

Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition

*Monthly Data Update: January
22, 2024 -February 26, 2024*



Mental Health Association of Franklin & Fulton Counties
144 South 8th Street Suite 111
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717.264.4301

Monthly Data Update: January 22,2024-February 26,2024

The issue of escalating suicide rates in the United States has gained heightened attention, notably after Surgeon General David Satcher's influential report, *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide*, in 1999. Since then, substantial strides have been made to tackle the growing challenges linked to mental health and suicide prevention.

Effective strategies targeting prevention, intervention, and postvention of suicide necessitate a strong foundation rooted in precise and timely data. To fulfill this critical need, we are committed to the ongoing monthly release of a comprehensive data report focusing on suicide and crisis trends, specifically within Franklin County. This initiative aims to empower stakeholders with current, detailed insights, fostering informed decision-making and enabling tailored interventions to combat the ongoing battle against suicide.

Suicide Rate for Franklin County

For 2024, there is currently one reported suicide that puts us at a crude suicide rate of 0.6 deaths/per 100,000 people based on the Census population of 156,289. The final total of suicide deaths in Franklin County reported by the coroner's office for 2023 was 24 deaths, making for a crude rate of 15.4 deaths/per 100,000. This was seven deaths more than in 2022 (Table 1).

From the Franklin County Office of the Coroner

Of the 24 deaths in 2023, 10 were due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and seven were due to Asphyxia. (Table 1). In 2023, we saw an increase in the number of deaths due to asphyxia than in previous years. Out of the 24 deaths, only three were women, and of the men, three were veterans (Table 1). Only one of the deaths in 2023 was not white. When looking at the breakdown by age most deaths occurred between the ages of 36-78, with the 36-47, 48-59, and 60+ age categories all having six. Washington Township had the highest number of suicide deaths this past year, making up 25% of all the deaths (Table 1).

Franklin County Department of Emergency Services

Data provided by the Franklin County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is currently unavailable monthly. Table 2 shows data provided by DES for 2023. (Table 2). Quarter 2 had the highest number of calls (316), while Quarter 4 had the lowest number (235). In total, 1,105 calls were recorded in 2023, with 75% of them being mental distress/suicide attempt calls and 22% being non-fatal overdose calls.

Keystone Health Crisis Intervention Services

Keystone Health Crisis Intervention Services (CIS) provided monthly, aggregated data obtained from each intervention or response by CIS staff to an individual's contact with CIS (Keystone Health, 2024). Each intervention is considered unique, and no distinctions are made to individuals who have made multirole contacts with CIS. January 2024 had a record high of contacts, with 522 services provided by CIS; of those, 352 were residents of Franklin County (Keystone Health, 2024). Ten mobile visits were made in January: nine to Waynesboro ER and

one to Waynesboro Senior High School. In January, there was a total of 58 cases of someone under the age of 18 seeking crisis (Table 3). In January, 28 individuals entered inpatient voluntarily, while eight entered involuntarily (Keystone Health, 2024). There was a total of 84 cases in January for suicidal ideation, with 17.8% being people under the age of 18 (n=22) (Table 4). Despite the high number of contacts in January, there was no increase in the number of suicidal cases or the number of those who entered inpatient.

Mental Health Association Helpline

While answering Helpline calls, call specialists record several questions to document what was discussed during the call. Between October and December 2023, 598 calls were responded to. Of these calls, participants expressed concern about suicidal ideation four times and mentioned something about suicide or suicidal ideation during their call 18 times (Table 5).

Table 1. Suicide rates in Franklin County for 2022,2023 and 2024

Category	2024 Total So Far Freq./(%)	2023 Total So Far Freq./(%)	2022 Freq./(%)
#Deaths	1	24	17
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0.6	15.4	10.9
Sex			
M	1	20(83.3%)	10(58.8%)
F	0	3(12.5%)	7(41.2%)
Age			
Mean		46.7	52.5
Median		45.5	55
Range		17-78	26-79
Standard Deviation		16.1	18.3
Age category			
>18	0	1(4.2%)	0
18-23	0	1(4.2%)	0
24-35	0	4(16.7%)	4(23.5%)
36-47	0	6(25%)	4(23.5%)
48-59	1	6(25%)	3(17.6%)
60+	0	6(25%)	6(35.3%)
Race/Ethnicity			
White	1	23(95.8%)	16(94.1%)
Black	0	1(4.2%)	1(5.9%)
Hispanic	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Native American	0	0	0
Marital Status			
Married	0	7(29.2%)	7(41.2%)

Never Married/Single	0	8(33.3%)	3(17.6%)
Divorced	1	4(16.7%)	4(23.5%)
Widowed	0	1(4.2%)	1(5.9%)
Unknown	0	4(16.7%)	2(11.8%)
Veteran Status			
Yes	0	3(12.5%)	2(11.8%)
No	1	18(75%)	15(88.2%)
Unknown	0	3(12.5%)	
Method			
Gunshot Wound	1	10(41.7)	7(41.2%)
Asphyxia (Hanging)	0	7(29.2%)	4(23.5%)
Asphyxia(Helium Inhalation)	0	1(4.2%)	0
Self-Induced Overdose	0	4(16.7%)	3(17.6%)
Inhalation of superheated gases	0	0	1(5.9%)
Multiple Blunt Force Trauma	0	2(8.3%)	1(5.9%)
Exsanguination	0	0	1(5.9%)
Municipality Where Death Occurred			
Borough of Chambersburg	0	3(12.5%)	1(5.9%)
Crude Suicide Rate(# deaths/100,000 people)	0	13.4	4.5
Borough of Greencastle	0	1(4.2%)	1(5.9%)
Crude Suicide Rate(# deaths/100,000 people)	0	25	25.0
Borough of Shippensburg	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate(# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Borough of Waynesboro	0	2(8.3%)	1(5.9%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	18.3	9.2
Borough of Mercersburg	0	1(4.2%)	0.0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	67.2	0.0
Antrim Township	0	2(8.3%)	2(11.8%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	12.7	12.7
Fannett Township	0	1(4.2%)	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	40.3	0
Greene	0	2(8.3%)	1(5.9%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	5.4	5.4
Guildford	1	3(12.5%)	3(17.6%)

Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	6.8	20.3	20.3
Hamilton Township	0	1(4.2%)	3(17.6%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	8.8	26.4
Letterkenny Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Lurgan Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Metal Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Montgomery Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Peters Township	0	1(4.2%)	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	22.7	0
Quincy Township	0	1(4.2%)	2(11.8%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	18.1	36.2
St. Thomas Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Southampton Township	0	0	1(5.9%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	11.8
Warren Township	0	0	0
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	0	0
Washington Township	0	6(25%)	2(11.8%)
Crude Suicide Rate (# deaths/100,000 people)	0	41.1	13.7

Note: Mean(m)=average. S.D.=standard deviation, a measure of the dispersion or variation in a distribution or set of data. 2023 data comprise the deaths reported on January 8, 2024 (more death determinations may be “pending” awaiting the completion of the Coroner’s investigations). Deaths and demographic data are reported as received from the Franklin County Office of the Coroner. Suicide rates were calculated using the 2021 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quick Facts website (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>). Freq.=frequency, or the number of occurrences. Pct.= percent of the total for the calendar year.

Table 2. Mental Health Calls in 2023, as reported by Franklin County Emergency Services

Mental Health Statistics	Quarter 1 2023	Quarter 2 2023	Quarter 3 2023	Quarter 4 2023	2023 total
Mental Distress (Psychiatric) / Suicide Attempt	237	241	186	164	828
Overdose / Non-fatal	59	72	50	65	246
Suicide / Cutting	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide / Drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide / Gun	2	0	1	2	5
Suicide / Hanging	2	0	2	0	4
Safe2SaySomething incidents	8	3	7	4	22
Totals	308	316	246	235	1105

Table 3. Number of contacts Keystone Health Crisis Intervention Services made in 2023-2024 by age range.

Age Range	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24
Anonymous	29	40	42	29	38	51
Ages<6	0	0	0	2	1	1
Ages 6-13	19	30	38	23	22	20
Ages 14-17	37	29	35	36	35	37
Ages 18-59	239	175	196	185	187	230
Ages 60+	49	43	87	97	103	183
Total	373	317	398	372	386	522

Table 4. Several contacts from Keystone Crisis Services claimed to be suicidal in 2023-2024.

Suicidal	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24
Anonymous	29	40	42	29	38	8
Ages<6	0	0	0	2	1	0
Ages 6-13	19	30	38	23	22	3
Ages 14-17	37	29	35	36	35	12
Ages 18-59	239	175	196	185	187	53
Ages 60+	49	43	87	97	103	8
Total	373	317	398	372	386	84

Table 5. Calls made to Helpline in 2023

Call Log question	Number of cases Jan-Mar 2023	Number of cases Apr-Jun 2023	Number of cases Jul -Sep 2023	Number of cases Oct-Dec 2023
Affect at the beginning of call (Suicidal ideation)	1	1	0	4
Participant's concern (Survivor of Suicide)	1	1	0	0
Participant's concern (Suicidal Ideation)	1	4	1	4
Made a referral to crisis	0	0	0	2
SAFE-T assessment done	1	1	1	3
Transferred to crisis	0	0	0	1
Affect at the end of call (Suicidal ideation)	0	1	0	2
Talked about suicide during call	15	18	5	18
Total cases	654	513	506	598

References

Franklin County Department of Emergency Services (2023).[2023 Mental Health Statistics].

Unpublished raw data.

Franklin County Office of the Coroner (2022). [Suicides Decedent Report]. Unpublished raw data.

Franklin County Office of the Coroner (2023). [Suicides Decedent Report]. Unpublished raw data.

Franklin County Office of the Coroner (2024). [Suicides Decedent Report]. Unpublished raw data.

Mental Health Association of Franklin & Fulton Counties (2023). Unpublished raw data.

Keystone Health (2023). [Crisis Intervention Statistics]. Unpublished raw data.

Keystone Health (2024). [Crisis Intervention Statistics]. Unpublished raw data.

United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Franklin County, Pennsylvania*. Explore census data. Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=05000000US42055>

White House (2020). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak/>

Suggested citation for this update is:

Mental Health Association of Franklin & Fulton Counties. (2023). *Monthly Data Update Post-Pandemic January 22, 2024- February 26, 2024*. Chambersburg, PA.