

Firearm Suicide in Franklin, Jackson, and Williamson Counties, IL

Introduction

Suicide is a leading cause of violent death throughout Illinois.

Key Statistics¹ (2019 to 2022)

24.2%

of suicide victims
were over age 65.

19.2%

of suicide victims
were between
45-54 years old.

49.7%

of homicide deaths
involved firearms.

Firearms were
used in nearly
50%
of suicide deaths.

73.6%

of suicide deaths were
skilled workers/laborers.

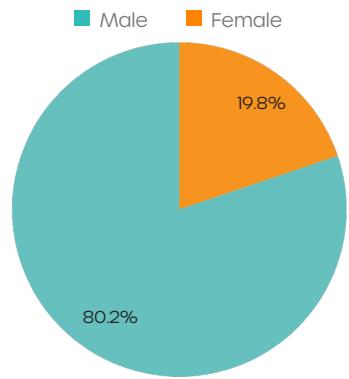
58.8%

of suicide victims
lived with a mental
health condition.

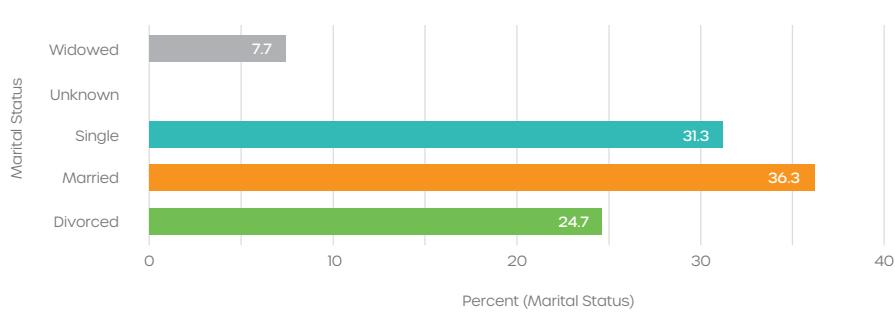
6%

of suicide victims
attempted suicide before
in Jackson County.

Sex



Marital Status



Local Resources

- Centerstone Illinois: centerstone.org
- Southern Illinois University Counseling Center: shc.siu.edu
- Blessing Behavioral Health Services: blessinghealth.org
- Memorial Behavioral Health: memorial.health
- North Central Behavioral Health Systems: ncbhs.org

National Resources

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
Crisis Text Line: 988lifeline.org

Strong tradition of home, family and unassisted burial.

- Tradition of rural communities and barriers lead to unconventional burials.
- Barriers, including long drives to the nearest hospital or lack of access to funeral homes contributes to the cause.
- Religious and anti-government beliefs still exist in rural Illinois.

Death mid-wife and doula services are available.

IPHA and its subgrantees are currently using a trusted messenger CHW prevention approach to conduct community-specific outreach, deliver free gun safety education, gun lock boxes and safes, firearm restraining order information, and provide bi-directional referrals with local health departments and community-based organizations.

References

¹Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Illinois violent deaths dashboard. Illinois Department of Public Health. <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/gun-safety/dashboards/ilviolent-deaths.html>

²Illinois Department of Human Services. (n.d.). Appendix I - Illinois Census Office Region Map. Illinois Department of Human Services. <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118219>

³Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (n.d.). Firearm access is a risk factor for suicide. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://meansmatter.hsppharvard.edu/means-matter/risk/>

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