

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health
103 South Main Street, Waterbury Vermont 05676

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani, Cindy Hooley, Rodney McCormick, and Walter Ochs

DATE: December 11, 2009

RE: Suicide in Vermont: 1985-2006

This brief report provides basic statistics regarding suicide among Vermont residents, including Vermont's rank among states, Vermont's suicide rates for age and gender groups, and a longitudinal overview of change in Vermont's suicide rates over the past 22 years. This report was prepared in response to a request from Joyce Berry, Director of the U.S. Center for Mental Health Services Division of State and Community Systems Development.

Data for this analysis were drawn from the Vermont Department of Health Vital Statistics System and from the National Center for Health Statistics Vital Statistics Reports Volume 57, Number 14 "Deaths Final Data for 2006."

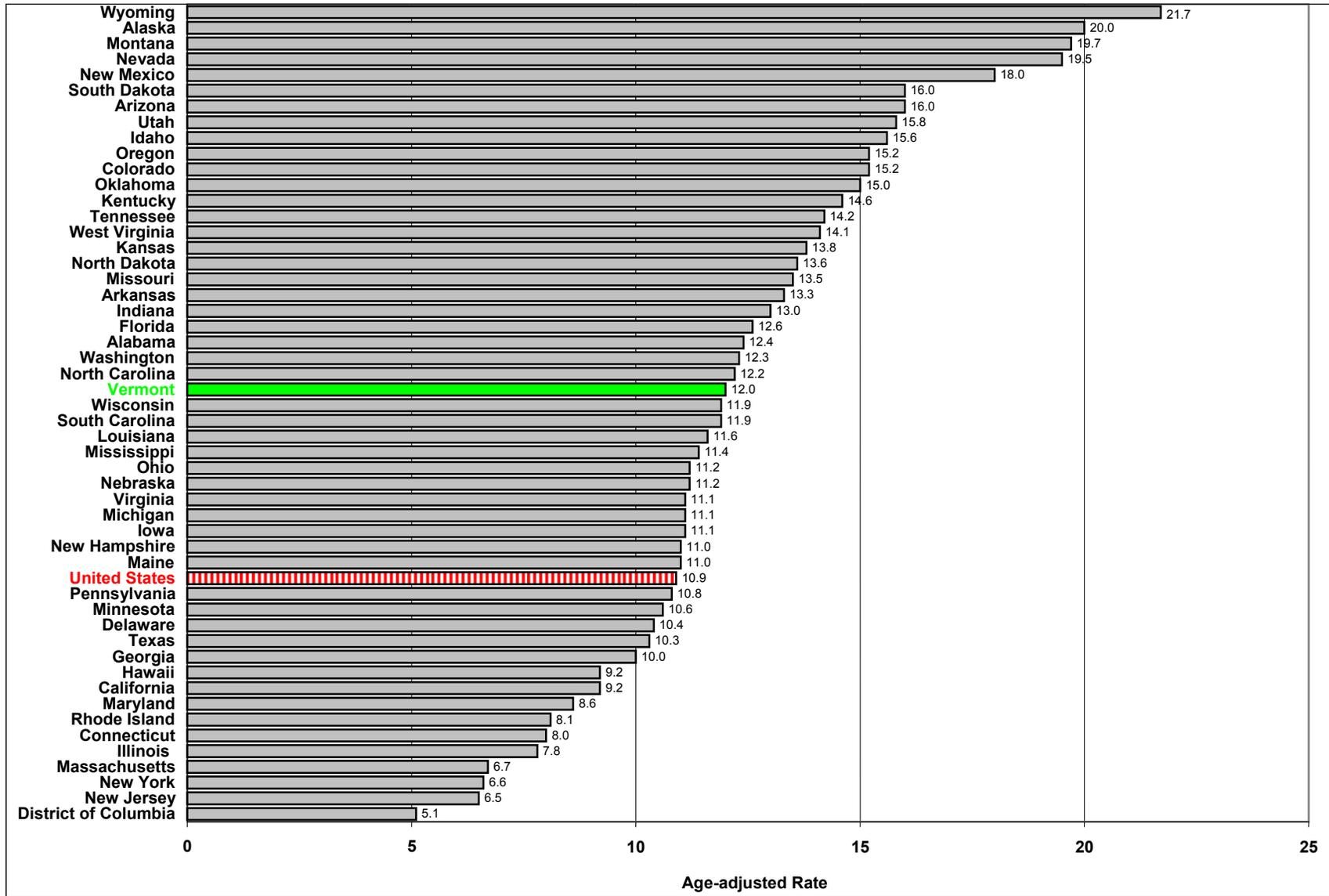
As you will see, Vermont's suicide rate was 25th from the highest and 26th from the lowest among states in overall age-adjusted suicide rates during 2006.

During 1985 through 2006, Vermont's age-adjusted suicide rates varied between a high of 17.9 per hundred thousand residents in 1988 to a low of 10.3 per hundred thousand in 1999. When this twenty-two year period is considered as a whole, using linear regression statistics, Vermont's suicide rate decreased a total of 5 suicides per hundred thousand.

During 2002 through 2006, male suicide rates were substantially higher than female suicide overall (22 vs. 5 per 100,000 population, respectively). Male suicide rates were highest in 75-84 age group (55 per 100,000 population), while female suicide rates were highest in the 45-54 age group (11 per 100,000 population).

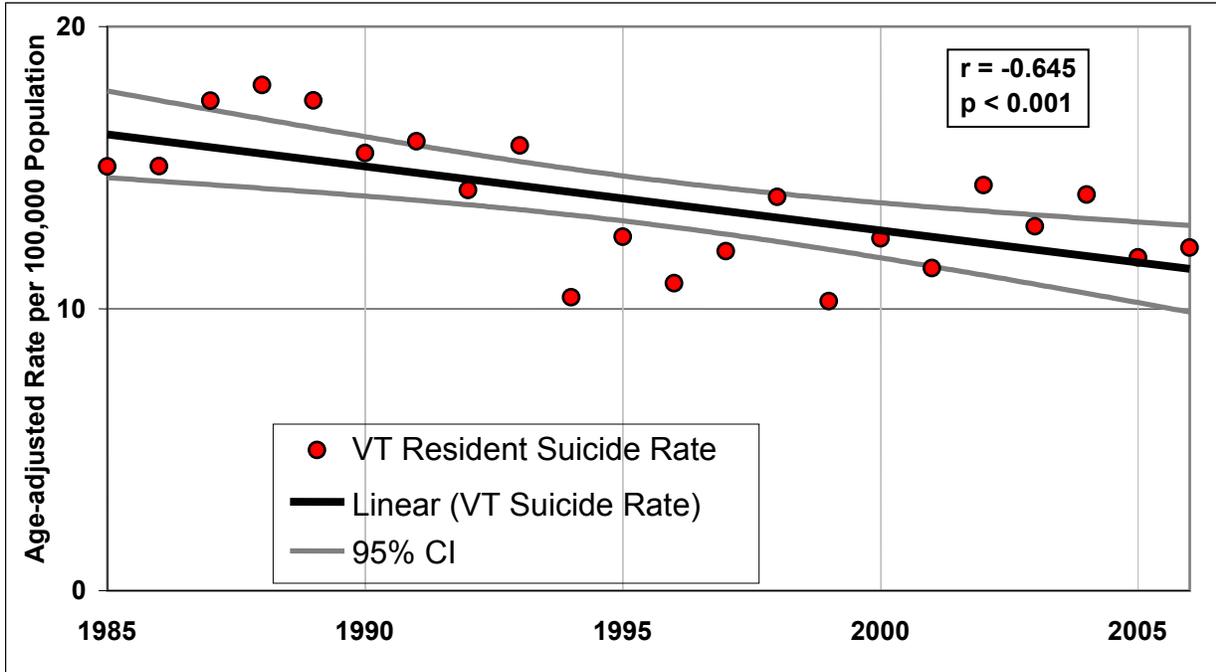
As always, we look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analyses. We can be reached at pip@vdh.state.vt.us or at 802-241-4049.

Age-adjusted Rates of Suicide in the United States: 2006

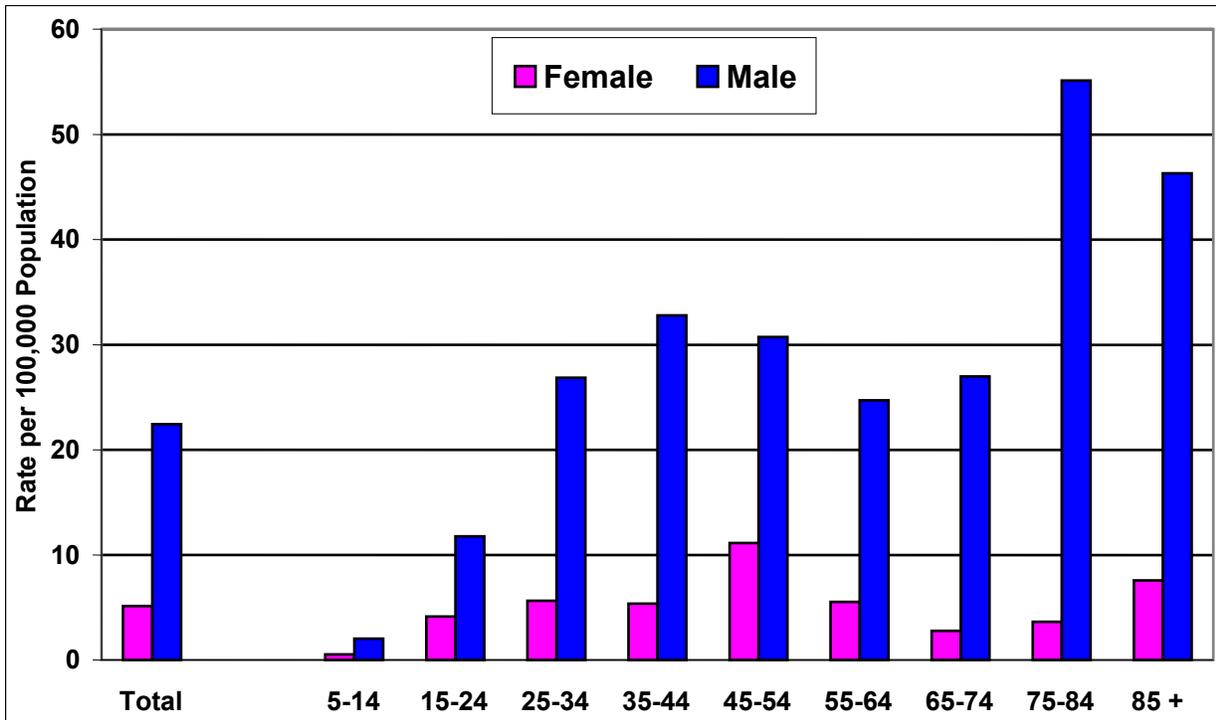


Based on age-adjusted rates in "Deaths: 2006 Final Data" in National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol 57(14), page 104.

Vermont Resident Suicide Rates: 1985-2006



VT Resident Suicide Rates by Age & Gender: 2002-2006



Based on data from the Vital Statistics System maintained by the Vermont Department of Health.
Age-adjusted rates based on 100,000 standard United States population.