

Introduction

Suicide is an important public health problem in Oregon. Health surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009 showed that approximately 15 percent of teens and four percent of adults aged 18 years and older had serious thoughts of suicide during the past year; and about five percent of teens and 0.4 percent of adults made a suicide attempt in the past year.^{1,2} In 2012, 717 Oregonians died by suicide and more than 2,100 hospitalizations were due to suicide attempts.^{3,4} Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregonians aged 15 to 34 years, and the eighth leading cause of death among all ages in Oregon.³ The cost of suicide is enormous. In 2013 alone, self-inflicted injury hospitalization charges in Oregon exceeded \$54 million; and the estimate of total lifetime cost of suicide in Oregon was over \$677 million.^{3,4} The loss to families and communities broadens the impact of each death.

“Suicide is a multidimensional, multi-determined, and multi-factorial behavior. The risk factors associated with suicidal behaviors include biological, psychological, and social factors”.⁵ This report provides the most current suicide statistics in Oregon, provides suicide prevention programs and planners a detailed description of suicide, examines factors associated with suicide and generates public health information and prevention strategies. We analyzed mortality data from 1981 to 2012, and 2003 to 2012 data from the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS). This report presents findings of suicide trends and associated factors in Oregon.

Methods, data sources and limitations

Suicide is a death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. In this report, suicide deaths are identified according to International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for the underlying cause of deaths on death certificates.

¹ Oregon Healthy Teens 2009 -11th Grade Results.

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/Surveys/OregonHealthyTeens/results/2009/11/Documents/mental11.pdf>

² Crosby A.E., Han B., Ortega L.A.G., Park S.E., et al, Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Adults aged >= 18 Years – United States, 2008-2009. MMWR. 2011;60:13.

³ Oregon Vital Statistics Annual Report, Vol. 2, 2012. Oregon Health Authority.

⁴ Oregon Injury and Violence Prevention Program, [Injury in Oregon, 2013 Injury Data Report](#). Oregon Health Authority.

⁵ Maris R.W., Berman A.L., Silverman A.M. (2000). Comprehensive Textbook of suicidology. New York: The Guilford Press. (p378)