NOTES for PRESENTATION // SPEAKING:

Audience question: “But what about the age distribution differences between US states? How can you compare lumped-together suicide rates between states? Miami has lotsa old people, and Alaska and Colorado are much younger, that’s comparing apples and oranges, isn’t it?”

“WELL, I’m GLAD you asked that. ACTUALLY, our statistics from CDC (DHS-> CDC -> NC IPC -> WISQARS data service) already offered age-adjusted suicide rates. The rates of almost all causes of disease, injury, and death vary by age. Age adjustment is a technique for “removing” the effects of age from crude rates so as to allow meaningful comparisons across populations with different underlying age structures. ///Age-adjusted rates are calculated by applying a corrective weighting factor to the age-specific rates of the examined populations, those weighting multipliers deriving from a standard population determined by census demographics for that period of time. ” So there! (e