

*Fulton County Suicide Prevention Coalition*

*Bi-monthly Data Update: May  
16, 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 is currently one reported suicide death in Fulton County for 2024 making for a crude suicide rate of 6.9 deaths/100,000 people based on the 2023 population estimate by the United States Census Bureau. In 2023, there were two suicide deaths and a crude suicide rate of 13.7 deaths/ 100,000 people (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 one suicide death so far in 2024. This death was a young male who did not have veteran status (Table 1.) Like prior years a self-inflicted gunshot wound was the method utilized. Fulton County averages two suicide deaths a year with 2022 being an outlier having had five suicide deaths.

### *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. January and February of 2024 both had two recorded psychiatric emergencies while March had one. (Table 2).

### *TrueNorth Wellness Services*

TrueNorth Wellness provided services to 16 people in March and 15 in April (Table 3). In March, three people served were under 18, while two of those in April were under 18 (Table 3). In March, there were nine cases of someone reporting suicidal ideation, two of whom were under the age of 18 (Table 4). April had ten cases of someone reporting suicidal ideation, with one being under 18. April of 2024 has had the highest number of cases of suicidal ideation in the past 16 months.

### *Mental Health Association Helpline*

While answering Helpline calls, call specialists record several questions to document what was discussed during the call. Between January and March 2024, 555 calls were responded to. Of these calls, participants expressed concern about suicidal ideation six times and

mentioned something about suicide or suicidal ideation during their call 20 times (Table 5). Of calls received during this time, 16.4% were from Fulton County.

Table 1. Suicide Rates in Fulton County 2022 & 2023.

Category	2024 so far	2023	2022
# deaths	1	2	5
Crude Suicide Rate (#deaths/100,000 people)	6.9	13.7	34.4
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	1	1	4
Female	0	1	1
<b>Age</b>			
Mean			53.2
Median			58
Range			36-74
Standard Dev.			15.7
<b>Method</b>			
Self-inflicted gunshot wound	1	2	5
<b>Veteran Status</b>			
Non-Veteran	1	2	4
Veteran	0	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	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	2024 total so far
Anonymous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages <6	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ages 06-13	2	0	4	1	0	5
Ages 14-17	2	2	1	2	2	7
Ages 18 -59	5	6	3	11	12	32
Ages 60+	2	1	0	3	1	5
Total:	11	9	10	16	15	50

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

Suicidal	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	2024 so far
Anonymous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages <6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ages 6-13	3	0	0	3	3	1	0	7
Ages 14-17	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	5
Ages 18-59	4	1	2	0	1	7	9	17
Ages 60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	8	3	4	4	6	9	10	29

**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 the 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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