**TITLE:** Youth and Adolescent Suicides, Deschutes County, Oregon, 2017

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public health, behavioral health, and medical professionals, parents, and community leaders.

**ABSTRACT:** Background: Central Oregon had high suicide rates compared to Oregon, 2006-2015. Youth and adolescent (10-24 year old) suicides are tragedies for decedents and families.

Purpose & methods: To better understand these events, we reviewed records received under SB 561for 2017.

Results: During 2017, there were 9 suicide completions in persons 10-24 years old (4 of those in 10-17 year olds) in Deschutes County, 31 deaths/ 100,000/ year, substantially above Oregon's rate (13/100,000/yr for 2016, most recent year available [OHA]), and only exceeded locally among 45-54 year-olds. The leading (but not majority) method was self-inflicted gunshot wound, followed by hanging. Only one decedent had known prior suicide attempts; two other had expressed suicidal ideation (one recently, one in the past). 5 of 9 (55%) had sought/received mental health and/or SUD treatment in the past. There were no evident commonalities in person, place, time, or affiliation that would raise suspicion of clustering or contagion.

Conclusions: Youth and adolescent suicides are too common in Deschutes County. A local community coalition of schools, public health and behavioral health agencies, and parents is focusing on suicide awareness and prevention outreach, and a new youth-oriented suicide hotline being implemented. It is helpful to have law enforcement agency record access to better understand these tragedies and possible means to prevent them.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Discuss adolescent suicide and some of its known risk factors.

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