

# SUICIDE

## MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF FEBRUARY 2025



The term **suicide** refers to the intentional act of taking one's own life. A **suicide attempt** is when someone harms themselves with any intent to end their life, but they do not die as a result of their actions. **Non-suicidal self-injury** (NSSI) is the intentional destruction of one's own body tissue without suicidal intent and for purposes not socially sanctioned (e.g. cutting, burning). In the United States, over **49,000 deaths were caused by suicide** in 2023.

Suicide death is a public health issue in Madison County. There are groups that are disproportionately affected by suicide. For example, suicide is nearly twice as common in rural areas compared to urban ones. People who are veterans, farmers, LGBTQ+ youth, youth in foster care, inmates, emergency first responders, and American Indian or Alaskan Native also have higher rates of suicide compared to the average.

### RISK FACTORS:

These personal factors can increase the risk of attempted suicide:

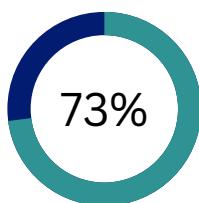
- Previous suicide attempt
- History of depression/other mental illness
- Serious illness such as chronic pain
- Criminal/legal problems
- Job/financial problems or loss
- Impulsive/aggressive tendencies
- Social isolation
- Substance use
- Current or prior history of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Suicide loss survivors

### LOCAL AND STATE DATA:

Below are key data findings for Madison County and New York State between 2017 to 2022.

#### MADISON COUNTY:

**54** people died by suicide



of suicide deaths are **male** in Madison County.

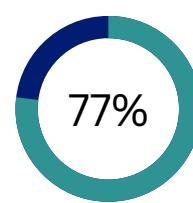


About **13%** of people who died by suicide were **veterans**.

Madison County has the **5th highest** suicide rate among the NYS counties.\*

#### NEW YORK STATE:

**9,902** people died by suicide



of suicide deaths are **male** in New York State.



About **9%** of people who died by suicide were **veterans**.

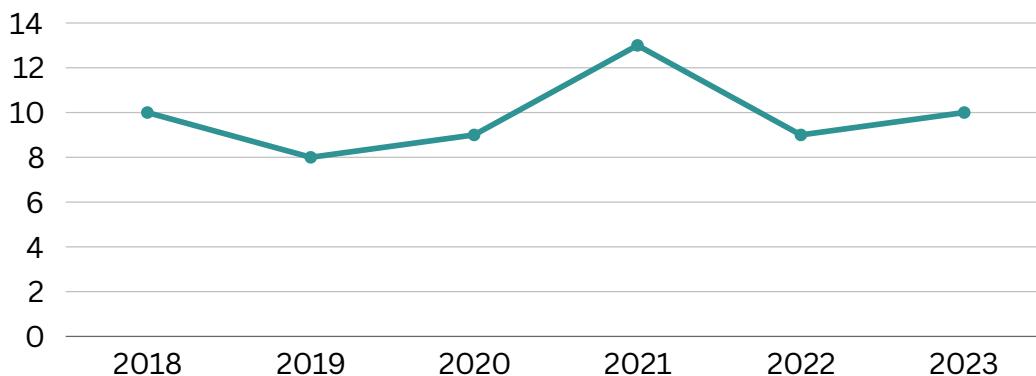
New York State has the **2nd lowest** suicide rate among the 50 states.\*

\* For years 2019-2021.

## MORE LOCAL DATA:

Between 2018 and 2023, the number of suicide deaths has fluctuated in Madison County with the highest peak in 2021 (Fig 1). In the same years, the average age of death was age 50 (Fig 2). Although there have been very few deaths among young people 19 years and younger, the self-inflicted injury hospitalization rate for ages 15-19 has been steadily increasing (Fig 3). The most common method among men is by firearm, while the most common for women is intentional poisoning (Fig 4).

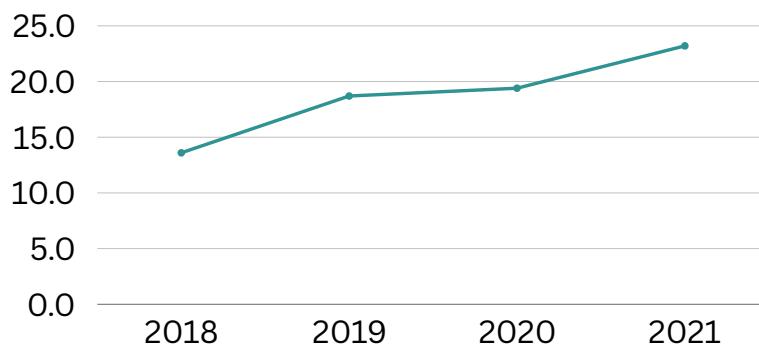
**Figure 1. Total Number of Suicides in Madison County (2018-2023)**



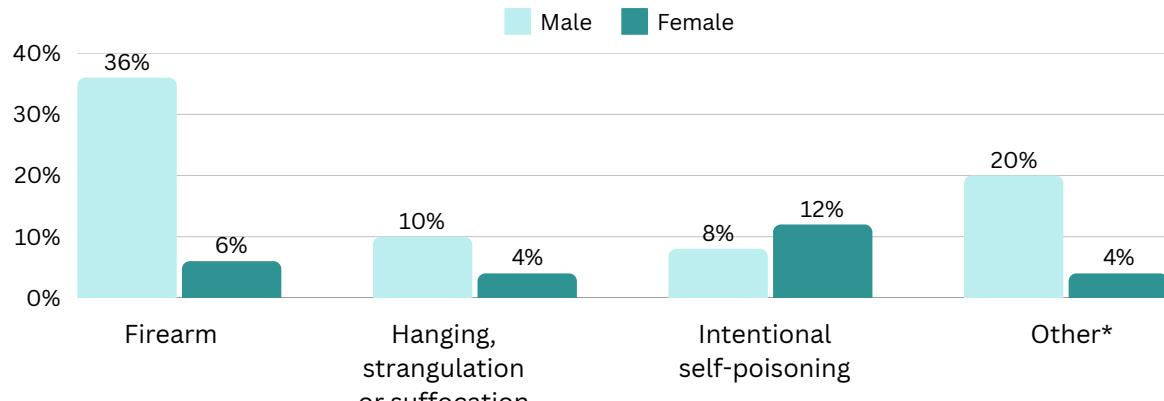
**Figure 2. Percentage by Age Group of Suicide Deaths**

**0-19:** 1.7%  
**20-34:** 25.4%  
**35-49:** 17.0%  
**50-64:** 30.5%  
**65-79:** 20.3%  
**80+:** 5.1%

**Figure 3. Three-Year Average Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalization Rate per 10,000 for Ages 15-19 Years**

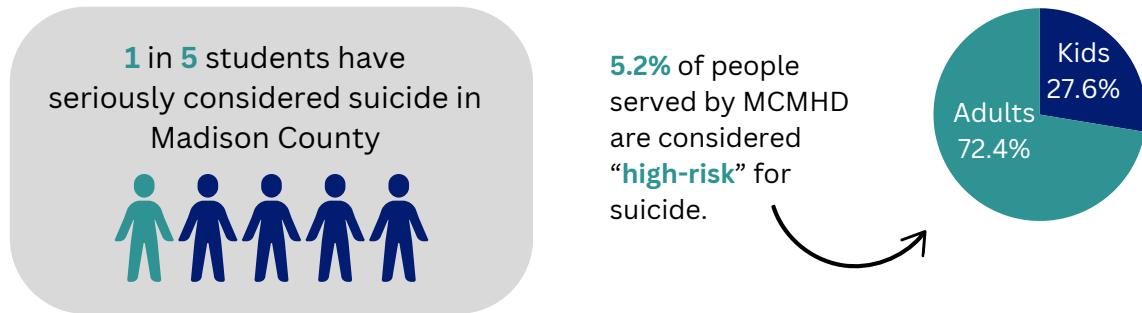


**Figure 4. Method of Suicide Death in Madison County, Percent of Total by Biological Sex (2018-2023)**



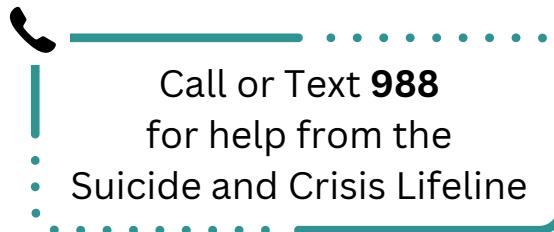
\* Refers to self-harm via sharp object, blunt force or trauma, or other means.

The following data provides a further look into suicidal thoughts and behaviors in Madison County. About 20% of students in Madison County have seriously considered suicide, which is similar to the New York State average. Among people served by the Madison County Mental Health Department (MCMHD), about 5% are considered high-risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors, with the majority adults (72.4%).



## LOCAL RESOURCES/INITIATIVES:

- **Call Crisis Services:**
  - Madison County Mental Health: 315-366-2327
  - Liberty Resources Crisis Services: 315-251-0800
  - Veterans Crisis Line: 988 & press 1
- **Family & Children’s Counseling Services** offers mental health and substance use counseling and prevention services for youth, adults, and families.
- The Madison County Mental Health Department established **School-Based Clinics** in select school districts.
- The **Suicide Prevention Coalition of Madison County** raises awareness, organizes trainings, and delivers resource materials to Madison County residents.
- **BRiDGES** - Call 315-697-3947
  - A **Grief Support Group** is offered to help people affected by suicide.
  - The **L.O.S.S. Team** - Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors - provides immediate on-scene support to suicide loss survivors. At least one of the volunteers, activated by local authorities, is a suicide loss survivor.
  - View **trainings** offered in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, such as Talk Saves Lives. Visit [bridgescouncil.org/suicide-prevention/](http://bridgescouncil.org/suicide-prevention/) to learn more.



### Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide Prevention (2024) & Suicide Mortality by State (2023).
- Madison County Mental Health Department (2024).
- Madison County Youth Bureau. Teen Assessment Project Survey (2022).
- New York State Department of Health. Community Health Indicators Reports (2023).
- National Institutes of Health. Nonsuicidal Self-Injury: What We Know, and What We Need to Know (2014). Social Isolation and Suicide Risk: Literature Review and Perspectives (2022).
- US Department of Veteran Affairs. Veteran Suicide Data by State (2017-2022).