Characteristics and Trends of Youth Victims of Suicide and Homicide

Data from the CDC Fatal Injury Reports provide a detailed look at youth victims (ages 10–17) of violence.

Since 2009, the annual number of youth suicide victims exceeded the number of youth homicide victims.

The use of firearms in youth suicides decreased since 1995 while suicide by suffocation increased.

A larger proportion of youth suicide victims than youth homicide victims were younger than age 15, female, and white in 2017.

Though the disparity in youth suicide rates decreased since 1990, the male rate was more than twice the female rate in 2017.

Suicide rates more than doubled for each race/ethnicity group between 2007 and 2017.

Access more information on youth victims of violence:

- Review FAQs about youth victims of suicide, homicide, abuse and neglect, and other violent crime
- Compare state-level suicide rates

Notes: Other race includes American Indian/Alaskan Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and youth of unknown race. Racial categories (white, black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include persons of Hispanic ethnicity. This publication was prepared by Charles Puzzanchera and Samantha Ehrmann, National Center for Juvenile Justice, with funds provided by OJJDP through grant #2016-JF-FX-KC01, September 2019.