

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE SUICIDE FACT SHEET



American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) had the highest age-adjusted suicide rate of any racial or ethnic group in 2022.¹

Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnicity (per 100,000), 2022

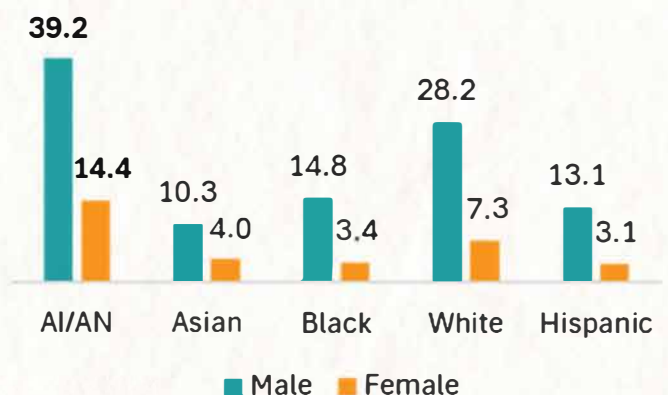


- Suicide was the **9th leading cause of death** for AI/ANs in **2021 and 2022**. In **2023**, it was the **8th leading cause**.²
- From **2015 to 2020**, the non-Hispanic AI/AN suicide rate increased by **nearly 20%**, compared to less than one percent in the overall U.S. population.³
- About **one in two** AI/AN suicides occurred in **nonmetropolitan areas**, compared to one in five for non-AI/ANs.

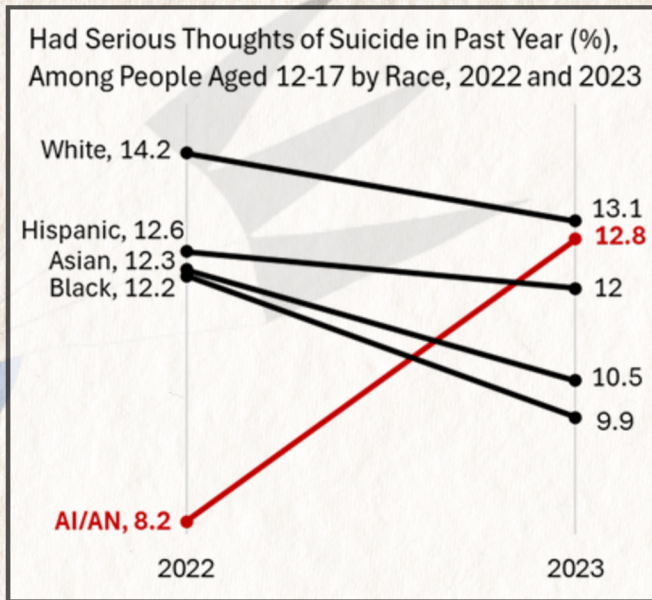
Suicide was the second leading cause of death among American Indians/Alaska Natives ages 15-24 in 2021.

- In 2022, the highest age-adjusted suicide rate among all males and by race or ethnicity was for American Indian/Alaska Native men (39.2 deaths per 100,000 standard population).¹
- Among all females, American Indian/Alaska Native women also had the highest suicide rate in 2022 (14.4 deaths per 100,000). This rate increased from 2021 by 13.8%.

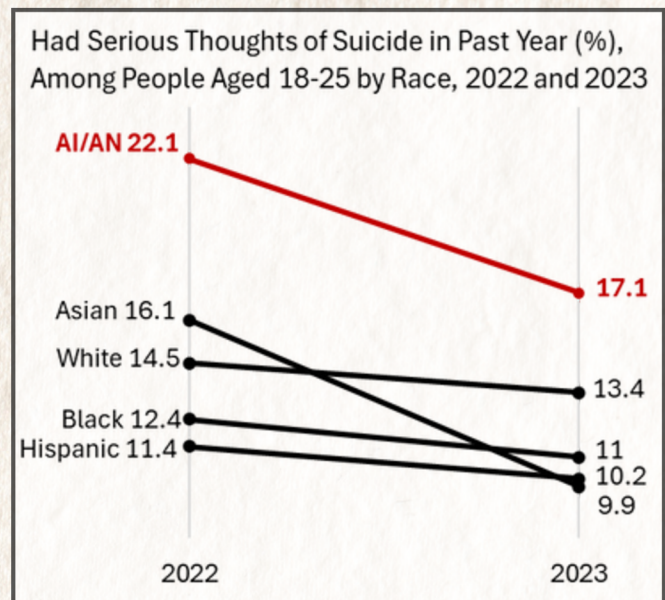
Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Sex (per 100,000), 2022



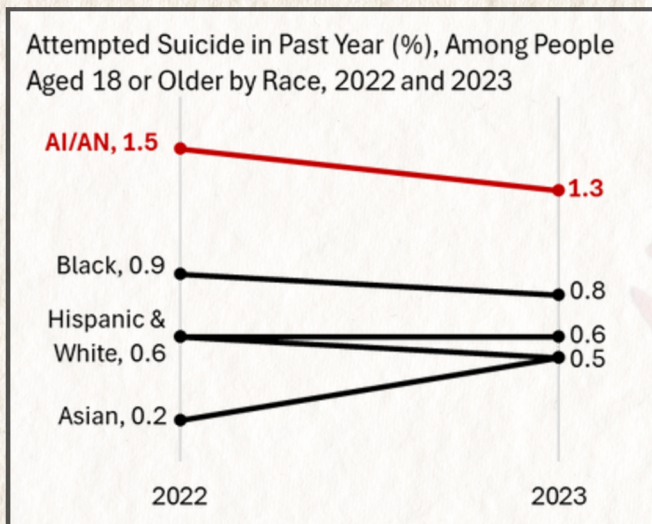
American Indians/Alaska Natives, especially youth and young adults, have high rates of serious suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts.



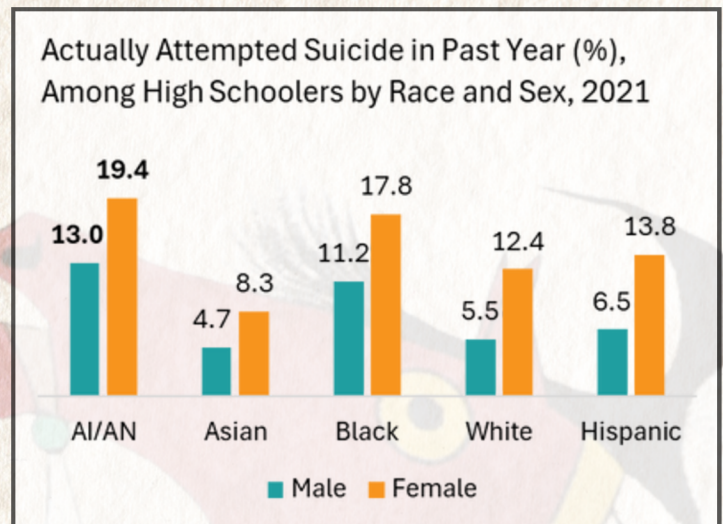
AI/AN youth ages 12-17 experienced increased rates of serious thoughts about suicide from 2022 to 2023.⁴



AI/AN young adults ages 18-25 had the highest rates of serious thoughts about suicide in 2022 and 2023.



AI/ANs 18 or older had the highest rates of suicide attempts in 2022 and 2023.



AI/AN high schoolers (especially females) had the highest rate of suicide attempts (one or more) in 2021.⁵

References:

1. Curtin, Sally, et al. "Provisional Estimates of Suicide by Demographic Characteristics: United States, 2022." Vital Statistics Rapid Release, no. 34. Nov. 2023.
2. Curtin, Sally, et al. "Deaths: Leading Causes for 2021." National Vital Statistics Reports, vol. 73, no. 4, 8 Apr. 2024.
3. Stone, Deborah, et al. "Suicides among American Indian or Alaska Native Persons – National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2015–2020." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, vol. 71, no. 37, 16 Sept. 2022.
4. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2024). 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed tables. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2023-nsduh-detailed-tables>.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at: www.cdc.gov/YRBS. Accessed on 4 Dec. 2024.