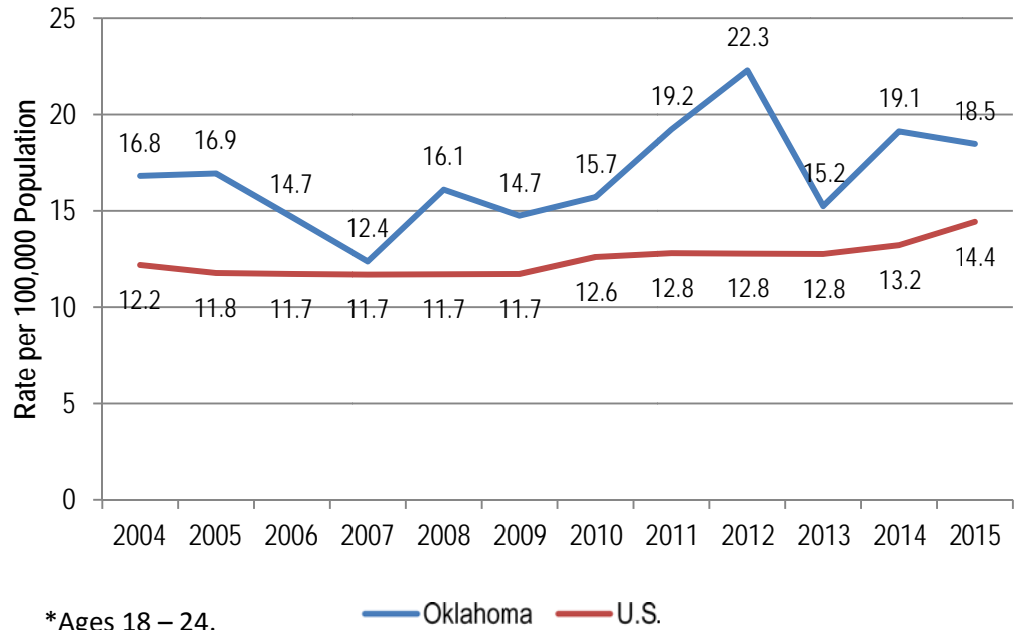


## Young Adults (18-24) Suicide in Oklahoma, 2011 - 2015

**Figure 1. Young Adults\* Suicide Rates by Year, U.S. and Oklahoma, 2004-2015**



\*Ages 18 – 24.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2017 Apr 10]. Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars).

- From 2011 – 2015, 368 suicides occurred among young adults 18 – 24 years of age.
- The mean age of victims was 21 years.
- From 2004-2015, Oklahoma’s average young adults suicide rate (16.8) was 26% higher than the U.S. rate (12.5). After 2007, both the U.S. and the Oklahoma young adult’s suicide rates were generally on an increasing trend (Figure 1).
- Eighty-two percent of young adult’s suicides were among males.
- Compared to the age group 10-17, the age group 18-24 had higher rates of suicide in all races and ethnicity (Table 1).
- Compared to other races, American Indians 10-17 years of age and 18-24 years of age had the highest rates of suicide, 8.7 and 23.9, respectively (Table 1).
- Among Hispanics, youth ages 18-24 had a higher rate of suicide at 15.4 compared to youths 10-17 with a rate of 2.8 (Table 1).

**Table 1. Young Adults Suicide Rates\*\* by Age Group, Race and Ethnicity, Oklahoma, 2011-2015**

	White		American Indian		African American		Hispanic*	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
<b>Age Group</b>								
18-24	252	17.6	57	23.9	33	15.0	36	15.4
10-17***	88	5.9	26	8.7	6	2.6	8	2.8

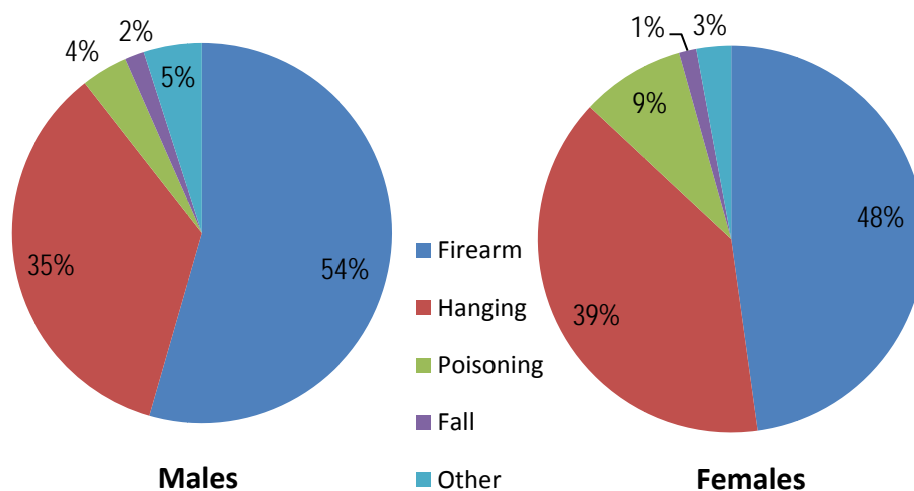
\*Hispanic ethnicity is not a racial category

\*\* Rates per 100,000 population.

\*\*\* Youth ages 10-17 shown as a comparison group.

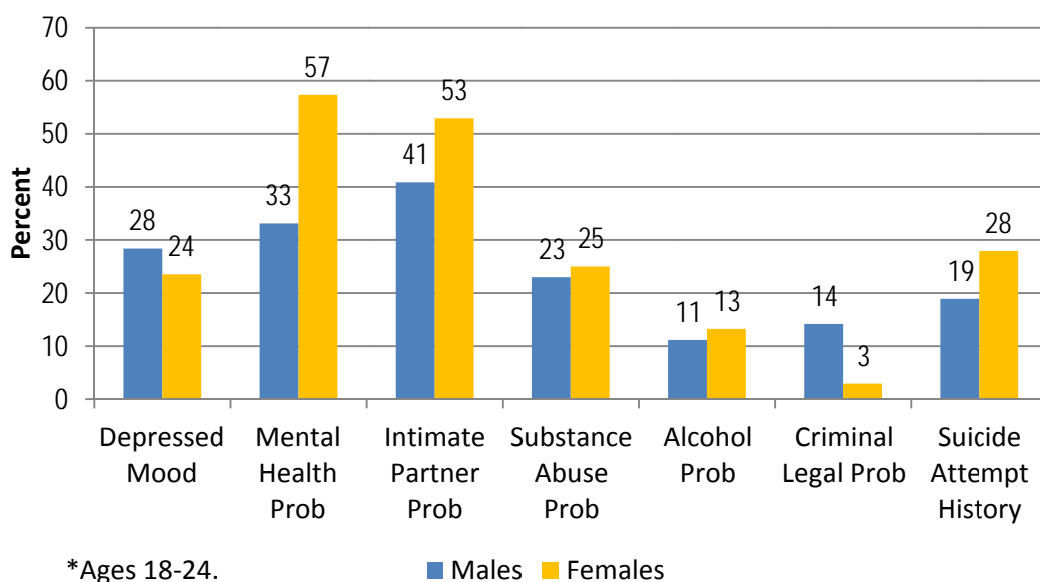
- Firearms were used in 53% of young adult suicides, hanging in 36%, poisoning in 5%, falls in 2%, and other methods were used in 4% of the deaths.
- Among males and females, firearms were the leading method of suicide; males had a higher percentage than females, 54% and 48%, respectively (Figure 2).
- Females had a higher percentage of hanging and poisoning as a method of suicide as compared to males (Figure 2).
- Among males, the leading circumstances of suicide were intimate partner problem (41%), mental health problem (33%), and depressed mood (28%) (Figure 3).
- Among females, the leading circumstances of suicide were mental health problem (57%), intimate partner problem (53%), and substance abuse problem (25%) (Figure 3).
- Females more often had a history of suicide attempt than males, 28% and 19%, respectively (Figure 3).
- A suicide note was left by 35% of females and 28% of males.
- 34% of young adult suicide victims who were tested for alcohol, had a positive blood alcohol content (BAC) at the time of death; 26% of the tested BACs were at or above the legal limit of 0.08 mg/dL.

**Figure 2. Method of Young Adults\* Suicide by Gender, Oklahoma, 2011-2015**



\*Ages 18 – 24. Other methods include sharp/blunt instruments, fire, and other transportation.

**Figure 3. Young Adults\* Suicide Circumstances\*\* by Gender, Oklahoma, 2011-2015**



\*Ages 18-24.

\*\*More than one circumstance may have been associated with a suicide.

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and child fatality review data. The data are included in the National Violent Death Reporting System and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>.

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