Suicides Associated with Intimate Partner Problems
Victim and Incident Characteristics:
Maryland, 2003-2011

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Why Examine Intimate Partner Problem/Intimate Partner Violence Suicide?

• Suicide an increasing public health concern
  – 561 Marylanders ended their own lives in 2013 compared to 557 in 2012 (Maryland Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2013)

• Intimate Partner Problem (IPP)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a frequent stressor that contributes to suicide
Suicide and IPP/IPV Suicide Rates
All Persons: Maryland, 2003-2011

Year | Suicide | IPP/IPV suicide
--- | --- | ---
2003 | 8.8 | 2.0
2004 | 8.5 | 1.6
2005 | 7.9 | 1.7
2006 | 8.5 | 2.0
2007 | 8.5 | 2.2
2008 | 8.2 | 1.8
2009 | 9.3 | 2.4
2010 | 8.3 | 2.4
2011 | 9.0 | 2.4

Rate per 100,000 population
Objectives

• What is the frequency of IPP/IPV associated suicides?
• What is the prevalence of IPP/IPV suicides by demographic groups?
• What is the level of alcohol involvement in IPP/IPV suicides?
• What leading circumstances contribute to IPP/IPV suicides?
Case Selection

Suicides of Maryland Residents, 2003-2011
N = 4,350

No Circumstances Information Available
N = 274

Circumstances Information Available
N = 4,076

No Intimate Partner Violence Reported
N = 3,021

Intimate Partner Violence Reported
N = 1,055
Suicide Rates Associated with IPP/IPV by Age and Sex: Maryland, 2003-2011

*rates not reported for age/sex categories with < 20 deaths
IPP/IPV Suicide Top 3 Injury Methods by Sex: Maryland, 2003-2011

- **Firearm**: 30.0% (Female), 53.3% (Male)
- **Poisoning**: 31.2% (Female), 8.4% (Male)
- **Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation**: 28.2% (Female), 31.4% (Male)
### Number* and Percent of Suicide IPP/IPV Victims Tested for Alcohol and Drugs by Toxicology Variable: Maryland**, 2003-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toxicology Variable</th>
<th>Tested</th>
<th>Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAC &lt; 0.08 g/dL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAC &gt;= 0.08 g/dL†</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol positive, level unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamines</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>78.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antidepressants</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>78.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opiates</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other drug(s)</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* \(n=1,055\)

** Includes cases with at least one toxicology result.

† Includes cases with a positive BAC result but unknown level.
Circumstance Information (n=1,055)

- Current mental health problem: 40.9%
- Current depressed mood: 40.3%
- Disclosed intent to commit suicide: 35.4%
- Left a suicide note: 31.9%
- Crisis in past or impending two weeks: 30.4%
- Alcohol problem: 26.5%
- Current mental health treatment: 22.8%
- Other substance abuse problem: 21.2%
- History of suicide attempt(s): 18.0%
- Financial problem: 14.1%
- Job problem: 11.8%
- Recent criminal legal problem: 11.3%
- Physical health problem: 8.3%
Discussion

• IPP/IPV suicides prevalence, mechanisms of injury varied by age, sex and race

• Important contributing circumstances:
  – Mental health problems, particularly depressed mood
  – Adverse life events
  – Alcohol use

• Disclosure of intent (time lag between stated intention and death) may be an opportunity for intervention
Limitations

• Suicide counts excludes out-of-state resident deaths

• Circumstance information not available for 6.3% (n=274) of suicide victims

• Circumstance information is limited to information provided by family and friends and may be subject to bias
Conclusion

• Understanding specific circumstances that contribute to IPP/IPV suicides can help guide prevention strategies

• Variations in prevalence and risk factors in different demographic groups can also help target interventions

• State-level data from MVDRS will help focus program priorities on geographic areas of need
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Thank You!

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MVDRS website:
http://fha.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohpetup/SitePages/mvdrs.aspx