

# Suicide Rate Rises Among Illinois Youth Ages 10 to 17

In Illinois, suicide has been a leading cause of death for youth aged 10–17 from 2007 to 2015 (Table 1). This Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) data brief examines three-year suicide rates for 10- to 17-year-olds in five Illinois counties (Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and Peoria) from 2007–09 to 2013–15. The day of week the fatal injury occurred, the weapon type and the location of injury are also included for the years 2008–15.

In Figure 1, we note that the rates for U.S. males are higher than for Illinois males of the same age group. Overall, male rates are considerably higher than female rates and have increased steadily over time in Illinois and the U.S. Overall, female rates increased over time during 2013–15.

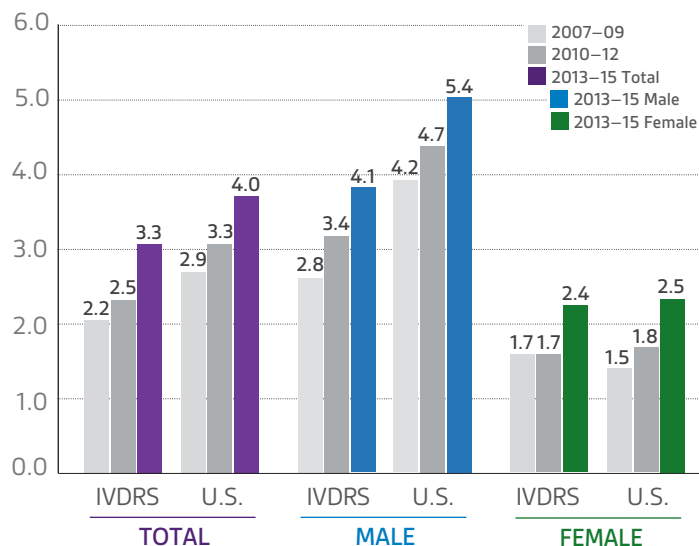
As shown in Figure 2, Saturday (16.6%) and Thursday (15.4%) were the most common days of the week for suicides among 10- to 17-year-olds. Together, Saturday and Thursday account for nearly one-third of suicides in this age group.

As shown in Figure 3, hanging/strangulation was the most common method of suicide for this age group, accounting for two-thirds (64.5%) of all suicides among 10-17 year-olds.

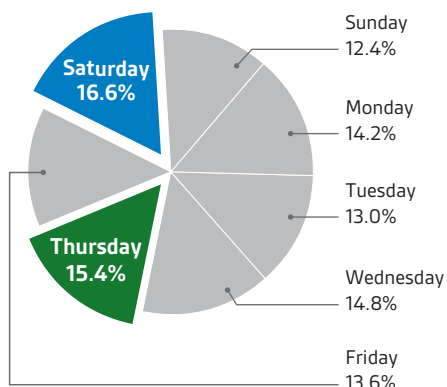
As shown in Figure 4, nearly three-fourths of all suicides in this age group occur at home.

**Table 1.** Leading causes of death among Illinois youth ages 10 to 17 years: Where suicide ranks, over time

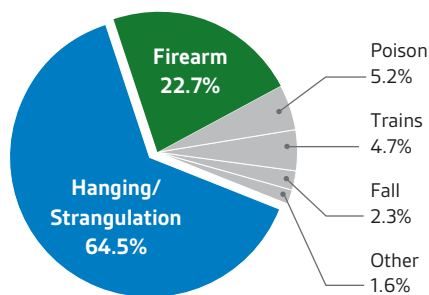
	2007–09	2010–12	2013–15
<b>Total</b>	3rd	4th	3rd
<b>Males</b>	3rd	3rd	3rd
<b>Females</b>	2nd	3rd	2nd



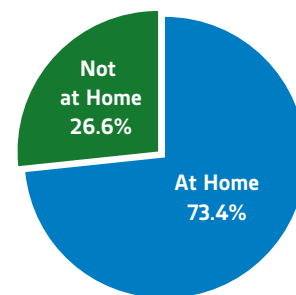
**Figure 1.** Three-year suicide rates for ages 10 to 17 years over time, IVDRS and United States



**Figure 2.** Day of the week injury occurred for ages 10 to 17 years, 2008 to 2015



**Figure 3.** Method/means of suicide for ages 10 to 17 years, 2008 to 2015



**Figure 4.** Location of injury for ages 10 to 17 years, 2008 to 2015

Continued from page 1

## CONCLUSIONS

Suicide is always a tragic event, and suicide among the young is especially troubling. We hope that these data can inform prevention efforts and help to reduce the burden of loss among this population. Below, please find resources for suicide prevention:



### Crisis Text Line

Crisis Text Line serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to free, 24/7 support and information via the medium people already use and trust: text. **Text HOME to 741741** from anywhere in the US, anytime, about any type of crisis.

[crisistextline.org/how-it-works](http://crisistextline.org/how-it-works)



### Elyssa's Mission

Elyssa's Mission is a foundation that provides help, support and suicide prevention programs to prevent teen suicide.

[elyssasmission.org](http://elyssasmission.org)



### Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices

CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicideTechnicalPackage.pdf>

## RATE PER 100,000

A rate, or per capita value, helps compare values among groups of different sizes. To find out if, for example, one city has higher levels of suicide than another, you need to determine a per capita suicide rate. That is, the number of suicides for each person in that group. The suicide rate in the different counties was determined by dividing the number of suicides by the total population of each county for that year. To keep from using a small decimal, statisticians typically multiply the result by 100,000, and give the result as the number of suicides per 100,000 people.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

The Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) is a project of the Injury Research and Prevention Center at the Smith Child Health Research, Outreach and Advocacy at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. IVDRS is part of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), a state-based surveillance system developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC Injury Center). IVDRS seeks to help researchers and policymakers determine the circumstances and risk factors associated with homicide, suicide and other violent deaths by linking timely data from multiple sources. Through 2015, we collected this information in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Peoria counties. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our data-providing agencies including the Cook County Medical Examiner; the County Coroners in DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Peoria; the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Police Department. For additional information on NVDRS, see [cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NVDRS](http://cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NVDRS).

## WHAT IS A VIOLENT DEATH?

CDC establishes standards for all of the state-level Violent Death Reporting Systems, such as the one in Illinois. The CDC defines violent death as homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm death, death from legal intervention, death related to terrorism or death from undetermined causes. Cook County (which includes the City of Chicago) is the source of the majority of IVDRS data; the data cannot be understood as representative of Illinois as a whole.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, please contact:

**Maryann Mason, PhD**  
Principal Investigator  
312.227.7026  
[mmason@luriechildrens.org](mailto:mmason@luriechildrens.org)

Injury Prevention and Research Center  
Smith Child Health Research, Outreach and Advocacy Center  
Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
225 East Chicago Avenue, Box 157  
Chicago, IL 60611-2991

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