

Suicide Facts – 2003

Introduction

The present report provides a description of suicide deaths that occurred in New Brunswick during the 2003 calendar year.

Findings

- A total of 90 suicide deaths were recorded in New Brunswick in 2003; 74 males and 16 females, about a 5-fold difference between genders.

Table 1 shows the number of suicide deaths and death rates by age group and gender for the years 2002 and 2003.

- Male suicide rates decreased in 2003 compared to 2002 while female suicide rates increased 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 65 to 79 year age group (32.6 per 100,000 population) whereas for females, suicide rate was highest in the 15 to 19 year age group (12.4 per 100,000 population).

Table 1. Suicide deaths and death rate* by age group and gender, New Brunswick, 2002 and 2003

Age Group	Year	Male		Female		Both	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
0-9 years	2003	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2002	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10-14 years	2003	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2002	1	4.0	0	0.0	1	2.1
15-19 years	2003	1	3.9	3	12.4	4	8.0
	2002	6	22.9	1	4.0	7	13.8
20-24 years	2003	5	19.2	1	4.1	6	11.9
	2002	3	11.6	0	0.0	3	6.0
25-34 years	2003	8	16.1	0	0.0	8	8.0
	2002	17	33.7	1	2.0	18	17.9
35-49 years	2003	29	31.5	6	6.6	35	19.1
	2002	27	29.2	5	5.4	32	17.3
50-64 years	2003	19	27.6	5	7.1	24	17.3
	2002	20	30.0	7	10.4	27	20.2
65-79 years	2003	11	32.6	1	2.5	12	16.2
	2002	6	18.0	0	0.0	6	8.2
80+ years	2003	1	10.4	0	0.0	1	3.6
	2002	1	10.7	0	0.0	1	3.7
All	2003	74	20.0	16	4.2	90	12.0
	2002	81	21.9	14	3.7	95	12.7

*per 100,000 population, based on population estimates, Statistics Canada, November 30, 2004

Note: Suicide deaths exclude non-residents and New Brunswickers who committed suicide outside the province.

Table 2. Suicide Death Rate* by Community Mental Health Centre and Gender, New Brunswick, 2002 and 2003

CMHC	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Rate		Rate		Rate	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
Moncton	17.9	20.7	4.9	5.0	11.3	12.7
Richibucto	18.4	48.8	12.8	0.0	15.6	24.9
Saint John	13.3	14.9	0.0	3.1	6.4	8.9
St. Stephen	14.6	14.5	7.0	0.0	10.7	7.1
Sussex	25.8	8.6	0.0	0.0	13.0	4.3
Fredericton	14.4	16.1	1.6	1.6	7.9	8.8
Woodstock	9.2	18.3	4.6	0.0	6.9	9.1
Edmundston	78.5	38.9	6.2	12.3	41.4	25.3
Grand Falls	13.4	40.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	19.9
Campbellton	23.8	35.3	5.8	11.4	14.6	23.2
Bathurst	30.9	35.5	15.0	9.9	22.8	22.5
Caraquet	21.8	17.2	4.4	4.4	13.1	10.8
Miramichi	20.7	20.6	4.2	0.0	12.5	10.3
N.B.	20.0	21.9	4.2	3.7	12.0	12.7

*per 100,000 population, based on population estimates, Statistics Canada, November 30, 2004

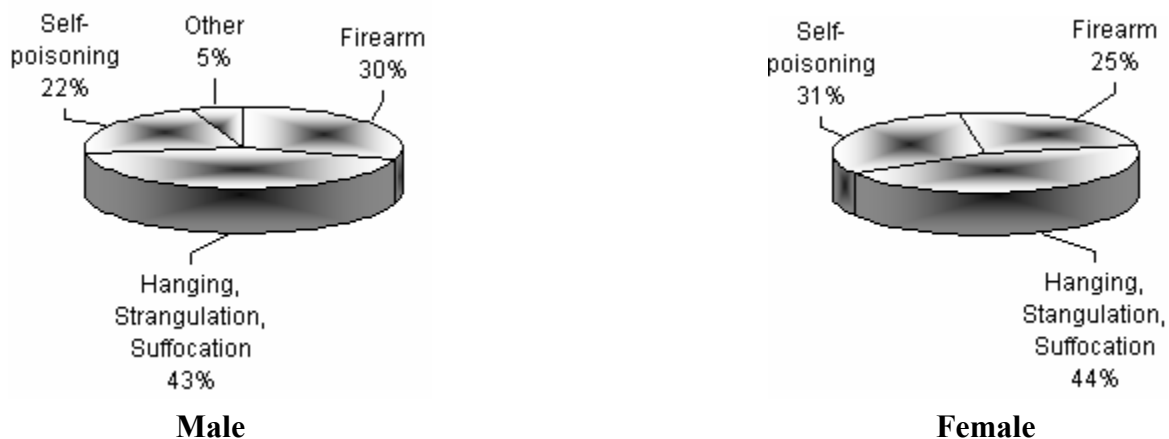
Notes: a) Rates are based on place of residence, not place of occurrence of death.

b) Rate differences should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.

Figure 1 presents a breakdown of suicide methods by gender for 2003.

- The most common method used by males to commit suicide in 2003 was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (43%), followed by firearm (30%). This finding is similar to the results found in the previous year in which hanging, strangulation or suffocation and firearm were the most common method used (each 41%), followed by self-poisoning (10%).
- The most common method used by females to commit suicide in 2003 was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (44%), followed by self-poisoning (31%). This finding is similar to the results found in the previous year in which hanging, strangulation or suffocation was the most common method used (50%), followed by self-poisoning (29%).

Figure 1. Methods of suicide by gender, New Brunswick, 2003



References:

1. New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness (2005). Vital Statistics.
2. New Brunswick Department of Health (2006). Provincial Epidemiology Service. Suicide Facts 2002.