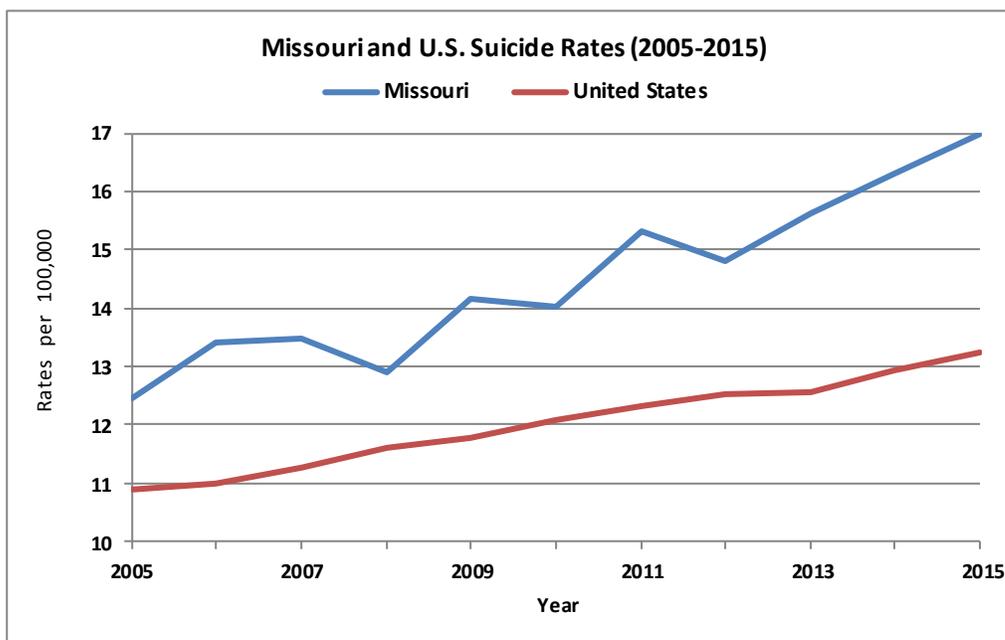
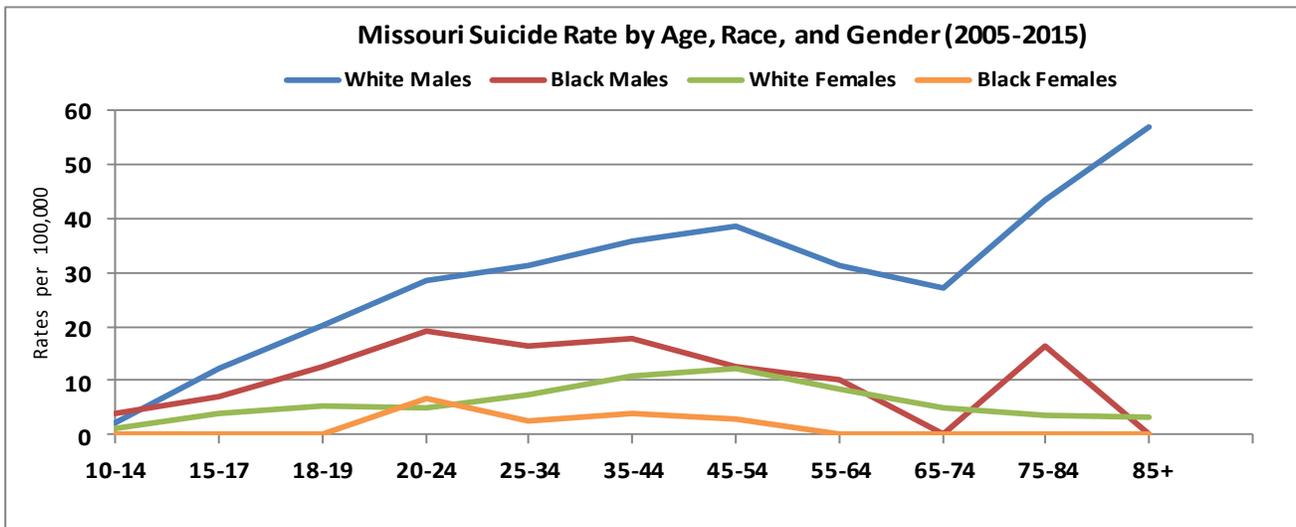


# Suicide in Missouri: Where We Stand

- ◇ More than 1,000 Missourians died by suicide in 2015.
- ◇ Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death both in Missouri and nationally. It is the 2nd leading cause of death among 15-19 and 25-34 year-olds and the 3rd leading cause of death among 10-14 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds.
- ◇ Suicide rates in Missouri have been steadily increasing since 1999 and are higher than those nationally. In 2015, Missouri's suicide rate was the 17th highest in the nation with an overall rate of 16.98 per 100,000 (age-adjusted) compared to the national rate of 13.26.
- ◇ 78% of all those who died by suicide in 2015 were male and 93% were white.
- ◇ Suicide rates are considerably higher among white males compared to other demographic groups. Particularly vulnerable are white males between 45 and 54 and those 75 and older.
- ◇ 58% of all suicides in 2015 involved firearms, followed by suffocation (22%) and poisoning (16%).



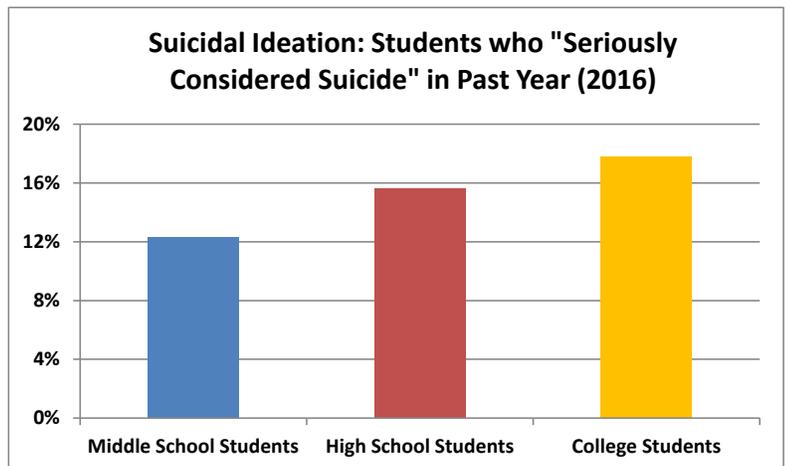
## Suicides by Age, Race, and Gender



- Suicide rates are highest among white men between 45 and 54 and those 75 and older.
- Rates for white women peak at ages 45-64 as well, those rates are considerably lower than rates for white men.
- Rates peak for black men at a younger age. Rates among black women are negligible.
- Patterns for white women are similar during middle age, but decline rather than increase after age 54. Overall rates for black women are very low.

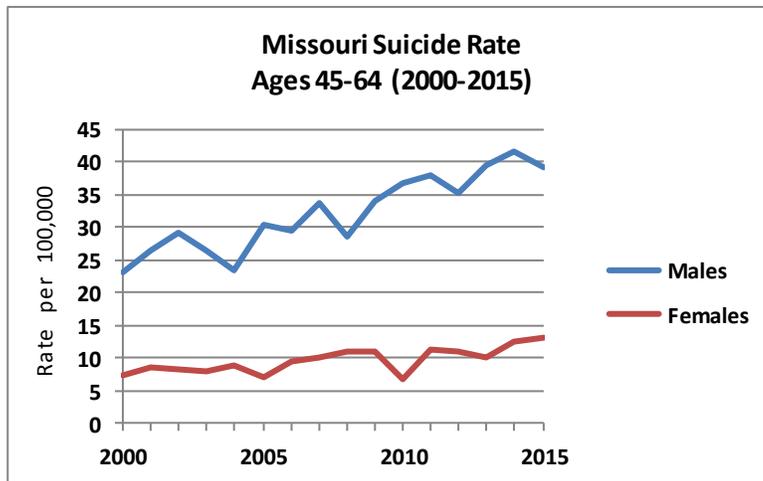
## Suicides Among Youth and Young Adults: 10-24

- Suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death in Missouri among youth/young adults ages 10-24 in 2015. In this age group, suicides are highest among 20-24 year-olds.
- Rates have remained relatively unchanged since 1999.
- One out of eight (12.3%) middle school students seriously considered suicide in the past year (Missouri Student Survey (MSS), 2016).
- Among high school students, one in six (15.6%) seriously considered suicide and 7.3% attempted suicide. Ideation rates for females were higher than for males (19.0% vs. 10.8%) (MSS, 2016).
- Almost one in five college students (17.8%) reported seriously considering suicide in the past year (Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors (MACHB), 2016).



- Full-time students ages 18-22 were less likely to attempt suicide than others in their age range (NSDUH, 2013).
- LGBTQ students were more than three times more likely to have had suicidal thoughts than non-LGBTQ youth and were nearly four times as likely to have made a suicide attempt (MACHB, 2016).

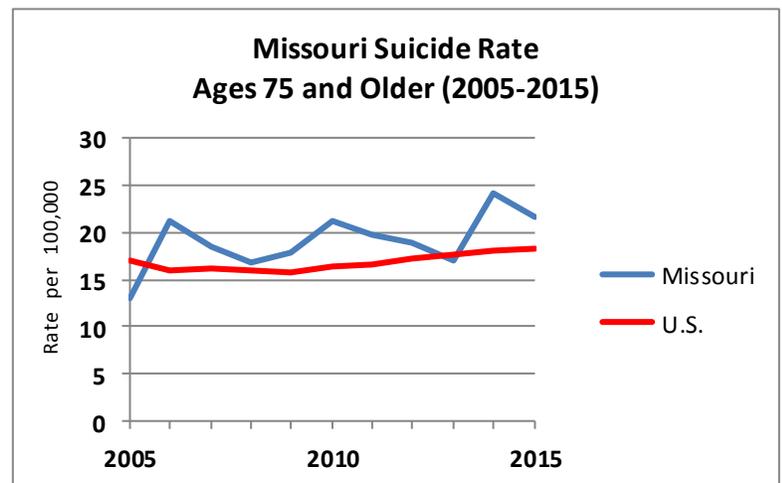
## Suicides Among Middle-Age Adults: 45-54



- The suicide rate for 45-64 year-old males rose from 23.1 per 100,000 in 1999 to 39.2 in 2015. To a less extent, rates have also climbed among females, especially since 2010.
- Most at risk are white males, whose rates increased from 25.4 to 41.3 per 100,000 between 2000 and 2015.

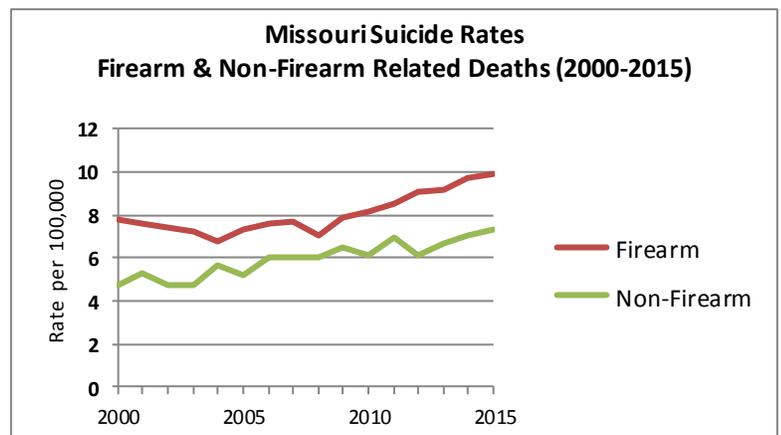
## Suicides Among Adults 75 and Older

- Between 2000 and 2015, 953 older adults killed themselves in Missouri. 95% were male.
- Of Missourians in this age group, the suicide rate is highest among white males.
- Suicide rates among older adults have fluctuated since 2000 but were higher in 2014 and 2015 than any prior years.
- In 2015, 82% of all older adult suicides involved firearms. This compares to 55% among suicides for those younger than 75.



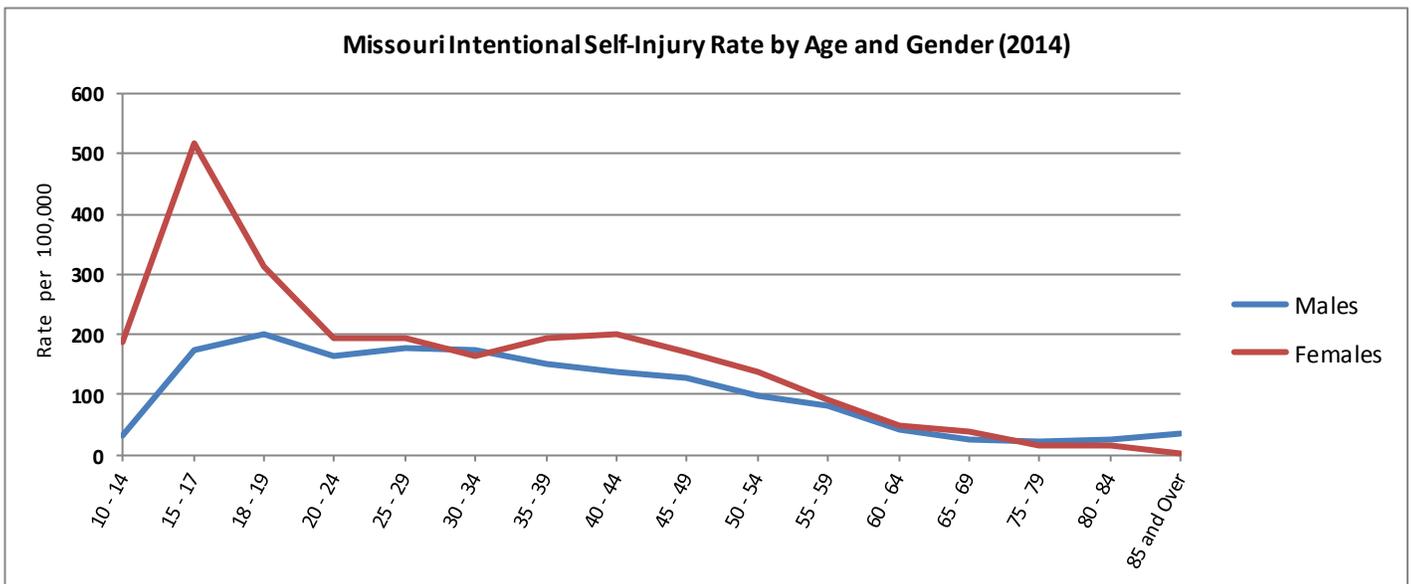
## Means of Suicide

- 58% of all suicides in 2015 involved firearms, followed by suffocation (22%) and poisoning (16%).
- Firearms are the primary means of suicide among adults. Suffocation is the primary means of suicide among youth under 18 (48%) followed by firearms (43%).
- Males were more than two times more likely than females to kill themselves using a firearm (65% vs. 31%). Females are more likely to use poisoning (38% vs. 10%) and suffocation (26% vs. 21%).
- 67% of white men ages 45-64 used firearms to end their lives.
- Most suicides among adults 75 and older involved firearms (84%).
- White Missourians are more likely to die by suicide using firearms compared to black Missourians (58% vs. 45%). Poisoning is slightly higher among blacks than whites (22% vs. 15%).



## Intentional Self-Injuries

- In 2014, 6,933 Missourians were treated in emergency rooms or were hospitalized for intentional self-injuries.
- Poison or drug/alcohol overdose accounted for 84% of intentional self-injuries; 12% were cutting or piercing behaviors.
- From 2001 to 2011, intentional self-injuries rose significantly. Since then, they have declined steadily.
- In 2014, there was one suicide for every seven intentional self-injuries.
- Self-injury is most common among females 15-17, when rates are more than twice as high as males. Males and females 20 and older have similar rates of self-injury.
- 61% of all poisoning/overdoses were by females.
- Males were far more likely to use a firearm to injure themselves than females (3.56 vs. .92 per 100,000) female.
- The rate of intentional self-injury declined as age increased regardless of race or sex.



\*Suicide rates and means data are from the Center for Disease Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).

\*\*"Firearms" include pistols, rifles, and shotguns; "Suffocation" includes hanging and asphyxiation; "Poisoning" includes drug overdoses; "Other" includes jumping, cutting, drowning, and unspecified/other.

\*\*\*Intentional self-injury data are from the Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA) Injury Data, 2017. Some but not all intentional self-injuries are suicide attempts and many suicide attempts do not result in in-patient or Emergency Department admissions.

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