



Wood County Suicide Deaths

March 2024

Summary

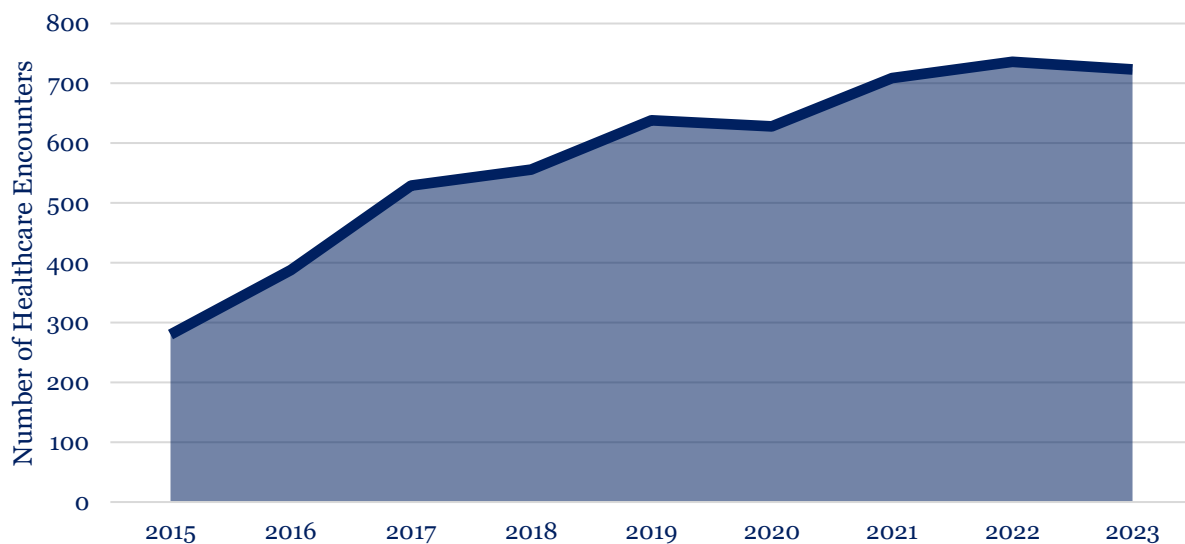
Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in Wood County and is responsible for an average of 16 deaths per year. When individual race incidence is considered, non-white individuals have a disproportionate rate of suicide and suicidal ideation. Men account for over 70% of suicide deaths in Wood County. The main method of suicide is gunshot.

Suicide death data included in this report is based off of county of residence. Reports provided by Wood County Vital Stats include suicides based on county of death.

- Based on Wood County Community Health Assessment data in 2021:
 - 12% of adults reported feeling sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in a row, 3% contemplated suicide and 3% attempted suicide.
 - 10% of adults who looked for a mental health program could not find one.
 - 3% of adults didn't get care because of long delays to get an appointment

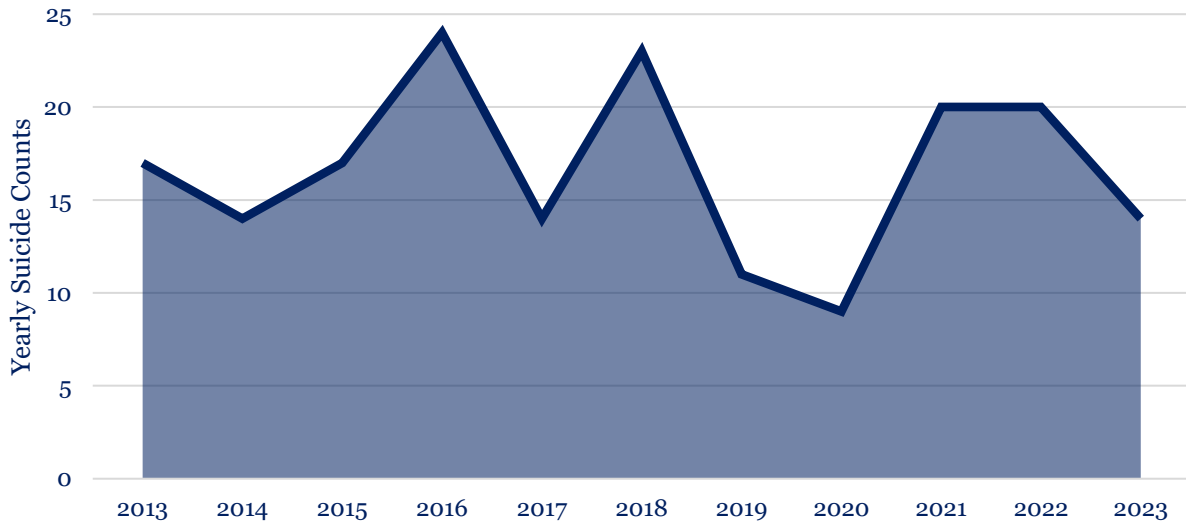
What's the Current Trend?

Wood County's suicidal ideation encounters have increased drastically since 2015



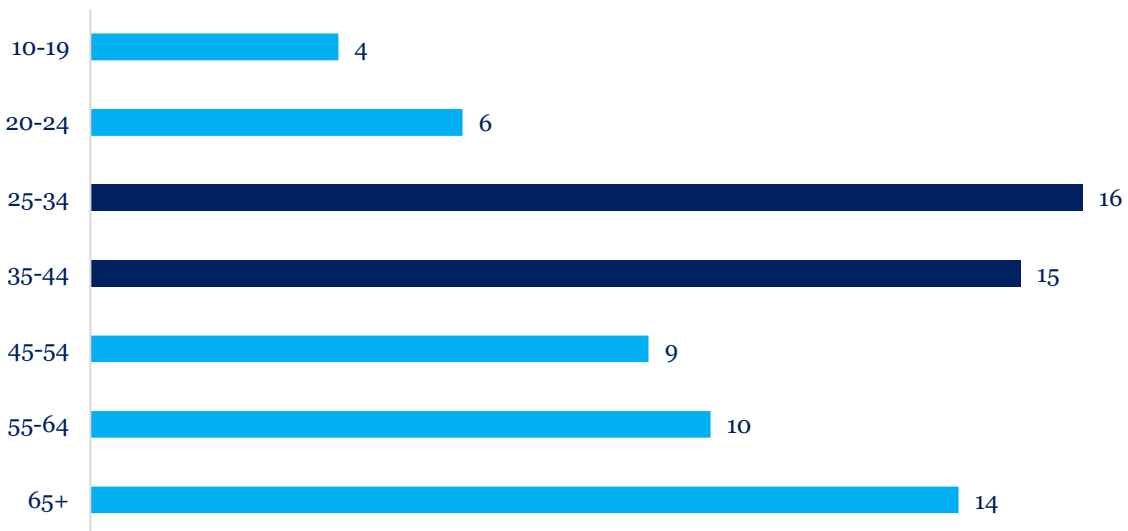


Wood County suicide deaths have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic



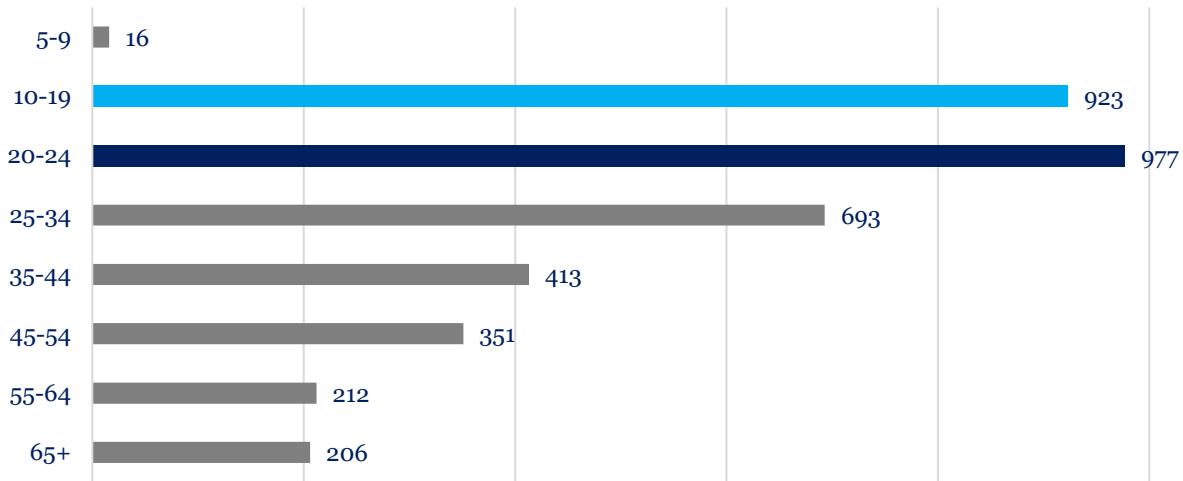
Who is impacted?

Early and middle aged adults report the highest numbers of suicides (2019-2023)



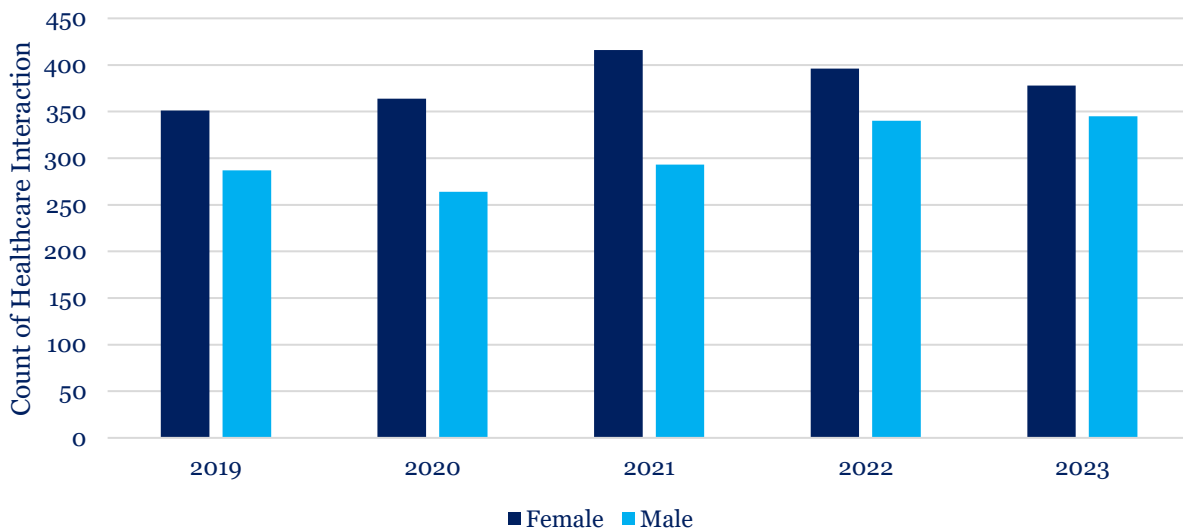


Individuals 20-24 are the most identified age group for suicide ideation followed closely by those 10-19 (2019-2023)



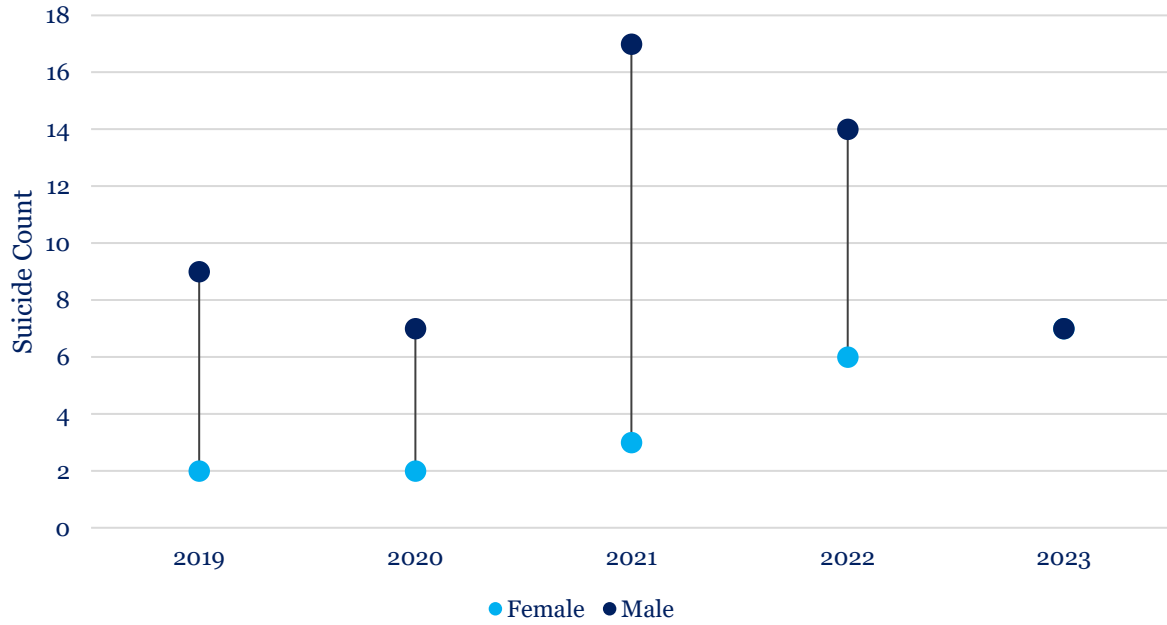
*The 10-19 age group has minimal difference compared to 20-24. 10-19 was the top age group in 2022.

Females make up 55% of suicide ideation healthcare visits in Wood County



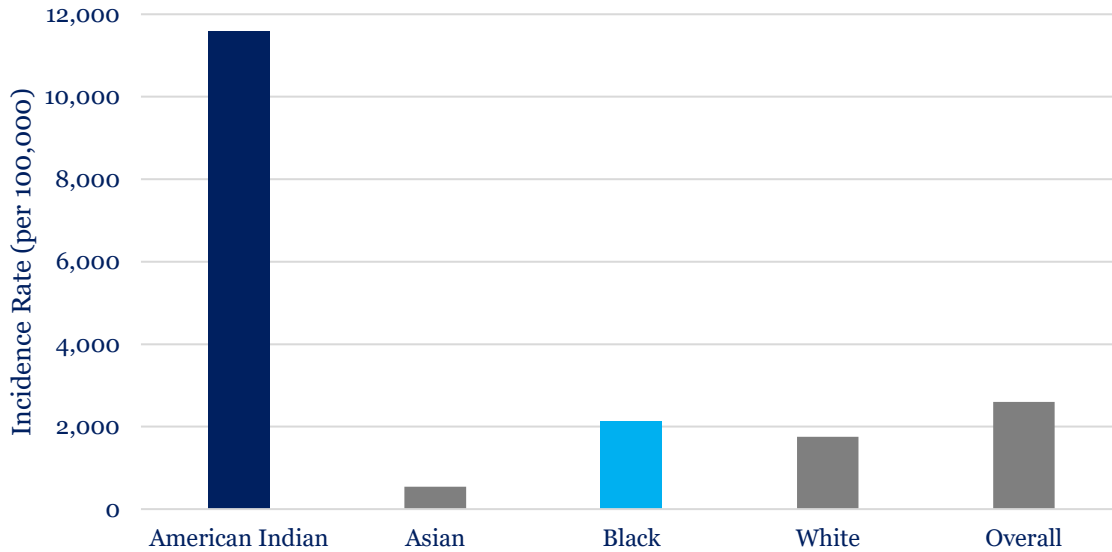


Since 2019, males account for 73% of suicides in Wood County.
Suicides were equal in 2023.

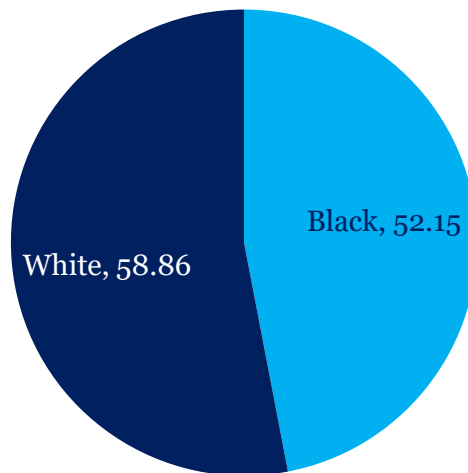




American Indian and Black individuals were most at risk for a suicidal ideation healthcare encounters (2015-2023)

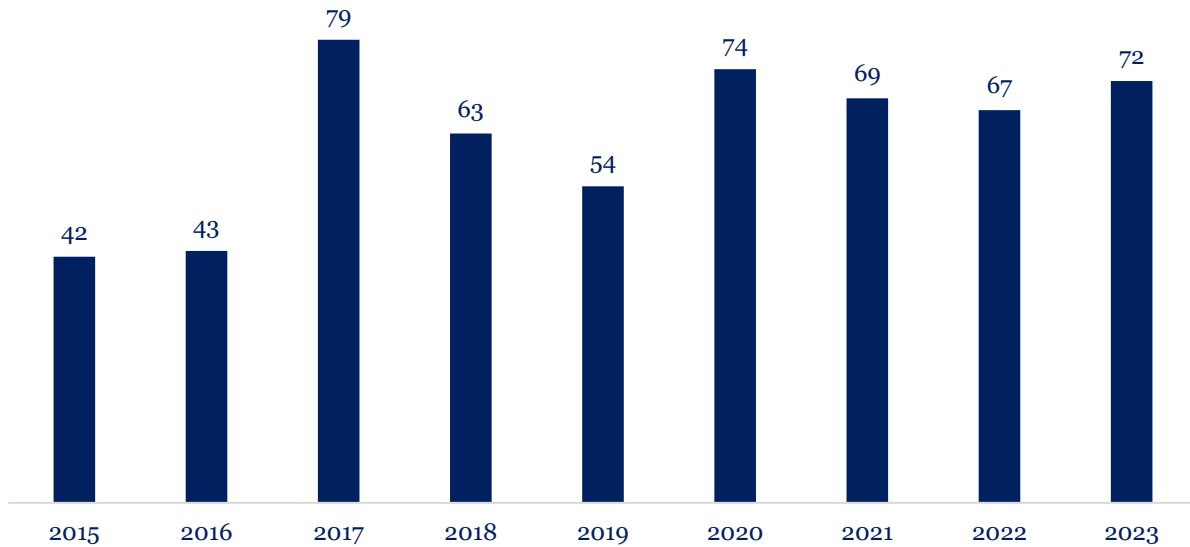


Since 2019, Black and White suicide rates are similar. Black and white were the only reported race for suicide deaths during this time (2019-2023)

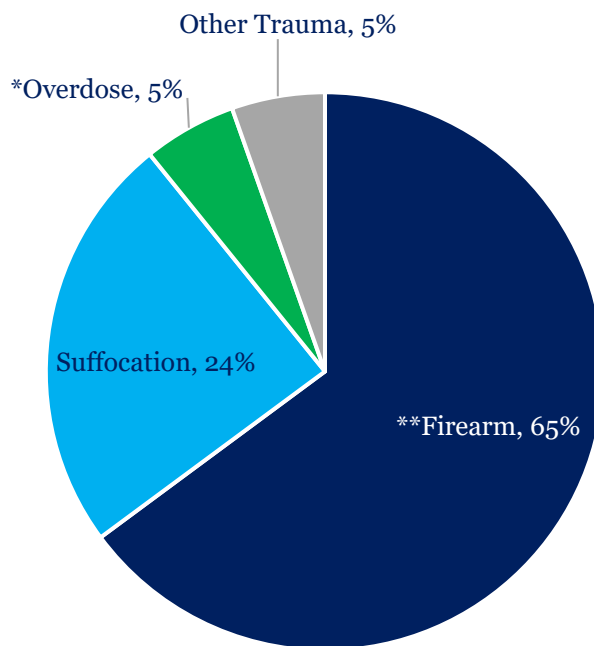




Drug related suicidal ideation encounters have increased since 2015



From 2019-2023, Wood County suicides are most often committed by gunshot



*Overdoses include anxiety medication, opioids and insulin. All were females.

**80% of firearm deaths are males



Prevention and Treatment

Suicide prevention is complex and requires a comprehensive approach. Some evidence-based methods of prevention include:

- Mental health education to understand and identify the signs of distress
 - Question Persuade and Refer (QPR)
- Access to mental health care by reducing barriers like cost, cultural sensitivity, and staff capacity
 - Wood County Health Center behavioral health no longer requires individuals to become patients for services
 - Actively seeking to hire a psychiatrist
- Means restriction by limiting access to lethal means such as firearms and medications
 - Wood County Health Center safety planning is done during behavioral health visits
- Community-based intervention programs and support networks
 - Harbor Connection Center is a local drop-in center open to adults 18 years or older living in Wood County
- Follow-up and aftercare for individuals who survive a suicide attempt
 - Immediate Wood County Health Center behavioral health consult and scheduling

Resources:

- Unison Crisis Stabilization Unit: 419-352-4624
- Suicide Prevention Hotline: text 4HOPE to 741741
- National Suicide Hotline: 988
- Wood County Crisis Line: 419-502-4673 (HOPE)
- Children's Resource Center (18 and younger): 419-352-7588
- Veteran's Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 or text 838255
- The Trevor Project (LGBTQ): text START to 678678
- Harbor Connection Center: 419-354-4200
- [Wood County Suicide Prevention Coalition](#)

Sources:

- Suicide ideation data: EpiCenter syndromic surveillance system
- Suicide death data: Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics Secure Mortality Module



Wood County Health Department
**Health Promotion &
Preparedness**

- Mental health data classifiers:
 - [Wood County Community Health Assessment 2021](#)
 - [Datacommons.org](#)