



Four County
Suicide Prevention Coalition
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Williams
www.4countysuicideprevention.org

Preventing suicide through education and awareness.

www.4countysuicideprevention.org

Four County Suicide Data

10 year Summary Report

2014-2024



The Four County
ADAMhs Board

Four County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services

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Four County 2014-2024 Suicide Data Summary

Suicide continues to be a major public health concern in the US, Ohio, and in the four-county area. Death by suicide causes immeasurable suffering and loss to individuals, families and communities. During the period of 2014-2024, the total number of suicide deaths in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties, Ohio was 228, which is an increase of 43 deaths when compared to the prior report (2007-2017). This raw data was collected from the death certificates through local health departments with deaths being reported by county of residence, regardless of where the death occurred.

Nationally, approximately 75% of all suicide deaths occurred in the home of the deceased. The frequency of deaths occurring in the home in the four county area closely mimics the national average with 70% of the deaths occurring at the decedent's home. Oftentimes, this results in the body being discovered by a loved one. Because of this, there is a continued need for postvention support and trauma informed care for survivors. To be able to help meet this need the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition (FCSPC), in partnership with the Four County ADAMhs Board, continues to support the Suicide Grief Support Group. The group has expanded it's services and now meets two times a month as a way to make the support more accessible to all survivors.

The Four County LOSS Team (Local Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) was established in 2015, and continues to serve as an on-scene response team. As a part of the first response, the LOSS Team works to prevent future suicide deaths by interrupting the cycle of negative coping that puts survivors at a higher risk for taking their own lives. This postvention approach to suicide helps to support survivors from the very moment of their loss, by providing important information and connection to needed services. Since it's inception, the Four County LOSS Team has responded to more than 130 deaths by suicide throughout Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. In addition to the LOSS Team, support is also provided to those bereaved by suicide in the form of follow-up telephone calls, the Suicide Grief Support Group, and the annual Survivor's Day Event.

Although the number of deaths by suicide decreased in 2023 compared to 2022 in the four county area as well as state-wide, the number increased again in 2024. These numbers substantiate the fact that there is more work to be done in order to prevent deaths by suicide. With this in mind, the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition continues to focus it's attention on awareness and education. Supporting area school-based suicide prevention program providers, the Four County LOSS Team, the Suicide Grief Support Group, Survivor Day, supporting the Annual Community Conversation Breakfast as well as implementing community awareness initiatives are all ways the FCSPC can serve the four county community. FCSPC and the Four County ADAMhs Board are committed to doing their part to prevent suicide because even one death by suicide in the four-county area is too many.

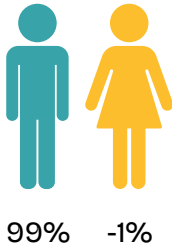
For more information on the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition visit: www.4countysuicideprevention.org

Suicide Deaths by County 2014 - 2024*

	Defiance	Fulton	Henry	Williams	Total
2014	4	6	2	8	20
2015	5	3	4	1	13
2016	7	8	2	6	23
2017	9	5	3	9	26
2018	6	12	2	7	27
2019	6	4	4	5	19
2020	1	2	5	6	14
2021	8	4	0	6	18
2022	5	6	5	8	24
2023	3	3	3	7	16
2024	5*	9*	6*	7*	27
Total	59	62	36	72	229

*Data incomplete pending coroner determinations.

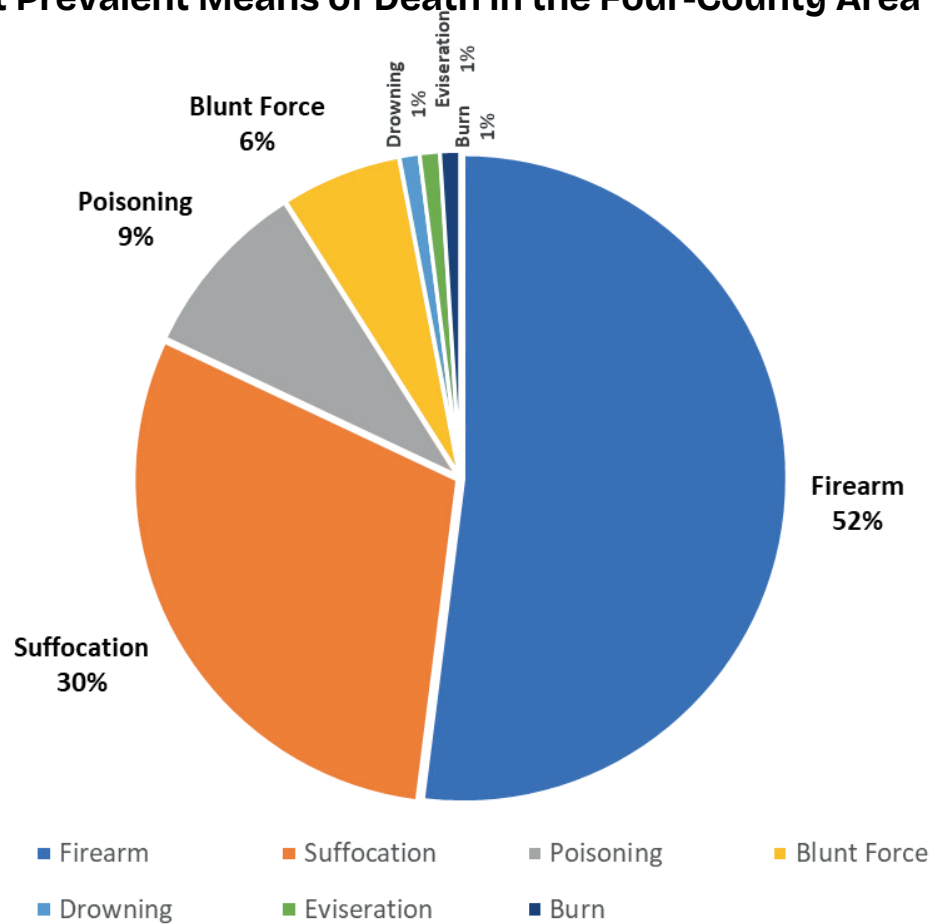
The overall rate of deaths by suicide decreased during the pandemic years of 2019-2020. However, the following 2 years had an increase and then a significant decrease. Unfortunately, 3 of the 4 counties experienced a significant increase again in 2024, with Henry County having the highest rate recorded in the past 10 years and Fulton having their highest recorded rate since 2018.



Percentage of Deaths by Reported Gender

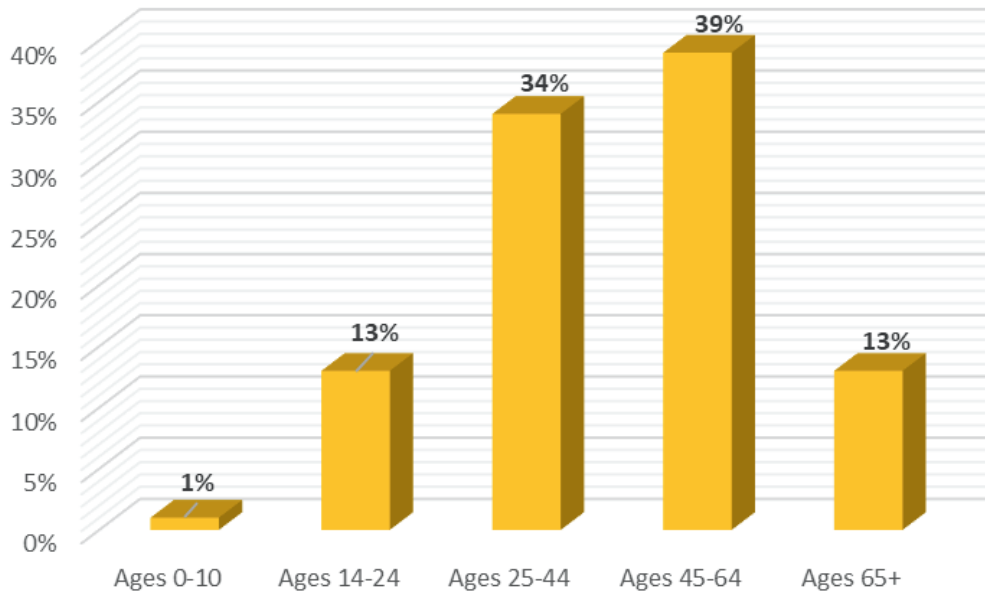
Although males make up 50% of the population they account for nearly 80% of all deaths by suicide nationally. Overall, males die by suicide 3.85x more often than women despite the fact that women have more non-fatal attempts. Locally, from 2014 - 2024, women made up less than 1% of all deaths by suicide.

Most Prevalent Means of Death in the Four-County Area

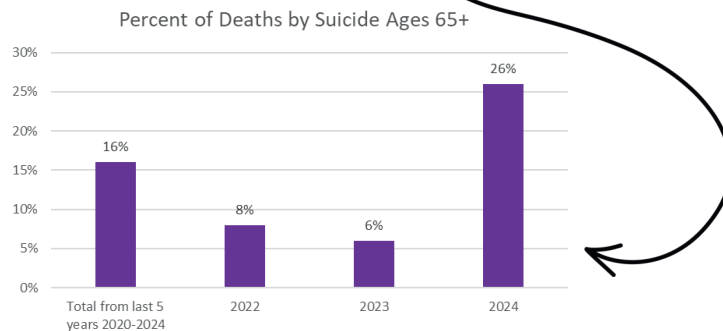


Firearms continue to be the most prevalent means of death by suicide in the four county area, and the leading means for men. Death by poisoning followed closely by suffocation were the most prevalent means of death for women in the four county area. The means of death within the four-county male population mirrors the national average. According to a 2021 CDC report, firearms were used in over 50% of all suicides among males, and 33% of all female deaths nationally. In the four county area, firearms account for less than 1% of all female deaths by suicide.

Deaths by Age Groups



The highest number of suicides in the four-county area continues to be among middle aged residents aged 45-64 years old (39%), with the older adult population (65+) numbers increasing, which follows state and national trends.



Veterans

According to the National Institute of Health, in the United States, only 7.6% of the population are veterans, yet nearly 14% of American adult suicides are among veterans.

In the four-county area, from 2014 - 2024, 20% of those who died by suicide were veterans.

Notes:

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