



Epi Monthly

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Public Health LOOK OUT!

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

- Join in observing **National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month in November!** Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive brain disorder that impacts memory, thinking and language skills, and the ability to carry out simple tasks. More than 6.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia. The mission of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) is to provide support, services, and education to those affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Visit alzfdn.org to learn more!
- **World Diabetes Day (WDD)** is observed on November 14th! WDD was created in 1991 in response to rising concerns about the health threat posed by diabetes. The goal of World Diabetes Day is to promote the importance of taking strategic actions to confront diabetes as a critical global health issue. For more information visit worlddiabetesday.org!
- **World Pneumonia Day** is observed on November 12th. Pneumonia, an infection of the lungs, can cause mild to severe illness in people of all ages. The goal of the Every Breath Counts Coalition is to reduce the number of deaths from pneumonia in children and adults by closing the gaps in pneumonia prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Visit stopppneumonia.org to learn more!

For the most recent information on COVID-19 in Florida please visit: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

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Click the image to the left to watch the video.

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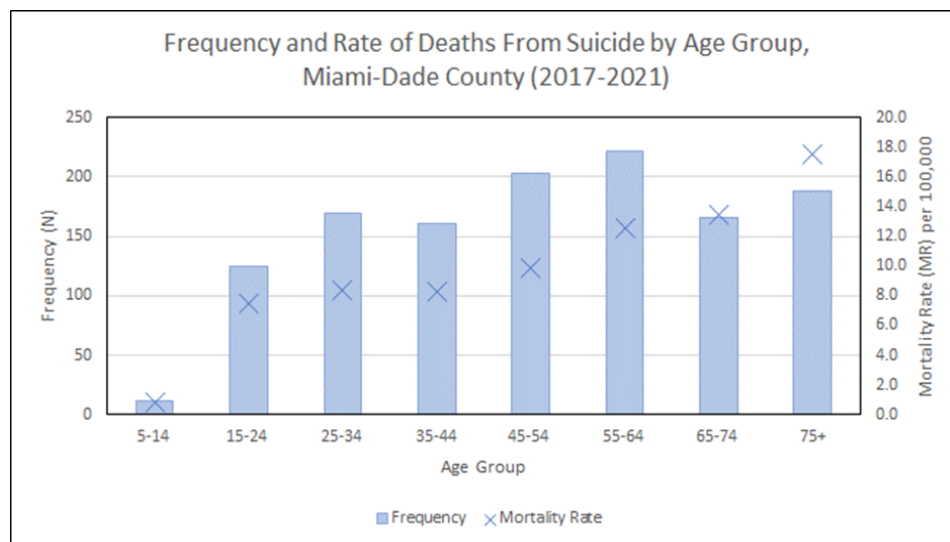


By: Kelsey Bricker, MPH

Background

Compared to counties across the state of Florida, Miami-Dade County has the lowest rate of deaths from suicide.¹ Although suicide deaths remain low, suicide and suicide attempts are a major public health concern that impacts the health and well-being of friends, loved ones, co-workers, and the community.² In Miami-Dade County from 2017-2021, persons 75 years and older had a higher rate of deaths from suicide compared to other age groups (Figure 1). The purpose of this analysis is to explore the demographic characteristics in Miami-Dade County that have a high rate of deaths from suicide within this age group from 2017-2021.

Figure 1. Frequency and Rate of Deaths From Suicide by Age Group, Miami-Dade County (2017-2021)



Methods

Death certificate data between 2017-2021 was analyzed to explore suicide-related deaths for ages 75 years and older in Miami-Dade County. Suicides were identified using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes: X60-X84, Y87. Mortality rate was calculated per 100,000 population using population estimates from Florida Health Charts. The statistical analysis was conducted using SAS 9.4.

Figure 2. Frequency and Rate of Deaths From Suicide by Year, Miami-Dade County (Ages 75+)

Results

Time series

From 2017-2021, there were a total of 188 deaths due to suicide among elderly adults 75 and older. The rate of deaths from suicide decreased from 21.5 in 2017 to 12.6 in 2020 but increased to 17.6 in 2021 (Figure 2).

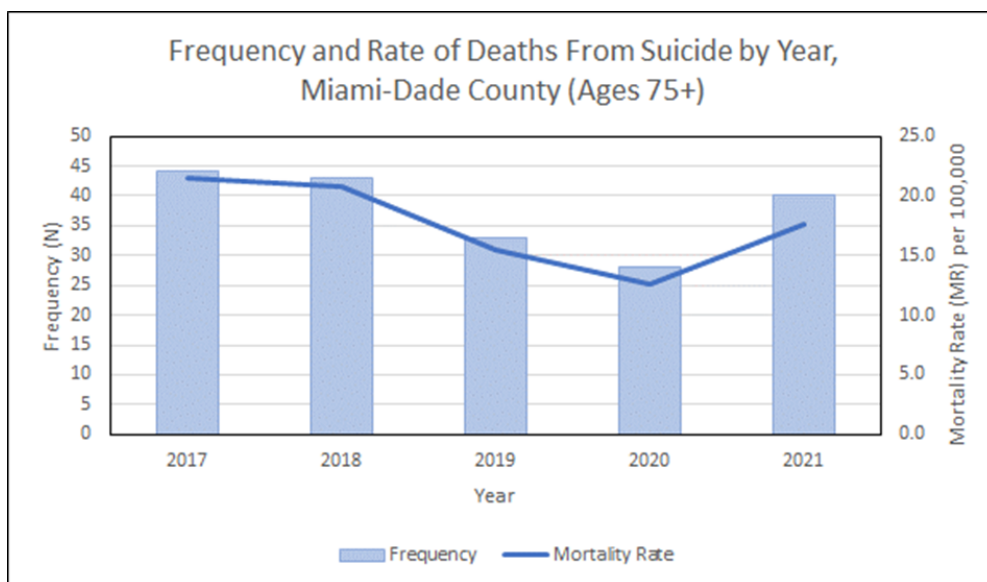


Figure 3. Frequency and Rate of Deaths From Suicide by Gender, Miami-Dade County (Ages 75+)

Gender

From 2017-2021, men had a higher frequency and mortality rate per 100,000 population from suicide compared to women (Figure 3). For men, the rate of suicide decreased from 50.7 in 2017 to 26.6 in 2020 but increased to 40.9 in 2021. While men had a decreased rate of suicide in 2020, women had an increased rate.

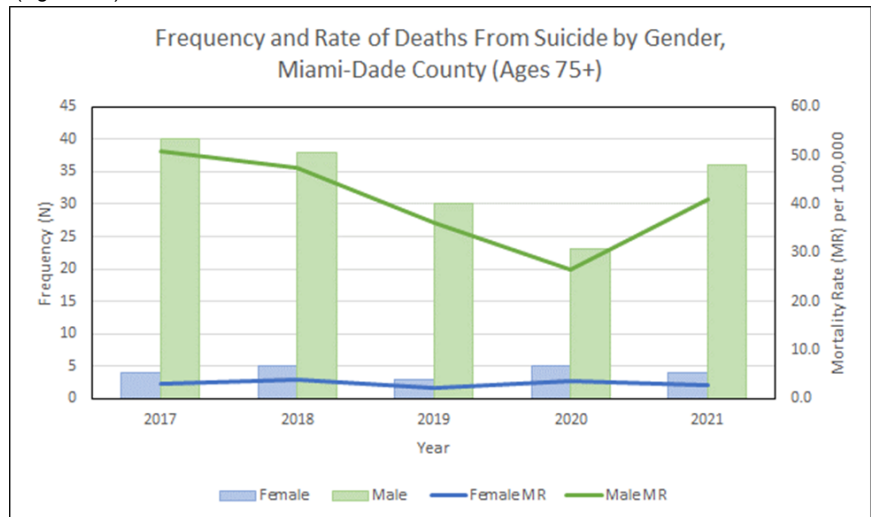


Figure 4. Frequency and rate of Deaths From Suicide by Race/Ethnicity, Miami-Dade County (Ages 75+)

Race and Ethnicity

The Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White populations had a higher rate of suicides between 2017 and 2021 (Figure 4). The frequency of suicides and mortality rate per 100,000 was lowest in 2020. The mortality rate from suicide was 18.4 for Non-Hispanic Whites, 0.0 for Non-Hispanic Blacks, and 12.9 for the Hispanic population. In 2021 these rates increased to 27.3 for Non-Hispanic Whites, 4.2 for Non-Hispanic Blacks and 16.9 for Hispanics (Figure 4).

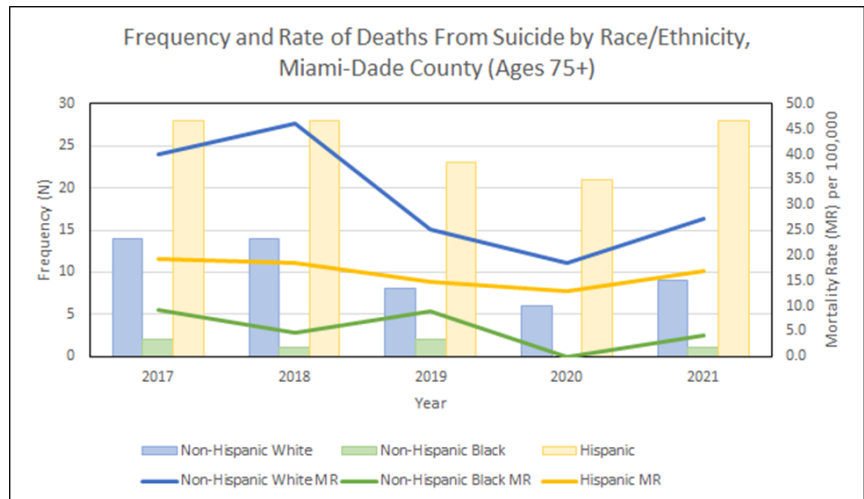
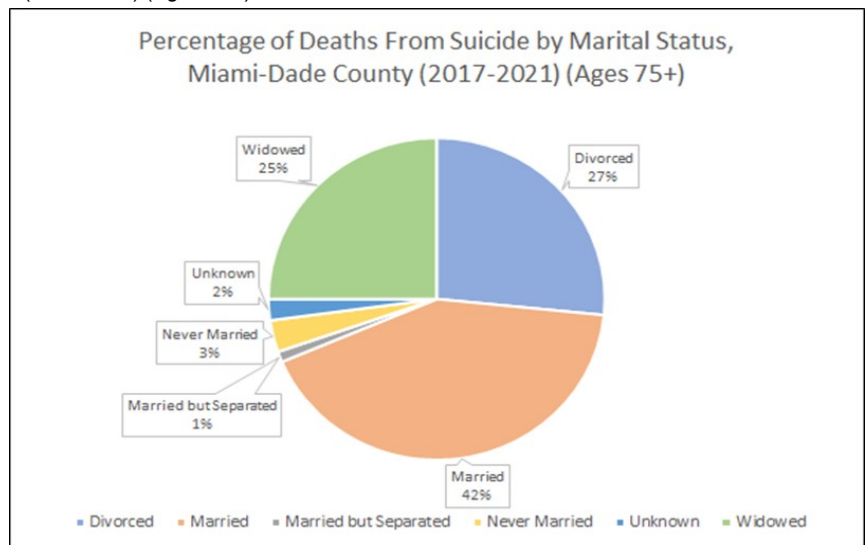


Figure 5. Percentage of Deaths From Suicide by Marital Status, Miami-Dade County (2017-2021) (Ages 75+)

Education Level and Marital Status

Among all suicide deaths, adults who graduated high school or obtained a Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) had the highest percentage of deaths from suicide (30%). Next, those who have an eighth-grade education or less accounted for 28% of all suicides. These results indicate that those with a lower education account for a higher proportion of suicides in Miami-Dade County among adults 75 years and older. When exploring marital status among all suicide deaths for ages 75 years and older, 52% were widowed or divorced and 42% were married (Figure 5).



Discussion

Findings from this data analysis indicate that among all age groups, ages 75 years and older have a higher rate of deaths from suicide in Miami-Dade County between 2017 and 2021. Suicidal intent in older adults include loneliness, grief over lost loved ones, loss of self-sufficiency, chronic illness and pain, cognitive impairment, and financial troubles.³ Next, within this age group, men and Non-Hispanic Whites have a higher rate of suicides. These results are similar to national data trends that were explored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).⁴ In addition, the current analysis found those who are widowed or divorced accounted for a higher percentage of suicide deaths. Prior studies have found that higher rates of marriage are associated with lower suicide mortality because of increased social support and integration.⁵ When exploring socioeconomic backgrounds, measured by educational attainment, those with a lower education were more likely to die by suicide. This evidence supports results from a previous study which found that those with a lower education are more likely to experience financial instability, which is known to affect mental health.⁶ More investigation is needed to explore additional demographic, psychological, social, and economic factors that contribute to suicide rates in Miami-Dade County.

Risk Factors, Signs, and Prevention

Individual and relationship risk factors that increase suicide include history of depression or other mental illness, chronic pain, financial problems, substance use, bullying, loss of relationships, and social isolation.⁷ Community and societal factors such as lack of access to healthcare, stress of acculturation, community violence, discrimination, and stigma can contribute to risk of suicide.⁷ When risk factors are present, warning signs include talking about being a burden, increased anxiety, increased anger, extreme mood swings, expressing hopelessness, talking about wanting to die, and making plans for suicide.⁷ Public health approaches that prevent suicide include stabilize housing, decrease substance use and access to lethal means, and improve access to mental health services.⁸

Need help? Know someone who does?

Contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline if you are experiencing mental health-related distress or are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

- Call or text 988
- Chat at 988lifeline.org

Connect with a trained crisis counselor. 988 is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365. Visit the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for more information at 988lifeline.org.

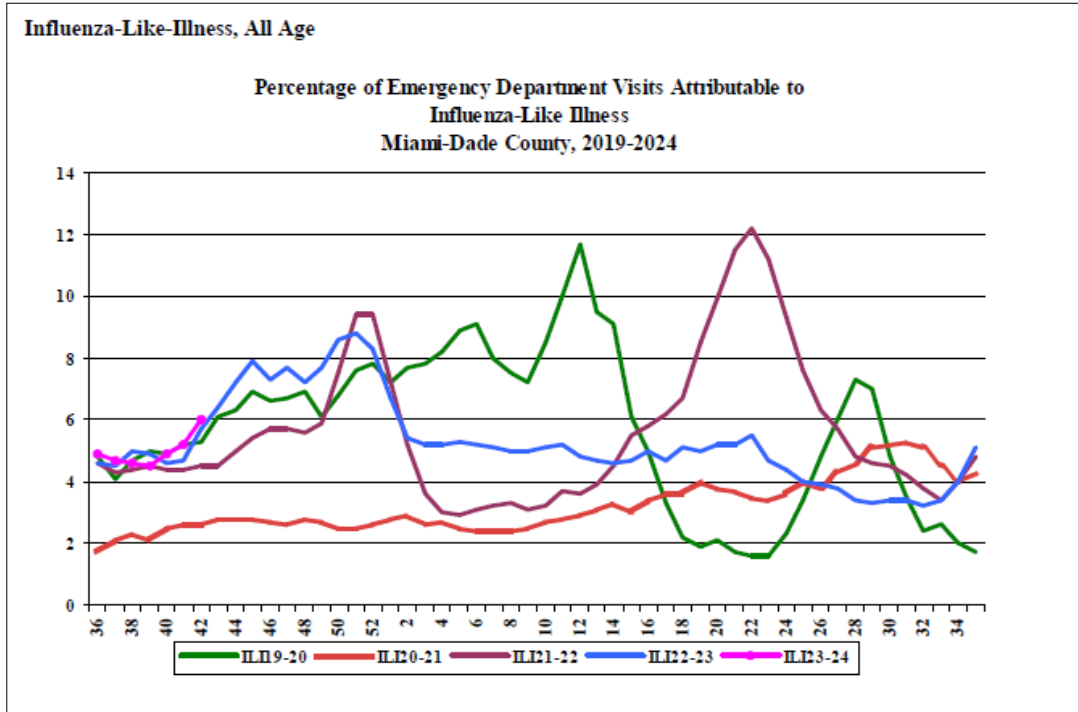
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Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

On a daily basis, all of Miami-Dade County's emergency department (ED) hospitals electronically transmit ED data to the Florida Department of Health. This data is then categorized into 11 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of "flu" or "ILI". This season's 2023-2024 data is compared to the previous 4 influenza seasons (2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023).



There were 38,268 ED visits; among them 2,292 (6.0%) were due to ILI. During the same week last year, 5.7% of ED visits were ILI.

PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact
Stephanie Ramirez at 305-470-5660.



Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions September 2023

Diseases/Conditions	2023 Current Month	2023 Year to Date	2022 Year to Date	2021 Year to Date
HIV/AIDS				
AIDS*	35	303	312	310
HIV	123	1102	1372	990
STD				
Infectious Syphilis*	66	160	512	464
Chlamydia*	1342	12132	10754	10692
Gonorrhea*	685	5411	4756	4663
TB				
Tuberculosis**	18	117	101	73
Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services				
Epidemiology				
Campylobacteriosis	67	599	500	406
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0
Ciguatera Poisoning	6	20	6	13
Cryptosporidiosis	15	82	59	37
Cyclosporiasis	0	32	68	19
Dengue Fever	77	250	383	1
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	27	203	151	91
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis, Acute	23	229	209	84
Influenza, Pediatric Death	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	3	32	30	45
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	1
Listeriosis	1	4	5	9
Lyme disease	0	13	9	4
Malaria	0	6	1	5
Meningitis (except aseptic)	0	6	7	10
Meningococcal Disease	0	1	8	3
Salmonella serotype Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	4	5	0	1
Salmonellosis	145	1025	958	772
Shigellosis	24	208	126	50
S. Pneumoniae, invasive disease	6	74	65	40
Vibriosis	5	32	26	16
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	1
Immunization Preventable Diseases				
Measles	1	1	0	0
Mumps	0	0	5	3
Pertussis	3	6	4	0
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Varicella	4	29	23	12
Hepatitis				
Hepatitis A	1	17	24	5
Hepatitis B (Acute)	1	61	74	27
Healthy Homes				
Lead Poisoning	54	362	285	81

*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

** Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

Data on EDC-IS includes Confirmed and Probable cases.

For more information access: [The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Reportable Disease Handbook](#)



What's New at DOH-Miami-Dade!

- The Florida Department of Health's **Child Care Food Program (CCFP)** is a federally funded program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). CCFP reimburses child care providers and ensures that meals and snacks meet or exceed federal and state nutrition standards. For more information visit www.FloridaHealth.gov/CCFP
- **Hurricane season** is from June 1 to November 30. It is important that all Miami-Dade County residents plan ahead! Emergency supplies should be fully stocked by June 1. For more information visit miamidade.gov!
- DOH Miami-Dade offers COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine boosters, pediatric vaccines, and flu shots. Visit miamidade.floridahealth.gov for clinic locations and appointments!

To report disease and for information,
call EDC-IS at:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	305-470-6877
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance	305-470-5660
Hepatitis Program	305-470-5536
HIV/AIDS Program	305-470-6999
Immunization Services	305-470-5660
STD Program	305-575-5430
Tuberculosis Program	305-575-5415
Appointment Line	786-845-0550



About the Epi Monthly

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Katerina Lopez at (305) 470-5649 or Katerina.Lopez@flhealth.gov.

