



A Fifteen-Year Report: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Demographics

This report is assembled from public files in the office of Marin County Coroner Ken Holmes. It covers the period July 1, 1994 through June 30, 2009. The Marin Coroner's office investigated 330 deaths from the Bridge during that period.

Please Note: While these data represent the vast majority of bridge suicides during the study period, it is not complete. Data from other coroners and medical examiners who find the remains of people who jump from the bridge should be added. A complete study would require review of the records from all counties along the bay shore and on the coast from Mendocino to Santa Barbara. Further, a methodology to include confirmed suicides where no body is recovered, must be developed to complete the picture.

Residency

Over 90% of people who jump from the Golden Gate Bridge are from Northern California. In fact, over 80% of them are from within the nine county Bay Area.

Residence		
Bay Area	266	83.39%
Alameda	26	8.15%
Contra Costa	21	6.58%
Marin	50	15.67%
Napa	3	0.94%
San Francisco	84	26.33%
San Mateo	22	6.90%
Santa Clara	30	9.40%
Solano	11	3.45%
Sonoma	19	5.96%
Other No. California	24	7.52%
So. California	6	1.88%
Other U.S.	20	6.27%
Out of U.S.	3	0.94%
Golden Gate Bridge District Counties (Marin, Napa, SF, Sonoma)	156	48.90%
		N=319

Note: The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District also includes Del Norte and Mendocino counties. No bridge suicides were identified from among the residents of those counties during the study period.

Witnessed Jumps

Witnesses have contacted authorities following over 70% of all bridge suicides. Data on how many witnesses there are and witnessed but unreported jumps is not available.

Witnessed		
Unwitnessed	86	26.06%
Witnessed	244	73.94%

N=330

Witness Reports

The following are excerpts from official reports on the investigation of suicide deaths at the Golden Gate Bridge. These reports are from deaths that took place between January of 2007 and June of 2009. The names of all parties involved have been withheld.

... several pedestrian witnesses saw the subject remove her shoes, set her purse down on the walkway and climb over the rail. . .

... the officer stopped his vehicle . . . and ran to apprehend the decedent who managed to climb over the rail and jump before the officer could reach her. . .

... he saw a woman, later identified as the decedent, climb over the rail at light pole #69. He continued traveling northbound until he saw a painter on the bridge, he yelled to the painter what he had just witnessed and the painter radioed. . .

... he was approximately thirty feet away. He dismounted his bike and went over to her to try to stop her, but she quickly jumped. . .

... a tourist from England was walking on the Golden Gate Bridge. She saw the decedent had jumped from the bridge . . . A jet ski unit of the SFFD heard the call and found the decedent floating in the water. . .

... the subject reportedly hit the water near a passing privately operated boat. The passengers on that boat secured the subject's body and held him until USCG personnel responded. . .

Age

The median age of individuals who jump from the Golden Gate Bridge is 40.

Age		Age		
Mean	40.96	14–24 yrs.	47	14.24%
Median	40.0	25–44 yrs.	148	44.85%
Mode	37	45–64 yrs.	115	34.85%
		65+ yrs.	16	4.85%
		Unknown	4	1.21%
		N=330		

Race, Sex and Marital Status

All races are represented among Golden Gate Bridge suicides. However, whites make up over 80% of all people who jump. Men outnumber women almost 3 to 1 among bridge suicides and most have never married.

Race	
African American	4.24%
Asian	10.00%
Hispanic	3.94%
White	80.30%
Other	0.91%
Unknown	0.61%
N=330	

Sex		
Female	85	25.76%
Male	245	74.24%
N=330		

Marital Status		
Married	63	19.09%
Divorced	64	19.39%
Unknown	13	3.94%
Widowed	4	1.21%
Never	186	56.36%
N=330		

