

Fulton County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Bi-monthly Data Update: January 18, 2024



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Bi-monthly Data Update

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 bi-monthly release of a comprehensive data report focusing on suicide and crisis trends, specifically within Fulton 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 Fulton County

There have been two suicide deaths in 2023. Using the 2020 census population of 14,556 a crude suicide rate of 13.7 deaths/ 100,000 people was calculated (Table 1). Compared to 2022, where there were five suicide deaths with a crude rate of 34.4 deaths/100,000 people.

From the Fulton County Office of the Coroner

Fulton County has had two suicide deaths so far this year, both due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound (Table 1). Both of these deaths fell into the 24-47 age range, and neither had veteran status. Fulton County averages two suicide deaths per a year, with last year's five suicide deaths being an outlier in the trend.

Fulton County Department of Emergency Services

Fulton County Department of Emergency Services does not have a specific category in its system for suicidal ideation. Instead, it just categorizes under the more enormous scope of psychiatric emergencies. In November there were two psychiatric emergencies reported, while December had one (Table 2). The highest number of psychiatric emergencies reported in any given month for this year was four in June, July, and October (Table 2).

TrueNorth Wellness Services

TrueNorth Wellness provided services to six people in November and 11 in December (Table 3). In November, two of the people served were under 18, while four of those in December were under 18 (Table 3). In November, there were three cases of someone reporting suicidal ideation, while December had four (Table 4). In both November and December, two of the reports of suicidal ideation come from someone under 18 (Table 3).

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 Fulton County 2022 & 2023.

Category	2023 so far	2022
# deaths	2	5
Crude Suicide Rate (#deaths/100,000 people)	13.7	34.4
Sex		
Male	1	4
Female	1	1
Age		
Mean		53.2
Median		58
Range		36-74
Standard Dev.		15.7
Method		
Self-inflicted gunshot wound	2	5
Veteran Status		
Non-Veteran	2	4
Veteran	0	1

Table 2. Fulton EMS calls labeled as a psychiatric emergency.

Month	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	2023 Total
Number of incidences	4	2	1	4	2	1	25

Table 3. Services Provided by TrueNorth Wellness Services by Age Group

Age Range Name	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	2023 Total
Anonymous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages <6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ages 06-13	2	1	1	6	0	2	21
Ages 14-17	2	0	0	2	2	2	23
Ages 18 -59	6	8	2	4	4	5	69
Ages 60+	0	0	0	0	0	2	12
Total:	10	9	3	12	6	11	128

Table 4. Individuals who reported suicidal ideation as a presenting problem at TrueNorth Wellness.

Suicidal	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	2023 Total
Anonymous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages <6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages 6-13	0	0	1	3	0	0	5
Ages 14-17	0	0	0	1	2	2	15
Ages 18-59	1	5	2	4	1	2	30
Ages 60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total:	1	5	3	8	3	4	53

Table 5. Mental Health Association Helpline Calls during 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 the call (Suicidal ideation)	1	1	0	4
Participants concern (Survivor of Suicide)	1	1	0	0
Participants 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 end of the call (Suicidal ideation)	0	1	0	2
Talked about suicide during the call	15	18	5	18
Number of calls from Fulton	107	97	94	97
Total cases	654	513	506	598

References

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