

Trends in Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicide: Are We Doing Better?

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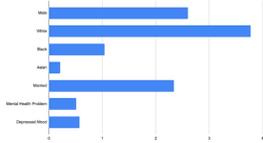
INTRODUCTION: Orthopaedic surgeons are known to be at the highest risk of suicide among surgical subspecialties. There has been a recent increased awareness around mental health and suicide among orthopaedic surgeons. However, it is unknown if this increased awareness has resulted in any progress. The aim of this study is to identify current prevalence and characteristics of orthopaedic surgeon suicide. Further, we aim to identify risk factors for surgeon suicide as compared to nonsurgeon physicians.

METHODS: The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) database from the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) was studied from 2017 to 2022 for physician suicides.

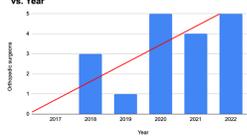
RESULTS: 746 physician suicides from were reported in NVDRS from 2017-2022. Orthopaedic surgeons had the highest prevalence of suicide within the surgical subspecialties (25%) and suicide prevalence increased over our study period. White orthopaedic surgeons made up all of the suicides (100%) and males made up the majority (94.4%). White race (OR = 3.32, 95% CI = 1.19 - 9.28) and being married (OR= 1.9, 95% CI= 1.09 - 3.32) were identified as risk factors for surgeon suicide as compared to nonsurgeon suicide. Suicide was less likely to occur to surgeons who have mental health problems (OR = 0.52, 95% CI = 0.31 - 0.87) or depressed mood (OR = 0.48, 95% CI = 0.27 - 0.85) as compared to nonsurgeon physicians.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Orthopaedic surgery continues to have the highest prevalence for suicide among surgical subspecialties.

Odds Ratio For Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicides



Orthopaedic surgeons vs. Year



Orthopaedic Surgeon Average Age	65.2	
Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicides By Race and Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides
White	16	100%
Black	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%
Pacific Islander	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Unspecified	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicides By Gender		
Gender	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides
Male	17	94.4%
Female	1	5.6%
Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicides US Regions		
Region	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides
Southwest	4	22.2%
Midwest	4	22.2%
Northeast	3	16.6%
West	3	16.6%
Virgin Islands	3	16.6%
Southwest	1	5.6%
Orthopaedic Surgeon Suicides Methods of Death		
Manner of Death	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides
Firearms	13	72.2%
Poisoning/Intoxication	2	11.1%
Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	2	11.1%
Multiple Traumatic Injuries	1	5.6%

Subspecialty	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides	Subspecialty	Number of Suicides (%)	Fraction of Suicides
Orthopaedic Surgeon	17	100%	Neurosurgeon	0	0%
Cardiothoracic Surgeon	0	0%	Plastic Surgeon	0	0%
General Surgeon	0	0%	Urologist	0	0%
Neurologist	0	0%	Obstetrician/Gynecologist	0	0%
Psychiatrist	0	0%	Pediatric Surgeon	0	0%
Endocrinologist	0	0%	Cardiologist	0	0%
Oncologist	0	0%	Emergency Medicine	0	0%
Family Medicine	0	0%	Internal Medicine	0	0%
Geriatrician	0	0%	Pediatric Endocrinologist	0	0%
Infectious Disease	0	0%	Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist	0	0%
Nephrologist	0	0%	Pediatric Neurologist	0	0%
Physiatrist	0	0%	Pediatric Radiologist	0	0%
Radiologist	0	0%	Pediatric Surgeon	0	0%
Respiratory	0	0%	Perinatal Medicine	0	0%
Transplant	0	0%	Preventive Medicine	0	0%
Cardiologist	0	0%	Public Health	0	0%
Endocrinologist	0	0%	Other	0	0%
Neurologist	0	0%			
Psychiatrist	0	0%			
Other	0	0%			