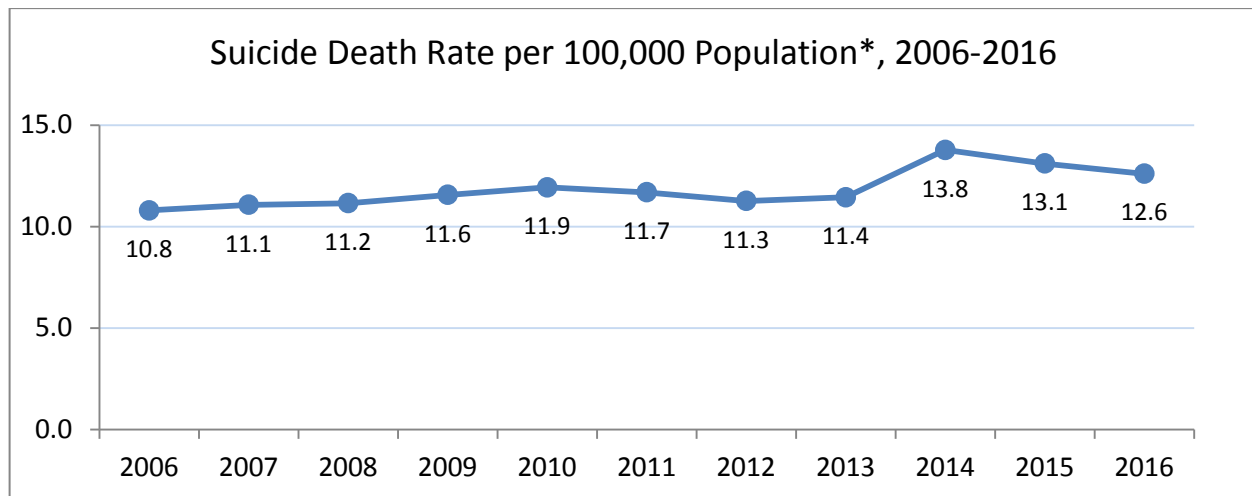


This report summarizes all deaths classified as suicide between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2016. This includes cases that have been completed and those still under investigation. Suicide is defined as death resulting from self-inflicted injury, with the intent to cause death.

The BCCS operates in a live database environment. The data are considered preliminary until all investigations have been completed. Data are subject to change, and are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years. The 2014 to 2016 may have been impacted by change in classification policy, see p. 7 for a description of that change.

### Summary

- There were 599 suicides in 2016, down from 615 in 2015 (a 2.6% decrease). 2016 marks the second consecutive year where suicide deaths have declined from the previous year. Note that the 2016 numbers are subject to change as coroner's investigations are concluded for this year.
- In 2016, 53% of those dying by suicide were aged 40 to 69. The highest suicide death rates were among 60-69 and 80+ year olds (17.4 per 100,000 people).
- Males accounted for 74% of suicide deaths in 2016.
- The three most common means of suicide death in 2016 are by hanging, poisoning and fire arm.
- The three townships experiencing the highest number of suicides in 2016 are Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria.
- Fraser and Interior Health Authority have had the highest *number* of suicide deaths (171 and 134 deaths, respectively) in 2016, making up 51% of all suicide deaths during this period.
- Northern Health Authority has the highest *rate* of suicide deaths (20 deaths per 100,000 individuals) followed by Interior Health Authority (18 deaths per 100,000 individuals) in 2016. Overall, the rate of suicide deaths in BC was 13 deaths per 100,000 individuals in 2016.
- Rates of suicide deaths are highest in Northwest, North Vancouver Island, Okanagan, Northeast, and East Kootenay Health Services Delivery Areas.



\* Population estimates obtained from BCStats, [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)

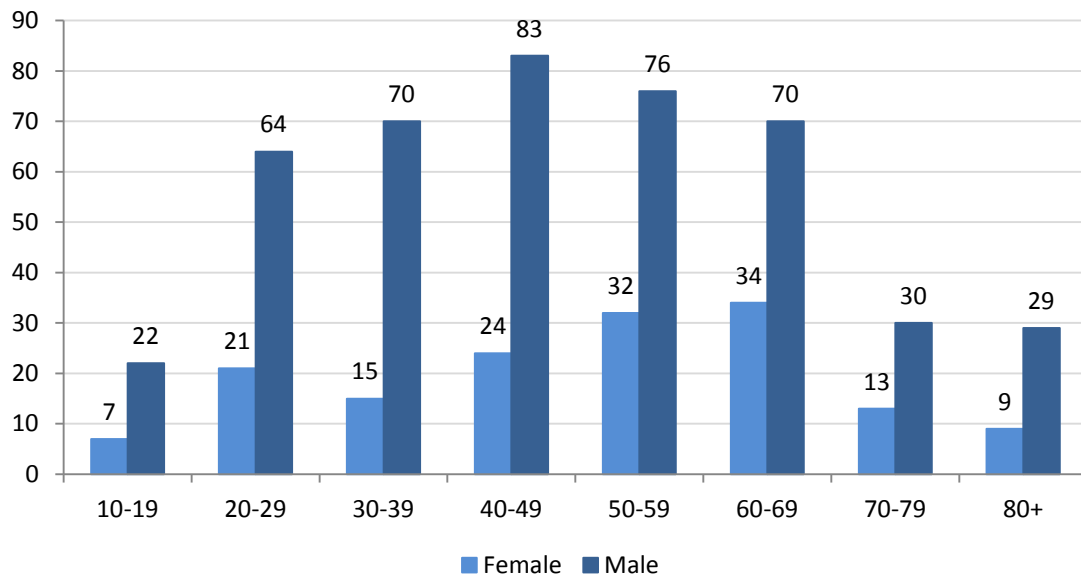
Suicide Deaths in BC by Gender, 2006 – 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Female	106	129	126	113	110	133	128	143	154	146	155
Male	352	346	359	397	423	393	384	382	486	469	444
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Suicide Deaths in BC, Child & Youth, 2006 – 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Child (<19)	15	11	14	11	31	18	17	12	25	19	20
Adult (19+)	443	464	471	499	502	508	495	513	615	596	579
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Suicide Deaths in BC by Age Group, 2006 – 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
10-19	18	17	19	19	36	25	22	14	33	26	29
20-29	60	79	65	66	81	70	64	68	73	88	85
30-39	55	71	61	91	89	80	73	84	81	77	85
40-49	107	107	129	108	95	91	108	97	120	85	107
50-59	100	103	86	107	115	125	105	112	140	163	108
60-69	56	48	63	64	50	67	66	74	95	88	104
70-79	35	33	29	34	39	38	35	38	54	45	43
80+	27	17	33	21	28	30	39	38	43	43	38
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Age-Specific Suicide Death Rates per 100,000, 2006 – 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
10-19	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.6	6.8	4.8	4.2	2.7	6.5	5.1	5.7
20-29	10.6	13.7	11.0	10.8	13.0	11.3	10.3	10.9	11.5	13.8	13.2
30-39	9.5	12.2	10.4	15.4	15.0	13.5	12.1	13.7	13.0	12.2	13.2
40-49	15.3	15.4	18.7	15.7	13.9	13.5	16.2	14.8	18.7	13.4	16.9
50-59	16.3	16.5	13.5	16.5	17.4	18.6	15.4	16.1	19.9	23.1	15.4
60-69	14.4	11.6	14.5	14.0	10.4	13.4	12.7	13.8	17.0	15.2	17.4
70-79	13.3	12.4	10.7	12.4	13.9	13.2	11.8	12.3	16.8	13.4	12.3
80+	16.6	10.2	19.2	11.9	15.4	16.0	20.1	19.0	20.9	20.3	17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>

**Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2016**



Suicide Deaths in BC by Month of Death, 2006 – 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	36	47	33	41	45	35	37	47	60	56	61
February	36	27	38	31	42	46	44	43	50	45	52
March	38	34	45	45	49	38	44	41	56	44	57
April	29	45	40	28	38	44	36	35	60	52	49
May	35	40	42	50	57	40	49	54	45	60	49
June	48	34	47	40	36	43	37	47	47	52	48
July	42	55	37	59	45	42	42	49	46	56	46
August	35	38	35	37	45	50	52	39	56	58	50
September	41	44	49	44	53	48	48	48	55	49	49
October	50	36	40	49	52	47	42	39	58	61	56
November	25	46	36	39	36	46	36	43	57	33	38
December	43	29	43	47	35	47	45	40	50	49	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Means of Suicide Deaths in BC, 2006-2016												
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Hanging	155	154	162	203	207	196	193	187	256	202	188	
Poisoning (Alcohol/ Drugs/Other)	96	110	99	103	98	101	98	92	120	111	86	
Fire Arms	78	69	78	70	79	67	78	86	81	103	85	
Fall	39	42	54	37	47	36	56	48	52	55	39	
CO Poisoning	38	33	38	28	28	26	15	21	37	25	17	
Suffocation	8	12	12	16	22	29	31	24	20	28	26	
Stabbing/Incised Injuries	11	12	11	19	14	28	11	29	27	20	8	
Drowning	13	21	13	9	12	15	9	8	15	18	11	
Motor Vehicle	8	8	8	7	5	11	8	9	6	4	9	
Railway	6	5	1	1	4	5	3	3	5	4	6	
Fire	1	2	1	5	5	2	4	5	5	2	2	
SkyTrain	0	5	3	3	3	2	1	3	4	3	3	
Exposure: Cold	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Electrical	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	
Other	3	0	2	5	8	7	2	5	6	5	1	
Means Still Under investigation	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	4	34	118	
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>	

**Suicide Deaths by Top 10 Townships of Injury, 2006-2016\***

Township	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Vancouver	79	85	69	72	81	71	73	85	93	73	72
Surrey	26	27	30	31	34	37	34	30	63	48	39
Victoria	24	36	25	36	39	37	36	25	37	30	30
Kelowna	9	16	23	16	21	15	17	20	22	21	29
Burnaby	18	23	12	21	13	25	21	17	27	17	23
Chilliwack	8	13	10	8	10	15	12	9	10	14	18
Abbotsford	9	9	12	15	5	13	6	12	13	19	17
Coquitlam	7	8	14	9	5	9	10	15	15	11	17
Langley	13	9	15	17	13	9	11	15	15	18	13
North Vancouver	6	10	11	14	17	19	12	13	15	11	13
Other Townships	259	239	264	271	295	276	280	284	330	353	328
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

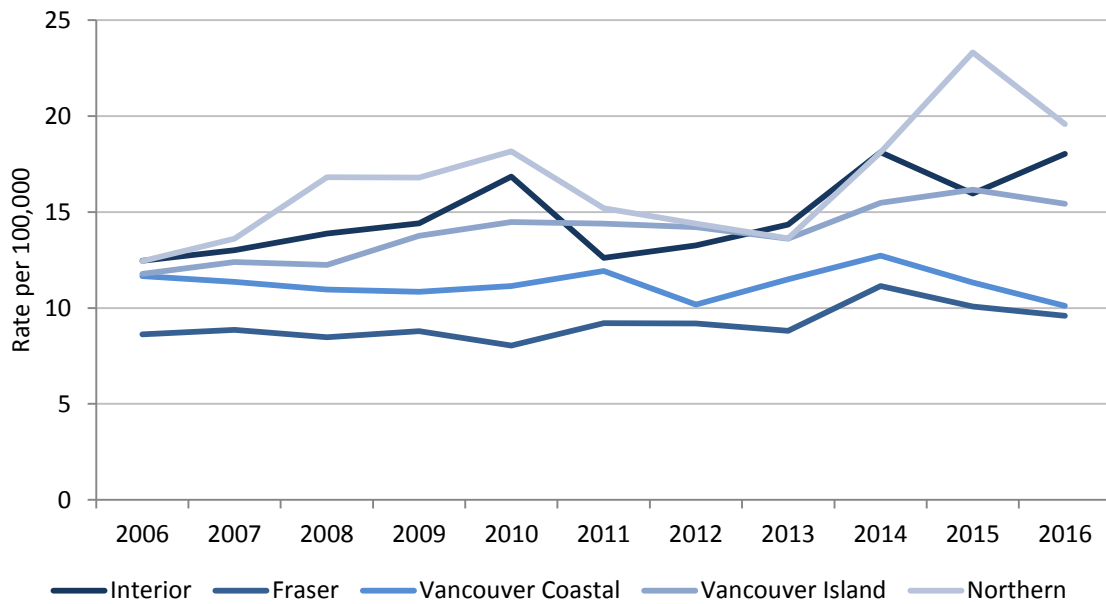
\*Sorted by 2016 totals

**Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Authority of Injury, 2006 - 2016 year of death**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Interior	86	91	99	104	121	91	96	104	133	118	134
Fraser	128	134	131	139	130	151	153	149	191	176	171
Vancouver Coastal	124	122	118	118	123	132	114	130	146	131	118
Vancouver Island	85	90	90	102	108	108	107	103	118	124	120
Northern	35	38	47	47	51	43	41	39	52	66	55
Out of Province	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Rate of Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Authority of Injury per 100,000 persons, 2006 - 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Interior	12.5	13.0	13.9	14.4	16.8	12.6	13.3	14.3	18.1	16.0	18.0
Fraser	8.6	8.9	8.5	8.8	8.0	9.2	9.2	8.8	11.1	10.1	9.6
Vancouver Coastal	11.7	11.4	11.0	10.8	11.2	11.9	10.2	11.5	12.7	11.3	10.1
Vancouver Island	11.8	12.4	12.2	13.8	14.5	14.4	14.2	13.6	15.5	16.2	15.4
Northern	12.4	13.6	16.8	16.8	18.2	15.2	14.4	13.6	18.1	23.3	19.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>

Rate of Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Authority, 2006-2016



Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Services Delivery Area of Injury, 2006 - 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
East Kootenay	12	11	14	15	17	13	11	10	17	15	14
Kootenay Boundary	8	10	7	12	12	8	13	7	19	11	14
Okanagan	40	39	53	42	53	42	40	47	61	57	71
Thompson Cariboo	26	31	25	35	39	28	32	40	36	35	35
Fraser East	24	35	29	31	25	36	31	41	36	50	45
Fraser North	52	57	48	54	41	58	57	50	67	59	65
Fraser South	52	42	54	54	64	57	65	58	88	67	61
Richmond	17	11	15	9	9	8	10	15	10	13	12
Vancouver	79	85	69	72	81	71	73	85	93	73	72
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	28	26	34	37	33	53	31	30	43	45	34
South Vancouver Island	32	43	37	42	50	53	53	41	51	47	50
Central Vancouver Island	33	35	30	42	36	31	41	43	48	49	44
North Vancouver Island	20	12	23	18	22	24	13	19	19	28	26
Northwest	11	15	14	15	17	16	8	11	16	20	20
Northern Interior	18	13	22	21	25	18	18	15	18	33	22
Northeast	6	10	11	11	9	9	15	13	18	13	13
Out of Province	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>599</b>

Rate of Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Services Delivery Area of Injury per 100,000 persons, 2006 - 2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
East Kootenay	16.0	14.6	18.2	19.4	22.1	16.9	14.2	13.0	21.8	19.3	17.9
Kootenay Boundary	10.6	13.1	9.0	15.4	15.4	10.2	16.6	9.0	24.2	14.0	17.8
Okanagan	12.3	11.7	15.5	12.1	15.3	12.1	11.4	13.4	17.1	15.8	19.6
Thompson Cariboo	12.2	14.5	11.5	16.0	17.9	12.8	14.6	18.2	16.2	15.7	15.6
Fraser East	9.0	13.0	10.6	11.1	8.8	12.7	10.9	14.3	12.4	16.9	15.0
Fraser North	9.2	9.9	8.2	9.0	6.7	9.4	9.1	7.9	10.4	9.0	9.8
Fraser South	7.9	6.3	7.9	7.7	8.8	7.7	8.7	7.6	11.3	8.4	7.5
Richmond	9.3	5.9	8.0	4.7	4.6	4.1	5.0	7.5	4.9	6.2	5.6
Vancouver	12.9	13.7	11.1	11.5	12.8	11.2	11.4	13.1	14.1	11.0	10.7
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	10.4	9.7	12.7	13.6	12.0	19.2	11.1	10.7	15.2	16.0	12.0
South Vancouver Island	9.0	12.0	10.3	11.6	13.6	14.4	14.3	11.0	13.6	12.4	13.1
Central Vancouver Island	13.1	13.9	11.7	16.3	13.8	11.8	15.6	16.3	18.0	18.3	16.1
North Vancouver Island	17.4	10.3	19.5	15.1	18.4	20.0	10.8	15.8	15.6	23.0	21.3
Northwest	14.6	20.3	18.9	20.4	23.1	21.7	10.9	15.1	21.9	27.9	28.4
Northern Interior	12.8	9.3	15.7	15.0	17.8	12.7	12.7	10.5	12.6	23.6	15.9
Northeast	9.2	15.3	16.9	16.7	13.6	13.3	21.6	18.4	25.1	18.0	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>



**Notes:**

1. Following a policy review, a change was implemented in September 2014, with respect to the determination of suicide. Consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *F.H. v. Hugh McDougall*, a finding of suicide is now made on a balance of probabilities, in that it is more likely than not, that the death was the result of intentional self-harm. Prior to September 2014, the determination of suicide was based on the test articulated in the 1992 Ontario Court of Appeal decision in *Beckon v. Young*, which required a higher degree of probability to classify a death as suicide.

The 2014-2016 suicide numbers may have been impacted by this policy change.

2. Population estimates were taken from:  
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx>
3. Health Region breakdowns can be found at:  
<http://www.bcstats.gov.ca/statisticsbysubject/geography/referencemaps/health.aspx>
4. Death location was used in 5 cases of missing injury location.