

## HOW TO OBTAIN DATA ON SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

Suicide Prevention Community Technical Assistance Meeting

Higgins Lake, April 12, 2011

Data Source	How to Obtain Data
Death Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDCH website for existing tables: <a href="http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/index.asp?Id=29">http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/index.asp?Id=29</a></li> <li>• MI injury mortality reports: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54879---,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54879---,00.html</a></li> <li>• CDC WONDER – interactive database &amp; map creation: <a href="http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html">http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html</a></li> <li>• E-mail Tom Largo for specific request: <a href="mailto:LargoT@michigan.gov">LargoT@michigan.gov</a></li> </ul>
Hospital Discharge Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MI injury hospitalization reports: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54879---,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54879---,00.html</a></li> <li>• E-mail Tom Largo for specific request: <a href="mailto:LargoT@michigan.gov">LargoT@michigan.gov</a></li> </ul>
Child Death Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping Kids Alive website: <a href="http://www.keepingkidsalive.org/">http://www.keepingkidsalive.org/</a> (existing tables or fill out online data request form)</li> </ul>
Youth Risk Behavior Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YRBS website for MI reports: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/yrbs">www.michigan.gov/yrbs</a></li> <li>• Website for national YRBS reports: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm</a></li> <li>• Kim Kovalchick – <a href="mailto:kovalchick@michigan.gov">kovalchick@michigan.gov</a></li> </ul>
Poison Control Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website for annual state reports: <a href="http://mitoxic.org">mitoxic.org</a> (scroll down and select "Statistics")</li> <li>• Susan Smolinski for specific request: <a href="mailto:ssmolins@dmc.org">ssmolins@dmc.org</a></li> </ul>
Trauma Registry*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with local hospital(s) to see if they have a registry and are willing to work with you</li> </ul>
Pre-hospital Care Reports*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMS agencies began electronic data collection mid-2009</li> <li>• Earliest data would be available: once 100% participation (currently ~70%)</li> </ul>
Medical Examiner Reports*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with local medical examiner's office</li> </ul>
Michigan Violent Death Reporting System (MiVDRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: collect and merge data from death certificates, medical examiners, law enforcement (possibly others)</li> <li>• Suicide, homicide, unintentional firearm, undetermined intent, legal intervention, terrorism</li> <li>• Contacts: Pat Smith (<a href="mailto:SmithPatK@michigan.gov">SmithPatK@michigan.gov</a>) and Anita Ofori-Addo (<a href="mailto:Ofori-AddoA@michigan.gov">Ofori-AddoA@michigan.gov</a>)</li> </ul>

\* Data from this source are not yet available on a statewide level.



## CALCULATING RATES AND PRESENTING DATA

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To obtain state and local Michigan population data to calculate rates:

1. Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>
2. Select "Statistics & Reports" in left column
3. Select "Population Trends" in left column
4. Scroll down and click on "Select Your Community for Population 1990-2009"
5. Under Population Estimates (top left), select "Total Population."
6. Choose your area of interest from "Statewide Population Tables" at the top of the page.

Calculating a rate:

$$r = (c / p) \times 10^n$$

where  $r$  = rate

$c$  = the number of cases in a certain time period (e.g., Michigan resident suicides in 2009)

$p$  = population (e.g., Michigan population in 2009)

$n$  = arbitrary choice (e.g., if  $n = 5$ , then rate is cases per 100,000)

Note: if  $c$  is less than 6, rate will be "statistically unstable." To stabilize, aggregate years or broaden area of focus.

Effective ways of presenting rate data:

- Develop a trend line
- Compare rate with another area (e.g., local health department region, Michigan, U.S.)
- Compare trend line with another area
- If number of cases is large enough, examine subgroups (e.g., calculate rates by agegroup; examine trends of various suicide mechanisms)