

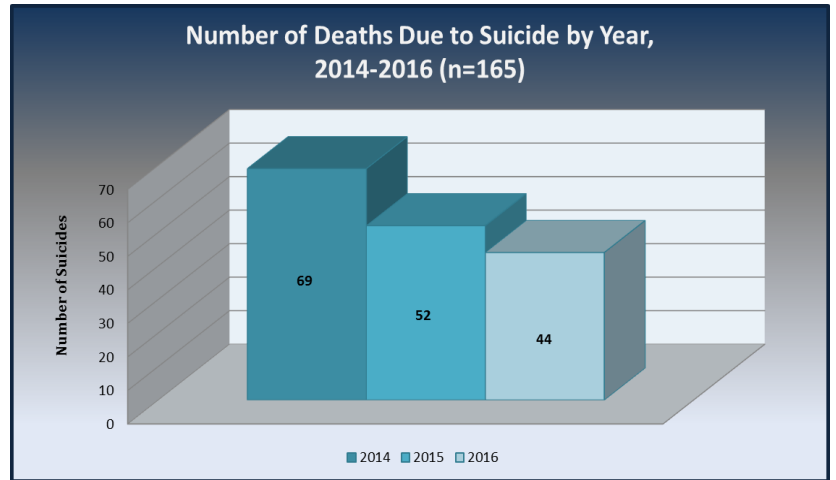


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
 401 E Street, SW – 6th Floor
 Washington, DC 20024

Deaths Due to Suicide: 2014-2016

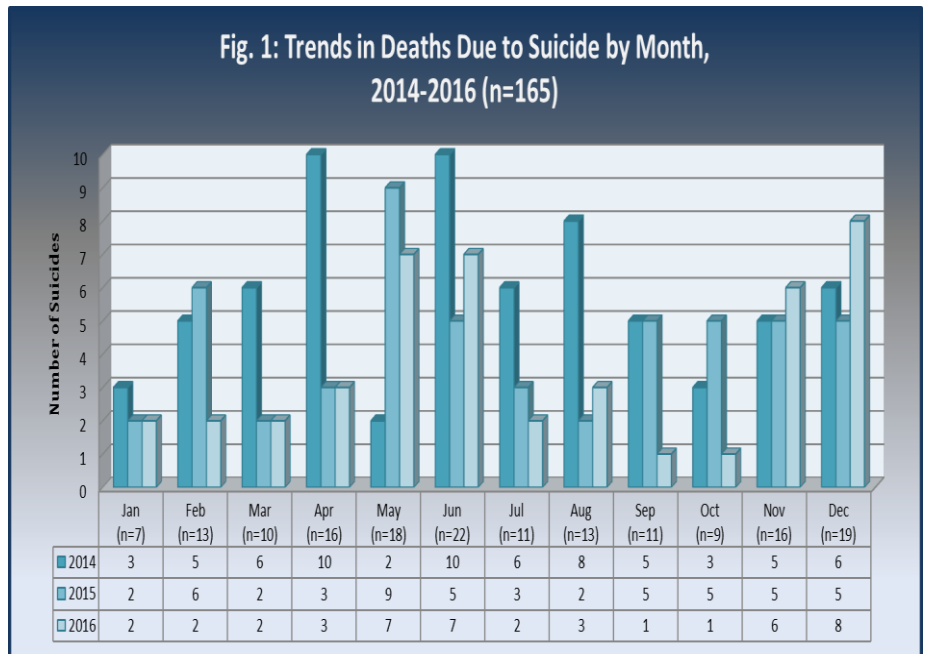
Report Date: November 21, 2017

The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) investigated a total of **165** deaths due to suicide from 2014 to 2016, with **69** deaths in Calendar Year (CY) 2014, **52** in CY 2015 and **44** deaths in CY 2016 respectively. This report reveals that, from 2014 to 2016, suicides were more prevalent in White males and in persons between the ages of 20 and 29. The top three causes of death were (1) hanging, (2) firearms and (3) intoxication. Suicide victims who were White made up over half the overall data at **53%**. In addition, suicides were most prevalent in the month of June followed by December. Tables and graphs below present decedent information by trends, demographics and jurisdiction of residence.



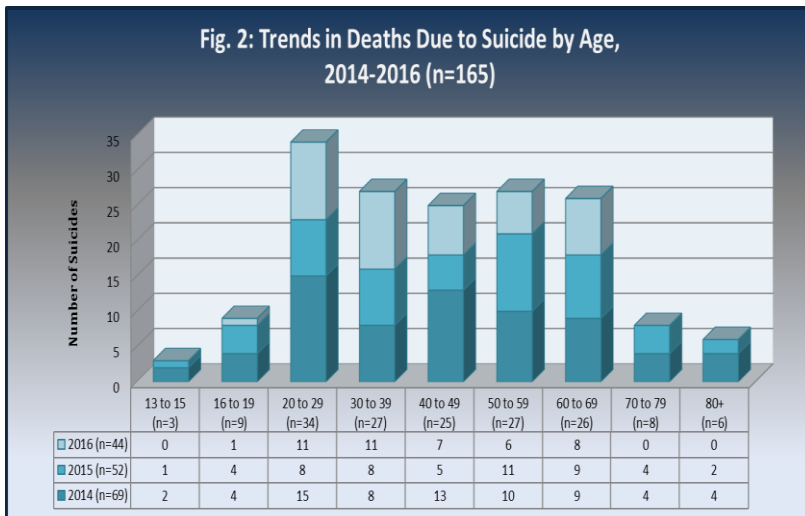
Trends in Suicide: Month

Figure 1 provides a comparison of 2014 - 2016 suicide incidents per month. There were more suicides in CY 2014 than in any other year. Additionally, there were more suicides in the months of April and June in CY2014 than any other month in the following years. Collectively, the months with the highest number of incidents were (1) June (n=22), (2) December (n=19) and (3) May (n=18). Overall, there was a **15%** decrease in suicides from 2014 (n=69) to 2016 (n=44).

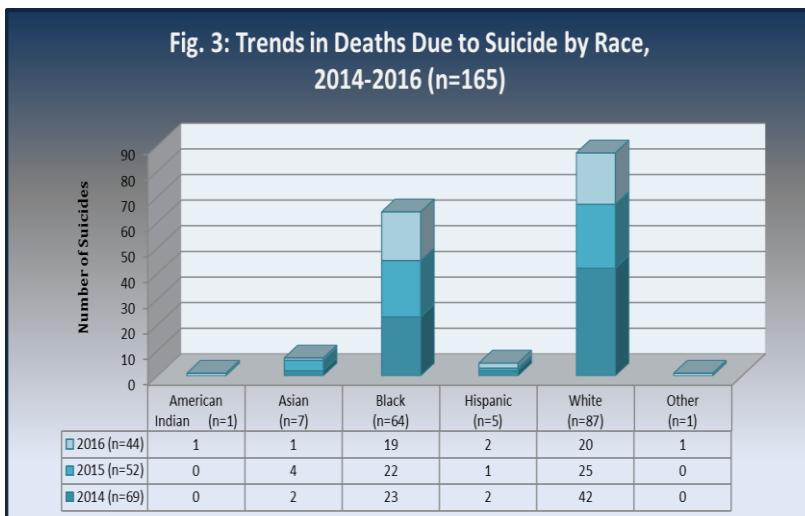


Trends in Suicide: Demographics

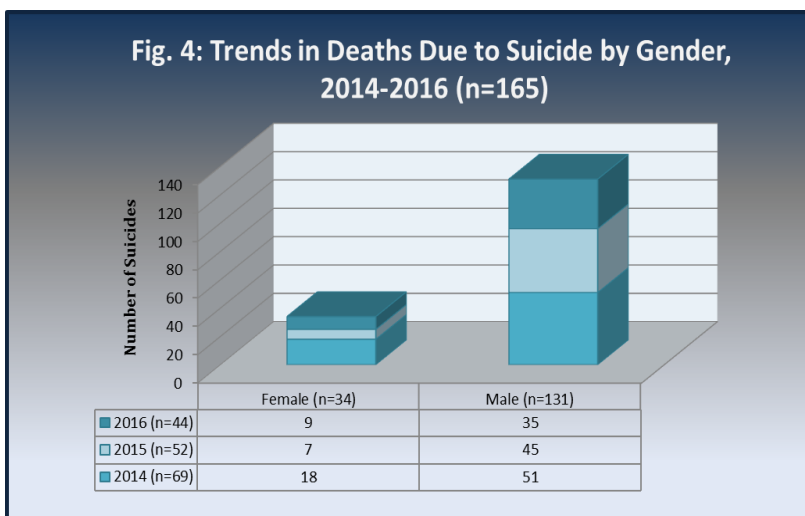
The following graphs, Figure 2 (Age), Figure 3 (Race) and Figure 4 (Gender) expound on the demographic trends of the suicide victims.



Age: Approximately **84%** of all suicides happen among adults between the ages of 20-69 years old, with the suicides being most prevalence among the 20 to 29 age group (n=21%). The youngest victim on record was 13 years old, while the oldest was 94 years old.



Race/Ethnicity: Overall, **53%** of all deaths due to suicide were among the Whites, while suicides among Blacks were consistently **39%**.



Gender: Overall, suicides were more common among males.



Trends in Suicide: Jurisdiction and Ward

Of the 165 suicides observed at OCME from 2014-2016, **120 (73%)** of the decedents were residents of the District of Columbia. Overall, suicides were most prevalent in Wards 2 (n=20) and 6 (n=26). There are variations across the years, but suicides were most prevalent among decedents of Ward 6 in every year except 2016.

Fig. 5: Trends in Deaths Due to Suicide by Jurisdiction, 2014-2016 (n=165)

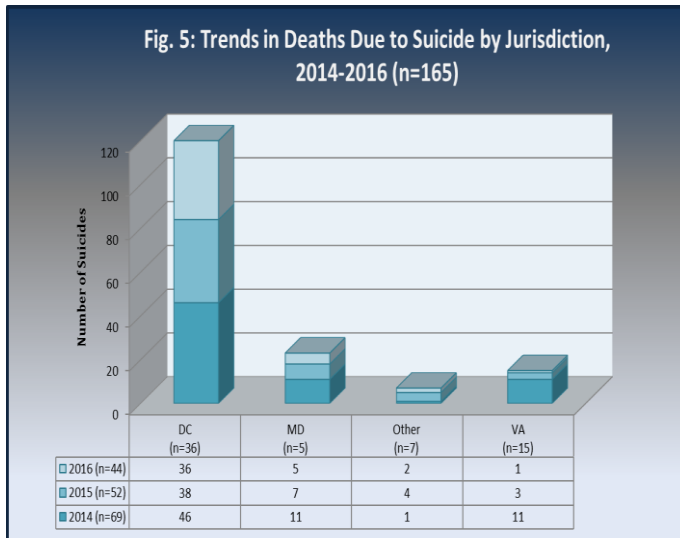
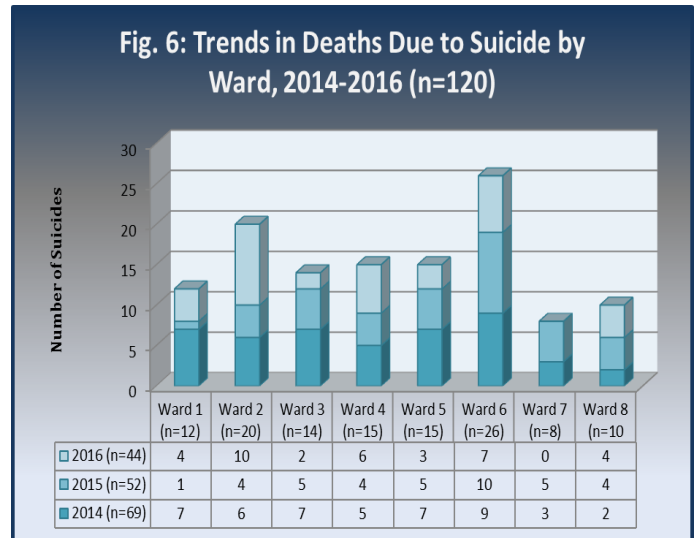


Fig. 6: Trends in Deaths Due to Suicide by Ward, 2014-2016 (n=120)



Trends in Suicide: Cause of Death

The graph below shows the causes of death for suicides between the years 2014 to 2016. The most prevalent cause of death was hanging (27%) followed by firearms (23%) across all years.

Important to note, intoxications were the second most commonly used method of suicide in 2016.

Trends in Deaths Due to Suicide by Cause of Death, 2014-2016 (n=165)

