The Data on Missouri Suicide

Who is most likely to die by suicide? From late teens into old age, Caucasian males are more likely to die by suicide than any other demographic group. In Missouri, the suicide rate for Caucasian males is 25.1 per 100,000 persons. This is more than 2 times that for African-American males, more than 4 times that for Caucasian females, and more than 11 times that for African-American females (CDC WISQARS, 2016). While most people think that youth have higher suicide rates, the reality is that suicide rates are substantially higher for adults - particularly, adult men.

Missouri Suicide Rates per 100,000, 2004 - 2014

How does Missouri compare with the U.S.? The suicide rate in Missouri is greater than that of the U.S. In 2014, Missouri’s suicide rate was 16.31 per 100,000 whereas the rate for the U.S. was 12.93 per 100,000 (CDC WISQARS, 2016).

What is the trend? By far, the age group realizing the largest increase in suicide is middle-aged adults age 45 to 59. This jumped from 14.6 per 100,000 in 1999 to 25.54 per 100,000 in 2014. Overall, suicide rates for both men and women have increased from 1999 to 2014 but male suicide remains substantially higher than that for females. While suicide has been declining for African-Americans, suicide has been increasing for Caucasians.

Suicide is very much preventable. For more information, go to HelpHimStay.org.