

## Suicide Facts – 2002

### Introduction

The present report provides a description of suicide deaths that occurred in New Brunswick during the 2002 calendar year.

### Findings

- A total of 95 suicide deaths were recorded in New Brunswick in 2002; 81 males and 14 females, about a 6-fold difference between genders.

**Table 1** shows the number of suicide deaths and death rates by age group and gender for the years 2001 and 2002.

- Male suicide rates increased in 2002 compared to 2001 while female suicide rates decreased during the same period, although for both groups the difference in rates was not statistically significant.
- Male suicide rates continue to be much higher than female rates.
- The highest suicide rate for males was in the 25-34 year age group (33.7 per 100,000 population) whereas for females, suicide rate was highest in the 50 to 64 year age group (10.4 per 100,000 population).

**Table 1. Suicide deaths and death rate per 100,000 population by age group and gender, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2002**

Age Group	Year	Male		Female		Both Genders	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
0-9 years	2002	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2001	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10-14 years	2002	1	4.0	0	0.0	1	2.1
	2001	1	3.9	0	0.0	1	2.0
15-19 years	2002	6	22.9	1	4.0	7	13.8
	2001	3	11.4	1	4.0	4	7.8
20-24 years	2002	3	11.6	0	0.0	3	6.0
	2001	4	15.0	0	0.0	4	7.7
25-34 years	2002	17	33.7	1	2.0	18	17.9
	2001	14	25.7	4	7.5	18	16.7
35-49 years	2002	27	29.2	5	5.4	32	17.3
	2001	27	28.8	7	7.5	34	18.2
50-64 years	2002	20	30.0	7	10.4	27	20.2
	2001	17	27.4	7	11.2	24	19.3
65-79 years	2002	6	18.0	0	0.0	6	8.2
	2001	7	21.6	1	2.5	8	11.1
80+ years	2002	1	10.7	0	0.0	1	3.7
	2001	2	23.1	0	0.0	2	7.9
All	2002	81	21.9	14	3.7	95	12.7
	2001	75	20.0	20	5.2	95	12.6

- Notes:**
1. Rates for 2001 are based on 2000 population estimates, Statistics Canada, January 25, 2001.
  2. Rates for 2002 are based on 2002 population estimates, Statistics Canada, November 30, 2004.
  3. Suicide deaths exclude non-residents and New Brunswickers who committed suicide outside the province.

**Table 2. Suicide Death Rate per 100, 000 population by Community Mental Health Centre and Gender, New Brunswick, 2001 and 2002**

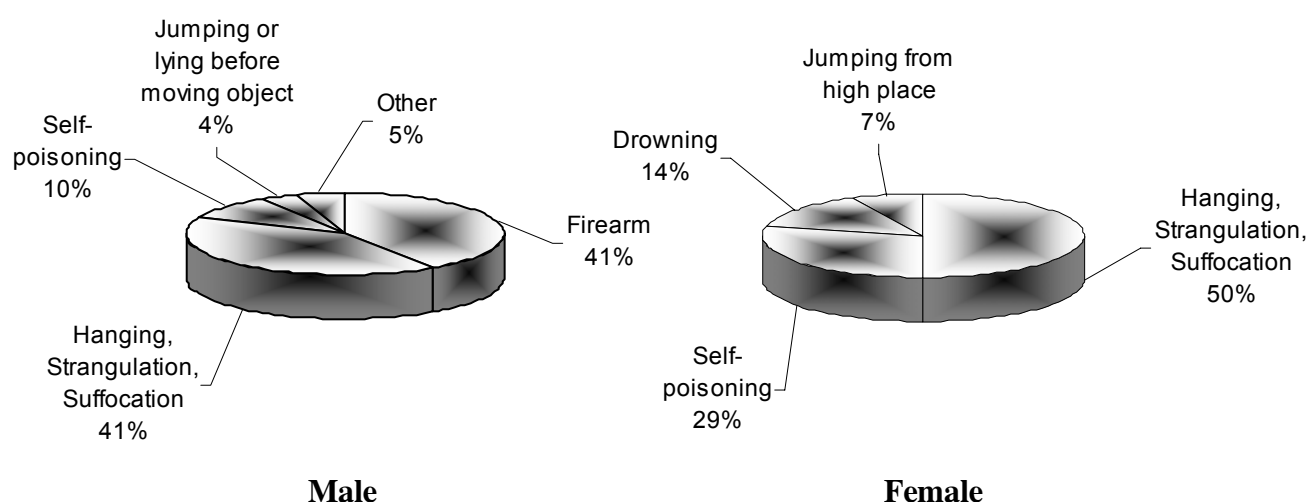
CMHC	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Rate		Rate		Rate	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001
Moncton	20.7	14.7	5.0	0.0	12.7	7.2
Richibucto	48.8	18.0	0.0	12.2	24.9	15.2
Saint John	14.9	13.1	3.1	10.8	8.9	11.9
St. Stephen	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0
Sussex	8.6	16.9	0.0	0.0	4.3	8.5
Fredericton	16.1	22.4	1.6	0.0	8.8	11.2
Woodstock	18.3	13.7	0.0	0.0	9.1	6.8
Edmundston	38.9	44.6	12.3	6.2	25.3	25.1
Grand Falls	40.0	25.7	0.0	0.0	19.9	12.8
Campbellton	35.3	27.9	11.4	21.7	23.2	24.8
Bathurst	35.5	29.0	9.9	9.6	22.5	19.3
Caraquet	17.2	49.5	4.4	16.8	10.8	33.3
Miramichi	20.6	8.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	4.0
N.B.	21.9	20.0	3.7	5.2	12.7	12.6

**Notes:** 1. Rates for 2001 are based on 2000 population estimates, Statistics Canada, January 25, 2001.  
 2. Rates for 2002 are based on 2002 population estimates, Statistics Canada, November 30, 2004.  
 3. Rates are based on place of residence, not place of occurrence of death.  
 4. Rate differences should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.

**Figure 1** presents a breakdown of suicide methods by gender for 2002.

- The most common method used by males to commit suicide in 2002 was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (41%) and firearm (41%), followed by self-poisoning (10%). This finding is different from the results found in the previous year in which hanging, strangulation or suffocation was the most common method used (41%), followed by firearm (27%).
- The most common method used by females to commit suicide in 2002 was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (50%), followed by self-poisoning (29%). This differs from the 2001 findings in which self-poisoning was the most common method used (45%), followed by firearm (20%).

**Figure 1. Methods of suicide by gender, New Brunswick, 2002**



**References:**

1. New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness (2004). Vital Statistics.
2. New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness (2003). Suicide Facts 2001. New Brunswick Epidemiological Report, Vol.11(2):2-5.