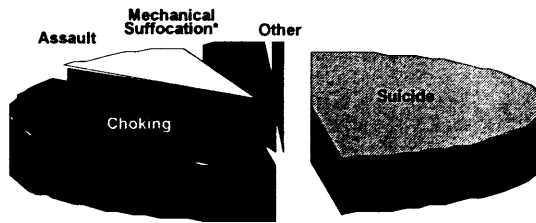


DEATHS DUE TO SUFFOCATION

Maine Residents: 1985 - 1994

- ➔ 491 Maine residents died from suffocation during the 10 year period, 1985 - 1994. Nearly half of those deaths (234) were suicides. 94% of those suicides (219) were the result of hanging.
- ➔ The statewide death rate for suffocation was 3.2 deaths/100,000 population; the death rate for males, 5.1, was nearly 3½ times the death rate for females (1.5).
- ➔ Almost 40% of all suffocation deaths occurred to Maine residents 65 years old and older; however, this percentage varied significantly by sex. Only 29% of male suffocation deaths were to those older than age 64 while 59% of female suffocation deaths occurred in that age group.
- ➔ Maine's oldest residents, those aged 85 years and older, experienced the highest death rate in the state due to suffocation, of any age group - 35 deaths/100,000. Most of those deaths (87%) were the result of accidental choking.
- ➔ At the other end of the age spectrum, 25 children under 5 years old died from suffocation during the period. Twenty three of those deaths were the result of mechanical suffocation (i.e., suffocating in cribs, unintentional hanging) or choking; the remaining 2 deaths were due to assault.

Deaths Due to Suffocation by Type
Maine: 1985-1994



SUFFOCATION DEATHS BY TYPE AND AGE GROUP					
Age	Suicide	Choking	Mechanical Suffocation*	Assault	Other
<4		5	18	2	
5-9			3		
10 - 19	25	2	6	2	2
20 - 39	107	7	14	10	1
40 - 64	62	23	5	6	1
65 - 84	34	92	1		
>84	6	55	1	1	

NOTES: Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone. Deaths due to suffocation are those attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes 911, 912, 913, 953, 963, and 983.

* Mechanical Suffocation is unintentional and is caused by a lack of oxygen due to external means such as plastic bags, being closed up in a refrigerator, cave-ins, accidental hanging, etc.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, Bureau of Health
at 35 Anthony Avenue, State House Station 11, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

The contact person(s) is: Cathy St. Pierre - 624-5445

For program information, please contact: Cheryl DiCara at 287-3991

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

DS:FACTS5.FRP P6
DTH.032
11241997