

# marri *Findings*

FAITH & FAMILY

## What To Do About our Dying Culture?



The family has to take on the task of rebuilding society, for no other institution is prepared to. Yet how can the smallest, weakest and least powerful institution rebuild what major institutions cannot?

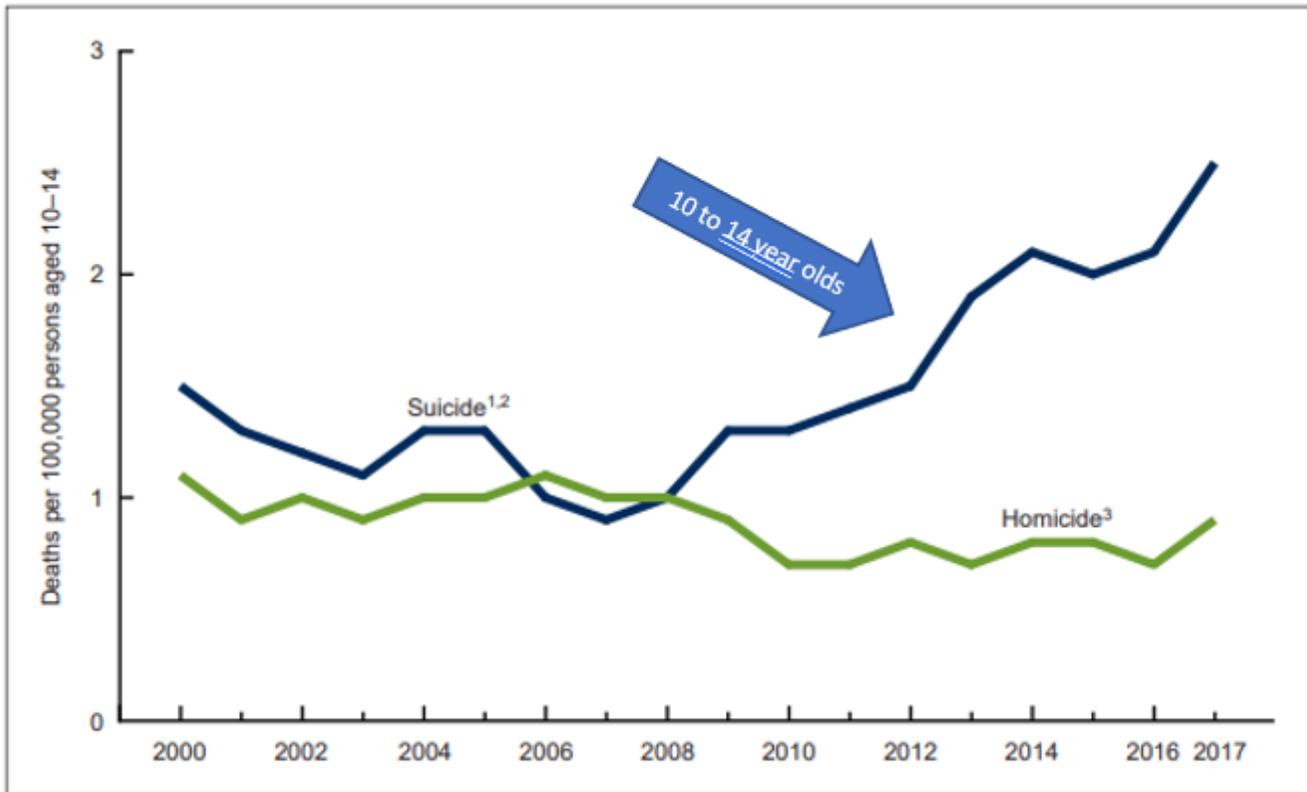
By finding “birds of a feather”, by grouping together, by sharing wisdom and human resources, and by gradually bringing into the flock more and more of the “disenfranchised”. Each family needs to do this at the most local of levels – among friends and trusted neighbors —for the sake of their own children. But in doing so they can spread the word and their know-how. Every parent with half a heart wants his child to become a happy adult, and when you cut through all the discourse everything boils down to two goals: developing in the child the capacity for hard work and the capacity to attract a good spouse. Lots of work goes into this but what has to be achieved is pretty simple and straightforward.

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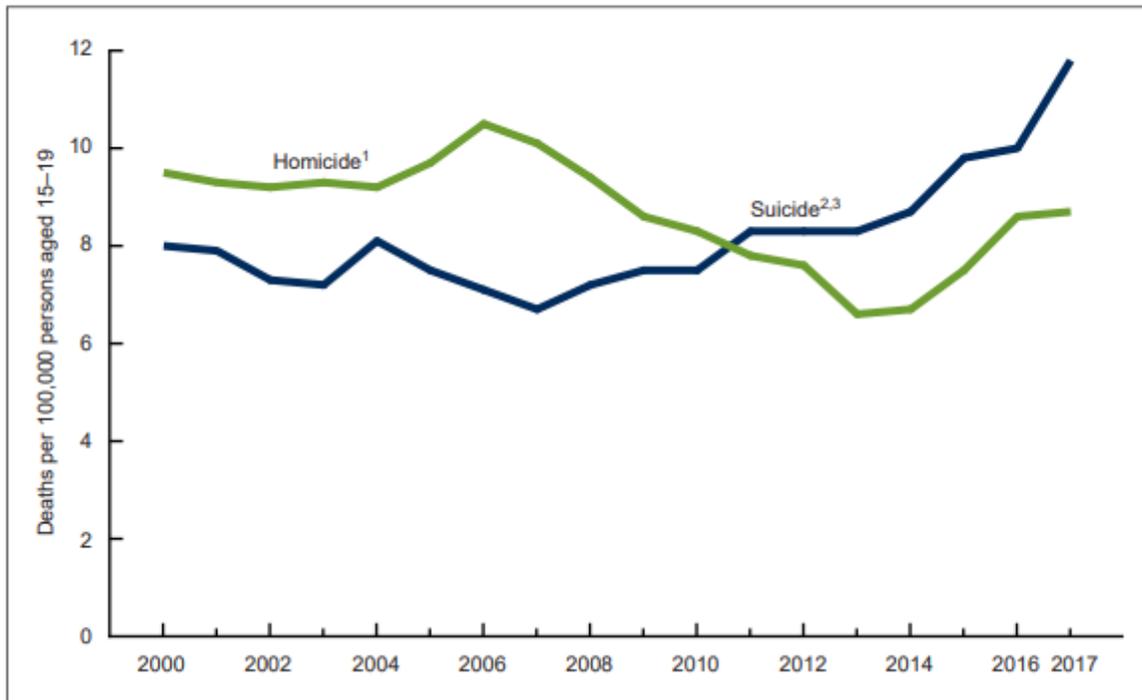
# A Dying Culture

Death does not lie, and dead teenagers tell us a lot about ourselves. We are a dying culture. 2007 saw the beginning of the rise in suicide among very young people. [1]



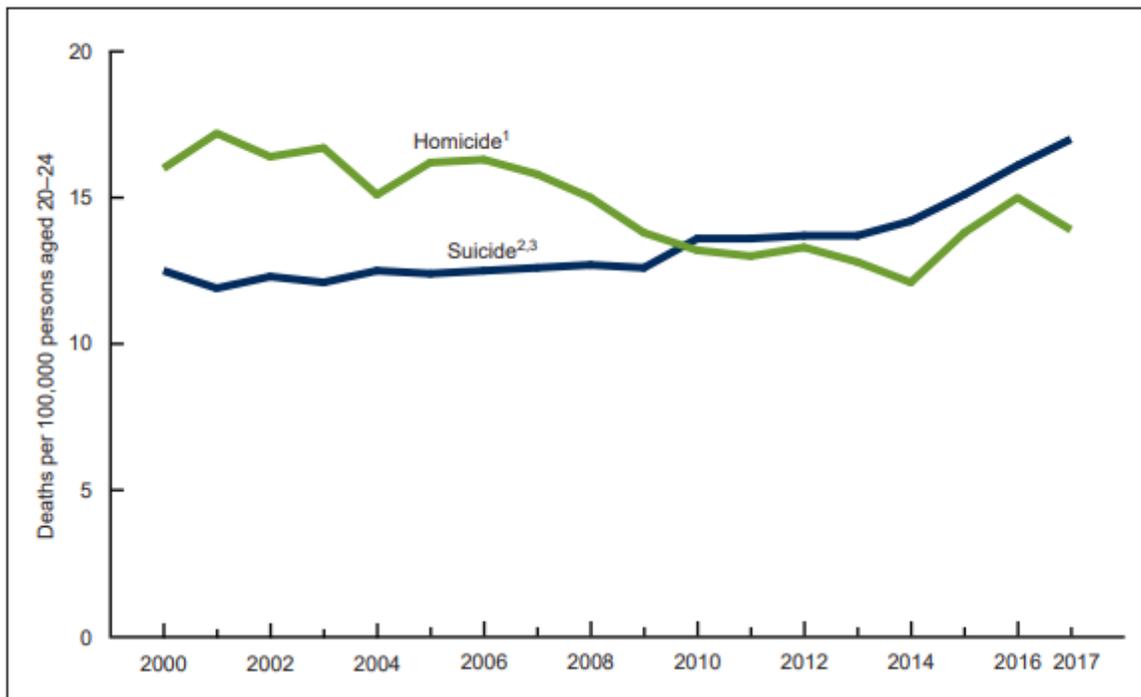
It rose even more among mid to late teens. [2]

Figure 3. Suicide and homicide death rates among adolescents aged 15–19: United States, 2000–2017



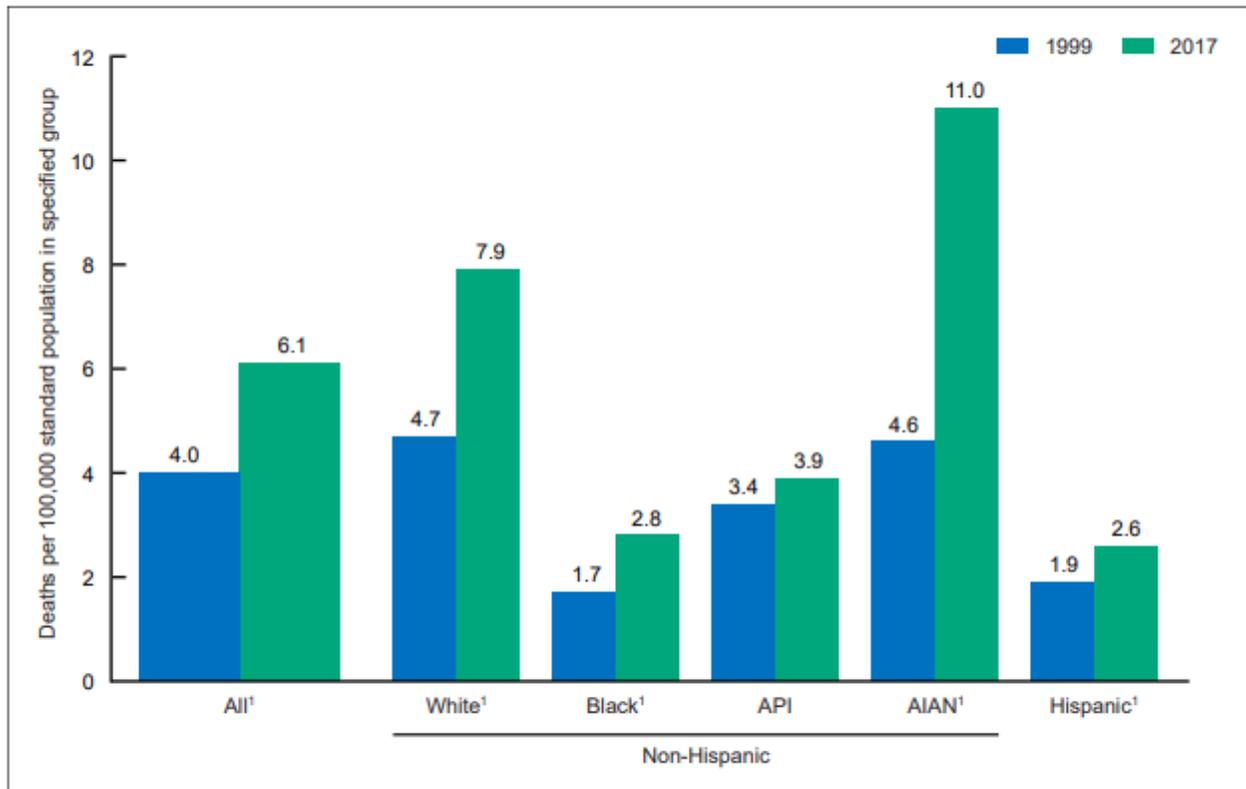
And continued to rise for those in their early twenties. [3]

Figure 4. Suicide and homicide death rates among young adults aged 20–24: United States, 2000–2017



Rates are highest among men, and across ethnic groups, among American Indians and Native Alaskans (Blacks have the lowest), with whites coming in second highest ---- as the following two charts illustrate, the first for females, the second for males. [4]

Figure 1. Age-adjusted suicide rates for females, by race and ethnicity: United States, 1999 and 2017

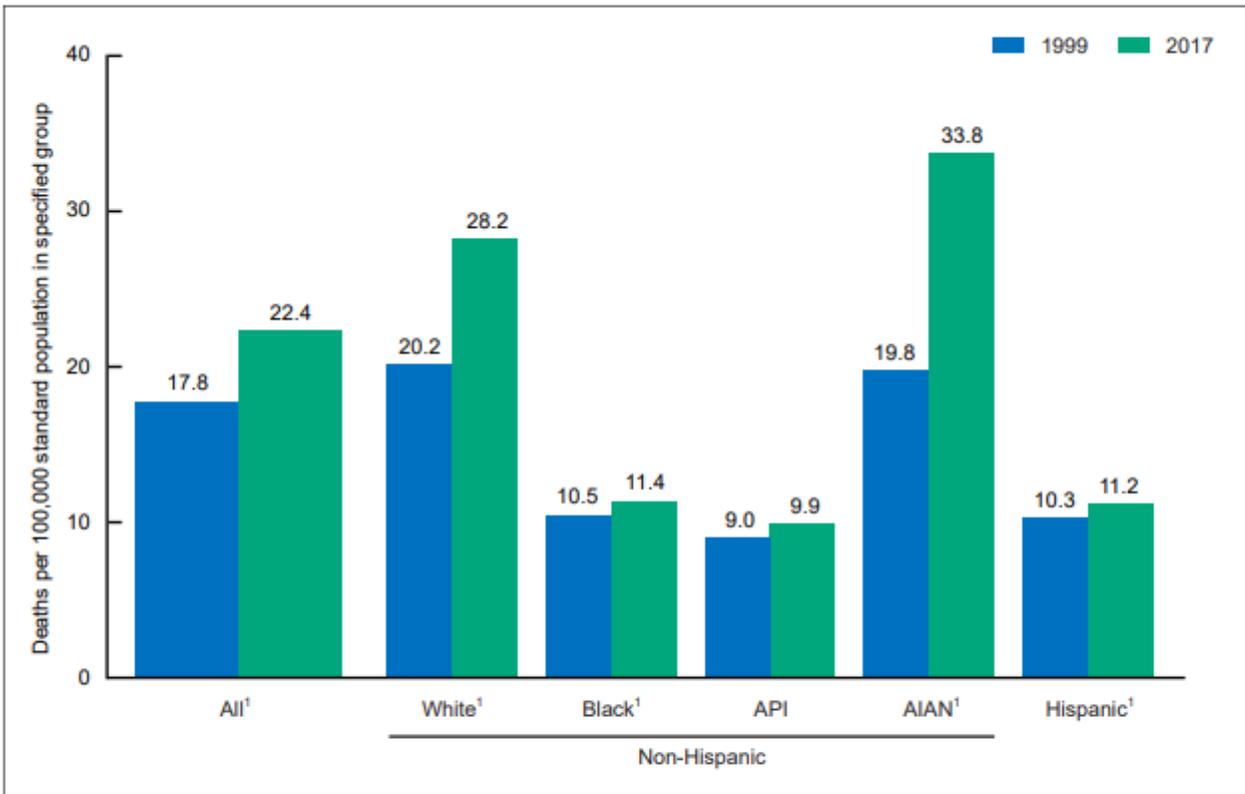


<sup>1</sup>Significant difference in rates between 1999 and 2017 ( $p < 0.05$ ).

NOTES: Suicides are identified with *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)* codes U03, X60–X84, and Y87.0. Death rates for non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander (API), non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), and Hispanic persons may be underestimated and should be interpreted with caution. See Data source and methods.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

Figure 2. Age-adjusted suicide rates for males, by race and ethnicity: United States, 1999 and 2017



<sup>1</sup>Significant difference in rates between 1999 and 2017 ( $p < 0.05$ ).

NOTES: Suicides are identified with *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)* codes U03, X60–X84, and Y87.0. Death rates for non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander (API), non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), and Hispanic persons may be underestimated and should be interpreted with caution.

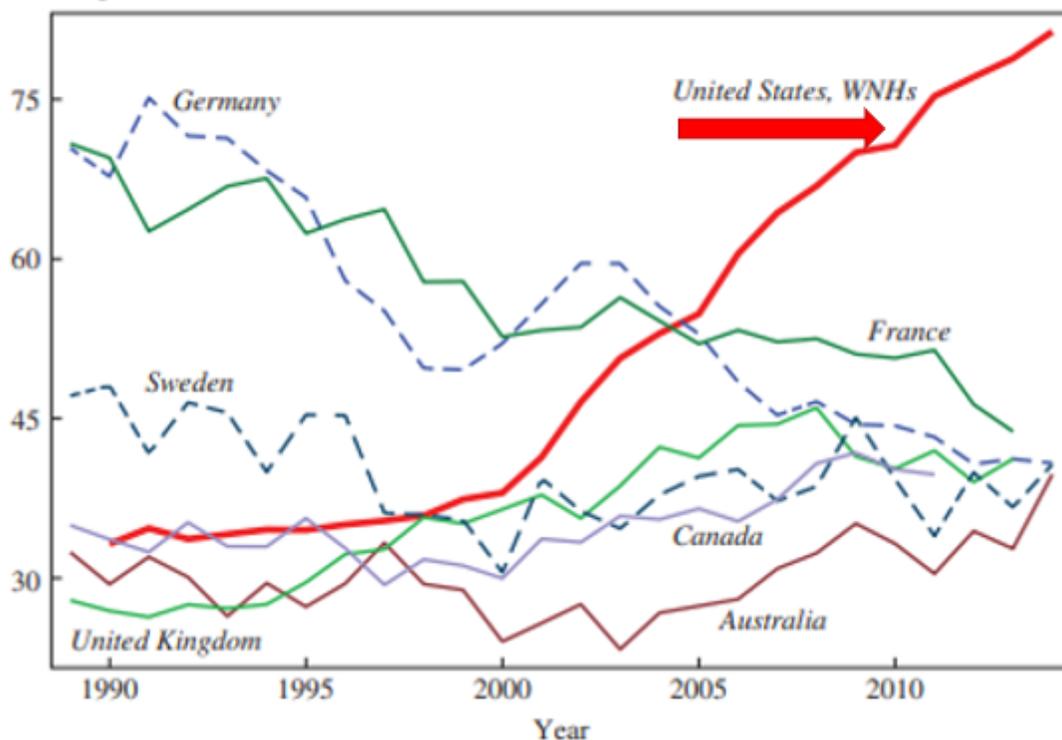
See Data source and methods.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

Suicide reaches its highest rate among whites aged 50 to 55 in “deaths of despair (alcohol, drugs and suicide). [5]

## Deaths of Despair by Country for Age 50–54, 1989–2014\*

Deaths per 100,000



For these 50-55 year olds, the big culprit in my book, lies not in the lack of employment (often cited as the major cause), but in the divorce revolution (and separation among cohabiters) that their parents visited on them. [6, 7, 8] Still today, this is the major culprit still today for the younger Americans in the charts above. There are many studies that point that way. Common sense and reflection add to it.

1 Curtin, S and Heron, M “ Death Rates Due to Suicide and Homicide Among Persons Aged 10–24: United States. 2000–2017” NCHS Data Brief #352, NCHS/CDC, Oct 2019

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

4 Suicide Rates for Females and Males by Race and Ethnicity: United States, 1999 and 2017

[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/suicide/rates\\_1999\\_2017.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/suicide/rates_1999_2017.htm)

5 Case and Deaton , Brookings Economic Papers, 2017 <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/casetextsp17bpea.pdf>

6 [Martin Lindström](#), [Maria Rosvall](#) Parental separation in childhood, social capital, and suicide thoughts and suicide attempts: A population-based study. *Psychiatry Res.* 2015 Sep 30; vol 229, pp: 206-1.

7 Alonzo D et al, The influence of parental divorce and alcohol abuse on adult offspring risk of lifetime suicide attempt in the United States. *Am J Orthopsychiatry*, 2014 May; Vol 84:316-20.

8 [Gould](#) M.S. et al, Separation/divorce and child and adolescent completed suicide. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry.* 1998 Feb; Vol. 37: pp 155-62



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