



# Suicide in Georgia: State Profile

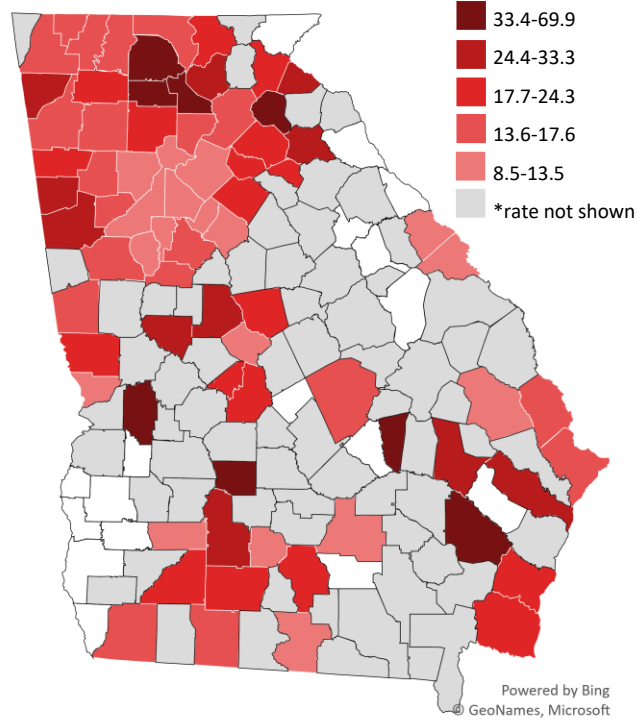
## DBHDD

Over the past decade, suicide rates across the United States and Georgia have risen, although Georgia's suicide rate is lower than the national average (14% versus 13.6% [CDC WISQARS]). In 2018, 1,565 preventable suicide deaths were reported by the Georgia Department of Public Health, which is an average of more than four deaths by suicide per day.

Suicide is currently the 10th leading cause of death in Georgia, and the 2nd for those aged 10-24.

Georgia is a large state with notable geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity. There are 159 counties, and many of these counties are rural, which means they have a total estimated population below 35,000 people according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. Although the burden of suicide stretches from urban to rural areas and impacts every race, sex, and age group, it does so disproportionately. Deaths by suicide have a higher burden in rural areas, and among all males, Asian females who are not Hispanic or Latino, and black or African American males who are Hispanic or Latino.

Age-adjusted suicide death rates  
Georgia, 2018

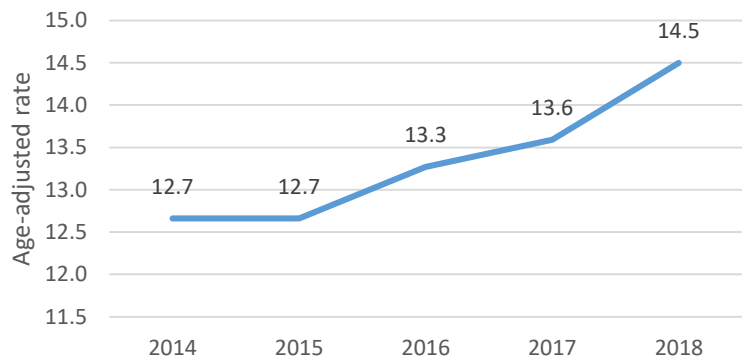


The age-adjusted suicide rate in Georgia generally increases every year. The highest rate was in 2018 at 14.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 people.

The *age-adjusted rate* is commonly used to compare suicide rates because it accounts for the size of an age group relative to the number of suicides in that same age group.

Older age groups tend to have a lower population size but a higher proportion of suicide deaths, so fewer deaths account for a greater portion of the entire age group.

5-year age-adjusted suicide rate  
Georgia, 2014-2018



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## Suicide Deaths by Gender & Race/Ethnicity

In 2018, **78%** of suicide deaths were males and **22%** were females.

Males had an age-adjusted suicide rate of 23.7 per 100,000 people compared to a rate of 6.3 per 100,000 people for females.

Though females had a lower age-adjusted suicide rate than males, white females who are not Hispanic or Latino had the largest rate at 9.6 per 100,000 people followed by Asian females who are not Hispanic or Latino (5.0 per 100,000 people).

Among all races/ethnicities and sexes, white males who are not Hispanic or Latino had the largest age-adjusted suicide death rate (32.3 per 100,000 people) followed by black or African American males who are Hispanic or Latino (24.6 per 100,000 people).

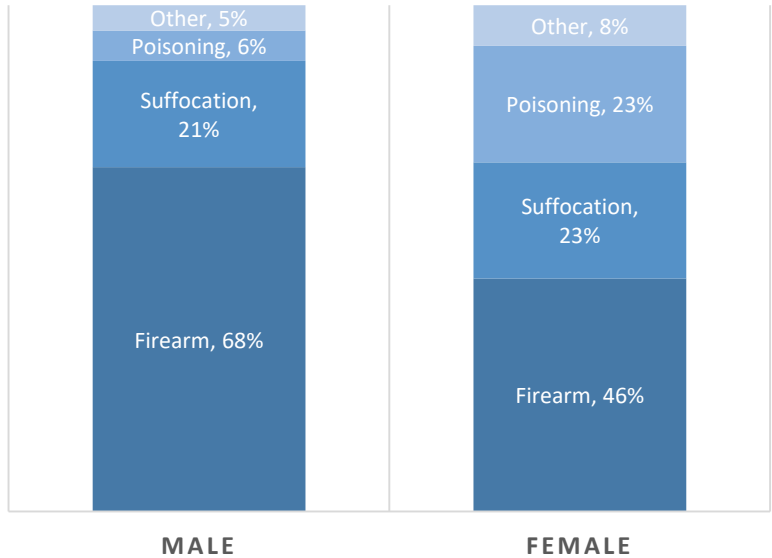
# Suicide in Georgia: State Profile

## Suicide Deaths by Means in Georgia

Among suicide deaths, firearms were the most common means used (63%), followed by hanging/suffocation (22%), poisoning (10%), and other means (5%) [data not shown].

Firearms were the most common means of suicide for both males and females, though it accounted for a larger proportion of male suicides. Poisoning accounted for a larger percentage of female suicides compared to male suicides. Hanging/suffocation as a means was relative equivalent between males and females.

## Suicide Means by Gender Georgia, 2017



As of January 2020, 2017 is the most updated publicly available data from CDC WISQARS.

**78.5%** of suicides occur in non-rural counties in Georgia.

### Suicide deaths: rural vs non-rural counties Georgia, 2018

Counties	Suicide Deaths	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Rural	336	18.4
Non-Rural	1,229	13.8
Georgia	1,565	14.5

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While non-rural counties in Georgia tend to have a higher number of suicide deaths, rural counties have a higher age-adjusted rate of suicide death due to the smaller population sizes.

### Age-adjusted suicide rate by top 15 counties Georgia, 2018

County	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Montgomery	69.9
Marion	57.1
Dawson	47.2
Banks	45.7
Pickens	37.9
Wayne	37.6
Crisp	35.8
Gilmer	35.7
Lumpkin	33.3
Madison	31.4
Haralson	31.2
Upson	30.4
Stephens	28.4
Monroe	27.4
Liberty	26.3

### Suicide deaths by top 15 counties Georgia, 2018

County	Suicide Deaths
Fulton	127
Gwinnett	114
Cobb	91
DeKalb	77
Chatham	51
Cherokee	47
Henry	40
Forsyth	34
Houston	32
Clayton	32
Carroll	29
Paulding	29
Hall	28
Muscogee	27
Richmond	27

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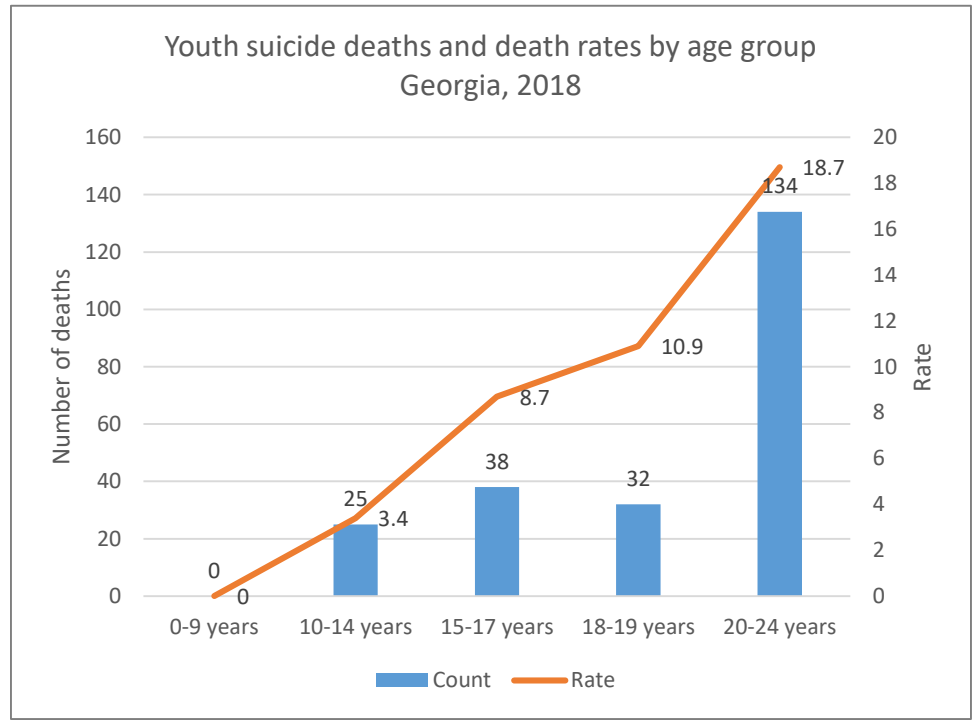


# Suicide in Georgia among Youth (10-24)

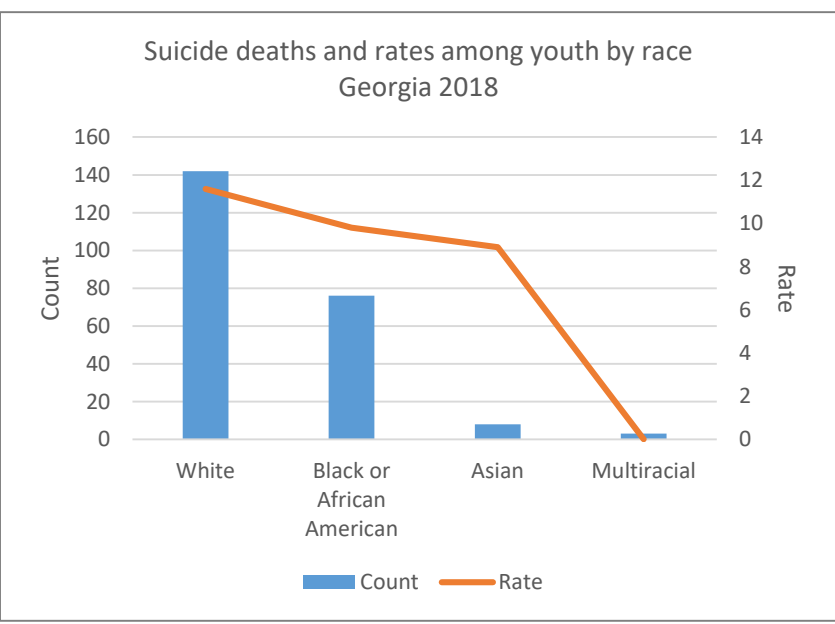
**D·B·H·D·D**

In 2018 according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, there were 229 suicide deaths among youth (ages 10-24) in Georgia, and a suicide death rate of 6.5 per 100,000 persons.

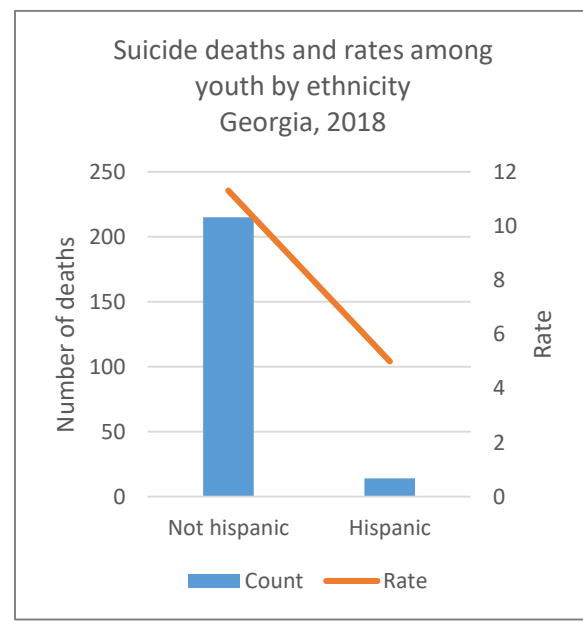
Suicide deaths and death rates both generally increase as youth get older. In 2018, there were zero reported suicide deaths in the 0-9 years old age group.



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Suicide deaths and death rates were the highest among white youth in Georgia.

There were zero suicide deaths for Asian (Hispanic), American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander youth. For Black or African American (Hispanic) youth and all multiracial (all ethnicities) youth, there were a few suicide deaths but the suicide rate was not reported because Georgia Department of Health does not report rates if there are 4 or less deaths.

# Suicide in Georgia among Youth (10-24)

Measures	2018-2019 (n=689,986)	2018-2019 (%)	2017-2018 (n=674,354)	2017-2018 (%)	2016-2017 (n=672,307)	2016-2017 (%)	2015-2016 (n=663,797)	2015-2016 (%)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during past 12 months	77,878	11.29%	78,969	11.7%	58,583	8.7%	57,677	8.7%
Attempting suicide at least once in past 12 months	39,226	5.69%	37,508	5.6%	25,758	3.8%	27,014	4.1%
Attempting suicide more than 5 times in past 12 months	9,226	1.34%	8,900	1.3%	4,372	0.7%	4,731	0.7%

Georgia Student Health Survey

## Youth: Top 10 Counties for Suicide Death Count Georgia, 2018

County	Suicide Death Count
Fulton	24
Cobb	20
Gwinnett	17
DeKalb	13
Cherokee	9
Clayton	9
Chatham	8
Barrow	6
Houston	6
Liberty	6

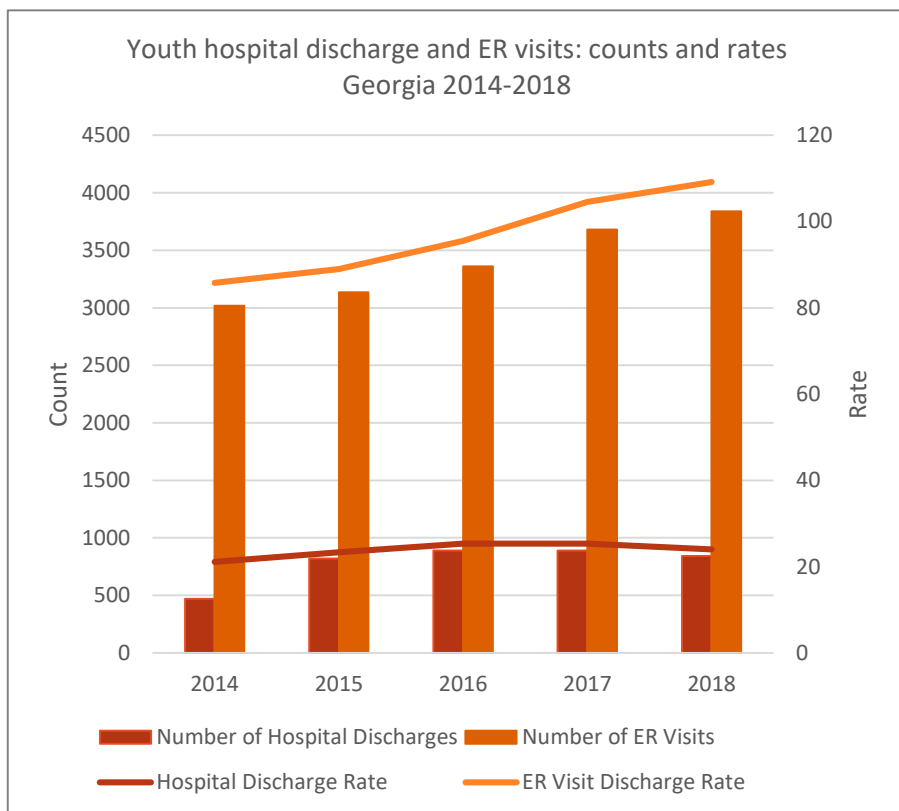
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## Youth: Top 10 Counties for Suicide Death Rate Georgia, 2018

County	Suicide Death Rate
Liberty	23.2
Barrow	21.9
Carroll	11.6
Houston	11.3
Cherokee	10.9
Paulding	8.8
Richmond	8.7
Chatham	8.6
Clayton	8.2
Cobb	8.1

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Compared to other survey years, 2017-2018 had the highest percent of students reporting that they had seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months. Similarly, 2017-2018 had the highest percentage of students who reported attempting suicide in the past 12 months and attempting more than five times in the same time period.



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The suicide hospital discharge rate for Georgia youth was 24.0 per 100,000 persons, with 843 discharges. The suicide ER visit discharge rate for youth was 109.2 per 100,000 persons with 3,839 visits.

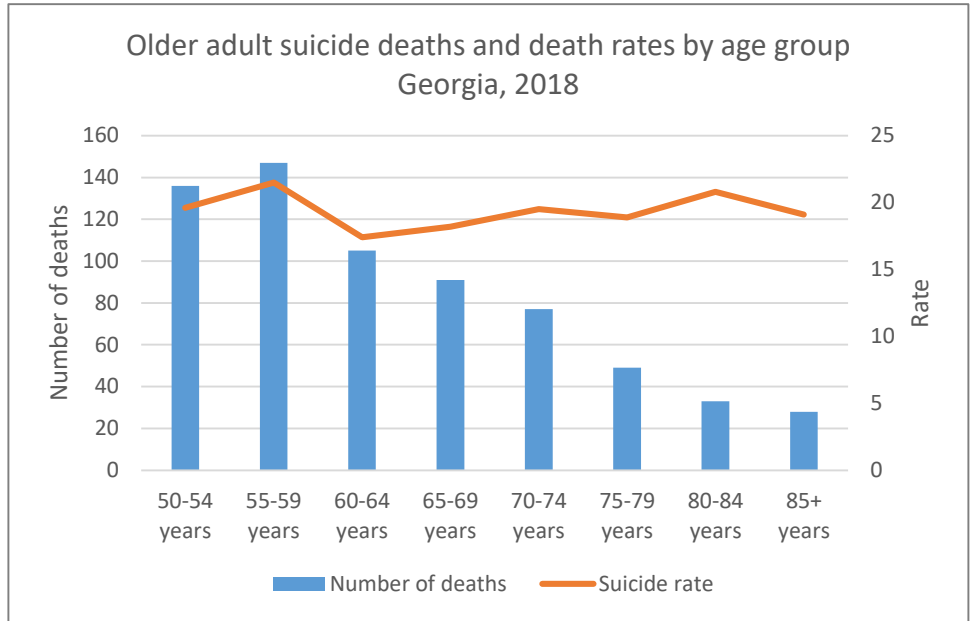


# Suicide in Georgia: Older Adults (50+)

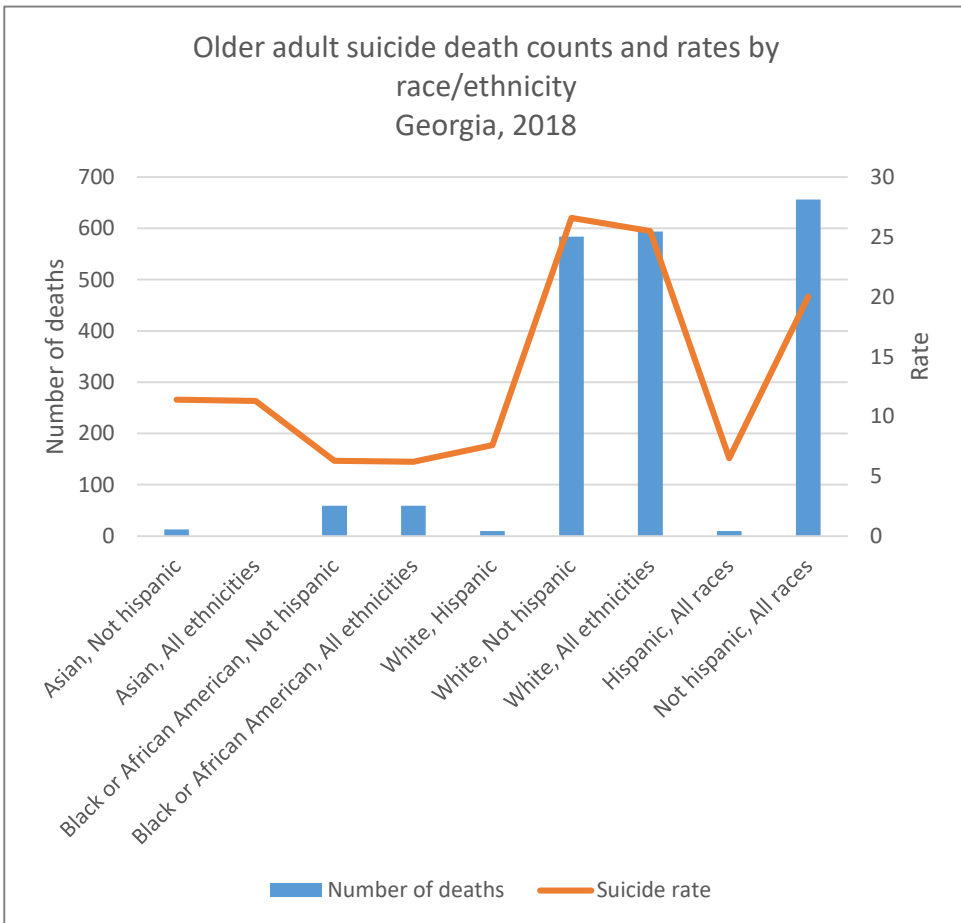
## D·B·H·D·D

In 2018 according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, there were six hundred sixty-six suicide deaths among Georgia's older population (aged 50 or older), and a suicide death rate of 19.4 per 100,000 persons.

Suicide deaths generally decrease as age increases, yet the suicide death rate tends to increase due to smaller population sizes in the older age groups.



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Suicide deaths and death rates were the highest among white older individuals in Georgia.

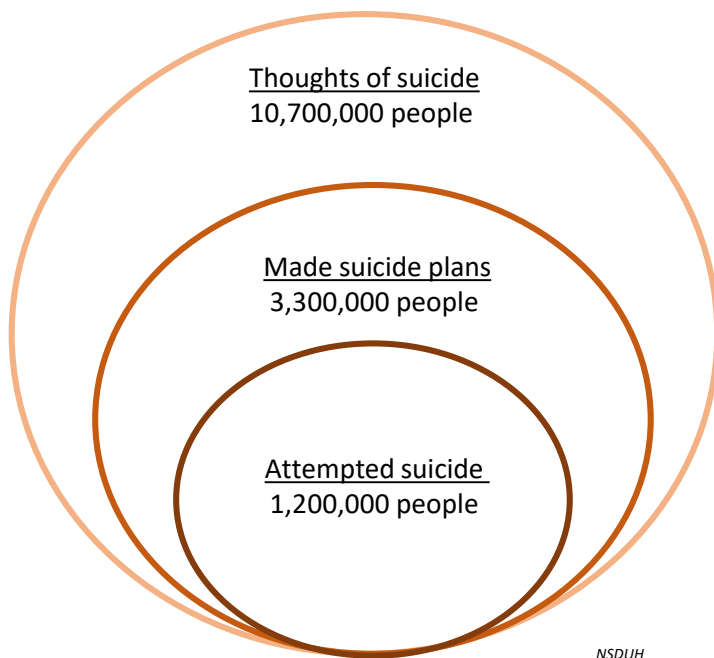
There were zero suicide deaths for Black or African American (Hispanic), Asian (Hispanic), American Indian or Alaska Native (all ethnicities), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (all ethnicities), and multiracial (all ethnicities) older individuals in Georgia.

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# Suicide in Georgia: Older Adults (50+)

According to the results of the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 2.1% of adults aged 50 or older in the United States, or 10.7 million, reported having serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. Of those considering suicide, 3.3 million, or 31%, made suicide plans. Among those who made suicide plans, 1.2 million, or 36%, attempted suicide.

Approximately 200,000 people aged 50 or older in the United States attempted suicide without making any plans.



## Older Adults: Top 10 Counties for Suicide Death Count, Georgia 2018

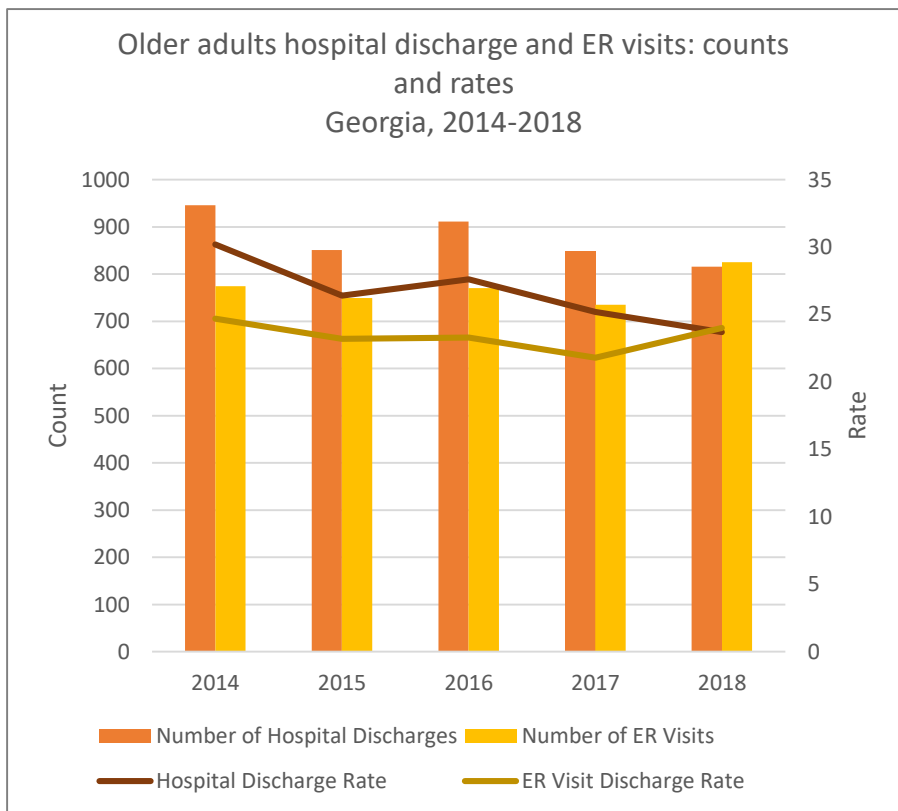
County	Suicide Death Count
Fulton	44
Gwinnett	43
Cobb	42
DeKalb	28
Cherokee	21
Henry	20
Chatham	19
Forsyth	18
Coweta	14
Muscogee	14

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## Older Adults: Top 10 Counties for Suicide Death Rate, Georgia 2018

County	Suicide Death Rate
Marion	136.2
Colquitt	52.6
Lumpkin	49.6
Stephens	48.8
Wayne	47.9
Madison	44.3
Polk	41.1
Gilmer	41.0
Thomas	40.9
Tift	37.6

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The suicide hospital discharge rate for Georgia’s older population was 23.7 per 100,000 persons, with 816 discharges. The suicide ER visit discharge rate for persons older than 50 years was 24.0 per 100,000 persons with 825 visits.



## Suicide Ideation & Behaviors among Youth

The Georgia Student Health Survey surveys youth in grades 6-12, who tend to be between 10 to 18 years old. When asked about the past 12 months in 2018, approximately 12% of all students surveyed reported seriously considering attempting suicide, about 6% reported attempting at least once, and 1% reported attempting more than 5 times. However, among students who have attempted suicide at least once in the past 12 months, about 24% report having done so more than 5 times within the same time period.

Measures	2018-2019 (n=689,986)	2018-2019 (%)	2017-2018 (n=674,354)	2017-2018 (%)	2016-2017 (n=672,307)	2016-2017 (%)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during past 12 months	77,878	11.29%	78,969	11.7%	58,583	8.7%
Attempting suicide at least once in past 12 months	39,226	5.69%	37,508	5.6%	25,758	3.8%
Attempting suicide more than 5 times in past 12 months	9,226	1.34%	8,900	1.3%	4,372	0.7%
Among students who have attempted suicide, percentage who attempted more than 5 times		23.52%		23.7%		17.0%

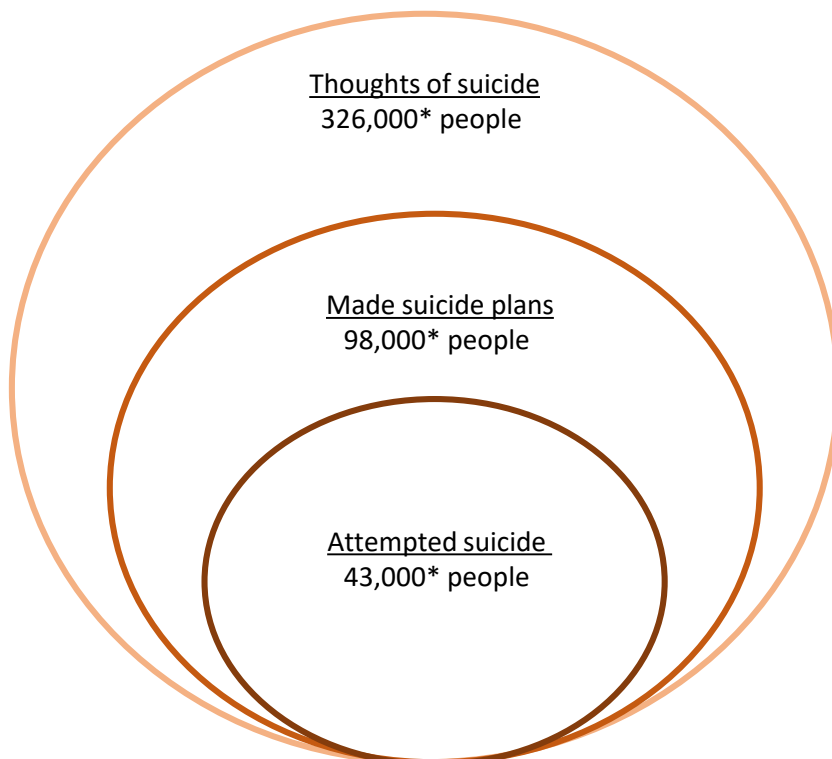
*Georgia Student Health Survey*

## Suicide Ideation & Behaviors among Adults

Using statistics provided by the 2017 National Drug Use and Health Survey (NSDUH), the figure to the right displays an estimate for suicide ideation and behaviors for adults in Georgia.

Approximations for suicide ideation and behaviors were estimated using the national statistics from NSDUH regarding suicide ideation and behaviors. Approximately 326,000 people seriously considered suicide. Of those, around 98,000 made plans to die by suicide. Of those, approximately 43,000 attempted to die by suicide.

In 2017, there were over 10,000 suicide attempts serious enough to result in a discharge from either the emergency room or the hospital (*GA DPH OASIS*).



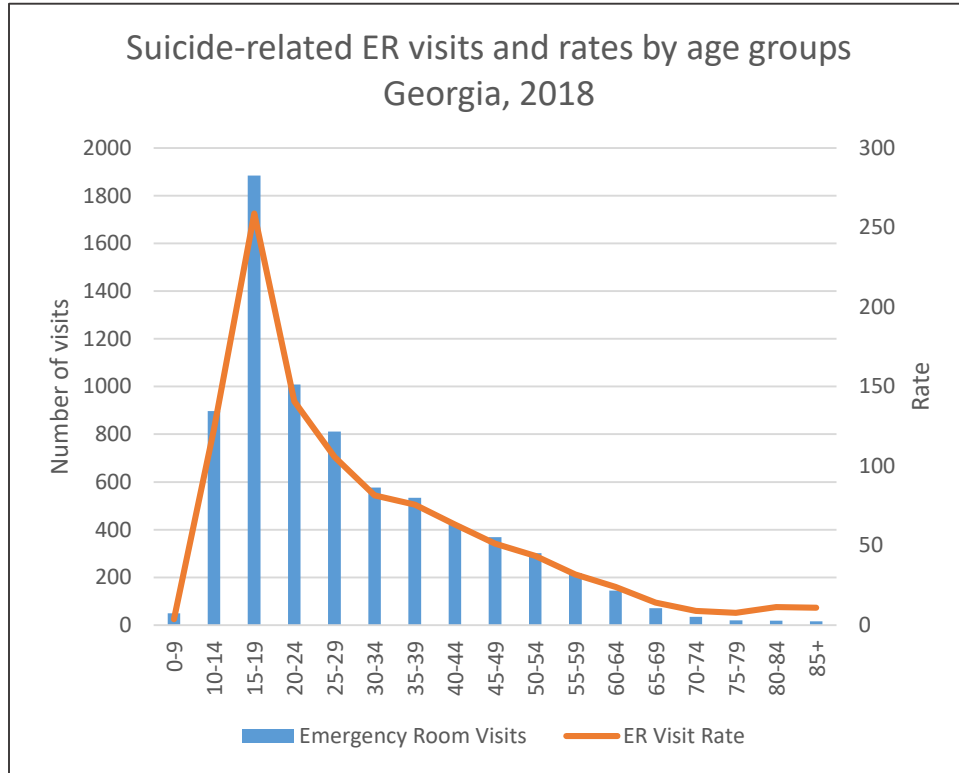
\*Approximated using 2017 NSDUH data

# Suicide in Georgia: Ideation & Behavior

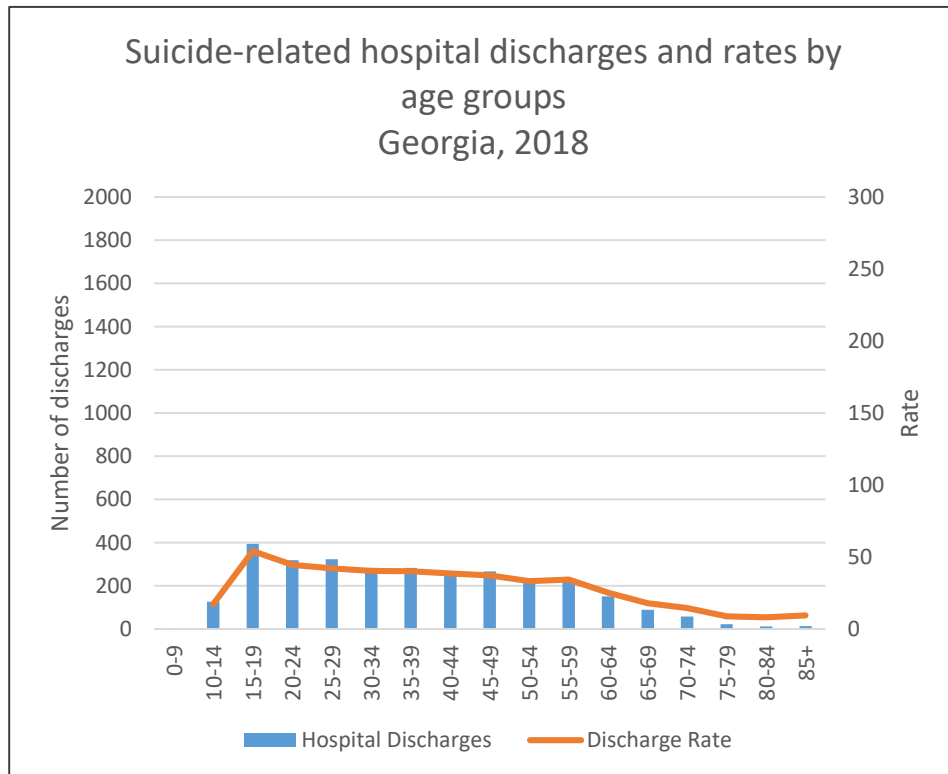
Georgia does not collect information directly related to suicide attempts, which calls for the use of proxies instead. Suicide-related emergency visits and hospital discharges are used to estimate severe suicidal behaviors, including suicide attempts. While both ER visits and hospital discharges represent a suicide attempt, emergency room visits and rates indicate a less severe suicide attempt while hospital discharges and rates indicate a severe suicide attempt.

Within younger age groups, there tends to be a greater number of emergency room visits as compared to hospital discharges. Within older age groups (55 years of age and older), there tends to be a nearly equal proportion of emergency room visits and hospital discharges. This indicates that younger age groups may be exhibiting suicidal behavior more often than older age groups, but older age groups tend to have a greater proportion of severe attempts.

The scales of the two figures to the right are the same to demonstrate the magnitude of suicide-related emergency room visits compared to hospital discharges.



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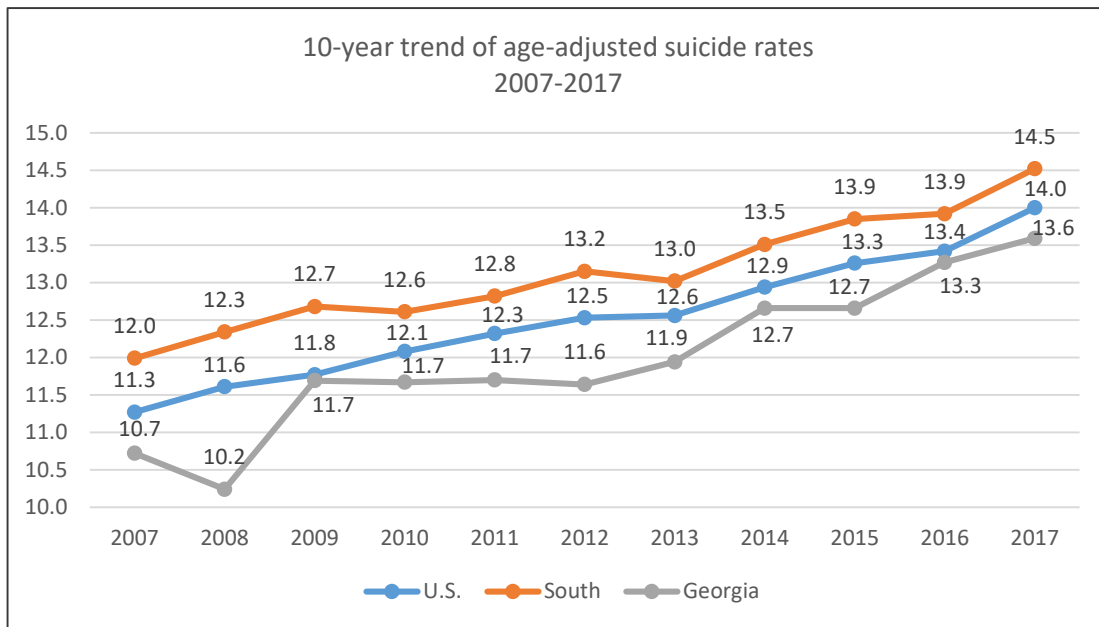


# Suicide in Georgia: Year, Age, & Means

In 2017, suicide in Georgia was the...

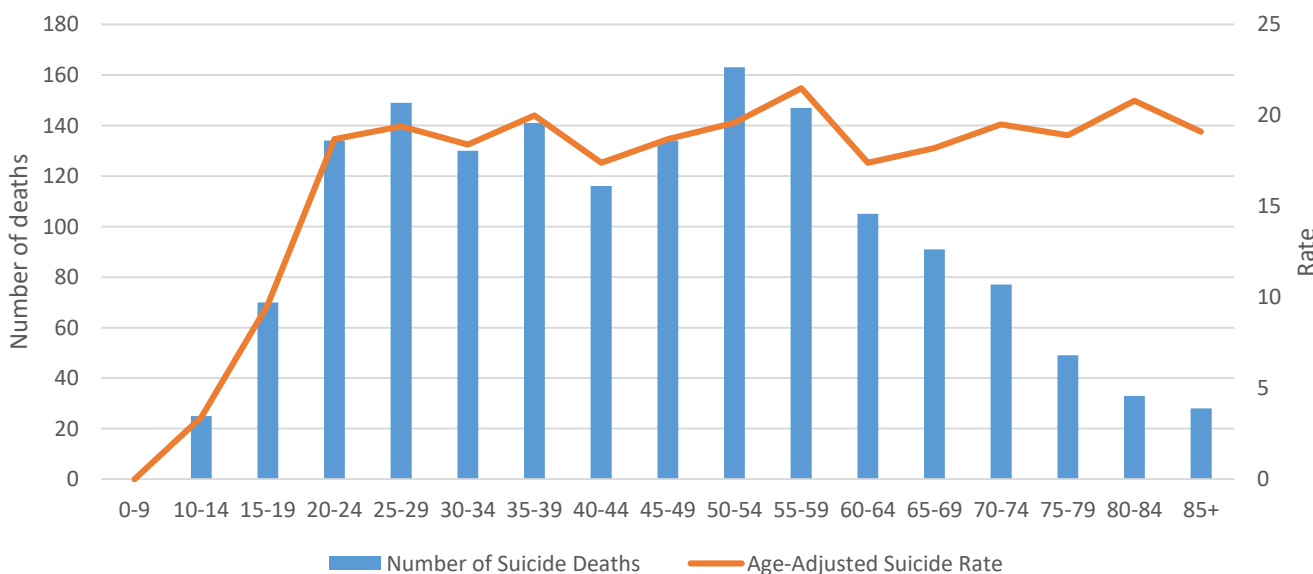
- 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-14 & 25-34,
- 3rd leading cause of death for ages 15-24,
- 4th leading cause of death for ages 35-54,
- and the 10th leading cause of death for ages 55-64.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide rates (deaths per 100,000) have been increasing in the U.S., in the South, and in Georgia. Georgia's suicide rates have typically been under the national average for the last 10 years, while the South's rates are over the national average.



As of January 2020, 2017 is the most updated publicly available data from CDC WISQARS.

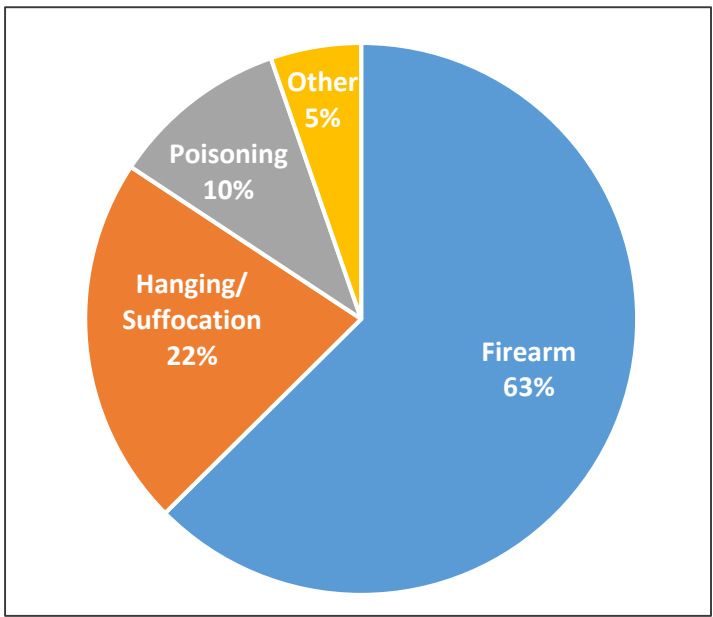
Suicide deaths and age-adjusted suicide rates by age groups, Georgia 2018



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In 2018, suicide deaths and rates were the highest for ages 55-59, followed by ages 45-49. The suicide rate peaked for ages 80 to 84 but had a lower number of deaths due to the population size for that demographic. For ages 0-9, the state-level count was below 10 so it is suppressed.

## Suicide Death Means, Georgia 2017



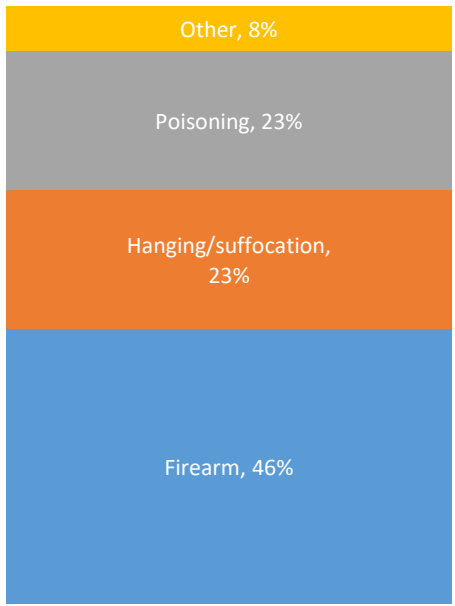
In 2017, firearms were the most commonly used means resulting in suicide (63%), followed by hanging/suffocation (22%) and poisoning (10%). Other means accounted for 5% of suicide deaths in Georgia.

Males died by suicide at a greater rate than females. In 2017, 1,106 suicide deaths were males with an age-adjusted rate of 21.82. In the same year, there were 345 female suicide deaths with an age-adjusted rate of 6.22.

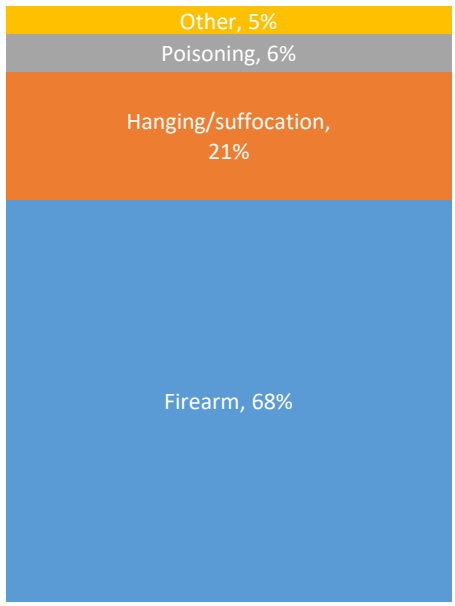
As of January 2020, 2017 is the most updated publicly available data from CDC WISQARS.

Firearms were the most commonly used means resulting in suicide for males and females, though firearms accounted for a larger proportion of male deaths than female. Poisoning accounted for a larger percentage of female suicides compared to males. Hanging/suffocation was relatively the same between males and females.

### Means of suicide for females



### Means of suicide for males



As of January 2020, 2017 is the most updated publicly available data from CDC WISQARS.



# Suicide in Georgia: County & Geography

Georgia’s counties are listed from top to bottom, left to right based on age-adjusted suicide death rates for 2018 from highest to lowest. Counties with 1 to 4 suicides have an asterisk (\*) for their age-adjusted death rate because rates based on 1 to 4 deaths are not shown. However, these rates are greater than 0 and fall anywhere between the highest and lowest death rates, depending on the population size of the county.

The *age-adjusted rate* is commonly used to compare suicide rates because it accounts for the size of an age group relative to the number of suicides in that same age group.

## Counties by Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates per 100,000 people, Georgia, 2018

County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate	County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate	County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Montgomery	5	6	69.9	Cherokee	1	47	18.0	Bulloch	5	7	8.6
Marion	6	6	57.1	Fannin	1	5	17.6	Newton	3	9	8.5
Dawson	1	11	47.2	Effingham	5	11	17.5	Bryan	5	4	*
Banks	1	8	45.7	Paulding	1	29	17.5	Charlton	5	4	*
Pickens	1	12	37.9	Thomas	4	9	17.0	Franklin	1	4	*
Wayne	5	11	37.6	Henry	6	40	16.9	Greene	2	4	*
Crisp	6	7	35.8	Spalding	6	11	16.7	Oconee	2	4	*
Gilmer	1	12	35.7	Bartow	1	18	16.5	Oglethorpe	2	4	*
Lumpkin	1	11	33.3	Chatham	5	51	16.5	Pike	6	4	*
Madison	2	10	31.4	Murray	1	7	16.4	Putnam	2	4	*
Haralson	1	8	31.2	Laurens	5	8	16.0	Sumter	6	4	*
Upson	6	8	30.4	Coweta	6	25	15.5	Ware	5	4	*
Stephens	1	7	28.4	Floyd	1	16	15.5	Wilkinson	2	4	*
Monroe	2	7	27.4	Decatur	4	5	15.4	Appling	5	3	*
Liberty	5	16	26.3	Forsyth	1	34	14.8	Baldwin	2	3	*
Worth	4	6	26.3	Troup	6	11	14.7	Ben Hill	4	3	*
Chattooga	1	7	26.2	Catoosa	1	10	14.5	Brantley	5	3	*
Tattnall	5	7	26.1	Walker	1	10	14.2	Brooks	4	3	*
Carroll	6	29	24.5	Douglas	1	20	13.8	Butts	6	3	*
Gordon	1	14	24.3	Hall	1	28	13.8	Chattahoochee	6	3	*
Jones	2	7	23.9	Muscogee	6	27	13.5	Cook	4	3	*
Mitchell	4	5	23.8	Lowndes	4	14	13.3	Dade	1	3	*
Union	1	5	23.6	Richmond	2	27	13.3	Dodge	5	3	*
Colquitt	4	12	23.5	Whitfield	1	13	13.3	Heard	6	3	*
Polk	1	10	23.5	Coffee	5	6	12.9	Jasper	2	3	*
Berrien	4	5	23.0	Columbia	2	20	12.6	Meriwether	6	3	*
Clarke	2	25	22.8	Gwinnett	3	114	12.5	Washington	2	3	*
Camden	5	12	22.4	Clayton	3	32	11.5	White	1	3	*
Houston	6	32	21.2	Fulton	3	127	11.5	Wilkes	2	3	*
Barrow	2	16	21.0	Cobb	1	91	11.3	Bacon	5	2	*
Walton	2	21	21.0	Tift	4	5	10.2	Candler	5	2	*
Harris	6	8	20.4	DeKalb	3	77	9.9	Clinch	5	2	*
Glynn	5	15	20.1	Rockdale	3	9	9.9	Crawford	6	2	*
Peach	6	5	20.1	Bibb	2	15	9.8	Emanuel	2	2	*
Habersham	1	9	19.2	Fayette	6	11	9.7	Glascocock	2	2	*
Jackson	2	14	19.0	Dougherty	4	8	9.2	Grady	4	2	*

Georgia’s average age-adjusted suicide death rate for 2018 was **14.5 per 100,000 people.**

# Suicide in Georgia: County & Geography

County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Irwin	4	2	*
Lamar	6	2	*
Lee	4	2	*
Macon	6	2	*
McDuffie	2	2	*
McIntosh	5	2	*
Morgan	2	2	*
Pierce	5	2	*
Schley	6	2	*
Toombs	5	2	*
Towns	1	2	*
Twiggs	2	2	*
Wilcox	5	2	*
Baker	4	1	*
Burke	2	1	*
Dooly	6	1	*
Echols	4	1	*

County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Evans	5	1	*
Hancock	2	1	*
Hart	1	1	*
Jeff Davis	5	1	*
Jenkins	2	1	*
Johnson	5	1	*
Lanier	4	1	*
Miller	4	1	*
Pulaski	5	1	*
Screven	2	1	*
Seminole	4	1	*
Stewart	6	1	*
Talbot	6	1	*
Taylor	6	1	*
Telfair	5	1	*
Terrell	4	1	*
Treutlen	5	1	*

County	Region	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Turner	4	1	*
Atkinson	5	0	0.0
Bleckley	5	0	0.0
Calhoun	4	0	0.0
Clay	6	0	0.0
Early	4	0	0.0
Elbert	2	0	0.0
Jefferson	2	0	0.0
Lincoln	2	0	0.0
Long	5	0	0.0
Quitman	6	0	0.0
Rabun	1	0	0.0
Randolph	6	0	0.0
Taliaferro	2	0	0.0
Warren	2	0	0.0
Webster	6	0	0.0
Wheeler	5	0	0.0

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## Rural & Non-Rural Suicides & Age-Adjusted Rates, Georgia, 2018

Rural counties have a higher suicide rate per 100,000 people, but a lower number of suicides than non-rural counties. So although 79% of suicide deaths in 2018 occurred in non-rural counties, suicide deaths in rural counties have a much larger impact due to the smaller population sizes.

Rurality is defined by the Georgia Department of Public Health as any county with a population smaller than 35,000 people.

Counties	Suicide Deaths	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate
Rural	336	18.4
Non-Rural	1,229	13.8
<b>All of Georgia</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>14.5</b>

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Region	Suicide Deaths		Hospital Discharges		Emergency Room Visits	
	Number of Suicides	Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate	Total Number of Discharges	Age-Adjusted Discharge Rate	Total Number of ER Visits	Age-Adjusted ER Rate
1	455	15.9	762	27.9	2,015	76
2	208	15.3	478	35.9	1,098	85.2
3	368	11.2	814	24.9	1,839	57
4	91	14.3	201	34.3	496	86
5	191	16.6	403	35.9	818	73.5
6	252	17.2	416	28.9	1,110	81.2
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>71.8</b>

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## Regional Summary of Suicide & Suicidal Behaviors, Georgia 2018

- Region 1:** greatest number of suicide deaths and suicide ER visits
- Regions 2 & 5:** highest suicide hospital discharge rate
- Region 3:** greatest number of suicide hospital discharges
- Region 4:** highest suicide ER visit rate
- Region 6:** highest suicide death rate



# Suicide in Georgia: Sex & Race/Ethnicity

The demographic trends for suicide deaths differ from the demographic trends for suicide attempts. There is a higher suicide mortality among males but a higher suicide morbidity among females. Suicide morbidity includes ER visits and hospital discharges related to suicide.

For both males and females, the age-adjusted death rate for some races/ethnicities is much higher than the number of deaths. This indicates that a disproportionate number of individuals in those races/ethnicities die by suicide in relation to their total population size.

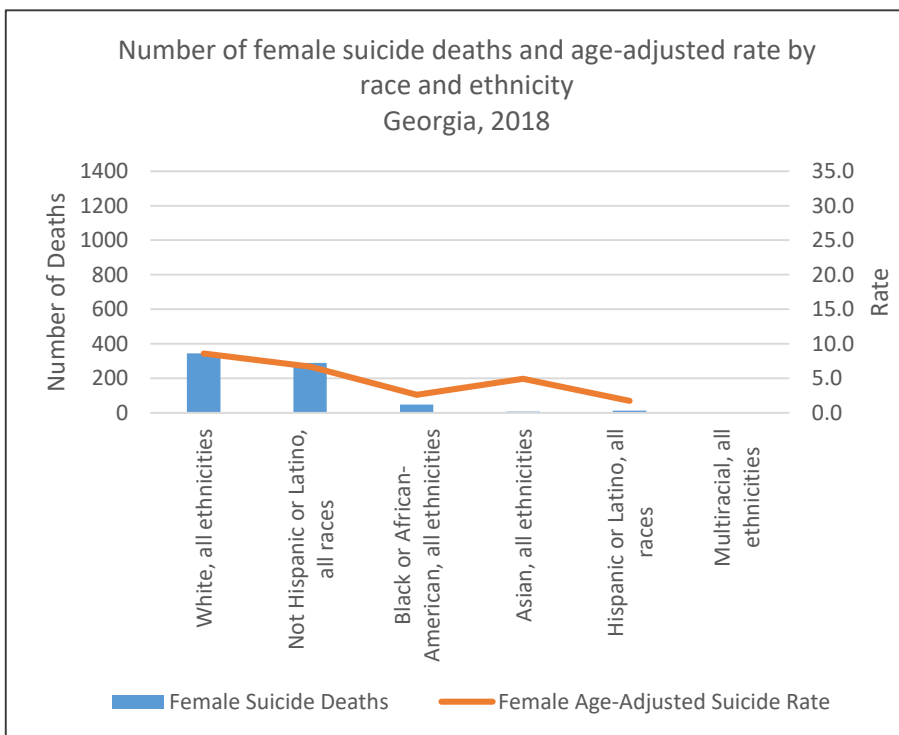
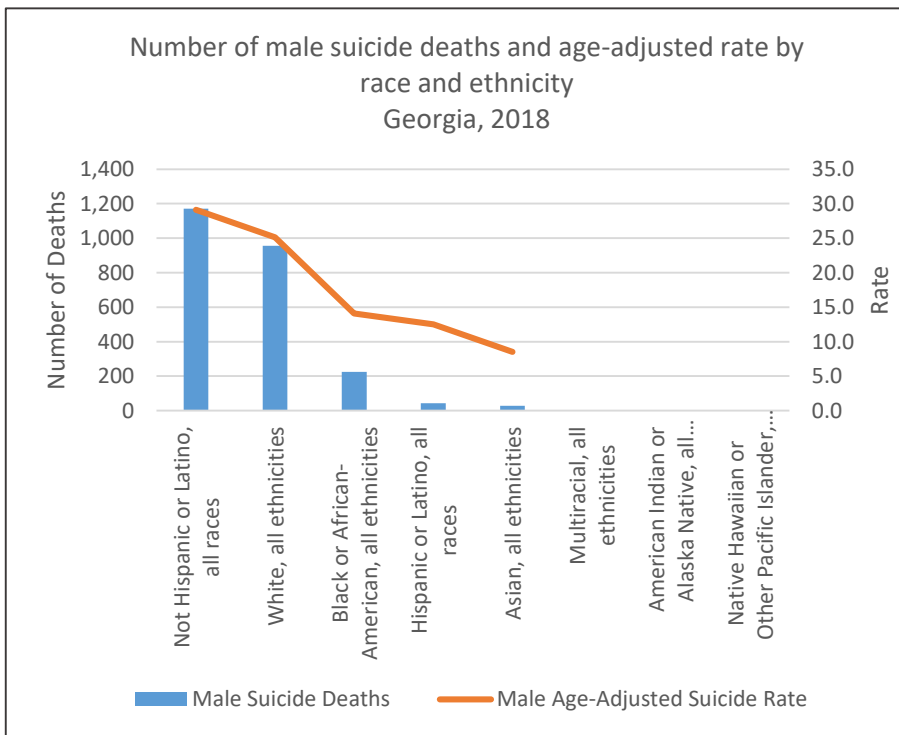
For male suicide deaths, those who are not Hispanic or Latino had the highest number and greatest age-adjusted death rate in 2018. Black or African American males (all ethnicities) had the most disproportionate age-adjusted suicide death rate.

For female suicide deaths, those who are white (all ethnicities) had the highest number and greatest age-adjusted death rate in 2018. Asian (all ethnicities) females had the most disproportionate age-adjusted suicide death rate.

In 2018, there were less than 4 suicide deaths for multiracial males and females, American Indian or Alaska Native males, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander males, so their respective suicide deaths rates are not shown.

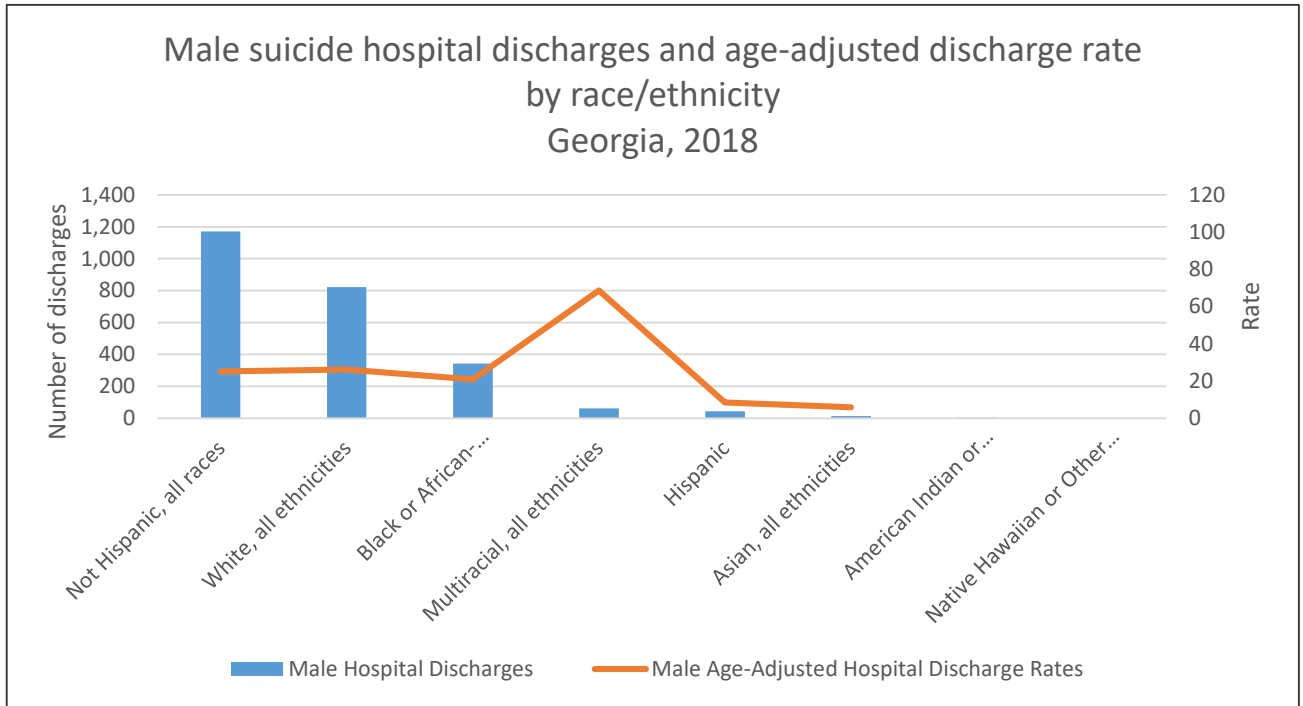
The *age-adjusted rate* is commonly used to compare suicide rates because it accounts for the size of an age group relative to the number of suicides in that same age group.

Older age groups tend to have a lower population size but a higher proportion of suicide deaths, so fewer deaths account for a greater portion of the entire age group.

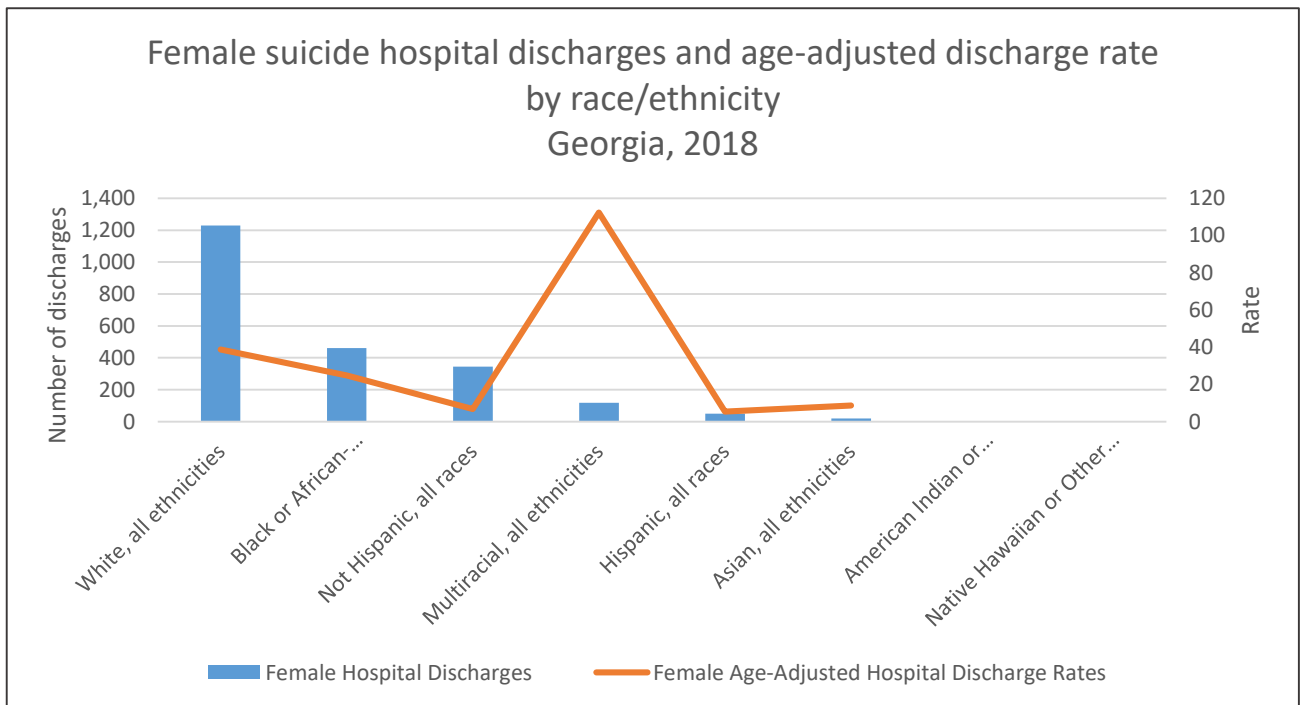


# Suicide in Georgia: Sex & Race/Ethnicity

Georgia uses the number of hospital discharges and the age-adjusted rate of hospital discharges as proxies for severe suicide attempts that do not result in death because there are currently no other data sources to collect this information. Females had 1,829 suicide-related hospital discharges while males had 1,245. Females had an age-adjusted rate of suicide-related hospital discharges of 34.0 per 100,000 persons while males had 24.2 per 100,000 persons.



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