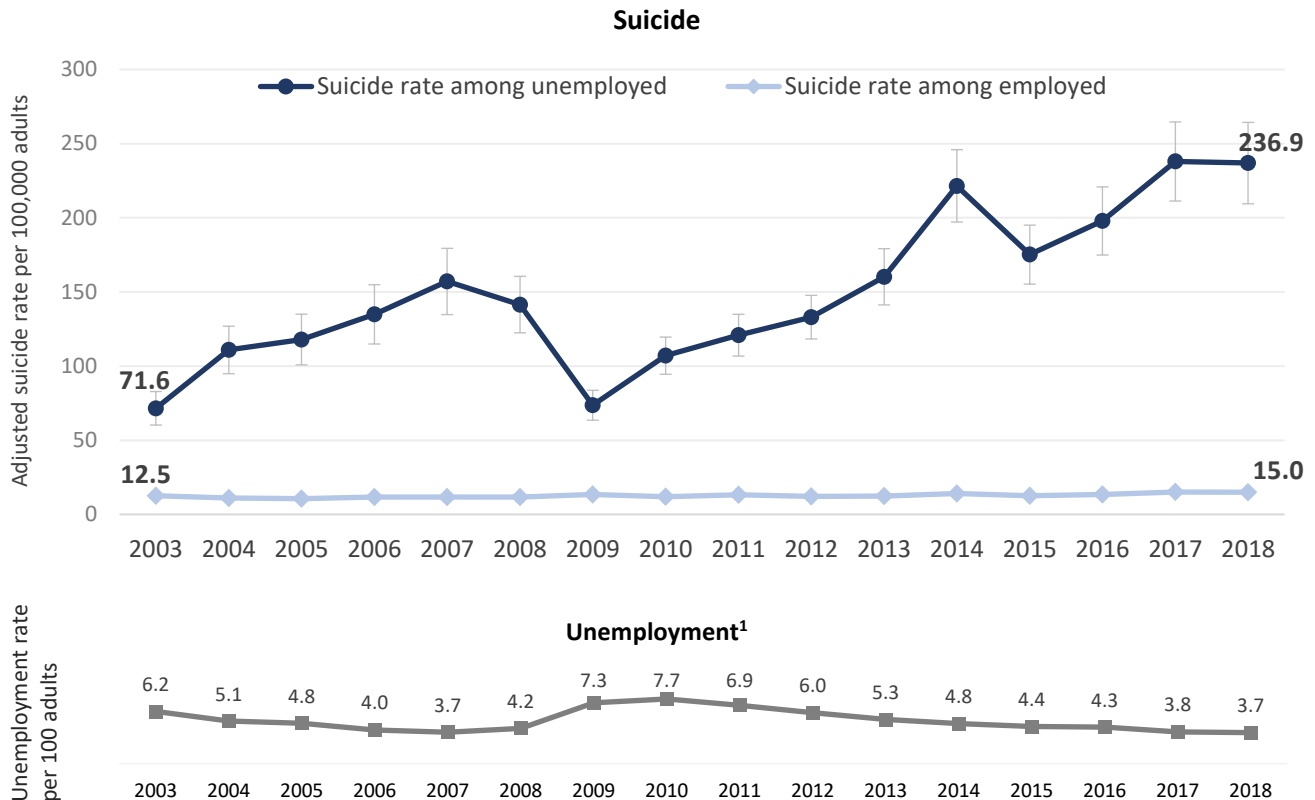


Suicide Rates Increasing Among Unemployed

Adults of working age (18–64 years), Washington State, 2003–2018



Suicide rates^{2,3} more than tripled among the unemployed⁴ between 2003 and 2018.

- Suicide rates increased among employed and unemployed adults between 2003 and 2018, and were consistently higher among the unemployed.
- The unemployment rate peaked in 2010, following the Great Recession of 2007–2009, and steadily decreased between 2010 and 2018.
- The suicide rate disparity between unemployed and employed also increased during this time. In 2003, the suicide rate was 6 times higher among the unemployed compared to the employed and grew to 16 times higher in 2018.

1. Unemployment rate for Washington State adults age 18–64, calculated using Current Population Survey (CPS) data, 2003–2018.

2. Suicide rates adjusted for sex, age, race, and ethnicity.

3. Calculated adjusted rates using Department of Health (DOH) death certificate data, Employment Security Department (ESD) data to determine working status, and Current Population Survey (CPS) data, 2003–2018.

4. Work status definition: 'employed' = had any reported hours to ESD within year of suicide; 'unemployed' = had reported hours to ESD in previous years, but none within year before suicide. Working age adults with no record of ever working were not included.