

## Intentional Injury, 2012

Intentional, or violence-related, injury is an important public health problem that affects people of all ages.<sup>1</sup> Violence prevention activities include changing societal norms regarding the acceptability of violence, improving conflict resolution and other problem-solving skills, and developing policies to address economic and social conditions that can lead to violence.<sup>2</sup>

The following intentional injury related measures are included in the State Health Assessment:<sup>3</sup>

- Suicide deaths
- Self-harm by high school students
- Students bullied on school property
- Child maltreatment
- Intimate partner violence
- Rape
- Violent crime

Additional intentional injury related measures can be found in the mental health section of the State Health Assessment.<sup>3</sup>

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-34 year old Mainers and the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among all ages combined.<sup>4</sup> An average of 180 Maine residents died by suicide each year during 2005-2009.<sup>5</sup> There were 48 homicides in Maine in 2010-2011 combined; nearly half (44%) were domestic violence homicides.<sup>6</sup> Maine's suicide rate was significantly higher than the U.S. rate for 2005-2009, while Maine's homicide rate was significantly lower than the U.S. rate for this five-year period.<sup>7</sup> The lifetime medical and work loss costs associated with all violence-related deaths that occurred among Maine residents in 2005 alone are estimated to be more than \$192 million (in 2005 dollars).<sup>8</sup>

While many people die as the result of intentional injury each year, many more survive and can be left with emotional and physical scars.<sup>1</sup> In 2011, for example, it was estimated that 10,440 Maine high school students had purposely hurt themselves



(e.g., cutting or burning) without wanting to die during the past year.<sup>9</sup>

The occurrence of intentional injuries included in State Health Assessment measures varies across population groups in Maine. For example, suicide is more common among males than females. Female high school students, though, are at higher risk than male students of intentionally harming themselves without wanting to die or being bullied on school property. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school students are more likely than heterosexual students to report intentional self-harm without wanting to die or being bullied on school property. Hispanic and American Indian or Alaska Native high school students were significantly more likely to report being bullied on school property than were White students. The occurrence of intentional injuries varies by county and public health district, but no one particular county or district is at increased risk on all, or most, of the measures in the State Health Assessment.<sup>9</sup>

Healthy Maine 2020 also has objectives related to intentional injury, including:<sup>10</sup>

- Reduce the suicide rate
- Reduce nonfatal child maltreatment
- Reduce bullying among adolescents
- Reduce violence by current or former intimate partners
- Reduce rape or attempted rape

- <sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Violence prevention. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/index.html> (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020. Injury and violence prevention: overview. Available from: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicId=24> (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>3</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. State health assessment – 2012. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/sha/index.shtml> (accessed 5/3/2013).
- <sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS): leading causes of death. Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leading\\_causes\\_death.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leading_causes_death.html) (accessed 3/19/2013).
- <sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS): fatal injury reports. Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html) (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>6</sup> Working together to end domestic violence homicide in Maine. The 9th report of the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel, April 2012. Available from: [http://www.maine.gov/ag/dynld/documents/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_End\\_Domestic\\_Violence\\_04-11-12.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ag/dynld/documents/Working_Together_to_End_Domestic_Violence_04-11-12.pdf) (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death on CDC WONDER Online Database. Available from: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html> (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Cost of injury reports. Available from: <http://wisqars.cdc.gov:8080/costT/> (accessed 5/7/2013).
- <sup>9</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. State health assessment – 2012. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/sha/index.shtml> (accessed 5/3/2013).
- <sup>10</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthy Maine 2020. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-maine/index.shtml>.