



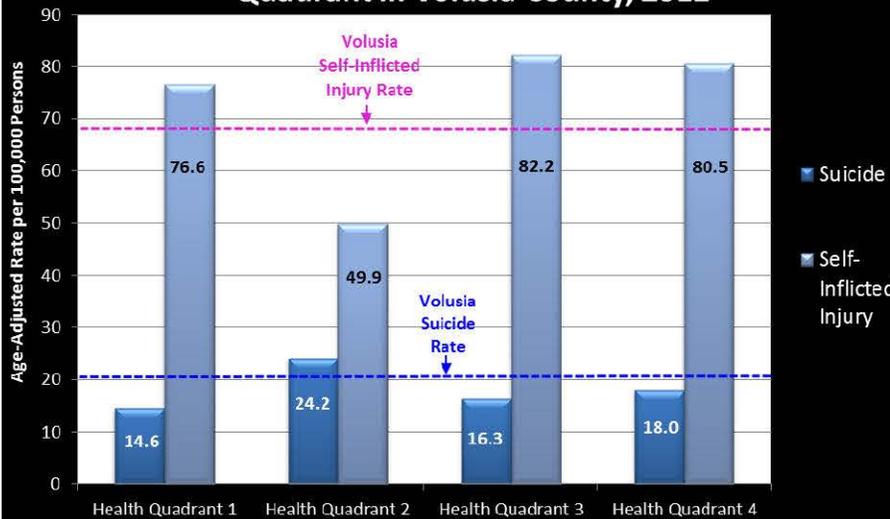
PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES IN VOLUSIA COUNTY: A SUB-COUNTY ANALYSIS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes suicide as death caused by self-directed behavior with any intent to die as a result of that behavior. Self-inflicted injuries are defined as acts to self harm with or without the intent to commit suicide. In 2012, approximately 121 Volusia County residents committed suicide and 418 of the county residents were hospitalized as a result of self-inflicted injuries.

Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries Rates by Health Quadrant in Volusia County, 2012



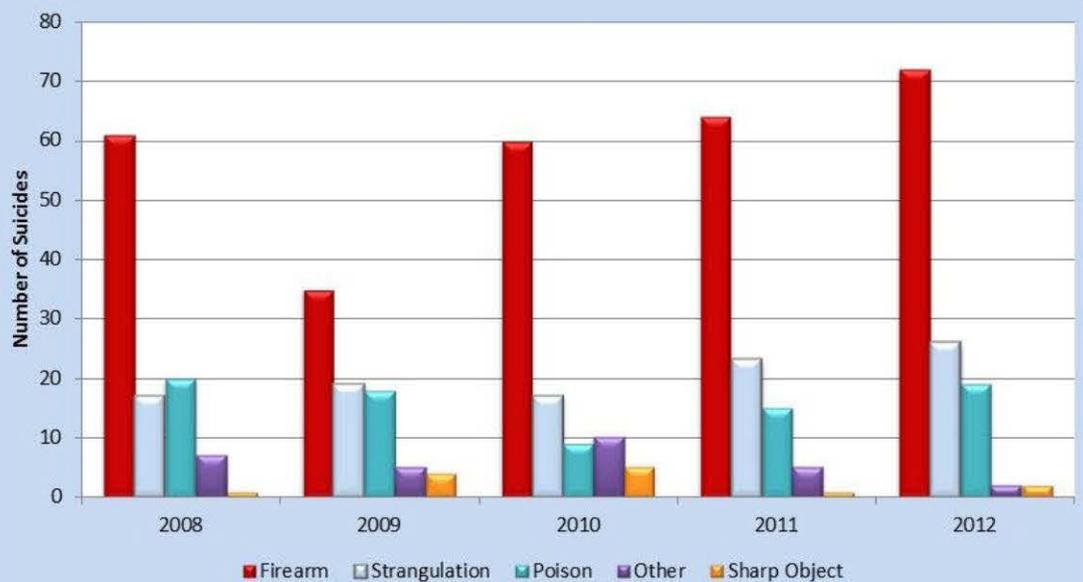
- The self-inflicted injuries rates for Health Quadrants 1, 3 and 4 were higher than the Volusia County rate
- Health Quadrant 2 had the lowest rate of self-inflicted injuries
- The Health Quadrant 2 suicide rate was higher than the other quadrants and the Volusia County suicide rate

- From 2009 to 2012, the number of suicides in Volusia County increased by 49%, whites represented 97% of all suicides during that period
- Strangulation, the 2nd most common method of suicide in the county, increased by 50% from 2008 to 2012
- Volusia County suicides by poison decreased from 2008 to 2010 then increased from 2010 to 2012

KEY BRIEF POINTS:

- Whites accounted for 95% (115) of county suicides (121) in 2012; males comprised 73% (88) of 2012 suicides
- Most suicides (56%) in Volusia County from 2008-2012 were by firearms
- Percentage of suicide by firearms was greater for females (70%) than males (56%) in 2012
- Firearms suicides represented more than 70% of all suicides in each health quadrant except Health Quadrant 2 (44%) in 2012

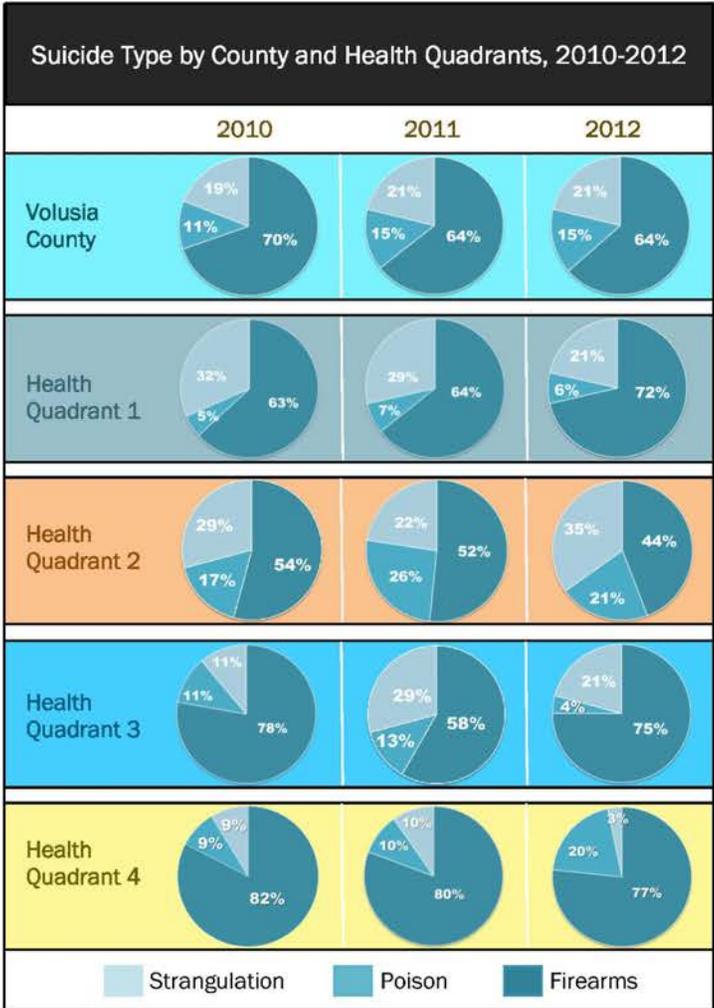
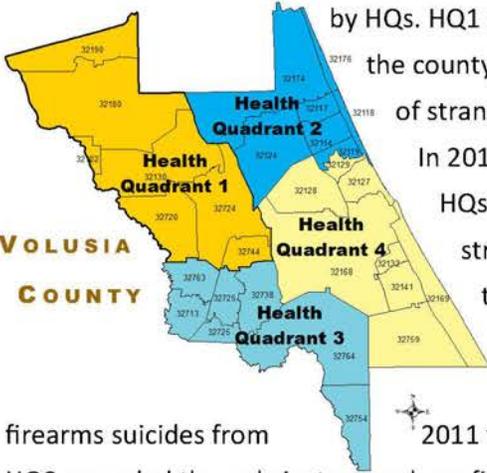
Mechanisms of Suicide in Volusia County, 2008 - 2012



Sub-county Level Analyses of Suicide

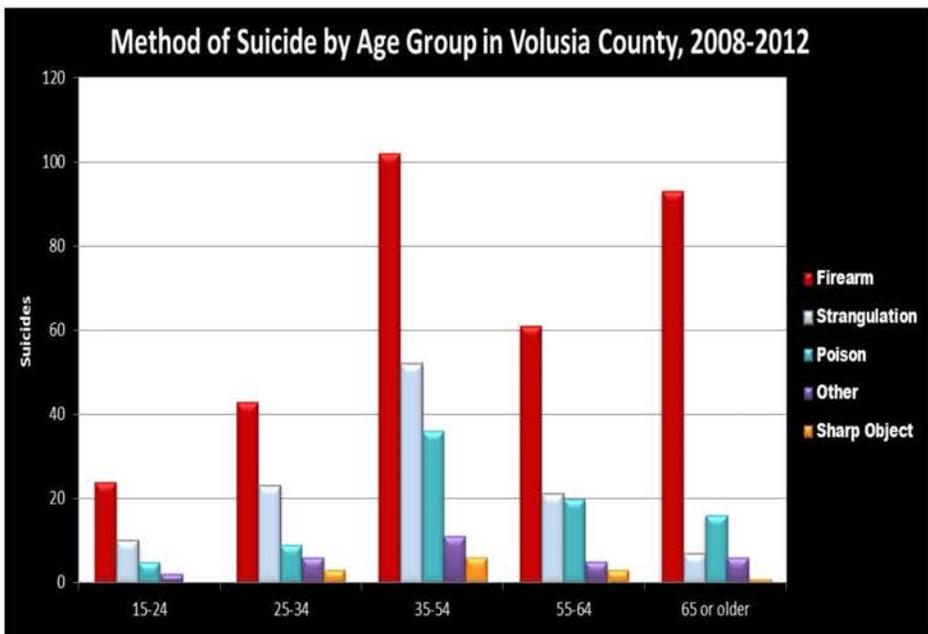
County level data often hide geographic variations in data found at sub-county levels. Sub-county data, such as health quadrants (HQ), offer more detailed information. The chart to the right illustrates the distribution of the three most prevalent methods of suicide in Volusia County

by HQs. HQ1 and HQ2 reported the county's largest percent of strangulation suicides. In 2012, HQ2 also led all HQs in suicides by strangulation, more than ten times HQ4. HQ3 had a 17% increase in firearms suicides from 2011 to 2012. In 2012, HQ2 recorded the only instance where firearms suicides were under 50% of all suicide methods from 2010 to 2012. Volusia County's largest percentage of firearms suicides, 82%, was in HQ4 in 2010, more than any health quadrant in each of the past three years.



Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2010-2012

For more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County Office of Informatics and Assessment at 386 274-0605 or visit our website www.volusiahealth.com



Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2008-2012

- According to the CDC, suicide is the 2nd leading cause among persons ages 25-34 in the US; it is also the 2nd leading cause of death among Volusia County residents ages 25-34
- Volusia County residents, ages 35-54, committed the highest number of suicides regardless of the method used
- Firearms and strangulation were the most frequently used methods of suicide among all age groups, except for those 65 or older who used poison more often than strangulation