

A black and white photograph of a person sitting on a bench in a prison cell. The person is hunched over, their head buried in their hands, suggesting a state of despair or distress. The cell walls are made of large, rectangular blocks, and the floor is concrete. The lighting is dim, creating a somber and oppressive atmosphere. The text "Suicidal Tendencies" is overlaid in large white letters, and "Yecenia Morales" is overlaid in smaller black letters below it.

Suicidal Tendencies

Yecenia Morales

Suicide in prisons...

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death in prisons and the leading cause of death in jails
- There have been four reported suicides and hundreds of suicide attempts in Guantanamo Bay prison since 2008
- The suicide rate in holding facilities and prisons is 9 times higher than that of the community

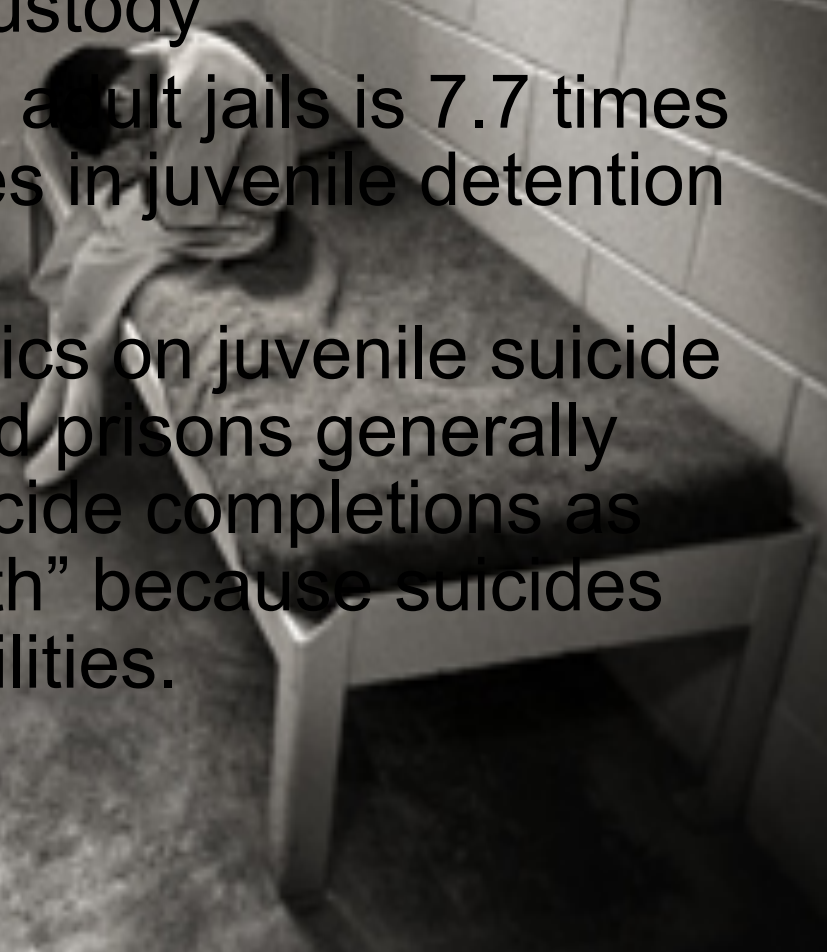


Battle of the sexes?

- In 1997 only 6 women successfully completed suicide
- Women commit suicide $\frac{1}{4}$ as often as men
- Women recently released from custody are 36% more likely to commit suicide than the general population
- In 1997 153 men successfully completed suicide
- 94% of all successful suicides committed in prisons are males
- Men are 56% more likely to commit suicide than women in custody

Juvenile suicide and self harm

- Young males, from age 15 and up are at high risk to commit suicide in custody
- Suicide rate of juveniles in adult jails is 7.7 times higher than that of juveniles in juvenile detention centers
- There are not many statistics on juvenile suicide rates in prisons as jails and prisons generally classify the successful suicide completions as “unspecified cause of death” because suicides embarrass the holding facilities.



Methods: Hanging

- Over 80% of suicides are completed by hanging
 - Feet have to be off the floor to accomplish
 - 2 kg of pressure can end in fatality
 - Death by hanging occurs in five to seven minutes



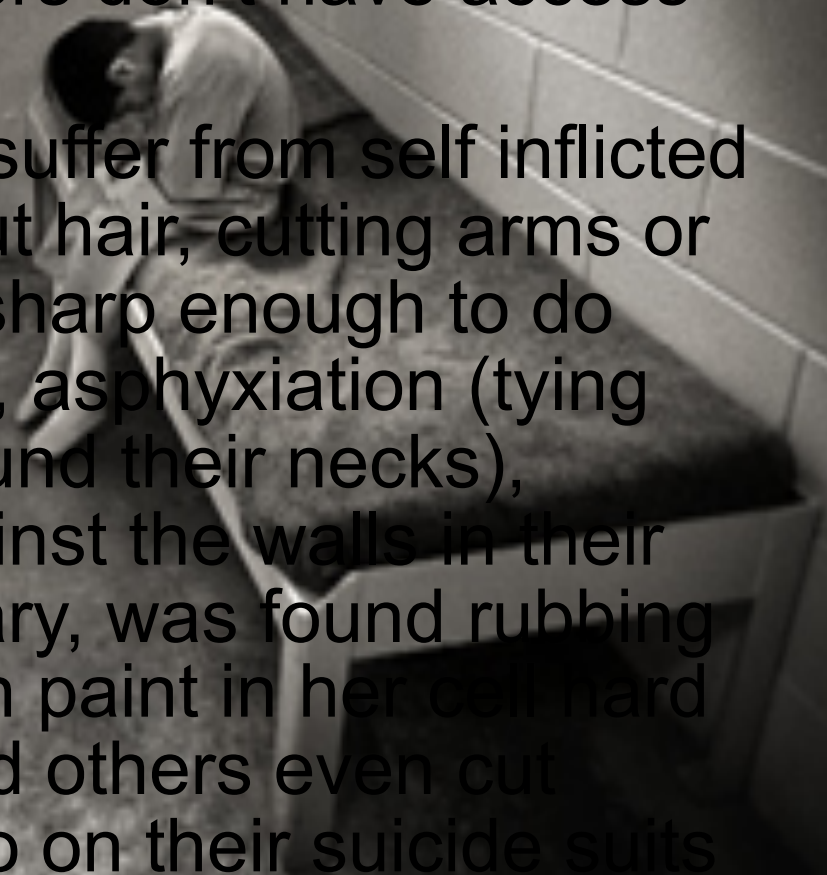
Methods: Overdose

- The second leading method of successful suicide completion is overdose on psychotropic drugs, especially antidepressants



Methods: Self Immolation

- Self immolation is not uncommon in prisons, but is difficult because prisoners don't have access to much
- Many persons in custody suffer from self inflicted wounds such as pulling out hair, cutting arms or legs with bits of anything sharp enough to do harm, biting off fingernails, asphyxiation (tying clothes or bed sheets around their necks), smashing their heads against the walls in their cells. One girl, put in solitary, was found rubbing her wrist against the rough paint in her cell hard enough to draw blood. And others even cut themselves with the Velcro on their suicide suits



A black and white photograph of a person sitting on a bench in a prison cell. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants, and is looking down with their head resting on their hand. The cell has brick walls and a concrete floor. The text "Is prison really the best?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Is prison really the best?