) residents have slightly higher suicide rates than residents of other boroughs.
- Nearly one in ten (9.1%) suicides in NYC occurred among decedents not documented as living in NYC.

<b>NYC Suicides, 2007-2009</b>		
	Count (%)	Avg. annual rate per 100,000* [CI]
<b>Male</b>	1052 (73.8%)	8.7 [8.2-9.2]
<b>Female</b>	373 (26.2%)	2.7 [2.4-3.0]
<b>0-14 yrs</b>	7 (0.5%)	0.1 [0.0-0.3]
<b>15-24 yrs</b>	155 (10.9%)	4.6 [3.9-5.4]
<b>25-34 yrs</b>	255 (17.9%)	6.5 [5.7-7.3]
<b>35-44 yrs</b>	282 (19.8%)	7.3 [6.4-8.1]
<b>45-54 yrs</b>	283 (19.9%)	8.2 [7.2-9.1]
<b>55-64 yrs</b>	211 (14.8%)	8.0 [7.0-9.1]
<b>65+ yrs</b>	232 (16.3%)	7.6 [6.6-8.5]
<b>Hispanic</b>	262 (18.4%)	3.9 [3.4-4.4]
<b>White (non-Hispanic)</b>	752 (52.8%)	7.5 [7.0-8.0]
<b>Black (non-Hispanic)</b>	218 (15.3%)	3.7 [3.2-4.1]
<b>Asian</b>	169 (11.9%)	5.5 [4.7-6.4]
<b>Other</b>	6 (0.4%)	2.0 [0.4-3.7]
<b>Unknown</b>	18 (1.3%)	n/a
<b>Manhattan</b>	292 (20.5%)	5.5 [4.9-6.1]
<b>Bronx</b>	219 (15.4%)	5.4 [4.7-6.1]
<b>Brooklyn</b>	360 (25.3%)	4.6 [4.2-5.1]
<b>Queens</b>	356 (25.0%)	4.9 [4.4-5.4]
<b>Staten Island</b>	69 (4.8%)	4.6 [3.5-5.6]
<b>Resident</b>	1296 (90.9%)	5.0 [4.7-5.3]
<b>Nonresident</b>	114 (8.0%)	n/a
<b>Unknown</b>	15 (1.1%)	n/a

\* All rates, except age-specific, are age-adjusted. Borough refers to decedent's borough of residence. The "n/a" indicates that no denominator was available for rate computation.

### III. Methods of Suicide<sup>ii</sup>

NYC Suicides, 2007-2009 Top 10 methods, by residency status			
Method of Suicide	NYC overall # (%) n=1419	Resident # (%) n=1290	Non-resident # (%) n=114
1. Hanging/strangulation/ suffocation	455 (32%)	426 (33%)	25 (22%)
2. Jumping from a high place	271 (19%)	247 (19%)	23 (20%)
3. Drugs/medicinal substance	237 (17%)	213 (17%)	22 (19%)
4. Firearms	216 (15%)	200 (16%)	15 (13%)
5. Jumping before moving object	92 (6%)	79 (6%)	10 (9%)
6. Cutting/piercing instrument	57 (4%)	53 (4%)	4 (4%)
7. Drowning	53 (4%)	37 (3%)	13(11%)
8. Poison gas/vapor inhalation	16 (1%)	15 (1%)	1 (0.9%)
9. Fire/flame/hot object	5 (0.4%)	4 (0.3%)	0 (0%)
10. Poison/other substance	4 (0.3%)	4 (0.3%)	0 (0%)

- In NYC, over 80% of suicides occurred using the following four methods: hanging, strangulation or suffocation (32%), jumping from a high place (19%), intentional poisoning by drugs or medicinal substances (17%), and firearms (15%).
- Overall, methods of suicide in NYC differ from those in the US. The three most common methods used nationally, accounting for more than 90% of all US suicides, are: firearms (51%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (23%), and poisoning (18%).<sup>iii</sup>
- Suicide by jumping from a high place accounts for almost one fifth of all suicides in NYC (19%), but only 2% of suicides in the US.
- Within NYC, data suggest that the rank order of methods differs slightly for residents, non-residents, and individuals with unknown residence. Still, the top method for all is hanging, strangulation, or suffocation.

<sup>i</sup> The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Bureau of Vital Statistics provides local suicide data, which are analyzed by the Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program. National data are available from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through 2007. Source:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>

<sup>ii</sup> Mechanisms of self-inflicted injury are categorized according to the International Classification of Disease (ICD)-10 (external cause of death codes X60-X84, Y87). Six deaths due to late effects have incomplete information on mechanism because current ICD-10 coding schemes do not specify the mechanism for deaths from late effects.

<sup>iii</sup> National WISQARS data on poisoning combine three mechanisms: drugs/medicinal substance, poison gas/vapor inhalation, and poison/other solid or liquid substance.