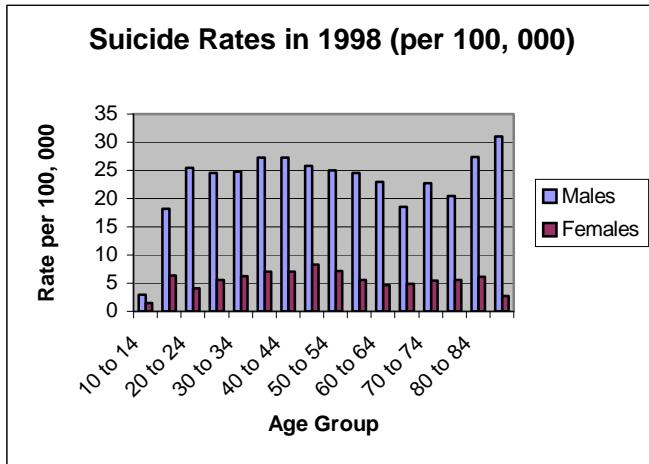


# A Closer Look At Canadian Suicide

By: Jessica Laks

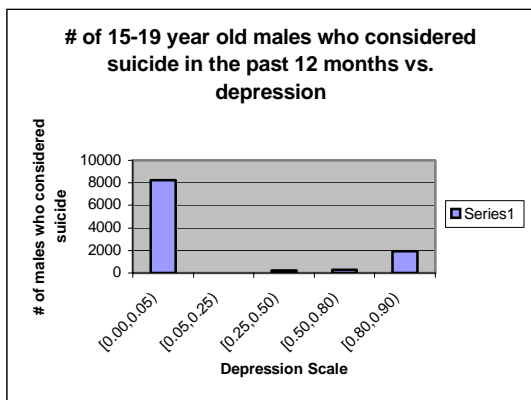
“A Closer Look at Canadian Suicide” is a research project dealing with suicide rates in Canada. The original focus of my project was to primarily look at suicide between the ages of 16 to 19. However, early on in my research I found interesting information about the suicide rates in elderly males and middle-aged females:



So I decided to look at those age groups as well.

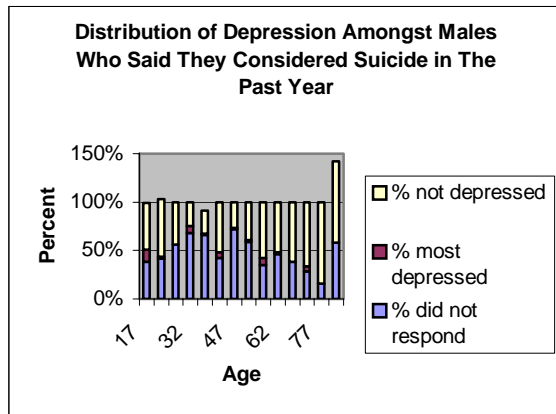
My inspiration for this project came after hearing a devastating story about a teenage boy in the US who committed suicide and didn't leave a note. I decided to look at the factors affecting suicide and suicide rates in order to see if there was any type of correlation between the two. The four main factors I chose to look at were: depression, self-esteem, emotional status and alcohol dependency. I hypothesized that these four factors would have a huge effect on suicide. I was very lucky to have case data straight from Stats Canada's "Canadian Community Health Survey," on the number of people who experienced these factors and their suicide inclination in the past 12 months.

What began as a simple study between factors, ended up a complex research project that focused more on the effects of non-response to a survey rather than the effects the factors have on suicide. I followed the same type of analysis for every factor in question. Using the depression factor for 15-19 year olds, I'll briefly demonstrate what was found throughout my research.

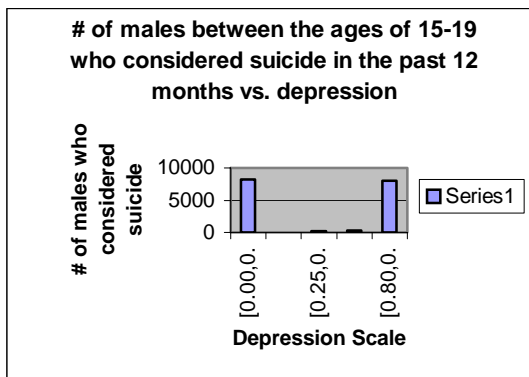


When I looked at this data, I was very shocked and confused to see that the highest suicide inclination was highest at the lowest depression rate. I

refused to just conclude that this was right, so I decided to look at response rate. I noticed many people responded to suicide inclination but then didn't respond to their depression rate. So, I graphed the percent of males and females at every age group who responded, were depressed and didn't respond in a stacked column graph.



If you'll assume, as I did that the % did not respond also is most depressed (this assumption is made because those that are most depressed may not have been willing to talk about it) then we see that blue/maroon bar has a significant effect in both men and women. This means that depression would have an effect on suicide inclination. Using what I just found, I plugged the new data back into my original graph and found:



This time my graph made a bit more sense. Many people still had high suicide inclination and low depression, but it balanced out with those that have high suicide inclination and high depression. Thus leading me to believe that depression does have an effect on suicide inclination and suicide rates.

The rest of my factors were also analyzed and concluded upon using them same form of research and analysis. My project consists of interesting facts on suicide, assumptions, conclusions, an index and much more information on suicide in Canada and around the world. Please come take a look at my project and to learn not only what has an effect on suicide, but valuable information on the data and surveys done by the Canadian Community.