

2024 Annual Report Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition



**Suicide
isn't the answer**

We are here 24/7
660-7500

Sedgwick County...
working for you

Suicide Prevention Coalition **YOU'RE NOT ALONE**



Thank You!

- Sedgwick County Health Department
 - Kaylee Hervey
- Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center
- COMCARE
 - Michelle Calvert
 - Jennifer Wilson
 - Regina Hafner-Stout
 - Emily Aldrich



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Health Department



COMCARE
A Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

KU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
WICHITA
The University of Kansas

2024 Suicide Rate

- 92 suicide deaths in Sedgwick County.
- 17.97 suicide deaths per 100,000 Sedgwick County residents.



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Health Department

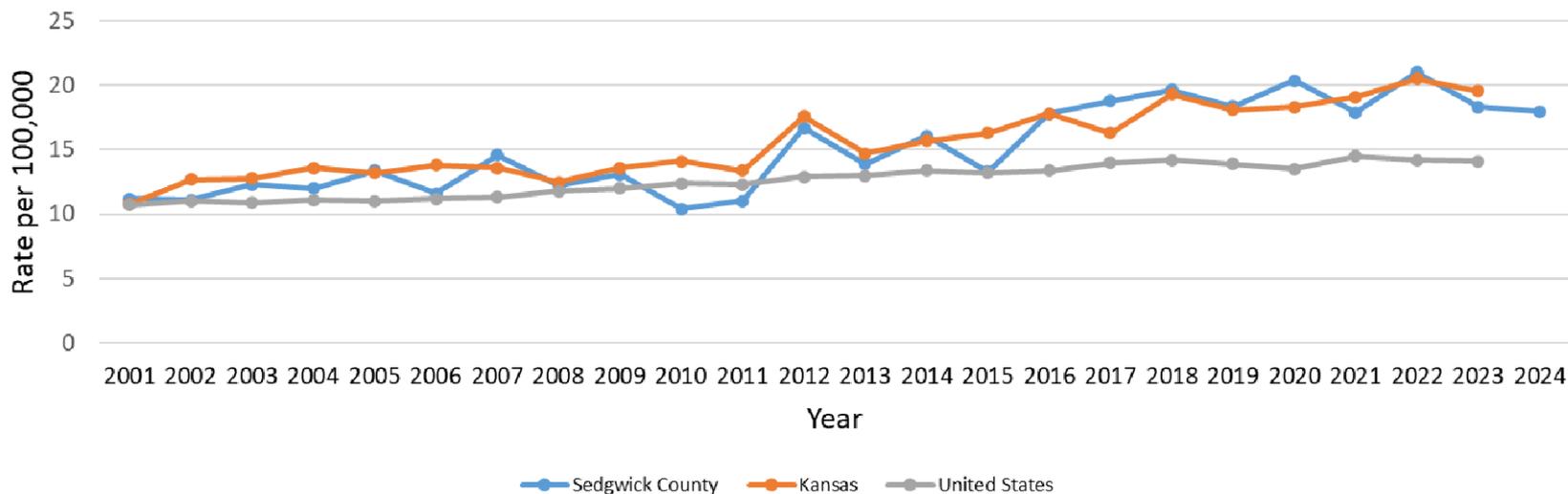


COMCARE
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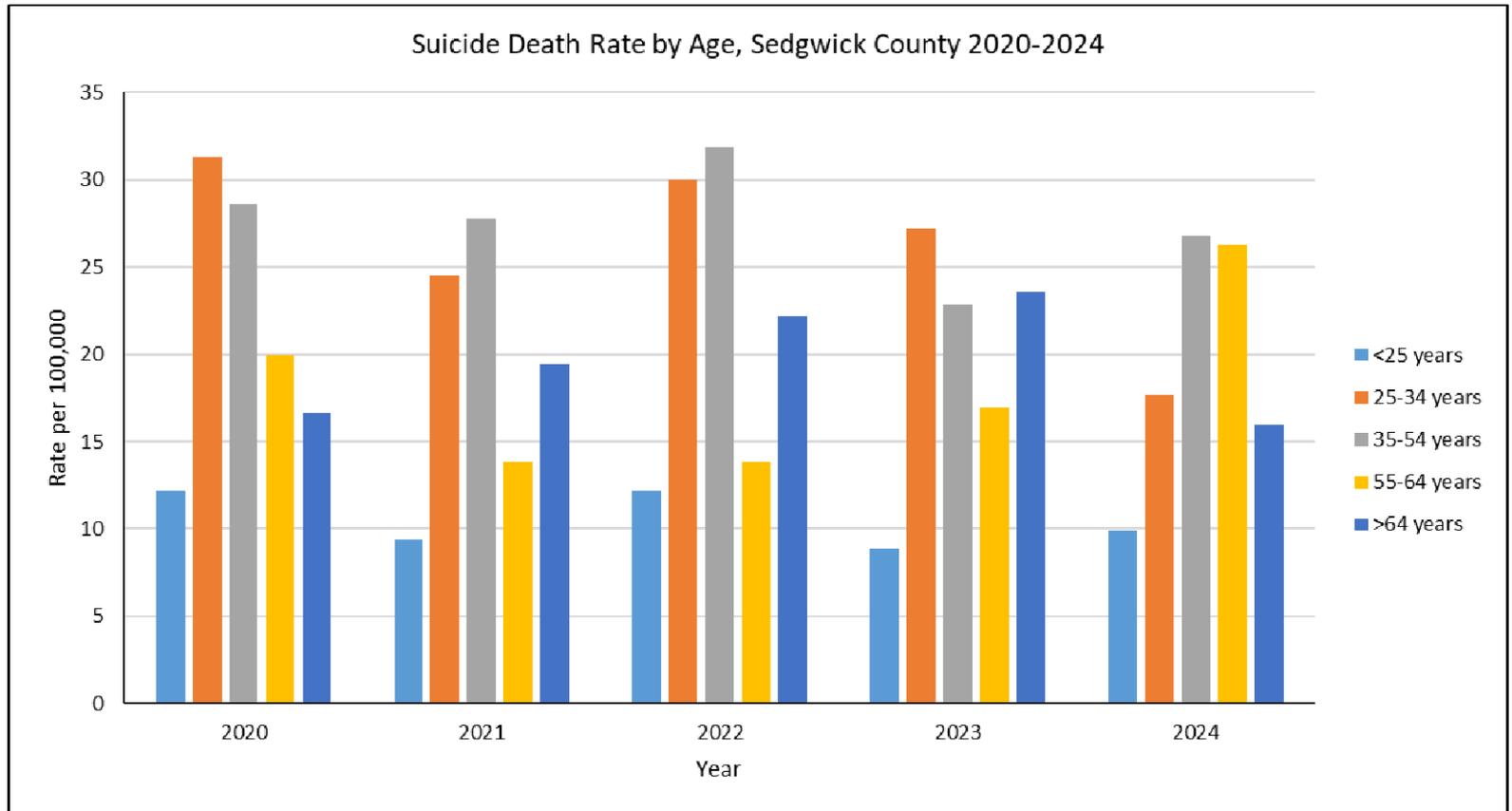
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Comparisons with State and National Rates

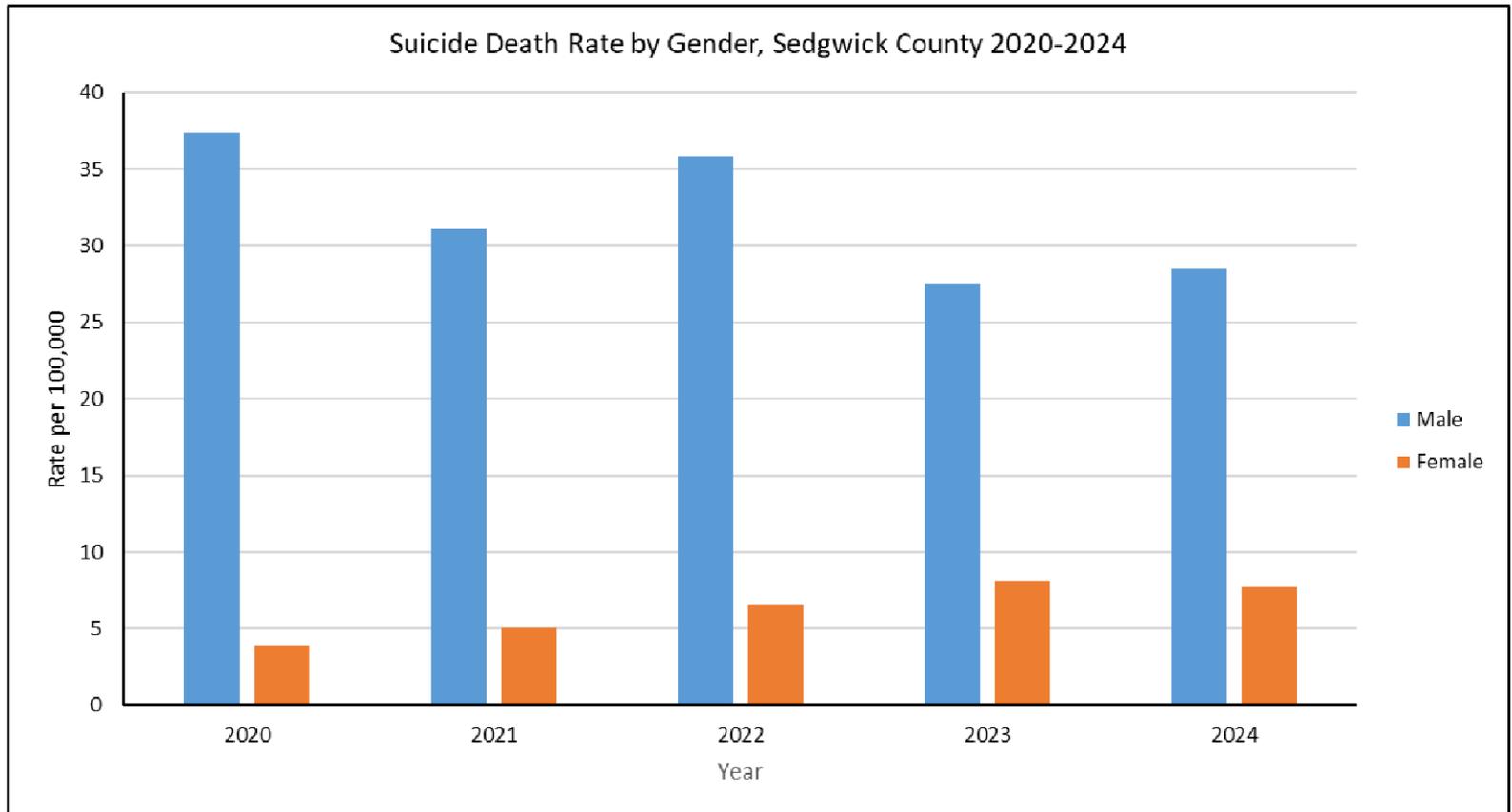
Suicide Death Rate per 100,000 in Sedgwick County, Kansas, and the United States, 2001-2024



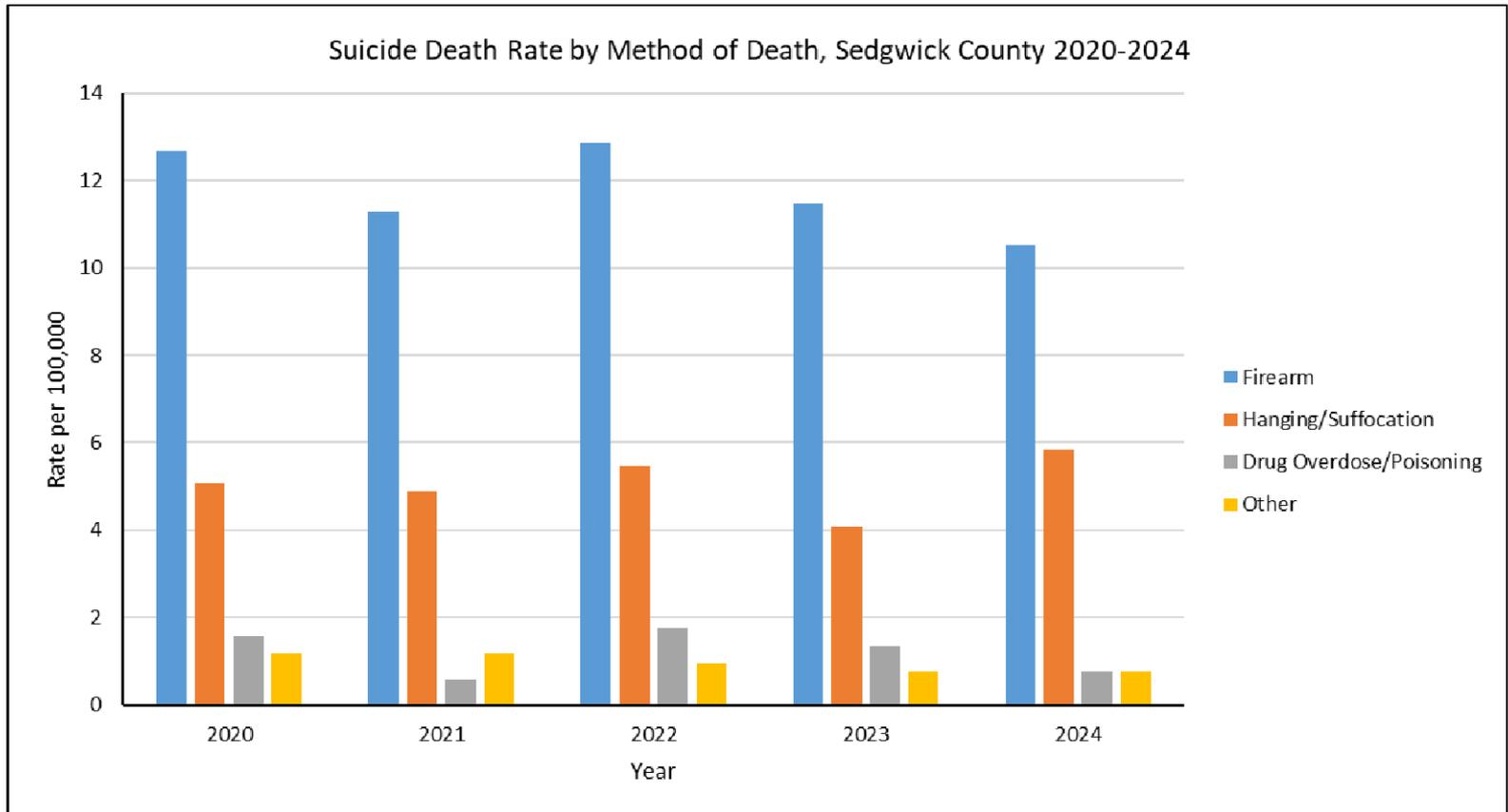
Suicide Rates per 100,000 by Age



Suicide Rates per 100,000 by Gender



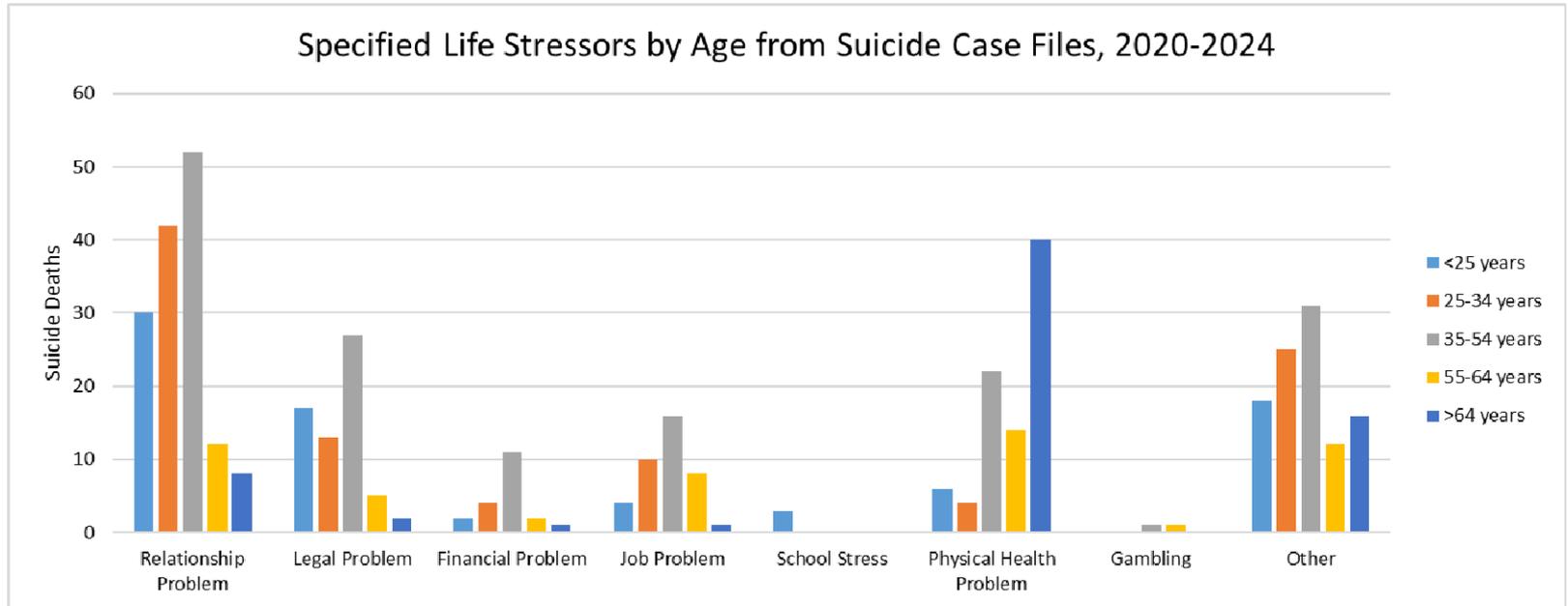
Suicide Rates per 100,000 by Method



Mental Health and Suicide History

- 50% of deaths had known history of mental illness
 - Depression was the most commonly noted mental illness
- 37% of deaths had known history of suicidal ideations
- 15% of deaths had known history of previous suicide attempts
- 30% of deaths had known history of medical illness
- 42% of deaths had known history of substance misuse
 - Illicit drug use was the most commonly noted substance
 - Alcohol misuse was the second most common

Life Stressors by Age: 2020-2024



Local Suicide Prevention Efforts

- Mental Health First Aid
 - 18 classes taught in 2024 resulting in 280 people trained
 - Spanish trainings added
- Coalition attended 79 public events educating and impacting at least 2996 community members
- All Wichita police trained in evidence-based suicide screening approaches
- Suspenders4Hope Preventing Suicide Training program
 - 49 trainings provided in 2024 resulting in 2,256 people trained
- MHA provided community trainings
 - 2 ASIST trainings
 - 3 CALM trainings resulting in 38 people trained
 - 5 QPR trainings resulting in 64 people trained
 - 28 mental health presentations reaching 584 community members
- Zero Reasons Why implemented in 17 schools in the Wichita metro area
 - Trained 74 teen ambassadors trained in 2024
- Survivors of Suicide Loss Day provided support for loss survivors in the community



Local Suicide Prevention Efforts

- WSU Community Engagement Institute provided a virtual webinar and online learning session, *Caring Across Cultures: Suicide Prevention Readiness Training* project
 - Partnership with KDADS, funded by and supported by SAMHSA and NASMHPD
 - 12 sessions presented, with 487 live participants and 419 online views of recordings
- Range 54 is participating in the Hold My Guns program
- Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition sponsored a training on *Building a Life Worth Living: Expanding DBT for Intervention and Prevention* at the 2024 Kansas Prevention Conference
 - 6 hours of training offered for up to 50 participants
- 988 regional group expanding reach through 2025 state fair



A young woman with voluminous, curly, reddish-brown hair is shown from the chest up. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. She is holding a black smartphone to her ear with her right hand. She is wearing a light yellow blazer over a blue t-shirt. The background consists of blue horizontal blinds on the left and a purple wall on the right.

988

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

The National
Suicide Prevention
Lifeline now
has an easier to
remember number.

**Dial 988 to be
connected to a
local Lifeline
Contact Center.**

Community Mental Health Initiatives

- Kansas Behavioral Health Center for Excellence
 - Collaborative effort to address behavioral health care workforce shortages in Kansas through educational initiatives
- South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital
 - Slated to begin providing services in 2027
- Breaking ground this year on new COMCARE Community Crisis Center, which will expand access to crisis services



Know the Signs

- **TALK:** No reason to live. Feeling trapped. Feeling like a burden to others. Unbearable pain. Talk of killing themselves.
- **BEHAVIOR:** Increased alcohol/drug use. Isolation from family and friends. Sleeping too little/too much. Withdrawing from activities. Seeking access to pills/weapons or other means.
- **MOOD:** Depression. Loss of interest. Rage. Irritability. Humiliation. Anxiety.

What can you do?

- Take it seriously, if someone mentions suicide.
- Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Offer hope that help is available.
- Do not leave him or her alone.
- Get help immediately!

Get Involved

- Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Contact trisha.wile@sedgwick.gov
- Mental Health First Aid classes for youth and adults
 - September 12, 2025 and November 7, 2025 Youth Mental Health First Aid
 - October 17, 2025 Adult Mental Health First Aid
 - Contact Michelle.Calvert@sedgwick.gov
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
 - November 5-6, 2025
 - Contact Jennifer.Wilson@sedgwick.gov
- HOPE Fest
 - Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at Wichita State University
 - Free community event to connect with local mental health and wellness resources and learn practical skills to support friends, family, and neighbors
- NAMI candlelight service
 - October 6, 2025 5-8pm at WSU Metroplex
 - <https://namiwichita.org/events/candle-light-service/>
- MHA Beautiful Mind Gala
 - October 10, 2025
- Kansas Prevention Collaborative Conference
 - October 16-17, 2025
 - <https://kansaspventioncollaborative.org/conference/>
- Survivors of Suicide Loss Day
 - November 22, 2025