

PSYCHIATRIC FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Demographic Profile
Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Victims**

**Bodies received by Marin County Coroner's Office
January, 1995 – July, 2005**

Over the past ten and a half years, the Marin County Coroner's office has received the bodies of 213 men and woman who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge. The majority of the suicide victims were male (75%) and non-Hispanic White (82.5%). The last known address of most victims was in the San Francisco Bay Area (87%). Their median age was 40, and slightly over half of the victims (55.4%) had never married. Men were more likely to have never married than women, and women were more likely to have married and divorced than men. Suicide victims came from all walks of life as evidenced by their last known occupations. The youngest victim was a 14 year old female student and the oldest an 84 year old male realtor.

Suicide notes were left by 24.5% of the victims, with no significant difference between males and females. 39% were reported to be under psychiatric care at the time of their death, with a higher percentage of all females receiving care (47.2%) than all males (36.3%). 22.1% were reported to have known prior suicide attempts, with no significant difference between males and females. A total of 16.4% were reported to have a history of drug (5.6%), alcohol (4.2%) or drug and alcohol abuse (6.6%).

AGE
(N=211)

	Male	Female	Total
Under 20	3.2%	3.8%	3.3%
20-29	22.8%	13.2%	20.4%
30-39	24.1%	32.1%	26.1%
40-49	24.7%	18.9%	23.2%
50-59	16.5%	26.4%	19.0%
60-69	5.7%	3.8%	5.2%
70-79	2.5%	1.9%	2.4%
80+	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Median Age = 40 Youngest = 14 Oldest = 84

SEX

(N=212)

Male	Female	Total
75%	25%	100%

RACE

(N=212)

	Male	Female	Total
White (non Hispanic)	81.8%	84.9%	82.5%
White (Hispanic/Latino)	2.5%	3.8%	2.8%
African American/Black	4.4%	3.8%	4.2%
Asian	11.3%	3.8%	9.4%
Two or more	0.0%	3.8%	0.9%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MARITAL STATUS

(N=204)

	Male	Female	Total
Never Married	58.6%	46.2%	55.4%
Married	21.1%	19.2%	20.6%
Divorced	19.7%	32.7%	23.0%
Widow(er)	0.7%	1.9%	1.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

LAST KNOWN HOMETOWN

(N=208)

	Male	Female	Total
Alameda	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%
Contra Costa	7.7%	11.5%	8.7%
Marin	15.4%	17.3%	15.9%
Napa	0.0%	1.9%	0.5%
San Francisco	29.5%	17.3%	26.4%
San Mateo	7.7%	3.8%	6.7%
Santa Clara	12.8%	7.7%	11.5%
Solano	1.9%	3.8%	2.4%
Sonoma	4.5%	15.4%	7.2%
All Bay Area	87.2%	86.5%	87.0%
Other California	7.7%	9.6%	8.2%
Not California	5.1%	3.8%	4.8%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Last known occupations of those who died between January, 1995 and July, 2005.

Merchant Marine ♦ Student ♦ Postal Clerk ♦ Student ♦ Social Worker ♦ Cashier ♦
Mortgage Broker ♦ Carpenter ♦ Custodial ♦ Aide to Retarded ♦ Homemaker ♦ Dentist ♦
Metal Worker ♦ Radio Show Talk Host ♦ Unknown ♦ Clerk ♦ Security Guard ♦ General
Contractor ♦ Realtor ♦ Painting Contractor ♦ Office Worker ♦ Food Service ♦ Military ♦
Student ♦ Writer ♦ Laborer ♦ Card Dealer ♦ Tree Trimmer ♦ Store Wrapper ♦ Mental
Health Support Worker ♦ Store Owner ♦ Cartographer ♦ Computer Engineer ♦
Unknown ♦ Sales ♦ Frame Maker ♦ Food Service ♦ Psychologist ♦ Unknown ♦
Probation Officer ♦ Computer Programmer ♦ Auto Painter ♦ Sales ♦ Carpenter ♦
Supervisor ♦ Health Services ♦ Journalist ♦ Homemaker ♦ Unknown ♦ Student ♦
Unknown ♦ Retail Clerk ♦ Secretary ♦ Waiter ♦ Cook ♦ Broadcast Production Assistant
♦ Optometrist ♦ Mechanic ♦ Mechanic ♦ Tutor ♦ Psychiatrist ♦ Disabled ♦ Student ♦
Printer ♦ Construction Laborer ♦ Mechanic ♦ Electrical Engineer ♦ Artist ♦ Hotel ♦ Valet
♦ Unknown ♦ Student ♦ Retail Clerk ♦ Loan Officer ♦ Cleaning ♦ Electrical Engineer ♦
Business Manager ♦ Mechanic ♦ Printer ♦ Student ♦ Unknown ♦ Student ♦ Bank Teller
♦ Teacher ♦ Student ♦ Sales Clerk ♦ Unknown ♦ Homemaker ♦ Unknown ♦ Student ♦
Forklift Operator ♦ Never Worked ♦ Salesman ♦ Chef ♦ Military ♦ Security Guard ♦
Nursing Assistant ♦ Disabled ♦ Investor ♦ Computer Programmer ♦ Teacher ♦ Unknown
♦ Bartender ♦ Welder ♦ General Contractor ♦ Mail Worker ♦ Music Production ♦ Park
Supervisor ♦ Software Consultant ♦ Sales Rep ♦ Unknown ♦ Business Owner ♦
Custodian ♦ Receptionist ♦ Laborer ♦ Student ♦ None ♦ Chef ♦ Homemaker ♦
Accountant ♦ Never Worked ♦ Various ♦ Carpenter ♦ Landscaper ♦ Educator ♦
Unknown ♦ Painting Contractor ♦ Construction ♦ Computer Technician ♦ Clerk ♦
Engineer ♦ Bell Man ♦ Fashion Designer ♦ Singer ♦ Homemaker ♦ Unknown ♦ Military
♦ Electrical Engineer ♦ Salesman ♦ Counselor ♦ Salesman ♦ Gas Station Cashier ♦
Machinist ♦ Student ♦ Accountant ♦ Molecular Biologist ♦ Student ♦ Student ♦ Public
Relations ♦ Homemaker ♦ Electrical Engineer ♦ Landscaper ♦ Unknown ♦ Mechanic ♦
Advertising Art Director ♦ Sales ♦ Grant Administrator ♦ Translator ♦ Artist ♦ Software
Engineer ♦ Secretary ♦ Artist ♦ Musician ♦ Programmer ♦ Secretary ♦ Optometrist
♦ Environmental Specialist ♦ Electrician ♦ Real Estate Agent ♦ Food Delivery ♦ Internet
Designer ♦ Film Animator ♦ Unknown ♦ Nurse Caregiver ♦ Security Guard ♦ Investment
Owner ♦ Administrative Assistant ♦ Realtor ♦ Social Worker ♦ Student ♦ Software
Engineer ♦ Vocational Education Specialist ♦ Dry Cleaner Sales ♦ Bus Driver ♦ Lawyer
♦ Student ♦ Art Dealer ♦ None ♦ Unknown ♦ Accountant ♦ Florist ♦ Computer Game
Designer ♦ Unknown ♦ Computer Technician ♦ Food Business Partner ♦ Retail
Manager ♦ Child Psychologist ♦ Never Worked ♦ Physician ♦ Sales Rep ♦ Teacher ♦
Waiter ♦ Driver ♦ Student ♦ Metal Recycler ♦ Web Designer ♦ Homemaker ♦ Student ♦
Laborer ♦ Taxi Driver ♦ Book Sales Person ♦ Grocery Bagger ♦ Waiter ♦ Student