

Suicide is the
10th

leading cause of
death in the US

Each year
44,965

Americans die by
suicide

Suicide costs the US

\$69 Billion
annually

For every
COMPLETED suicide,

25 attempt

Berrien County Suicide Data 2018



Suicide is a concerning matter of preventable death affecting many communities throughout our Nation. These, county specific data were compiled for the purpose of spreading awareness of suicide to reduce the prevalence.

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March, 2019

The following information regarding Berrien County was generated from the Berrien County Medical Examiner's Office in March of 2019.

Not all deaths are a medical examiner case; however all suicide or suspected suicide deaths in Berrien County are considered a Medical Examiner case which is investigated by the Berrien County Medical Examiner's Office. These data include all persons whom death were ruled as a completed suicide in Berrien County from 2011-2018. All rates that are calculated in this report were generated using the 2010 USA standard population and are deaths per 100,000 population.

Leading Cause of Death USA 2017

According to the national institute of health, age adjusted suicide rates are increasing, from 10.5 suicides per 100,000 people in 1999 to 14.0 suicides per 100,000 people in 2017; an increase of 33%. In 2017, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death in the United States for people age 10 to 34. Suicide disproportionately affects persons between 10 and 34 years of age, resulting in more deaths in this age range than Malignant Neoplasms and Heart Disease combined.

Rank	Age Groups										
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	Congenital Anomalies 4,580	Unintentional Injury 1,267	Unintentional Injury 718	Unintentional Injury 860	Unintentional Injury 13,441	Unintentional Injury 25,669	Unintentional Injury 22,828	Malignant Neoplasms 39,266	Malignant Neoplasms 114,810	Heart Disease 519,052	Heart Disease 647,457
2	Short Gestation 3,749	Congenital Anomalies 424	Malignant Neoplasms 418	Suicide 517	Suicide 6,252	Suicide 7,948	Malignant Neoplasms 10,900	Heart Disease 32,658	Heart Disease 80,102	Malignant Neoplasms 427,896	Malignant Neoplasms 599,108
3	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 1,432	Malignant Neoplasms 325	Congenital Anomalies 188	Malignant Neoplasms 437	Homicide 4,905	Homicide 5,488	Heart Disease 10,401	Unintentional Injury 24,461	Unintentional Injury 23,408	CLRD 136,139	Unintentional Injury 169,936
4	SIDS 1,363	Homicide 303	Homicide 154	Congenital Anomalies 191	Malignant Neoplasms 1374	Heart Disease 3,681	Suicide 7,335	Suicide 8,561	CLRD 18,667	Cerebrovascular 125,653	CLRD 160,201
5	Unintentional Injury 1,317	Heart Disease 127	Heart Disease 75	Homicide 178	Heart Disease 913	Malignant Neoplasms 3,616	Homicide 3,351	Liver Disease 8,312	Diabetes Mellitus 14,904	Alzheimer's Disease 120,107	Cerebrovascular 146,383
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 843	Influenza & Pneumonia 104	Influenza & Pneumonia 2	Heart Disease 104	Congenital Anomalies 355	Liver Disease 918	Liver Disease 3,000	Diabetes Mellitus 6,409	Liver Disease 13,737	Diabetes Mellitus 59,020	Alzheimer's Disease 121,404
7	Bacterial Sepsis 592	Cerebrovascular 66	CLRD 59	CLRD 75	Diabetes Mellitus 248	Diabetes Mellitus 823	Diabetes Mellitus 2,118	Cerebrovascular 5,198	Cerebrovascular 12,708	Unintentional Injury 55,951	Diabetes Mellitus 83,564
8	Circulatory System Disease 449	Septicemia 48	Cerebrovascular 41	Cerebrovascular 56	Influenza & Pneumonia 190	Cerebrovascular 593	Cerebrovascular 1,811	CLRD 3,975	Suicide 7,982	Influenza & Pneumonia 46,862	Influenza & Pneumonia 55,672
9	Respiratory Distress 440	Benign Neoplasms 44	Septicemia 33	Influenza & Pneumonia 51	CLRD 188	HIV 513	Septicemia 854	Septicemia 2,441	Septicemia 5,838	Nephritis 41,670	Nephritis 50,633
10	Neonatal Hemorrhage 379	Perinatal Period 42	Benign Neoplasms 31	Benign Neoplasms 31	Complicate Pregnancy 168	Complicated Pregnancy 512	HIV 831	Homicide 2,275	Nephritis 5,671	Parkinson's Disease 31,177	Suicide 47,173

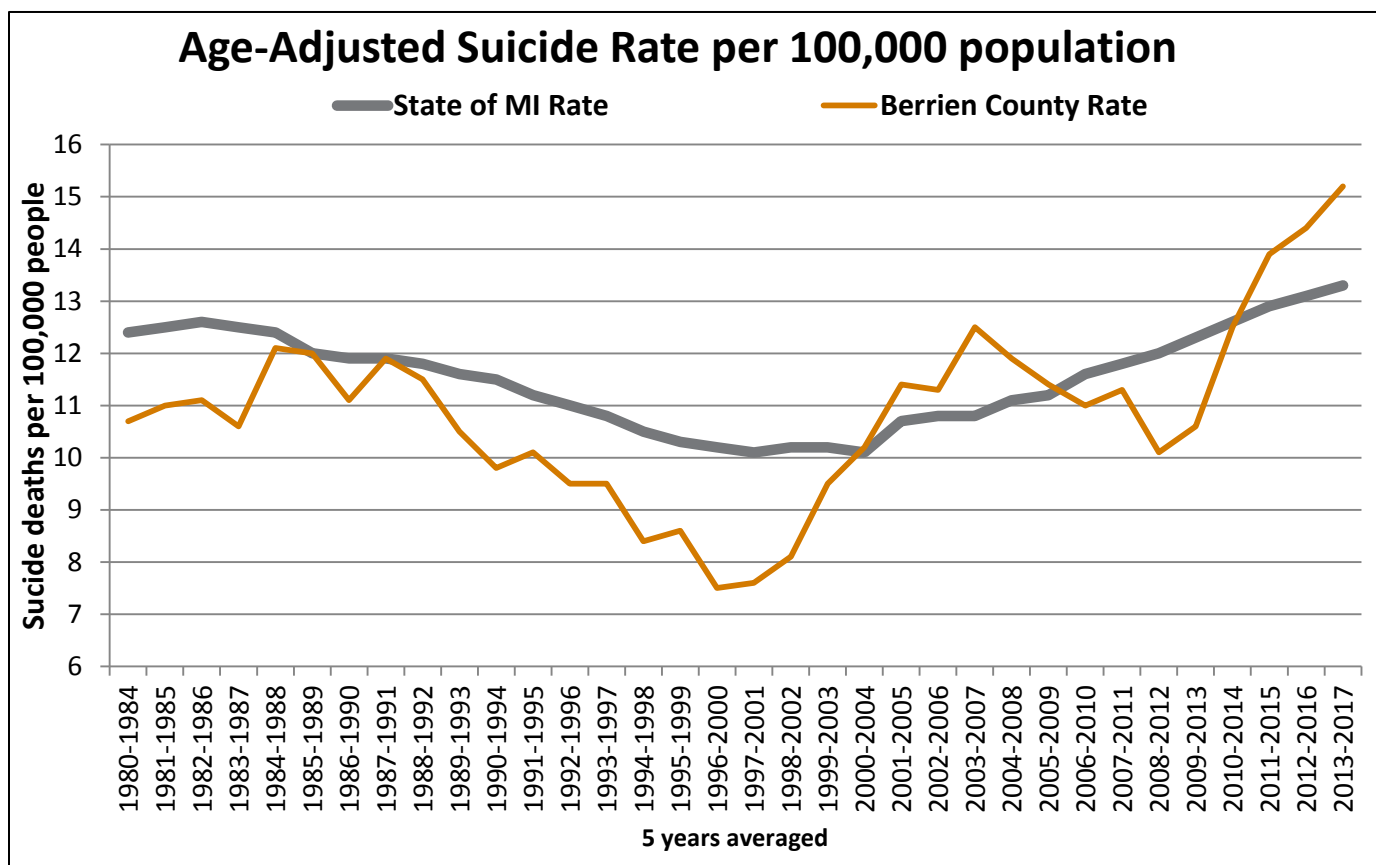
CLRD – Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Data Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Overview

County level health data is limited to the population contained within the county limits and therefore offers a small sample size that often has more year to year variability than an area with a larger population. Overall, the 37 year trend of Berrien County suicides roughly corresponds to suicide trends throughout the State of Michigan. It is estimated that for every one completed suicide there are 25 attempts of suicide; thus we can estimate that there are approximately 650 suicide attempts each year in Berrien County alone. There has been a 43% increase in the five year moving average rate of suicide from 2009-2013 to 2013-2017. This data also indicates that in Berrien County there has been an increase in age adjusted suicide rates by 28% over the past ten years (2004-2008 to 2013-2017) and an increase of approximately 78% in the past twenty years (1994-1998 to 2013-2017). White males between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age have the highest prevalence of suicide when compared to other demographic groupings.

Number of Suicides in Berrien County (2011-2018)								
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Count	20	14	21	26	31	21	23	26
5 year moving average Rate of Suicides per 100,000 population in Berrien County (2006-2017)								
Year	2006-10	2007-11	2008-12	2009-13	2010-12	2011-15	2012-16	2013-2017
Rate	11.0	11.3	10.1	10.6	12.5	13.8	14.4	15.2



Suicide by Race/Ethnicity

When comparing 2014-2018 suicide rates by race in Berrien County, the average rate of suicide among whites was determined to be 2.3 time more prevalent than the rate of suicide among blacks in Berrien County. In 2018, the highest suicide rate among Berrien County (16.6 deaths per 100,000 whites) residents and was among white persons. Rates were calculated based on the 2010 census estimates.

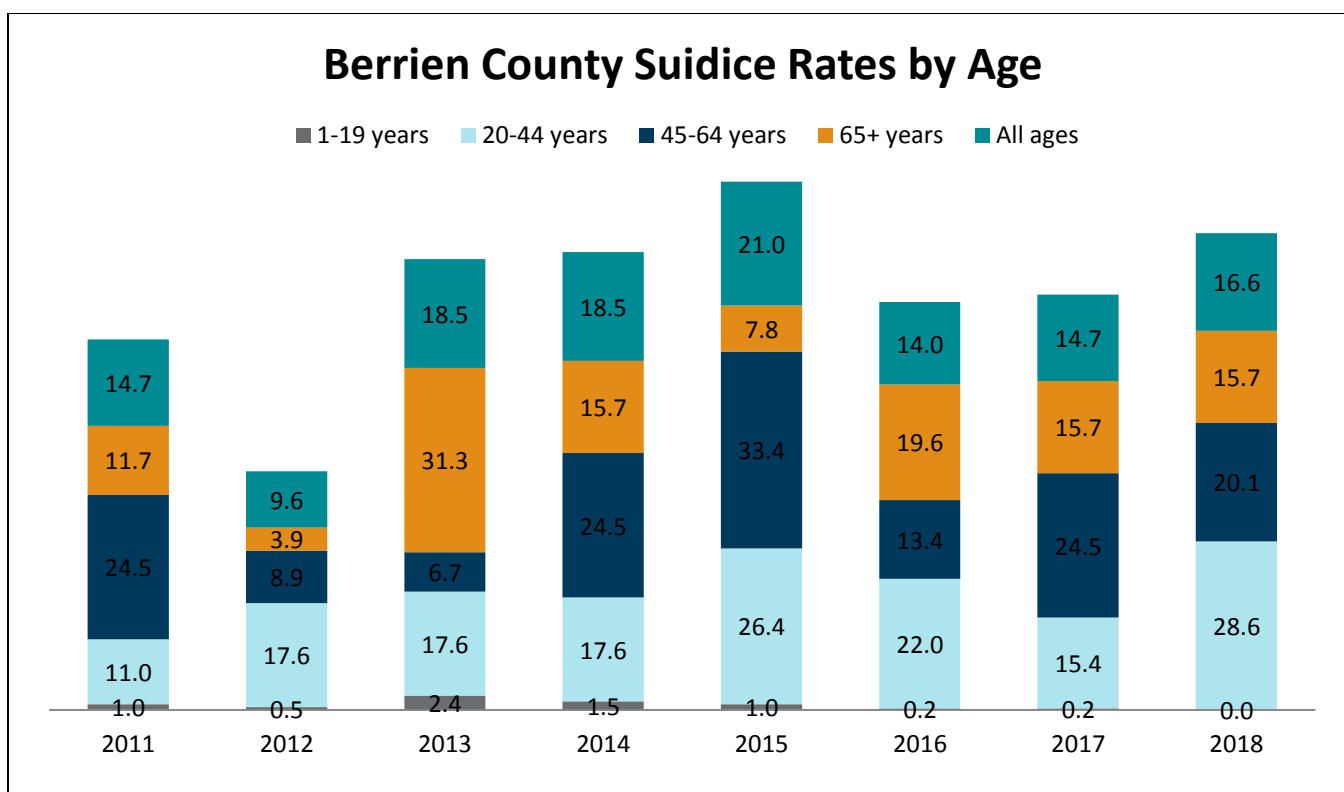
Berrien County Suicides Counts and Rate per 100,000 Population by Race: 2014-2018					
	White		Black		White + Black Rate
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
2014	23	18.2	3	11.6	17.1
2015	28	22.2	2	7.7	20.4
2016	18	14.3	3	11.6	13.8
2017	22	17.4	0	0.0	15.1
2018	21	16.6	2	7.7	17.1

-Note: The number of suicides among other racial or ethnic groups is not represented in these data due to their small representation in Berrien County. Where there are missing values it indicates a suicide of a group who is not represented in this simple table.

Suicide by Age

There are approximately 20 suicides per 100,000 middle age white males in Berrien County each year; making this demographic at the greatest risk for completing suicide 2011-2018. 2015 had the highest suicide rate in the date range provided below (21.0 suicides per 100,000 population per year). People between the age of 1-19 year had an estimated 0.9 suicides per 100,000 population per year of age which has the lowest suicide rate based on the age breakdown blow.

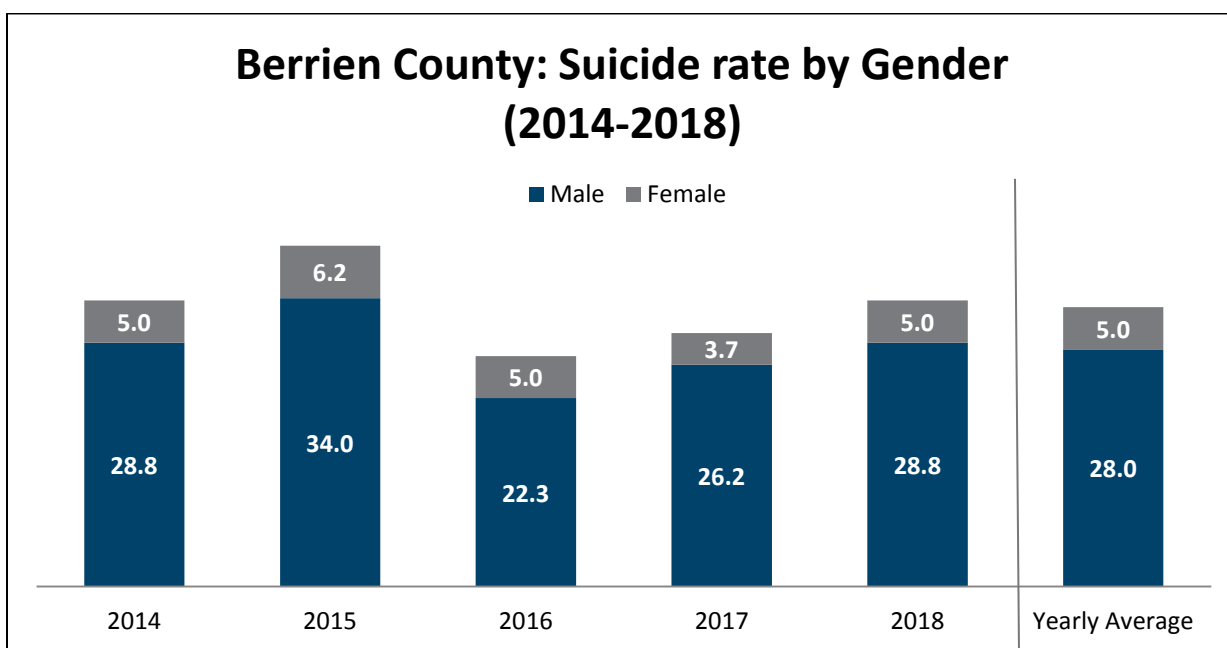
Berrien County Suicide Count and Rate per 100,000 Population by Age: 2014-2018										
Year	1-19 years		20-44 years		45-64 years		65+ years		All ages	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2011	4	1.0	5	11.0	11	24.5	3	11.7	23	14.7
2012	2	0.5	8	17.6	4	8.9	1	3.9	15	9.6
2013	10	2.4	8	17.6	3	6.7	8	31.3	29	18.5
2014	6	1.5	8	17.6	11	24.5	4	15.7	29	18.5
2015	4	1.0	12	26.4	15	33.4	2	7.8	33	21.0
2016	1	0.2	10	22.0	6	13.4	5	19.6	22	14.0
2017	1	0.2	7	15.4	11	24.5	4	15.7	23	14.7
2018	0	0.0	13	28.6	9	20.1	4	15.7	26	16.6
Total/Average	28	0.9	71	19.5	70	19.5	31	15.2	200	15.9



Suicide by Gender/Sex

In 2018, 85% of completed suicides in Berrien County were conducted by males. In the previous 5 years, males were 5.6 times more likely to complete suicide compared to females. Suicide is much more prevalent for males compared to females.

Berrien County Suicides by Sex 2014-2018						
Year	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
2014	22	28.8	4	5.0	26	16.6
2015	26	34.0	5	6.2	31	19.8
2016	17	22.3	4	5.0	21	13.4
2017	20	26.2	3	3.7	23	14.7
2018	22	28.8	4	5.0	26	16.6
Total/Average	107	28.0	20	5.0	127	16.2



Suicide by Method

The most common methods used to complete suicides in Berrien County from 2011-2018 is by firearm or gun (48.1%), hanging (34.0%), and overdose (6.1%). There are various other methods that have been performed to take one’s life which are grouped in the “other” category. The pie chart below demonstrates the raw number of the four most common suicide methods over a 6 year period.

Berrien County Suicides by method 2014-2018											
Year	Gun		Hanging		Drug Overdose		Carbon Monoxide		Other		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2014	11	42.3%	11	42.3%	2	7.7%	2	7.7%	0	0.0%	26
2015	19	61.3%	10	32.3%	2	6.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31
2016	9	42.9%	8	38.1%	1	4.8%	0	0.0%	3*	14.3%	21
2017	11	47.8%	7	30.4%	0	0.0%	1	4.3%	4	13.0%	23
2018	12	46.2%	7	26.9%	3	11.5%	1	3.8%	3	11.5%	26
Average	12.4	48.1%	8.6	34.0%	1.6	6.1%	0.8	3.2%	1.75	7.8%	25.4

