

“The Great Suiciding People Among Us”



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When the superintendent of the census called German immigrants “the great suiciding people among us” in 1899, he simply confirmed the common wisdom of his time that German immigrants were unusually suicidal. This presentation explores whether high suicide rates reflected the dislocation of migration or a set of cultural characteristics, and whether German Americans constituted an “emotional community.”

German Americans
and Suicide in the
Nineteenth Century

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