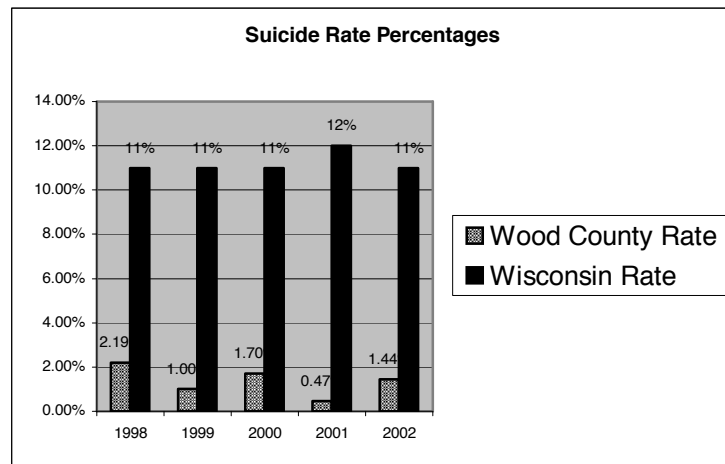


## Suicide— One of the Leading Causes of Death among Wisconsin Residents of All Ages



### Key Facts

- In 2004, males were four times more likely to die from suicide than females.
- Suicide rates in 2004 were highest among Whites and second highest among American Indian and Native Alaskan men.
- Nationally, the overall rate of youth suicides has declined slowly since 1992. Yet, the rate is still unacceptably high.
- Firearms are the most common and lethal means of suicide, accounting for 52% of all suicide deaths in Wisconsin.

### Why is this Information Important?

Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. The factors that contribute to any particular suicide are diverse and complex.

### Suicide

People take their lives for many different reasons. Often, psychological reasons, such as depression or traumatic life events contribute to an individual's decision to commit suicide.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that males are more likely to commit suicide than females. However, at least twice as many females as males are likely to attempt suicide. It is the sixth leading cause of death among those 5-14 years of age, and the third leading cause of death among those 15-24 years old. Risk factors may include depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, drug and/or alcohol use, access to firearms and situational stress.

After a suicide occurs, family members, friends and the community must come to terms with their loss and the related unanswered questions. Survivors are often stunned and troubled. Over time, grief may diminish and then healing can begin.

*Sources: Department of Health and Family Services; Center for Disease Control*