



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLOGY

Hispanic Suicide - Based on 2011 Data (2014)

Prevalence:

- In 2011, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the suicide rate for all Hispanic Americans was 5.24 per 100,00 compared to 14.12 for Non-Hispanics.
- The highest rate for adolescents aged 15 to 19 was 5.46 per 100,00 compared to 9.07 for all Non-Hispanic adolescents.
- The highest rate was found among males aged 80-84 (20.82 per 100,000) compared to Non-Hispanic males aged 80-84 (40.58 per 100,000).

Hypotheses:¹

The following hypotheses have been presented regarding suicidal behavior among Hispanics:

- Family needs are placed above individual needs and respect to the parents and elders is of major importance
- Suicidal behavior among Hispanic females may be related to the stress caused by the expectation of obligation to the family
- Family closeness and good relations with parents have been found to be a resiliency factor for suicidality among Latino males and females
- Hispanic adolescents may also experience stress with the conflict between placing family needs above individual needs and what is taught in the mainstream culture about the importance of individuality
- Recently immigrated Hispanic families may not fully understand the health care system and may be reluctant to seek help in fear of being reported as undocumented
- Hispanic families may avoid seeking mental health help because they feel that suicide should be dealt with by the family or faith community first
- Language differences are a barrier in seeking mental help

Sources:

The information for this fact sheet was gathered from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) website (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.html>) operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

¹Goldstond, D.B., Molock, S.D., Whitbeck, L.B., Murakami, J.L., Zayas, L.H., & Hall, G.C. 2008. Cultural considerations in adolescent suicide prevention and psychosocial treatment. *American Psychologist*, 63, 14-31.