

POLK COUNTY

The information presented here represents data specific to Polk County, Wisconsin from 2001-2006, and is meant to complement the report, *The Burden of Suicide in Wisconsin*. Please refer to this report for technical notes and suicide prevention strategies. For counties with fewer than 20 suicides each year, data are aggregated for 2001-2006 and findings are presented in bullets rather than tables.

KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ The suicide rate in Polk County for all years was lower than the state rate for all years (11.4 versus 11.8).
- ◆ Suicide represented a total of 986 years of potential life lost, at a rate of 406.3.1 for 2001-2006. This was more than the state rate (394.1 YPLL) for the same time period.
- ◆ The greatest number of suicides occurred in individuals aged 45-54, while the greatest number of hospitalizations and emergency department visits occurred in younger individuals, aged 15-24. This finding is the same at the state level.
- ◆ The cost of inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits due to self-inflicted injury was over \$96,000 in 2006 alone.
- ◆ Firearms were the most frequently used method in Polk County suicides (83%) followed by poisoning (10%) and hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (7%).

Numbers and rates (per 100,000 population) of suicides, inpatient hospitalizations, and emergency department visits due to self-inflicted injuries, by age, Polk County, 2001-2006.

Age Group	Deaths		Inpatient Hospitalizations		Emergency Department Visit*	
	Number	Rate‡	Number	Rate‡	Number	Rate‡
5-14	0	--	7	19.5‡	6	20.2‡
15-24	4	12.0‡	47	140.8	34	120.6‡
25-34	4	14.3‡	24	85.9	13	55.7‡
35-44	7	17.7‡	23	58.0	11	33.5‡
45-54	9	21.9‡	18	43.8‡	4	11.5‡
55-64	4	13.5‡	4	13.5‡	3	11.8‡
65-74	1	5.0‡	1	4.96‡	3	17.7‡
75-84	0	--	1	7.2‡	0	--
85+	1	16.4‡	0	--	0	--
Total	30	11.4	125	50.5	74	35.6

*Emergency department data are not available for 2001.

‡Rates based on numbers of 20 or less are considered unstable due to random chance and should be interpreted with caution.