



**Suicide in Idaho: Fact Sheet  
February 2008**

- Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in the 15-24 and 25-34 year age groups. (The leading cause of death is accidents.)
- Idaho is consistently among the states with the highest suicide rates. In 2005 (the most recent year available) Idaho had the 7th highest suicide rate, 45% higher than the national average.
- In 2006, there were 218 people who completed suicide in Idaho.
- In 2006, 81% of suicides were by men.
- 66% of Idaho suicides involve a firearm. The national average = 52%.
- 15.9% of Idaho youth attending traditional High Schools reported seriously considering suicide in 2005. 8.9% reported making at least one attempt.
- In 2005, there were 31,769 deaths by suicide in the United States, and average of 1 person every 17 minutes.
- In 2000, the suicides of those under 25 years of age in Idaho resulted in estimated direct costs of \$3.77 million, and lost earnings of \$81 million.

**Idaho Suicides by Region – 2006**

Region	City	Suicides	Rate (per 100,000)	Population	Avg # suicides	
					2002-2006	5-yr Avg Rate
1	CDA	41	19.9	206,140	37	19.0
2	Lew	20	19.8	101,195	20	19.7
3	Nampa	38	16.0	237,426	31	14.2
4	Boise	55	13.6	403,626	55	14.5
5	Twin	26	15.0	173,626	28	16.7
6	Pocatello	18	11.2	160,241	25	16.1
7	Id Falls	20	10.8	184,391	25	13.4

**Idaho Suicides by Age/Gender 2002-06**

Age	Total	Male	Rate	Female	Rate
10-14	15	11	4.1	4	1.6
15-19	68	59	21.2	9	3.4
20-24	86	78	27.8	8	2.9
25-34	168	142	29.4	26	5.9
35-44	233	190	39.0	43	9.1
45-54	217	166	34.4	51	10.5
55-64	133	107	31.7	26	7.7
65-74	80	71	35.2	9	4.2
75-84	69	65	57.4	4	2.7
85+	33	32	83.3	1	1.4

**Method (all ages)**

Firearm	65.6%
Poisoning	17.0%
Suffocation	11.0%
Cut/Pierce	3.2%
Fall	0.9%
Other	2.3%

**Idaho Suicide Rates 1997 – 2006**

Year	Number	Id Rate	US Rate
1997	210	17.4	11.4
1998	202	16.4	11.3
1999	180	14.4	10.7
2000	166	12.8	10.7
2001	213	16.1	10.7
2002	203	15.1	11.0
2003	218	16.0	10.8
2004	239	17.2	10.8
2005	225	15.7	10.7
2006	218	14.9	n/a

## Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005 – High School Students

Grade	Depressed	Suicidal	Plan	Attempt	Medical Care For Attempt
9 <sup>th</sup>	30.3%	17.8%	17.2%	11.4%	2.3%
10 <sup>th</sup>	27.3	17.3	12.9	8.4	3.9
11 <sup>th</sup>	26.4	16.0	14.5	7.1	2.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	27.0	11.6	12.0	8.7	2.5

### Idaho Suicide Rate By County

5-year average 2002-2006  
(suicides per 100,000 people)

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Ada	239	14.4	Gem	16	20.0
Adams	2	11.6	Gooding	10	13.9
Bannock	54	14.3	Idaho	12	15.4
Bear Lake	8	25.3	Jefferson	21	20.2
Benewah	5	11.2	Jerome	19	19.7
Bingham	47	21.8	Kootenai	115	18.8
Blaine	19	18.0	Latah	27	15.4
Boise	4	10.9	Lemhi	8	20.5
Bonner	37	18.6	Lewis	4	21.3
Bonneville	68	15.2	Lincoln	3	13.9
Boundary	16	30.8	Madison	8	5.2
Butte	3	21.1	Minidoka	21	21.8
Camas	n/a	n/a	Nez Perce	49	25.9
Canyon	102	12.9	Oneida	1	4.8
Caribou	5	13.9	Owyhee	9	16.4
Cassia	18	16.8	Payette	21	19.5
Clark	n/a	n/a	Power	6	16.0
Clearwater	7	16.7	Shoshone	12	18.7
Custer	4	19.4	Teton	4	11.0
Elmore	18	12.5	Twin Falls	51	15.0
Franklin	5	8.2	Valley	12	30.1
Fremont	7	11.4	Washington	6	11.9

Source: Idaho Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics  
Idaho Department Health and Welfare  
American Association of Suicidology  
YRBS Idaho, 2003

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