SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL ILLNESS RELATED DEATHS

Intentional deaths in Missouri are increasing. Missouri had 54,064 total resident deaths in 2009. These included 857 suicides, 440 homicides, and 2,275 deaths originating from other mental or behavioral disorders—primarily dementia with 2,078 deaths. Suicide reached its highest rate of the past decade at 158 per 10,000 population, while homicide posted the decade’s second-highest rate at 81 per 10,000. Mental conditions resulting in smaller numbers of deaths included depression, schizophrenia, mental retardation, brain disease, anxiety, eating disorders, stress, and bipolar disorder.

Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Vital Statistics.

The suicides included 120 intentional poisonings using illicit drugs or medications and fewer than five using alcohol. Altogether Missouri had 372 alcohol-induced deaths, 901 drug-induced deaths, and 9,655 smoking-related deaths in 2009. Accidental poisoning by narcotics and unspecified drugs and medicines accounted for most of the increase in drug related deaths in recent years.

Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, special data tabulations.

Also in 2009, Missouri had 264 traffic crash deaths involving alcohol-impaired drivers or pedestrians, 57 deaths in crashes involving drug impairment, and 5 boating fatalities attributed to intoxication. Annually, there are an unspecified number of non-traffic deaths resulting from the behavioral effects of excessive alcohol and drug use. These include impairment-related homicide, suicide, drowning, fire, fall, aviation, and firearm incidents.