Accessing Statewide Suicide Death Data through the California Department of Public Health's **EpiCenter Death and Injury Data Online Query System**

California Department of PublicHealth

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
EPICENTER | Death and Injury Data Online Query System

Accessing Statewide Suicide Death Data through the California Department of Public Health's EpiCenter Death and Injury Data Online Query System

This document provides step-by-step instructions on how to access data on suicide deaths through the EpiCenter website: http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov. Its intended audience includes individuals seeking access to data on suicide deaths in California, including federal, state, and local level government stakeholders, researchers, journalists, community-based organizations, health professionals, and other community members. This document provides guidance on using the EpiCenter, three examples that demonstrate how to use the EpiCenter to obtain state and county-level suicide death data, and tips for describing data and using Excel to create graphs with the data. Data provided via the EpiCenter is intended to be used to guide efforts to prevent suicide and other forms of death and injury in California.

If you have any questions about this document or use of the EpiCenter website, please contact suicide.prevention@cdph.ca.gov.

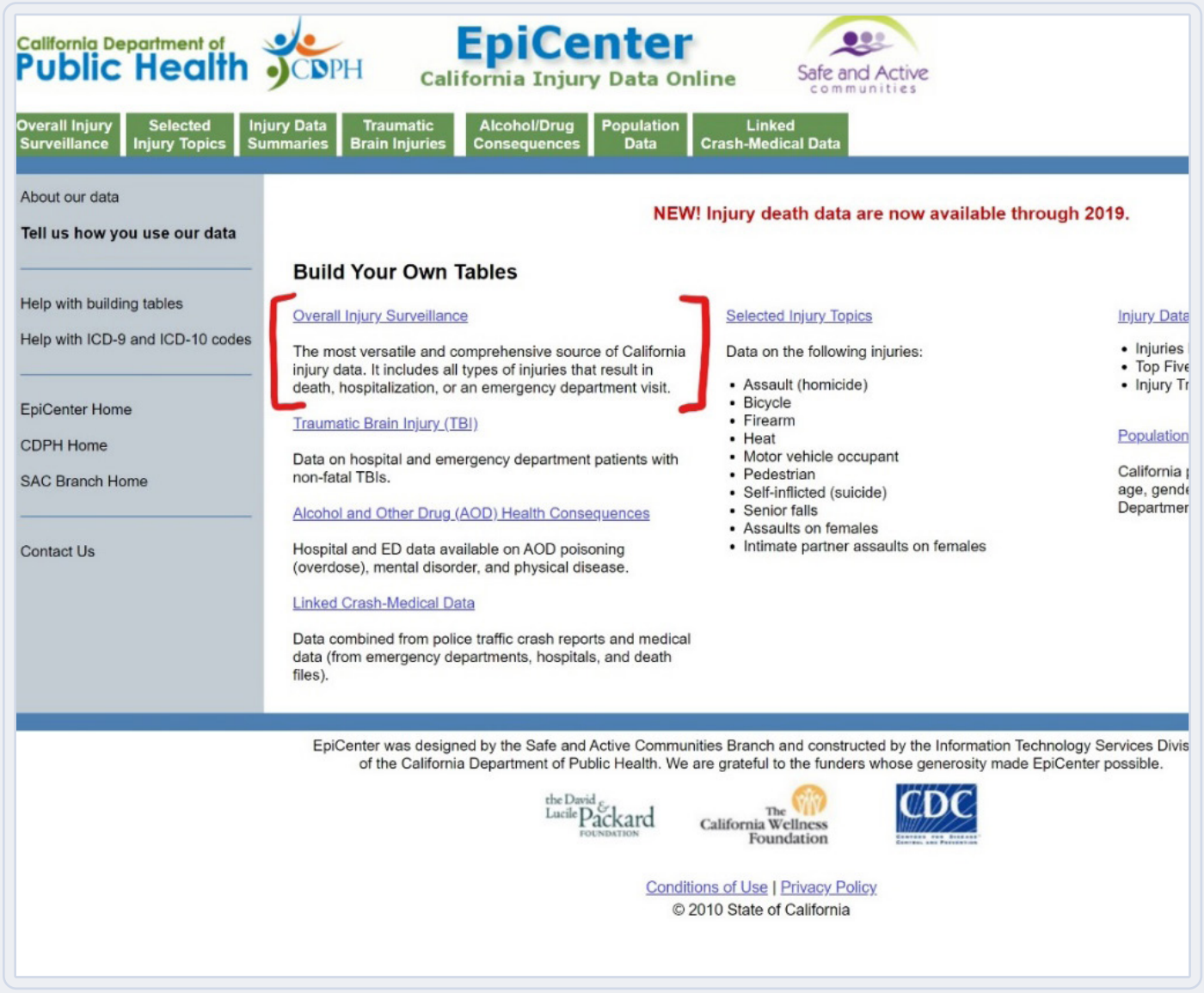
Background

The EpiCenter injury data online query system is a product of the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). It collects information about fatal injuries (death) from the California Department of Public Health's Death Statistical Master file. These data come from death certificates that are registered in California each year. IVPB uses this file to describe the residents who died due to injury (i.e., individuals whose death certificate includes an external cause of injury). It also collects information about nonfatal injuries from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Patient Discharge Data (PDD) and Emergency Department (ED) data. The PDD data set contains information on patients discharged from all non-Federal hospitals in California; the ED data set contains information on patients who were admitted to an emergency department in California, then treated and released, or transferred to another facility.

Steps for Accessing EpiCenter Data

Step 1:

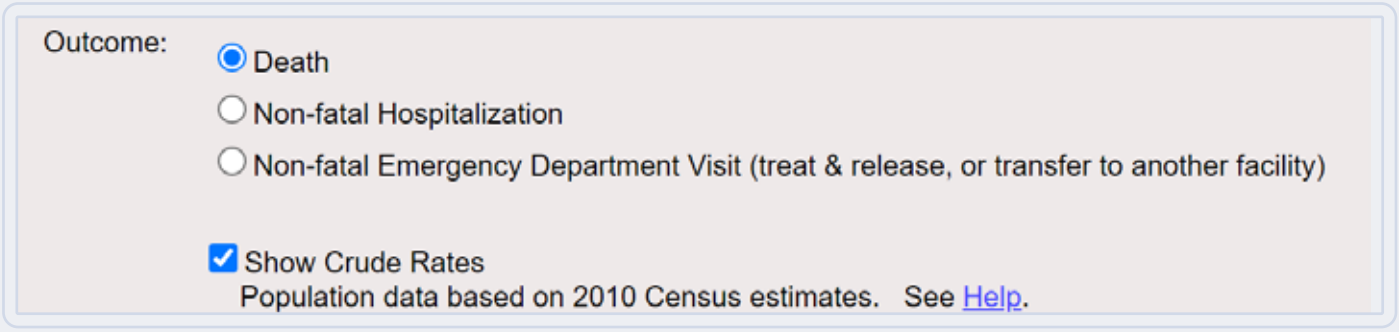
Once you are on the EpiCenter website, click on the *Overall Injury Surveillance* link (highlighted in red brackets below).



Steps for Accessing EpiCenter Data

Step 2:

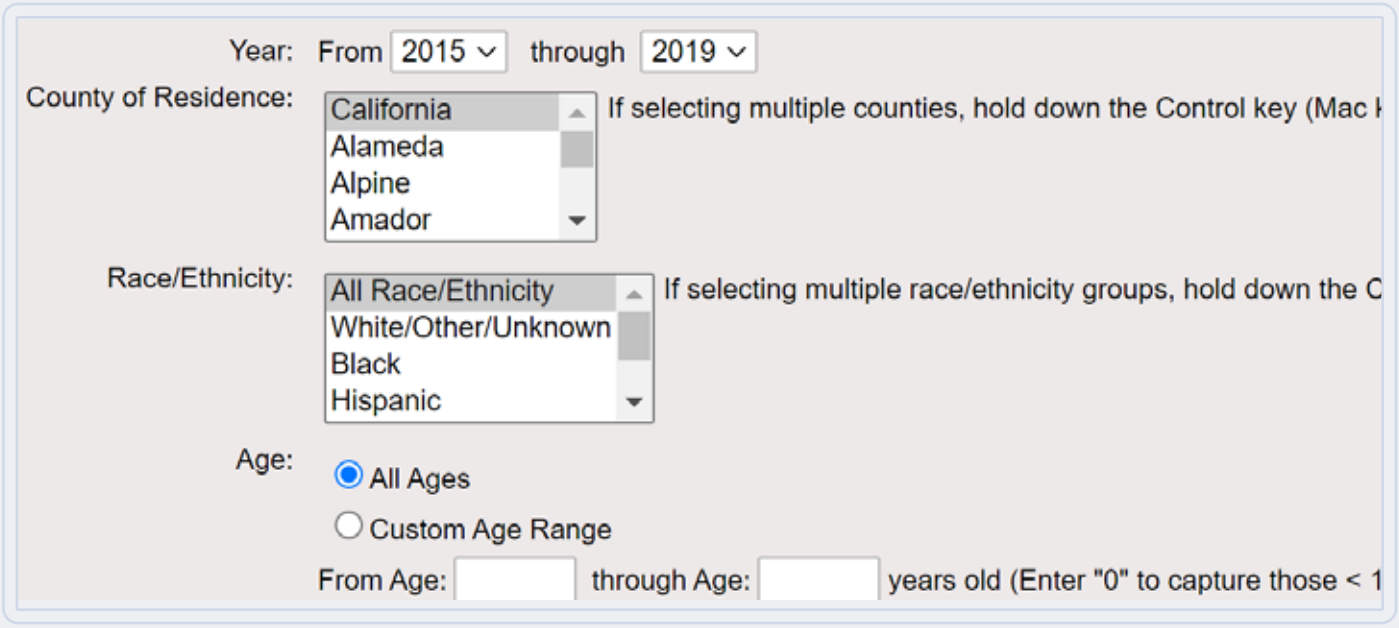
Select *Death* and *Show Crude Rates.*



It is important to select ***Show Crude Rates* because it will measure the number of cases (or deaths) occurring in a specified population per year, usually expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 population at risk. If not selected, data will be presented as number of cases only (i.e., counts).

Step 3:

Select years, counties, race/ethnicity, and age range you are interested in. To select multiple counties or race/ethnicity groups, hold down the control key while selecting.

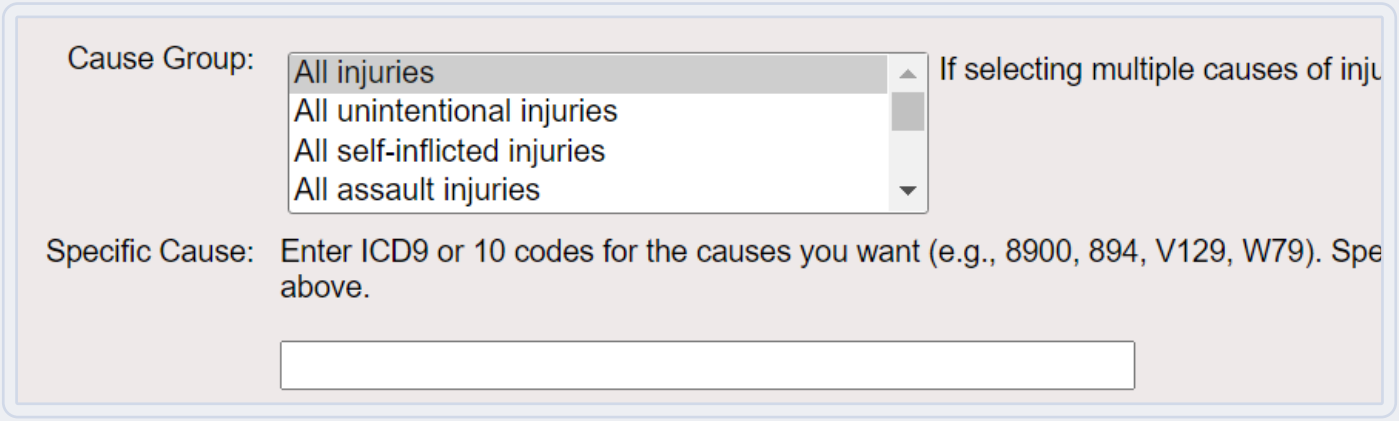


**The website provides death data from 1991–2019, non-fatal hospitalization data from 1991–2015, and non-fatal emergency department data from 2006–2015. Data is available for all counties in California. Race/ethnicity groups available on the site include: White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Other/Unknown.

Steps for Accessing EpiCenter Data

Step 4:

Select the causes of injury. To select multiple causes of injury, hold down the control key while selecting.



** Cause of injury, allows users to see how the intended population has inflicted their injury, and whether it was accidental or intentional. Selections include: all injuries, unintentional injuries, self-inflicted injuries, and assault injuries. There are some options that are more generalized and others are more specific. For suicide data, self-inflicted injuries should be the selected cause group. You can select "All self-inflicted injuries" to capture all suicide deaths. When selecting a specific cause for suicide, there are many options to choose from. In the "Cause Group" scroll-down menu, you can select the following:

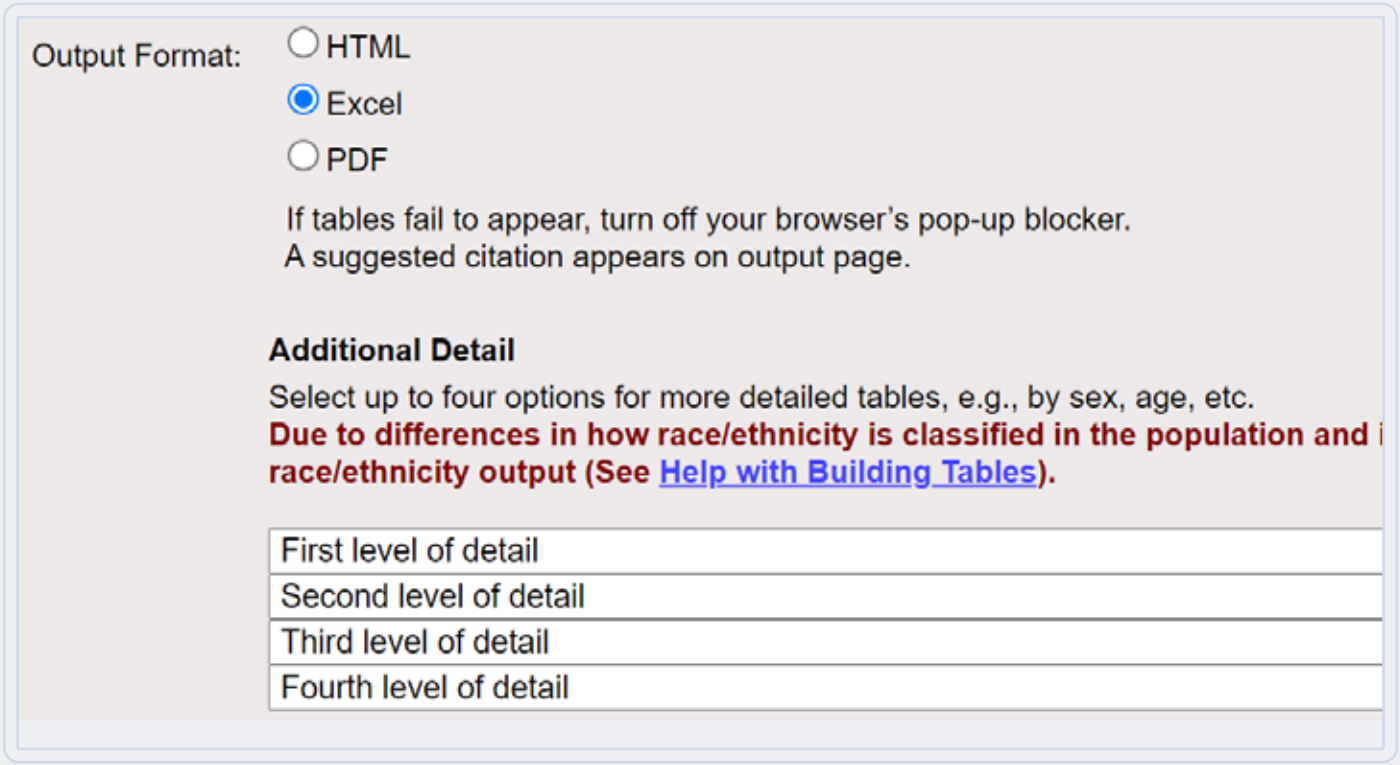
- For suicides due to use of a firearm, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Firearm"
- For suicides due to cutting/piercing, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Cut/Pierce"
- For suicides due to hanging/suffocation, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Hanging/ Suffocation"
- For suicides due to jumping, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Jump"
- For suicides due to poisoning, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Poisoning"
- For suicides due to other causes, select "Self-inflicted/Suicide – Other"

You can also filter specific causes for suicide by ICD code. If you want to enter multiple ICD codes, then each code should be separated by a comma.

Steps for Accessing EpiCenter Data

Step 5:

Select the data input you would like your data to be shown in. You can also add any additional details for the data set (listed below). Click submit to receive the data.



** After finalizing a table, there are different options you can select to receive the necessary data: HTML, Excel, and PDF. If you want to be able to interact with data, the Excel document would the best output to use.

**Selecting the Additional Detail options will allow you to categorize data by various sub-groups. Sub-groups include: age (summary age groups, single year, or 5-year groups), county of residence, education (available for year 2003+ and age 25+) race/ethnicity, sex, veteran status (available for year 2005+ and age 18+), cause of injury, intent, year, and month of death.

Examples of Accessing EpiCenter Data

Example #1:

Suicide rates in California between 2015-2019 among the Hispanic community in Excel.

The pictures below show the selections to make in order to obtain statewide suicide rates among the Hispanic community from 2015-2019.

Outcome:
- (•) Death
- ( ) Non-fatal Hospitalization
- ( ) Non-fatal Emergency Department Visit (treat & release, or transfer to another facility)

[x] Show Crude Rates
Population data based on 2010 Census estimates. See Help.

Year: From 2015 through 2019

County of Residence:
California
Alameda
Alpine
Amador
If selecting multiple counties, hold down the Control key (Mac key for Mac use

Race/Ethnicity:
All Race/Ethnicity
White/Other/Unknown
Black
Hispanic
If selecting multiple race/ethnicity groups, hold down the Control key (Mac

Age:
- (•) All Ages
- ( ) Custom Age Range

From Age: [ ] through Age: [ ] years old (Enter "0" to capture those < 1 year old)

Cause Group:
All injuries
All unintentional injuries
All self-inflicted injuries
All assault injuries
If selecting multiple causes of injury, hold down the Co

Specific Cause: Enter ICD9 or 10 codes for the causes you want (e.g., 8900, 894, V129, W79). Specific ICD codes overr above.

[ ]

Output Format:
- ( ) HTML
- (•) Excel
- ( ) PDF

If tables fail to appear, turn off your browser's pop-up blocker.
A suggested citation appears on output page.

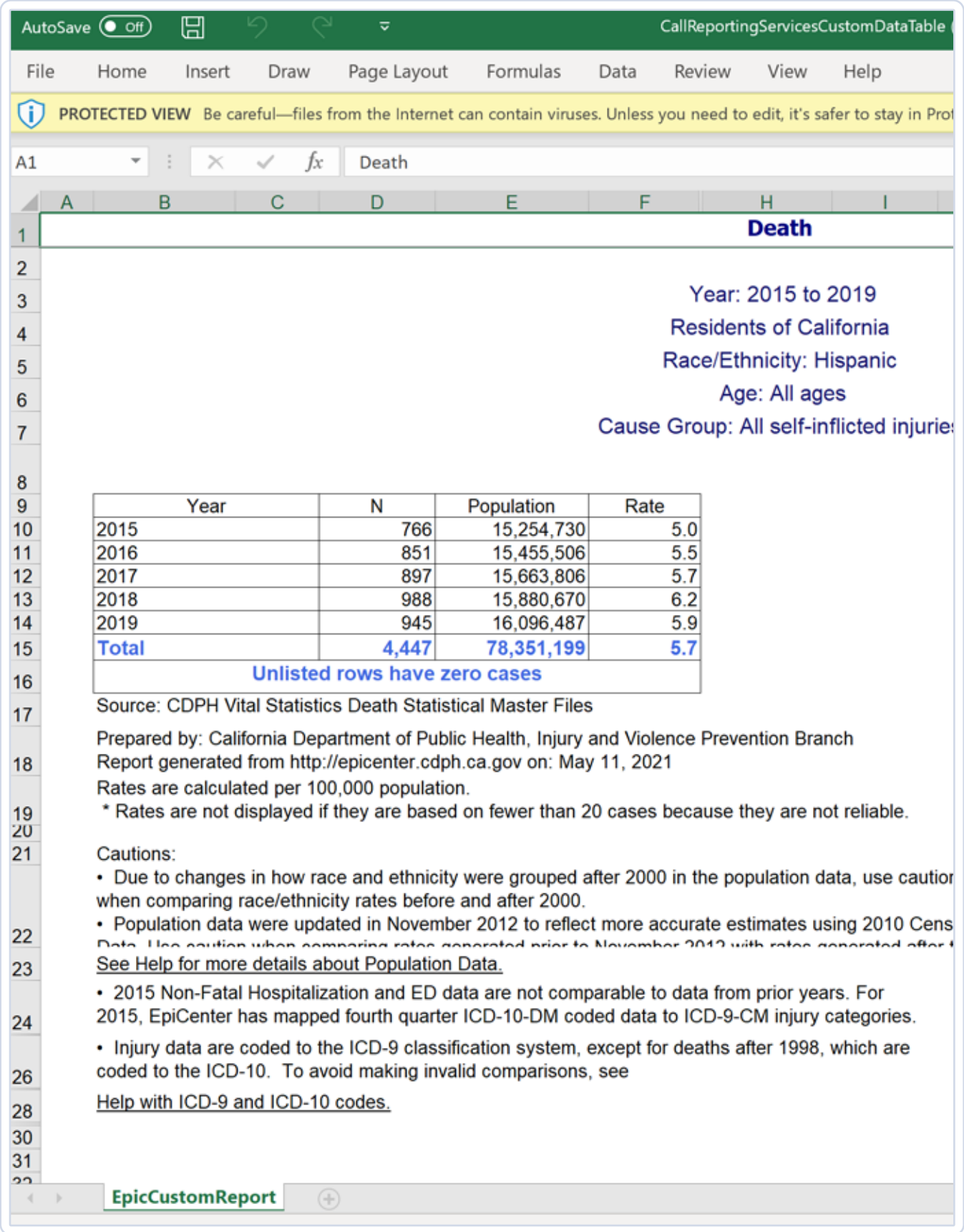
Additional Detail

Select up to four options for more detailed tables, e.g., by sex, age, etc.
Due to differences in how race/ethnicity is classified in the population and injury data, caution m race/ethnicity output (See Help with Building Tables).

Year
Second level of detail
Third level of detail
Fourth level of detail

Interpretation of data:

The suicide rate among Hispanics increased from 5.0 per 100,000 in 2015 to 5.9 per 100,000 in 2019. This is an increase of 18% in suicide rates among Hispanics.



AutoSave Off — CallReportingServicesCustomDataTable

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help

PROTECTED VIEW Be careful—files from the Internet can contain viruses. Unless you need to edit, it's safer to stay in Prot

A1 — Death

Death

Year: 2015 to 2019
Residents of California
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic
Age: All ages
Cause Group: All self-inflicted injurie

Year	N	Population	Rate
2015	766	15,254,730	5.0
2016	851	15,455,506	5.5
2017	897	15,663,806	5.7
2018	988	15,880,670	6.2
2019	945	16,096,487	5.9
Total	**4,447**	**78,351,199**	**5.7**

Unlisted rows have zero cases

Source: CDPH Vital Statistics Death Statistical Master Files

Prepared by: California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
Report generated from http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov on: May 11, 2021
Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
* Rates are not displayed if they are based on fewer than 20 cases because they are not reliable.

Cautions:
• Due to changes in how race and ethnicity were grouped after 2000 in the population data, use caution when comparing race/ethnicity rates before and after 2000.
• Population data were updated in November 2012 to reflect more accurate estimates using 2010 Cens
Data. Use caution when comparing rates generated prior to November 2012 with rates generated after
See Help for more details about Population Data.
• 2015 Non-Fatal Hospitalization and ED data are not comparable to data from prior years. For 2015, EpiCenter has mapped fourth quarter ICD-10-DM coded data to ICD-9-CM injury categories.
• Injury data are coded to the ICD-9 classification system, except for deaths after 1998, which are coded to the ICD-10. To avoid making invalid comparisons, see
Help with ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes.

EpicCustomReport

Example #2:

Suicide rates in Los Angeles County between 2015-2019 among males and females in HTML.

The pictures below show the selections to make in order to obtain suicide rates among the males and females in Los Angeles County from 2015-2019.

Outcome:
- (●) Death
- ( ) Non-fatal Hospitalization
- ( ) Non-fatal Emergency Department Visit (treat & release, or transfer to another facility)

[✓] Show Crude Rates
Population data based on 2010 Census estimates. See Help.

Year: From 2015 through 2019

nty of Residence: Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin — If selecting multiple counties, hold down the Control key (Mac key for Mac

Race/Ethnicity: All Race/Ethnicity, White/Other/Unknown, Black, Hispanic — If selecting multiple race/ethnicity groups, hold down the Control key

Age:
- (●) All Ages
- ( ) Custom Age Range

From Age: [ ] through Age: [ ] years old (Enter "0" to capture those < 1 year old)

Cause Group: All injuries, All unintentional injuries, All self-inflicted injuries, All assault injuries — If selecting multiple causes of injury, hold down the Control key

Specific Cause: Enter ICD9 or 10 codes for the causes you want (e.g., 8900, 894, V129, W79). Specific ICD codes override any C above.

[ ]

Output Format:
- (●) HTML
- ( ) Excel
- ( ) PDF

If tables fail to appear, turn off your browser's pop-up blocker.
A suggested citation appears on output page.

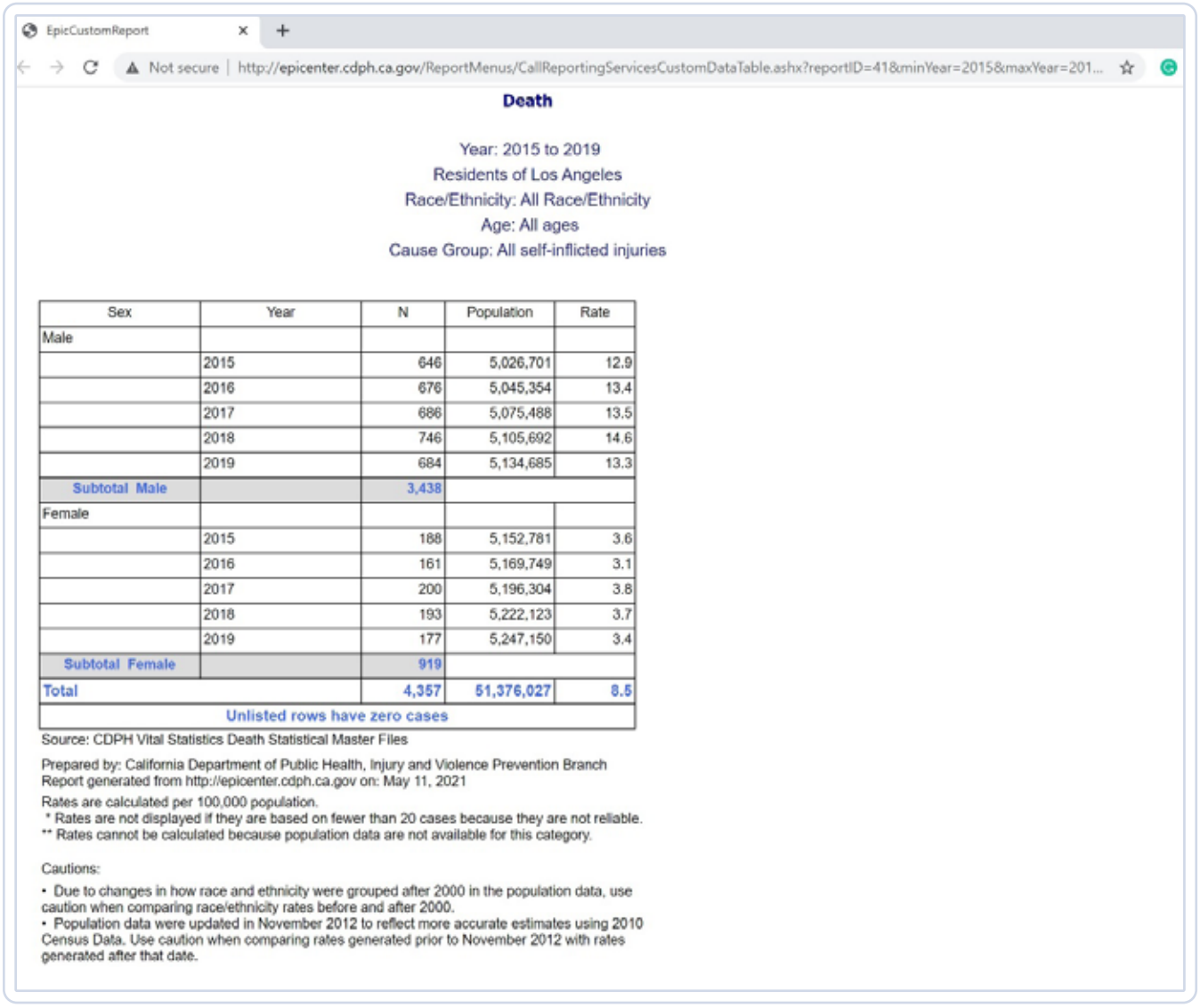
Additional Detail

Select up to four options for more detailed tables, e.g., by sex, age, etc.
Due to differences in how race/ethnicity is classified in the population and injury data, caution must be us race/ethnicity output (See Help with Building Tables).

Sex
Year
Third level of detail
Fourth level of detail

Interpretation of the data:

Males in Los Angeles County have higher rates of suicide compared to females. Males experienced an increase of 3% in suicide rates from 2015 (12.9 per 100,000) to 2019 (13.3 per 100,000) in Los Angeles County. In contrast, females experienced a decrease of 5.5% in suicide rates from 2015 (3.6 per 100,000) to 2019 (3.4 per 100,000) in Los Angeles County.



Death

Year: 2015 to 2019
Residents of Los Angeles
Race/Ethnicity: All Race/Ethnicity
Age: All ages
Cause Group: All self-inflicted injuries

Sex	Year	N	Population	Rate
Male				
	2015	646	5,026,701	12.9
	2016	676	5,045,354	13.4
	2017	686	5,075,488	13.5
	2018	746	5,105,692	14.6
	2019	684	5,134,685	13.3
Subtotal Male		3,438		
Female				
	2015	188	5,152,781	3.6
	2016	161	5,169,749	3.1
	2017	200	5,196,304	3.8
	2018	193	5,222,123	3.7
	2019	177	5,247,150	3.4
Subtotal Female		919		
Total		4,357	51,376,027	8.5

Unlisted rows have zero cases

Source: CDPH Vital Statistics Death Statistical Master Files

Prepared by: California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
Report generated from http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov on: May 11, 2021

Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
* Rates are not displayed if they are based on fewer than 20 cases because they are not reliable.
** Rates cannot be calculated because population data are not available for this category.

Cautions:

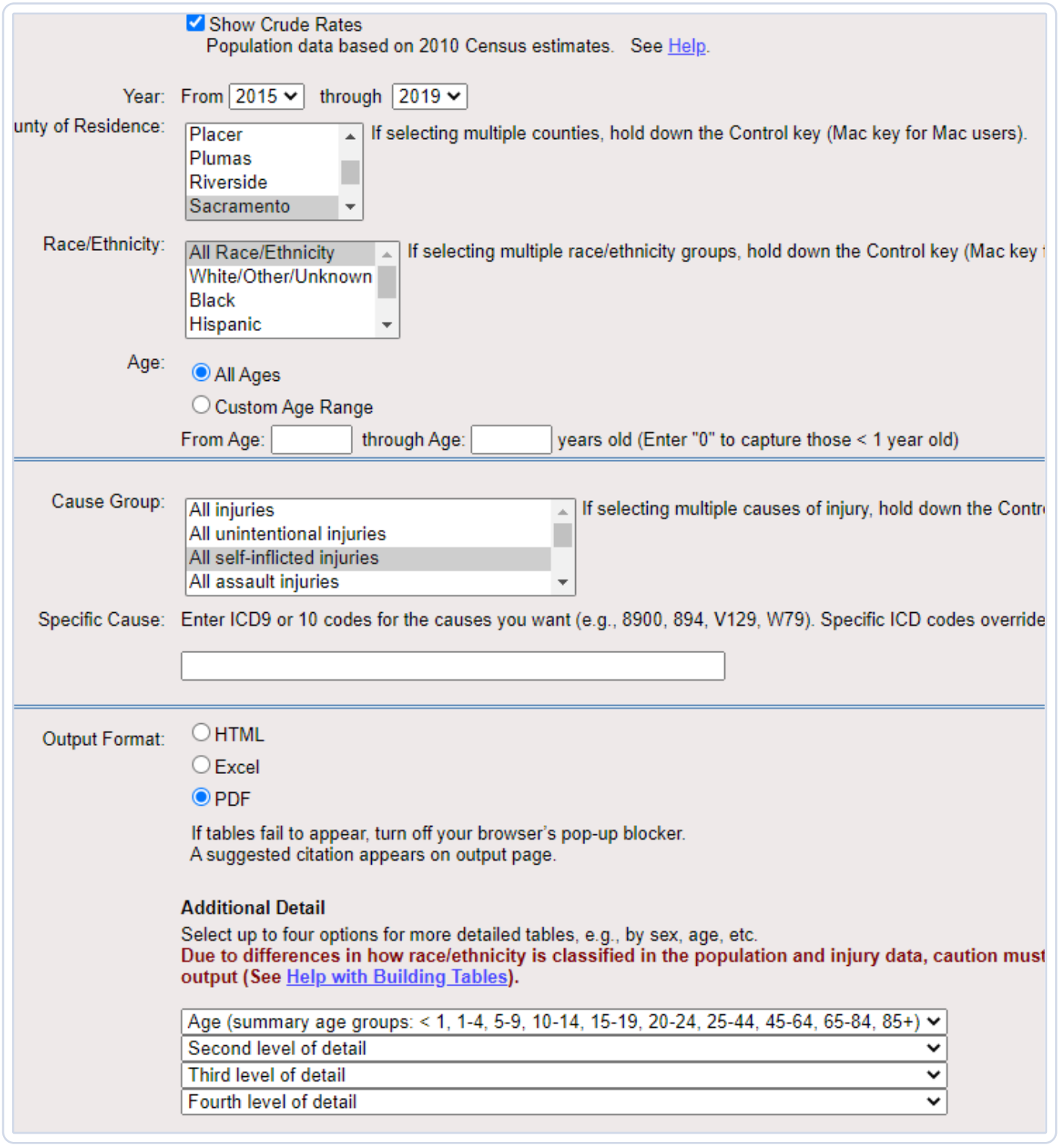
- Due to changes in how race and ethnicity were grouped after 2000 in the population data, use caution when comparing race/ethnicity rates before and after 2000.
- Population data were updated in November 2012 to reflect more accurate estimates using 2010 Census Data. Use caution when comparing rates generated prior to November 2012 with rates generated after that date.

Example #3:

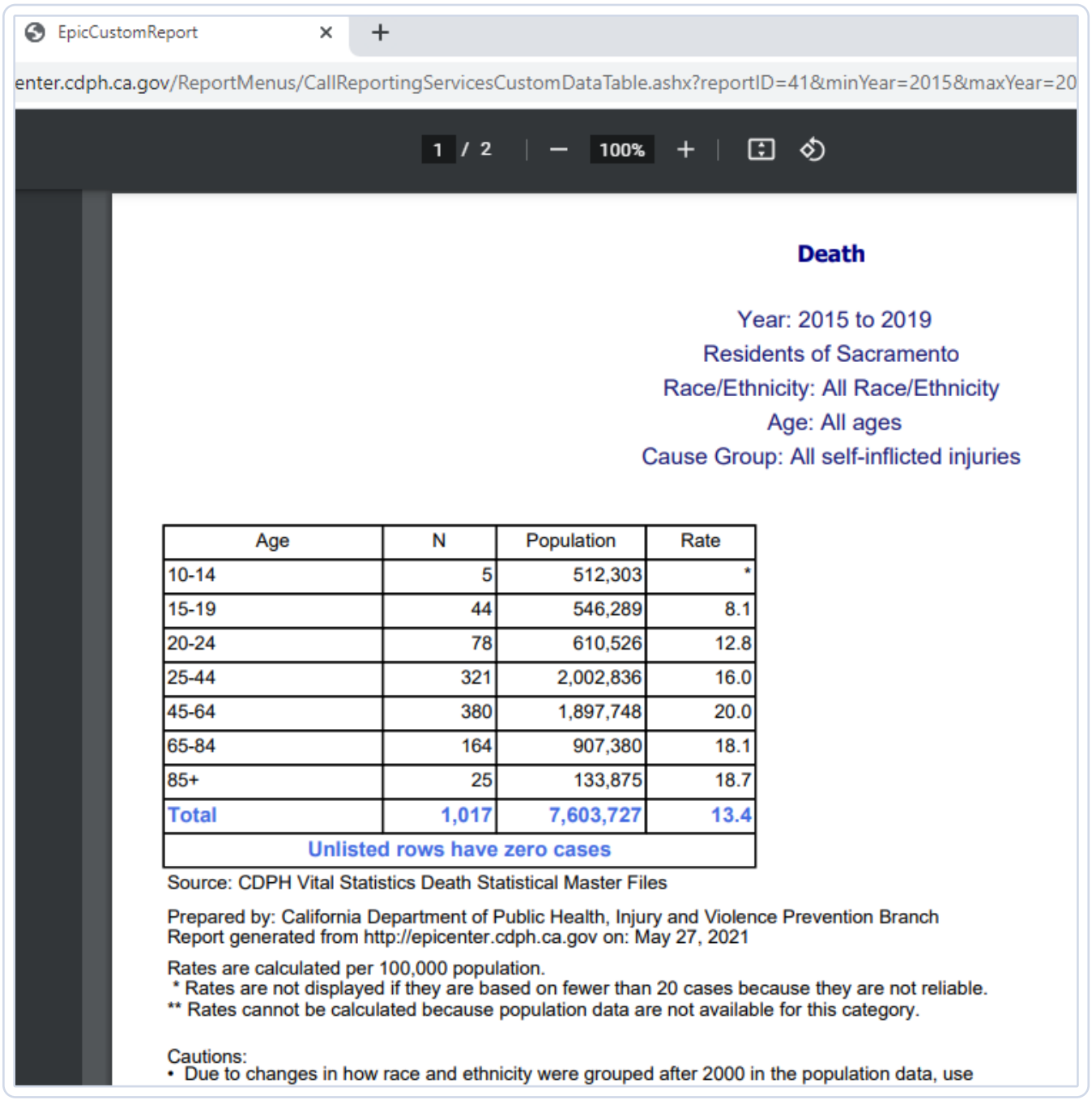
5-Year Aggregate Suicide Rate (2015-2019) in Sacramento County by Age Group in PDF.

The pictures below show the selections to make in order to obtain suicide rates by age group in Sacramento County from 2015–2019.

Note: Due to small case counts in suicides in Sacramento County by age group, multiple years of data were aggregated to generate rates that are reliable enough. In this example, five years of data were aggregated.



Interpretation of data:
During 2015–2019, individuals between the ages of 45–64 had the highest 5-year aggregate suicide rate (20.0 per 100,000) in Sacramento County.


EpicCustomReport

enter.cdph.ca.gov/ReportMenus/CallReportingServicesCustomDataTable.ashx?reportID=41&minYear=2015&maxYear=20

1 / 2 — 100% +

Death

Year: 2015 to 2019
Residents of Sacramento
Race/Ethnicity: All Race/Ethnicity
Age: All ages
Cause Group: All self-inflicted injuries

Age	N	Population	Rate
10-14	5	512,303	*
15-19	44	546,289	8.1
20-24	78	610,526	12.8
25-44	321	2,002,836	16.0
45-64	380	1,897,748	20.0
65-84	164	907,380	18.1
85+	25	133,875	18.7
Total	1,017	7,603,727	13.4

Unlisted rows have zero cases

Source: CDPH Vital Statistics Death Statistical Master Files

Prepared by: California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
Report generated from http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov on: May 27, 2021

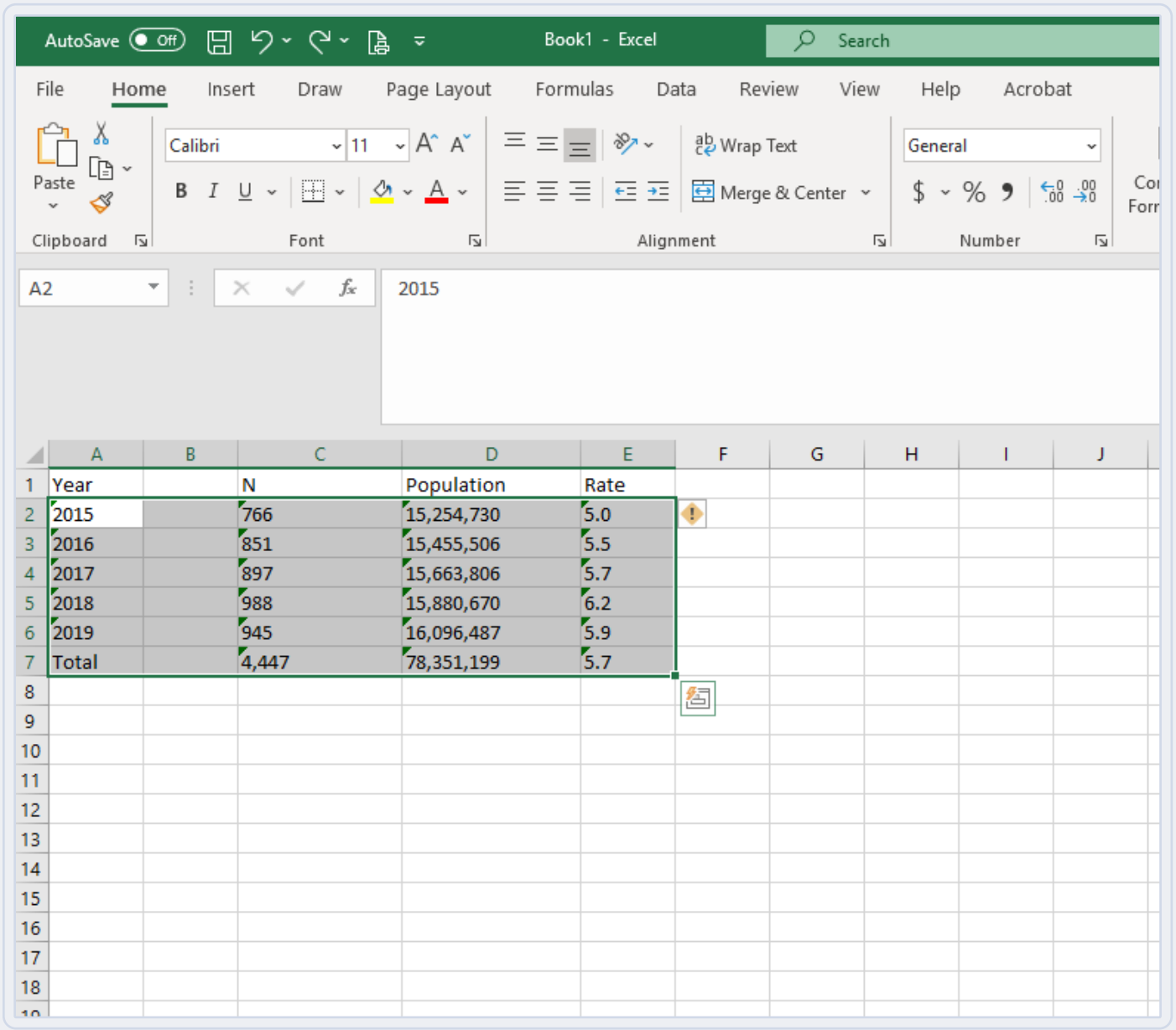
Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
* Rates are not displayed if they are based on fewer than 20 cases because they are not reliable.
** Rates cannot be calculated because population data are not available for this category.

Cautions:
• Due to changes in how race and ethnicity were grouped after 2000 in the population data, use

How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel (for PC Users)

To change the data obtained in Excel into a line graph, it would require additional steps. The table queried in Example #1 (Suicide Rates in California between 2015–2019 among the Hispanic Community) will be used to demonstrate how to produce a simple line graph in Excel.

1. Copy and paste the queried table from EpiCenter to a new book (Excel document).
2. Highlight all the cells with the small green triangle in the upper left-hand corner.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Year		N	Population	Rate					
2	2015		766	15,254,730	5.0					
3	2016		851	15,455,506	5.5					
4	2017		897	15,663,806	5.7					
5	2018		988	15,880,670	6.2					
6	2019		945	16,096,487	5.9					
7	Total		4,447	78,351,199	5.7					
8										
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10										
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16										
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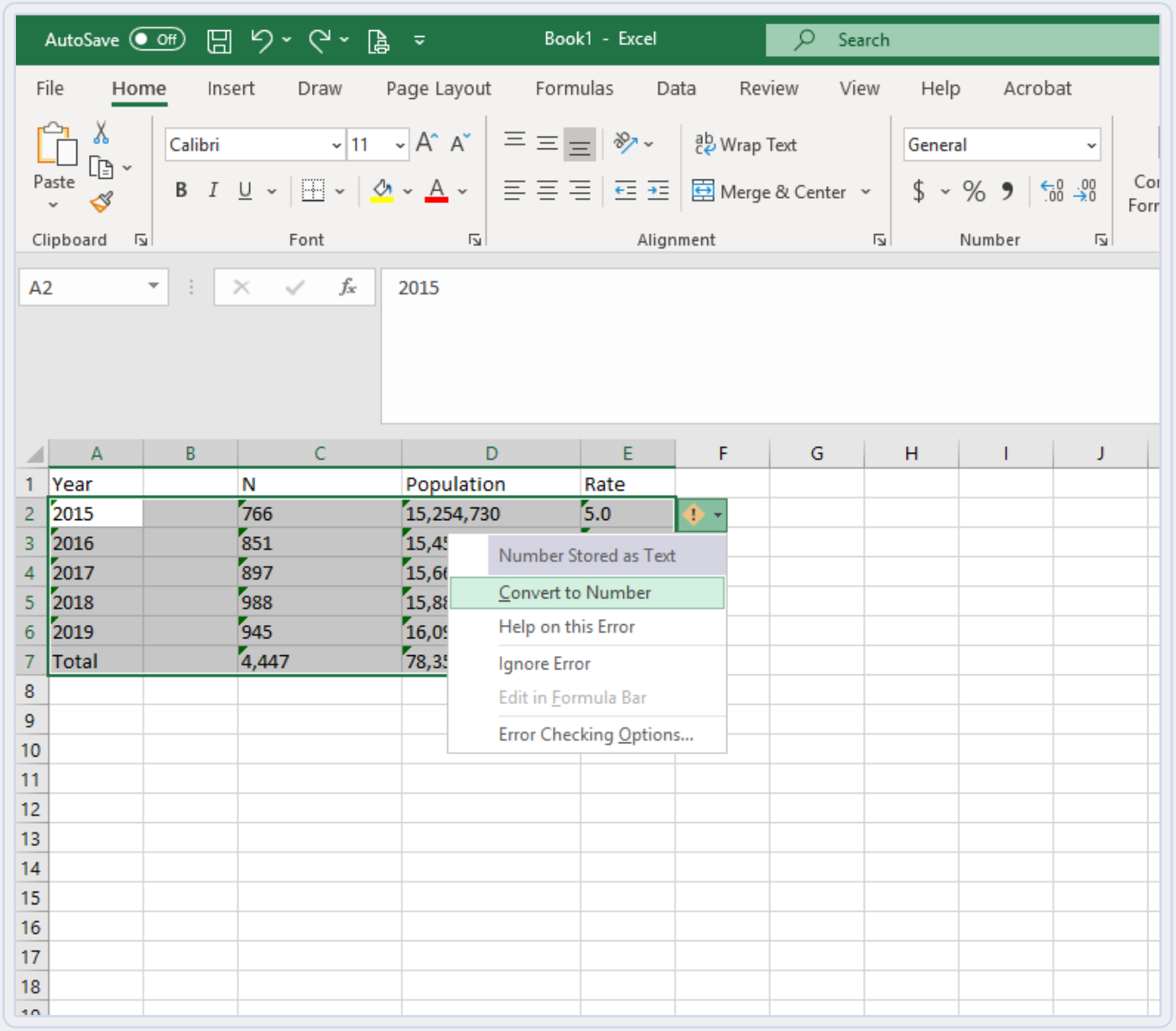
18										

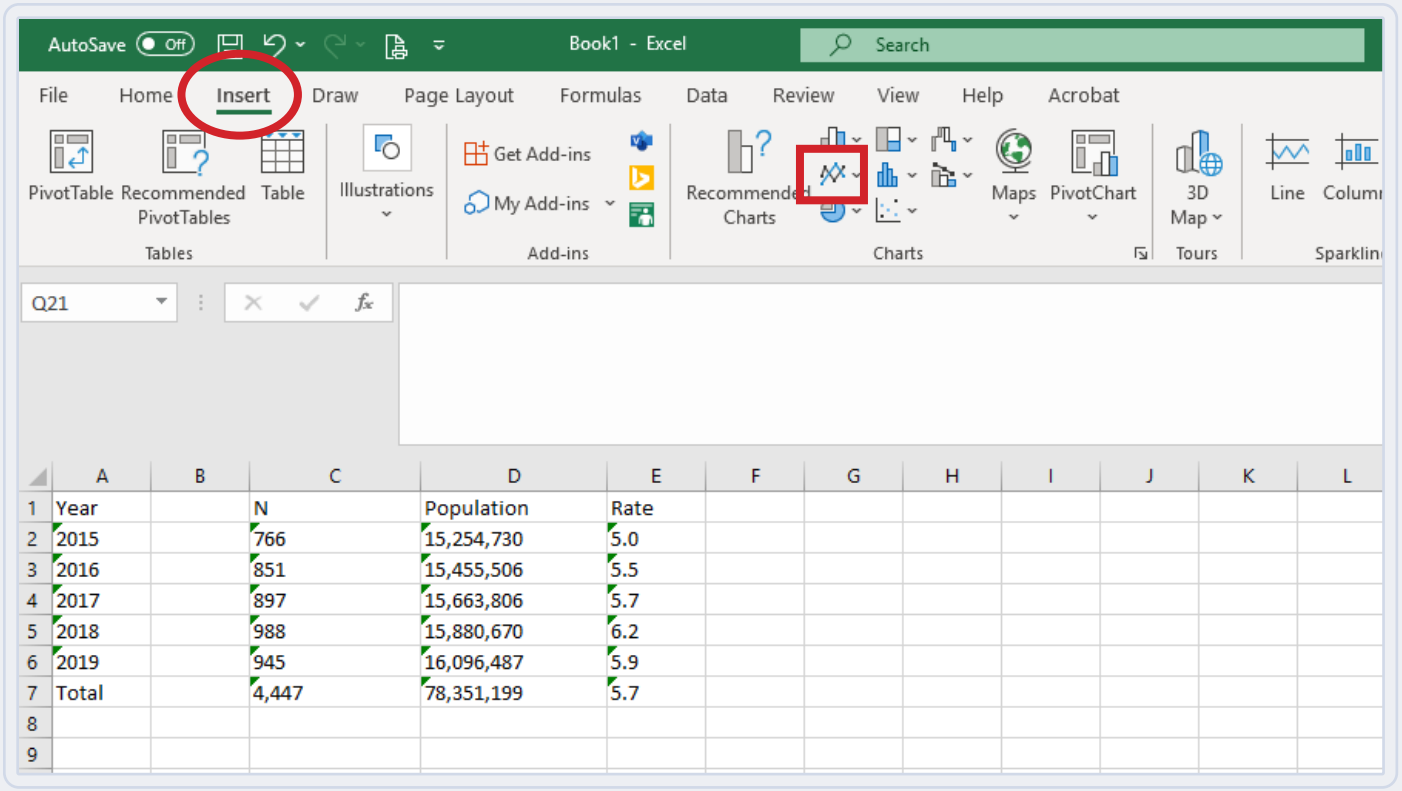
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

3. Select the warning icon (yellow diamond with exclamation point), then click convert to number.



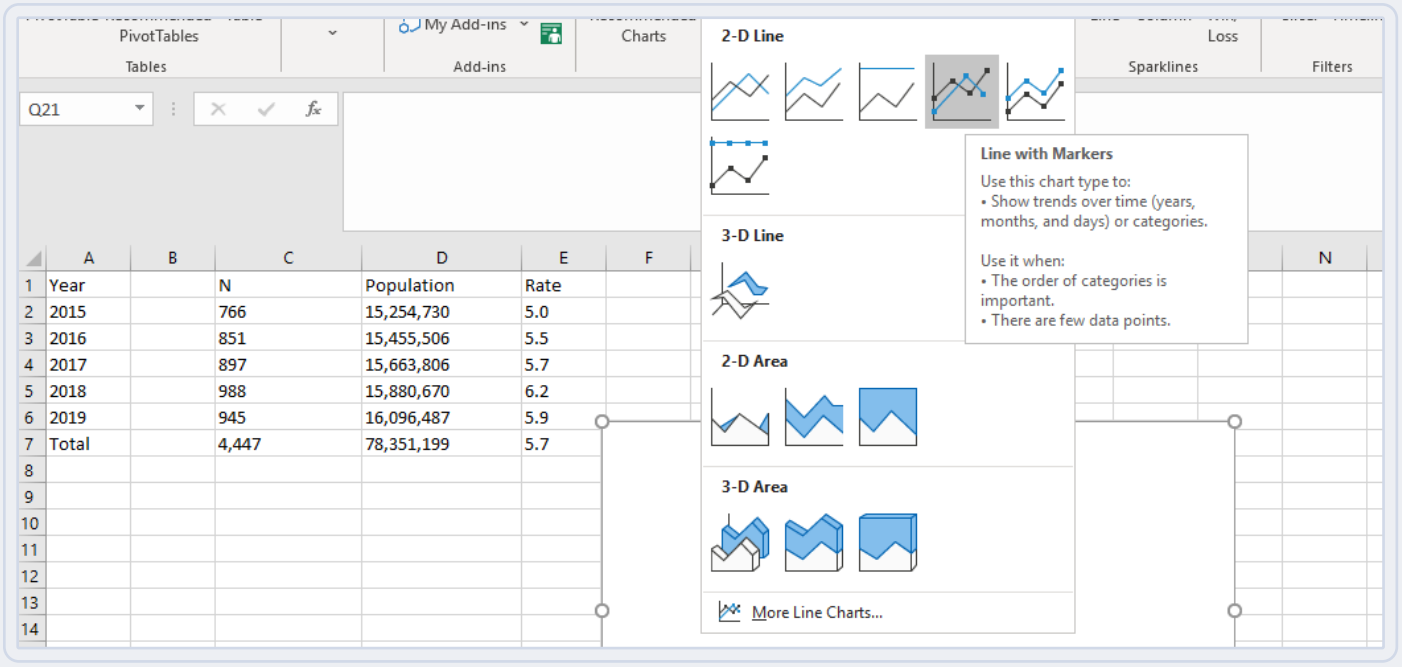
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

4. On the top, select insert and insert line chart.



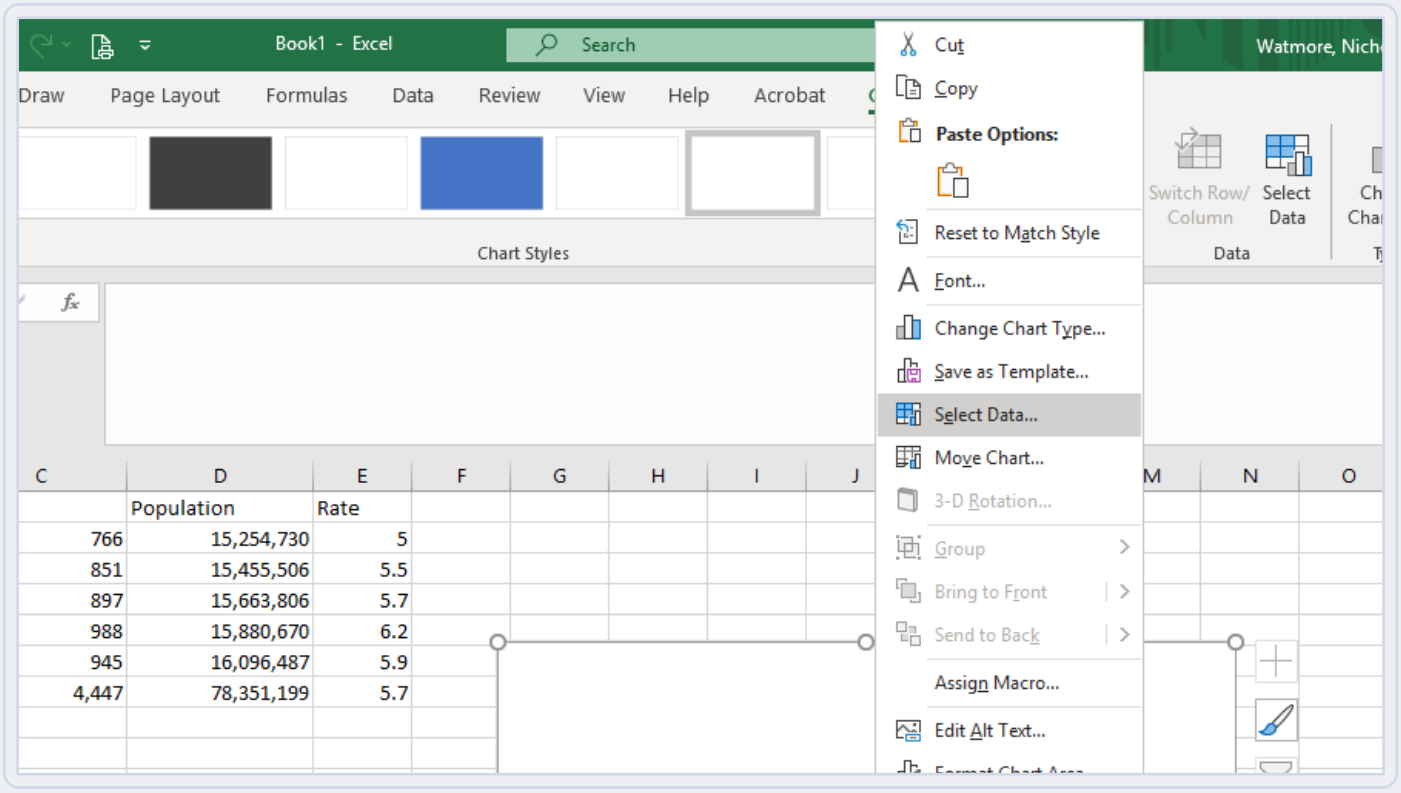
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Year		N	Population	Rate
2	2015		766	15,254,730	5.0
3	2016		851	15,455,506	5.5
4	2017		897	15,663,806	5.7
5	2018		988	15,880,670	6.2
6	2019		945	16,096,487	5.9
7	Total		4,447	78,351,199	5.7
8					
9					

5. Select the line chart you would like (most preferred is the line with markers).

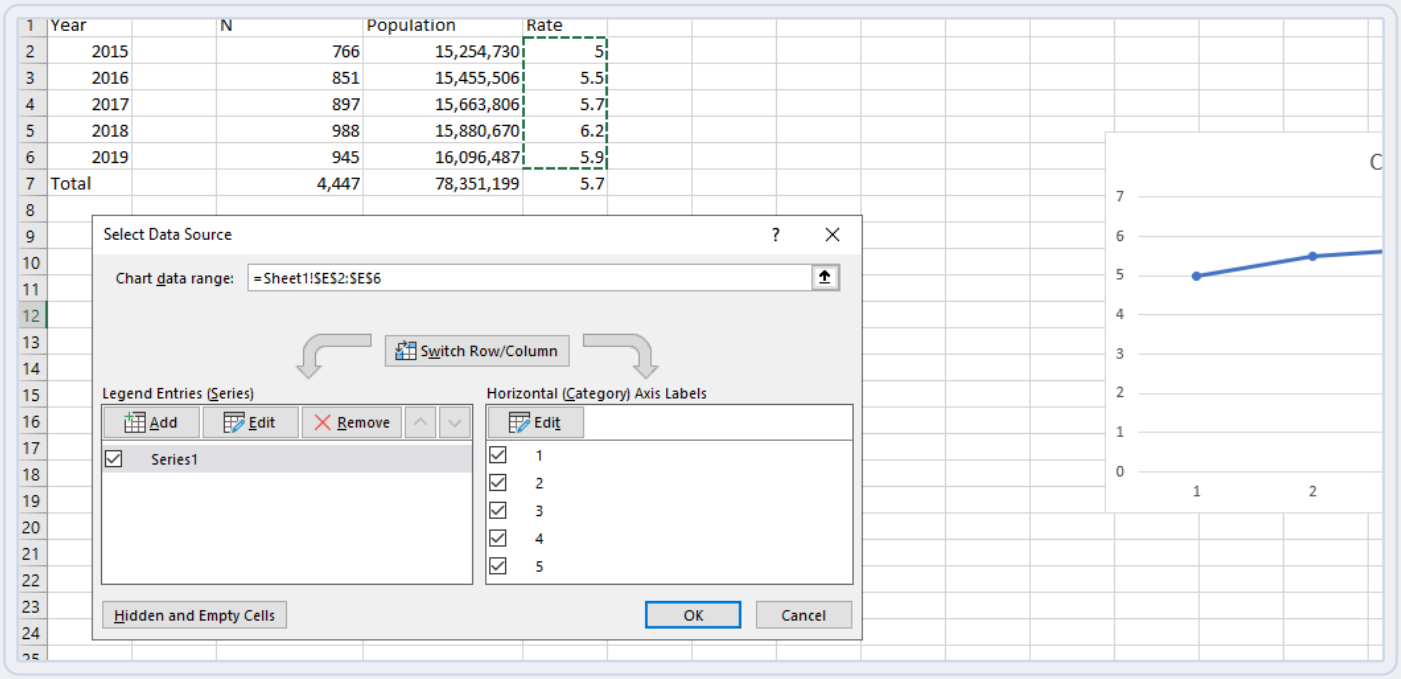


How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

6. Right click the blank chart and click on select data.

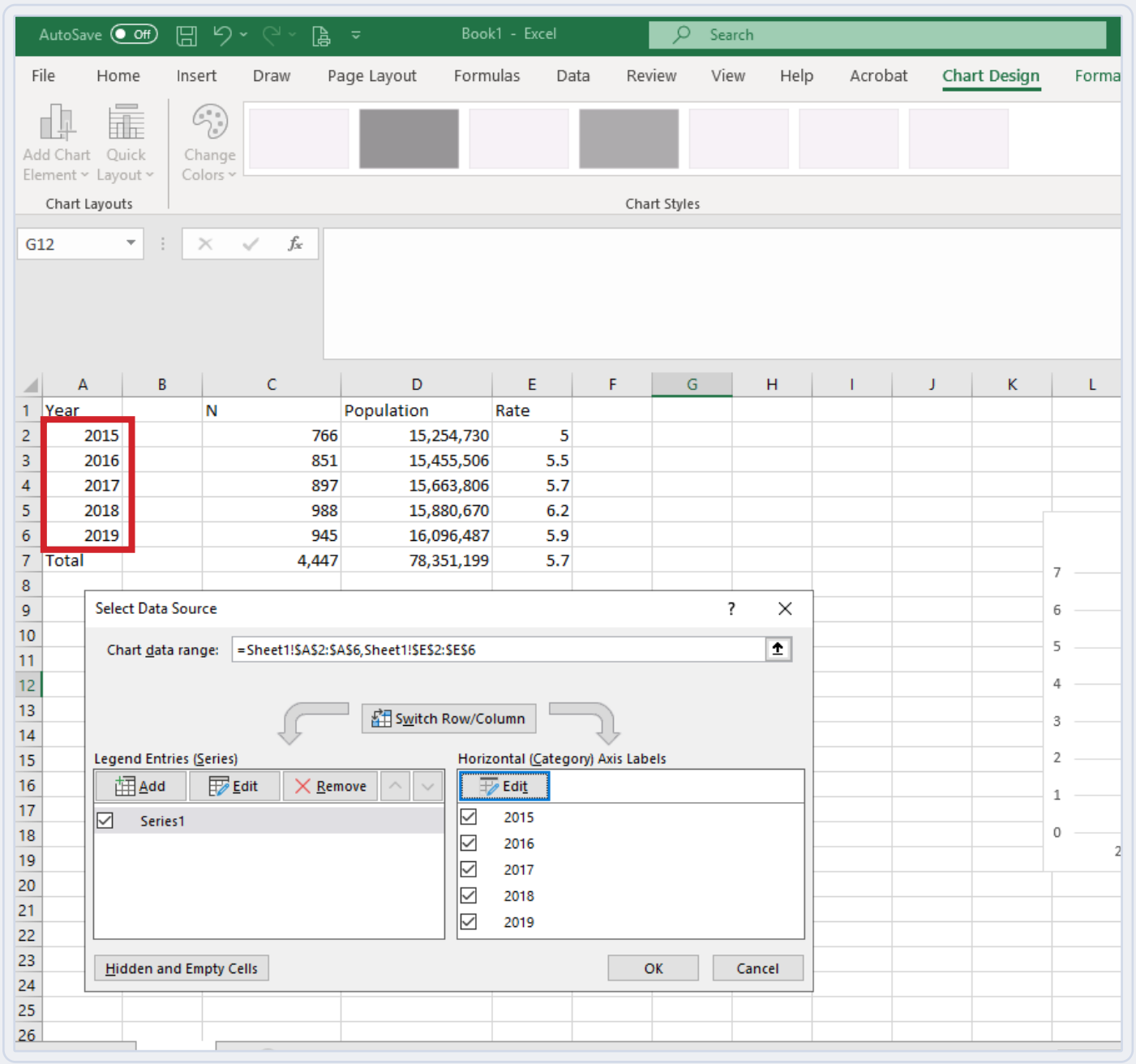


7. In the Select Data Source menu, for Chart Data Range, select the values in the "Rate" column of the table.



How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

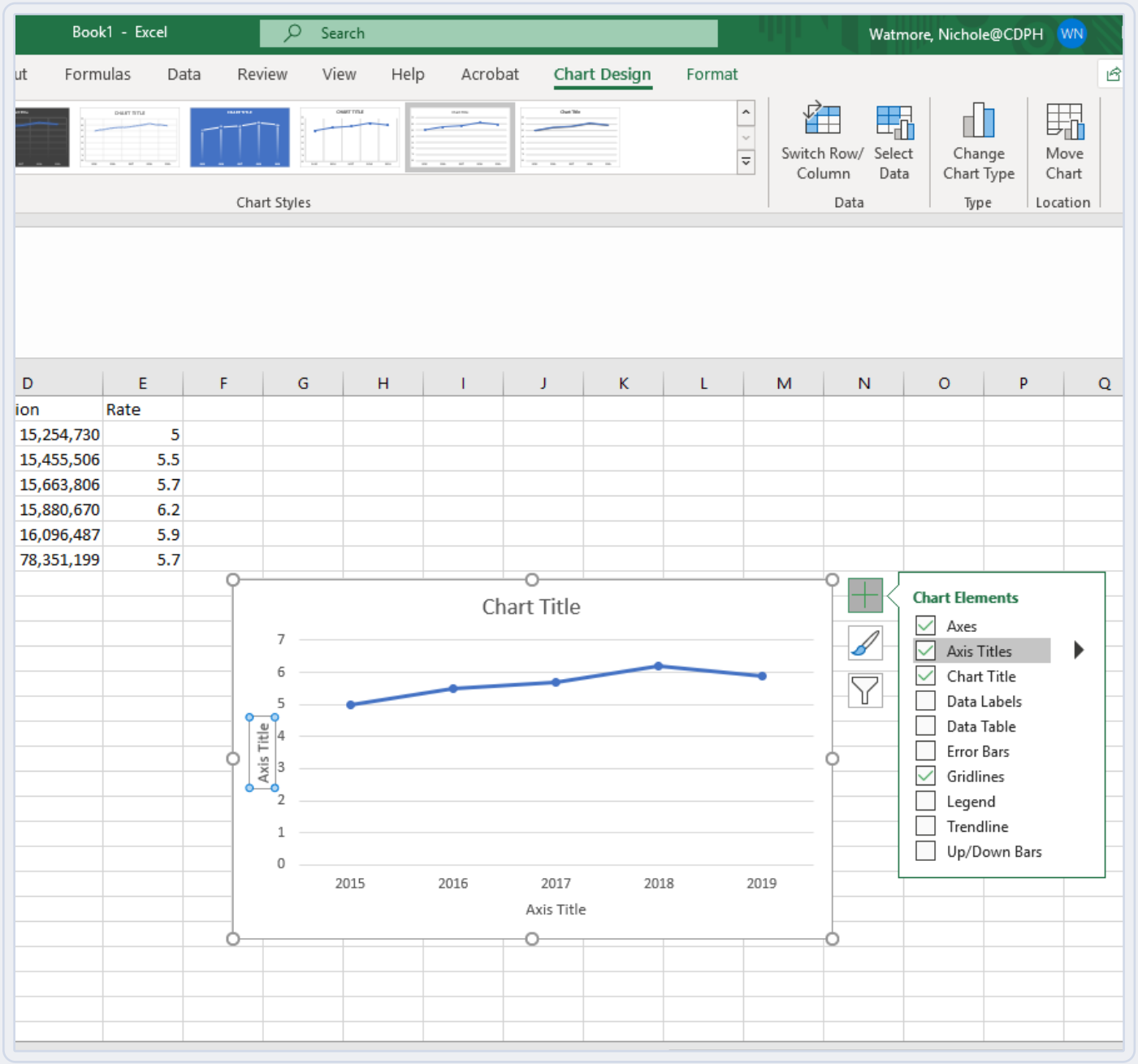
8. Click Edit for Horizontal (Category) Axis Labels and select the values in the "Year" column of the table.



9. Click the green plus symbol at the upper right-hand corner of the line graph to further customize/edit the line graph.

How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

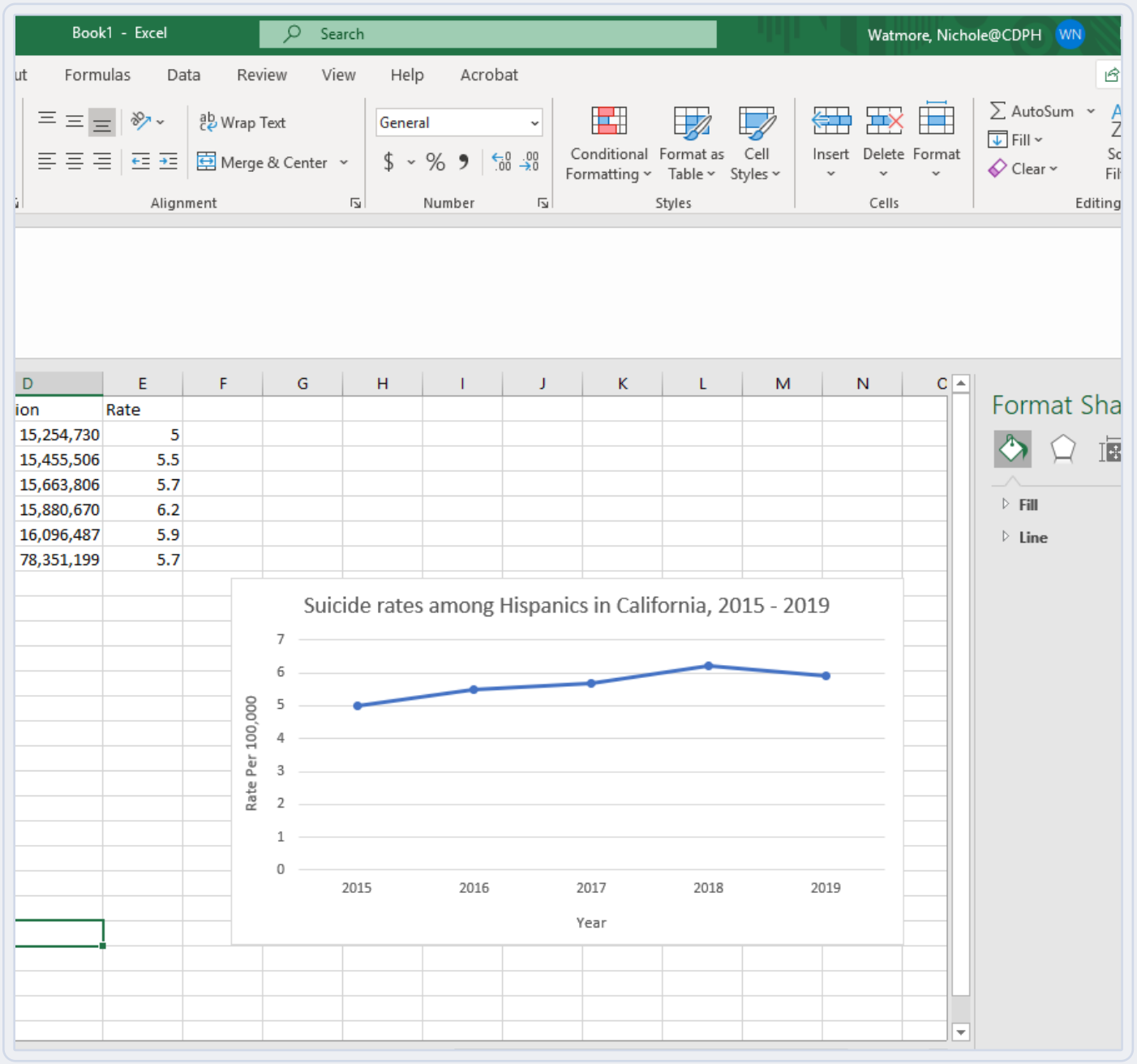
10. Check the box for Axis Titles.



11. Edit the Axis Title for the Y-Axis to say “Rate per 100,000.”
12. Edit the Axis Title for the X-Axis to say “Year.”

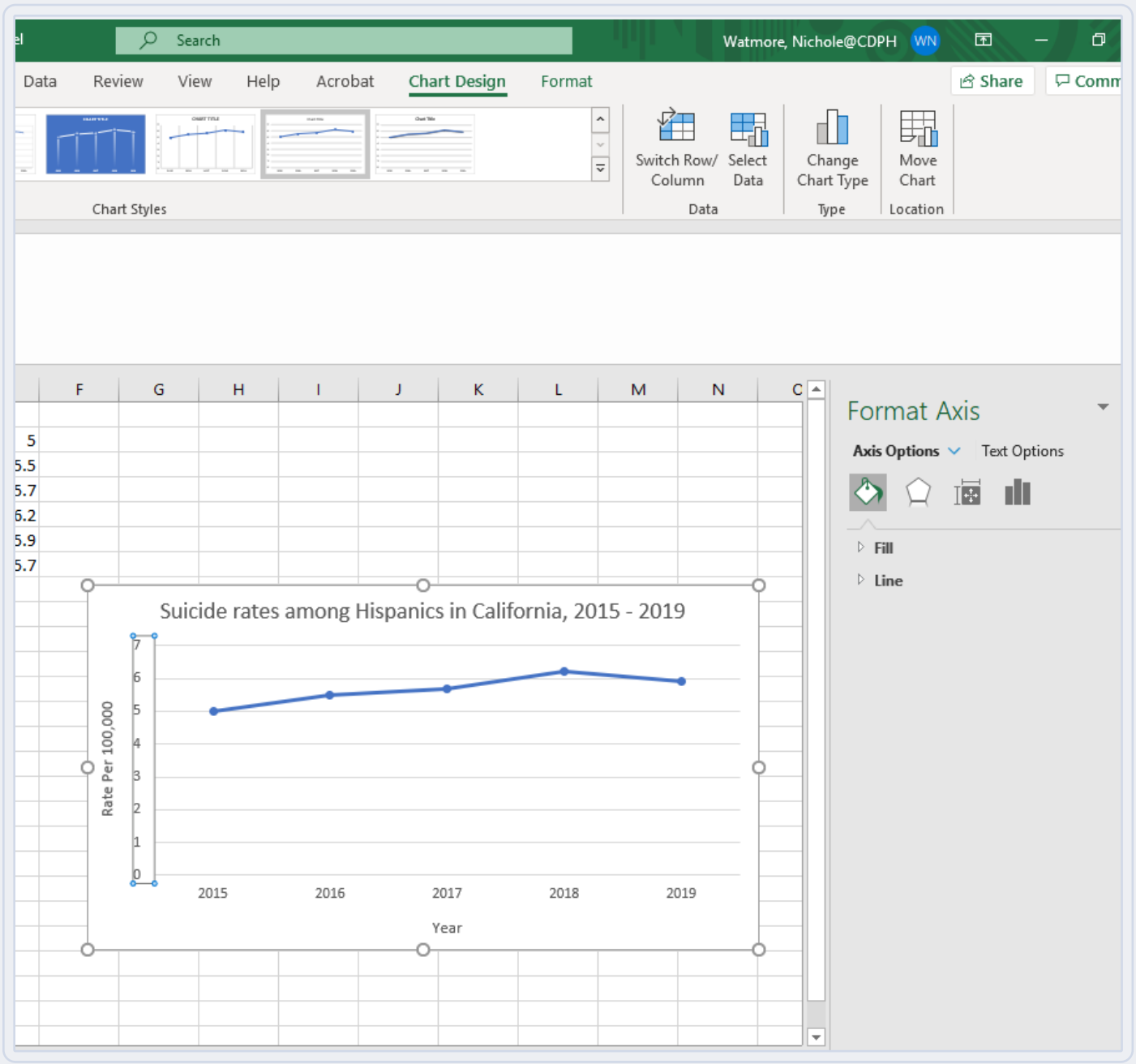
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

13. Edit the Chart Title to say "Suicide rates among Hispanics in California, 2015-2019."



How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

14. Format rates on the Y-axis to 1 decimal point. Double click the Y-axis to open up the Format Axis menu to the right.

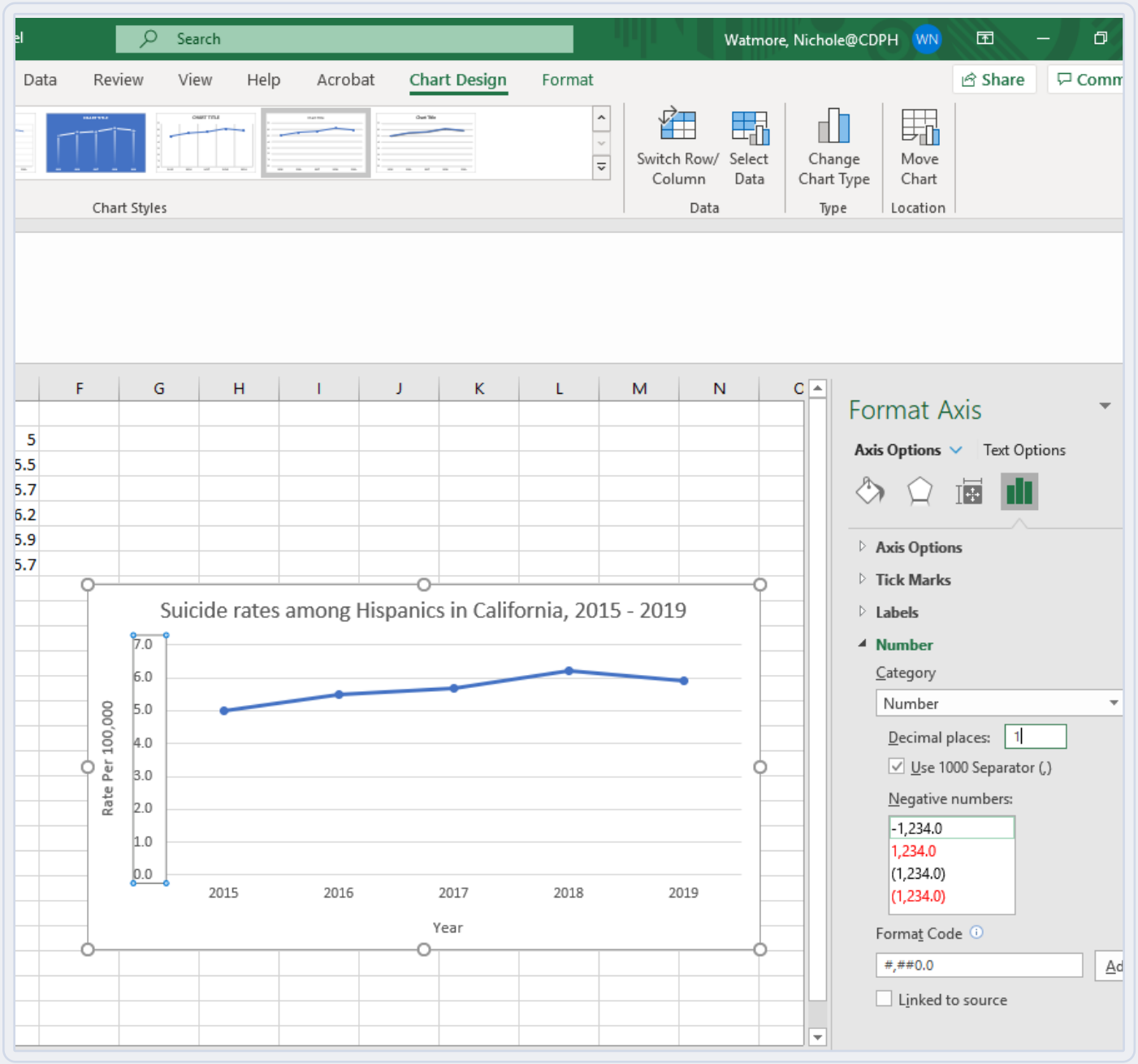


15. Select the symbol with the three bars then select “Number.”

16. For Category, select “Number” and then for decimal, enter 1.

How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for PC Users (cont.)

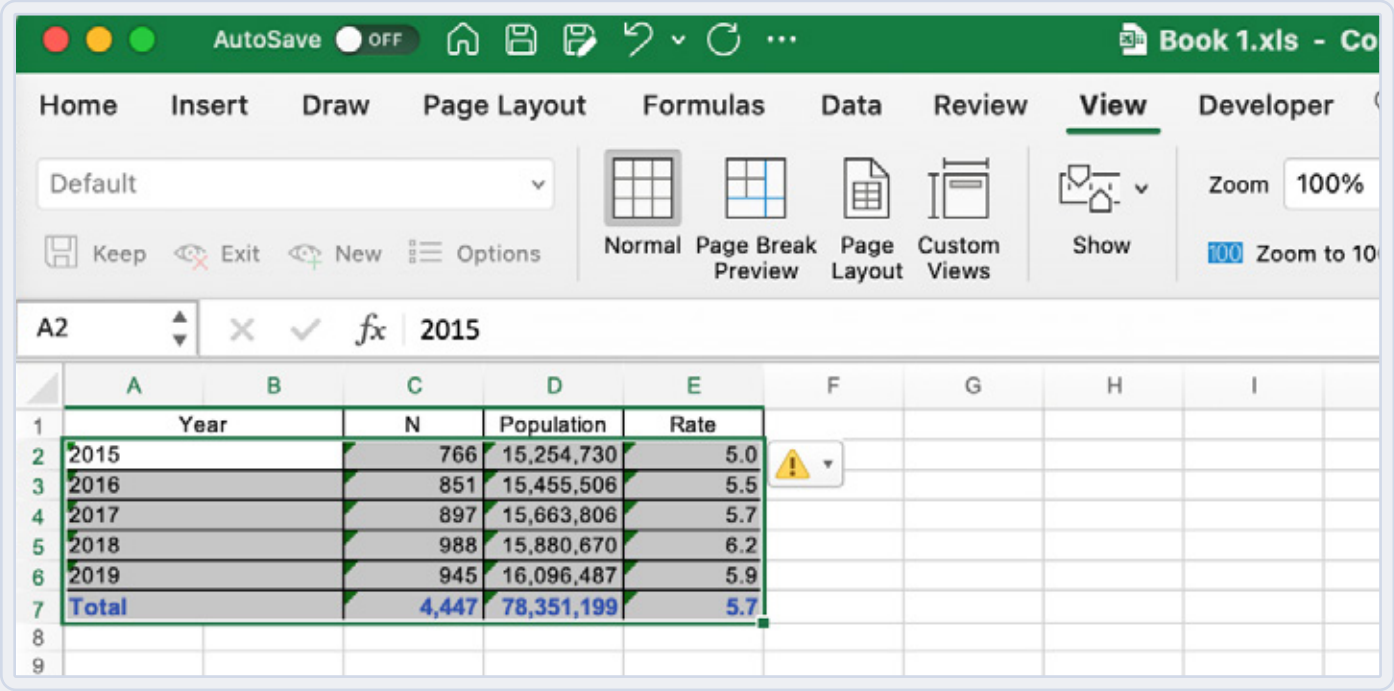
17. Hit enter to submit edits.



How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel (for Mac Users)

To change the data obtained in Excel into a line graph, it would require additional steps. The table queried in Example #1 (Suicide Rates in California between 2015–2019 among the Hispanic Community) will be used to demonstrate how to produce a simple line graph in Excel.

1. Copy and paste the queried table from EpiCenter to a new book (Excel document).
2. Highlight all the cells with the small green triangle in the upper left-hand corner.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Year		N	Population	Rate
2	2015		766	15,254,730	5.0
3	2016		851	15,455,506	5.5
4	2017		897	15,663,806	5.7
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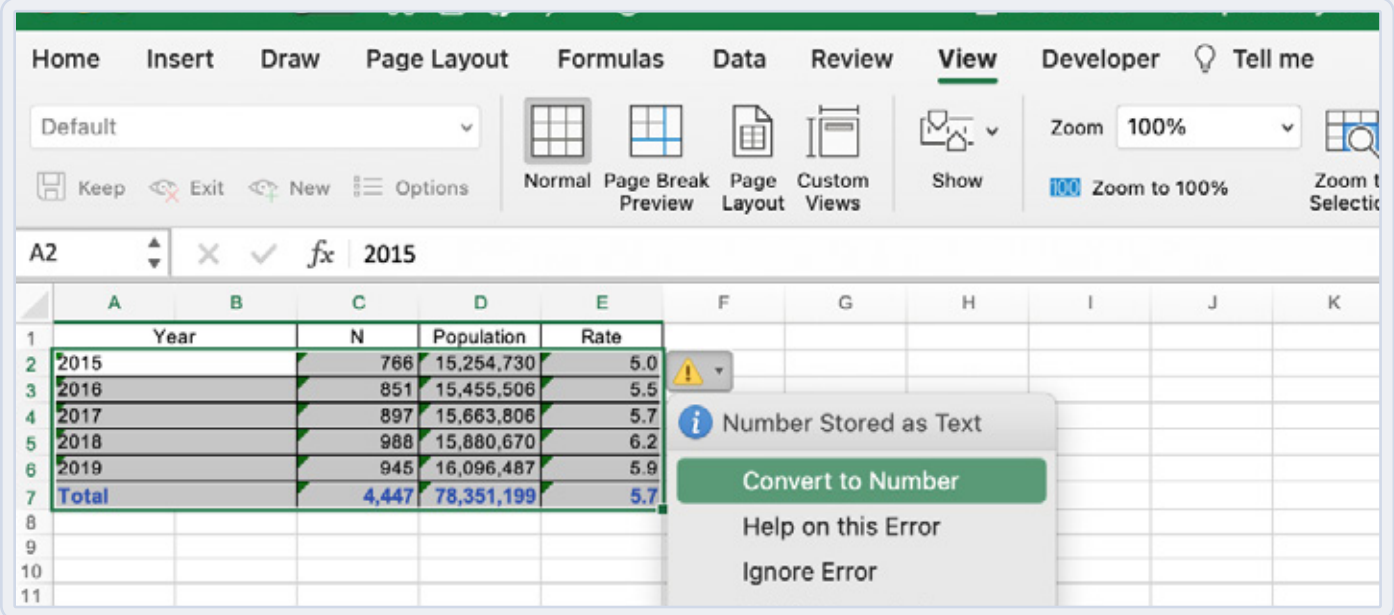
7	Total		4,447	78,351,199	5.7

3. Select the warning icon (yellow diamond with exclamation point), then click convert to number.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Year		N	Population	Rate
2	2015		766	15,254,730	5.0
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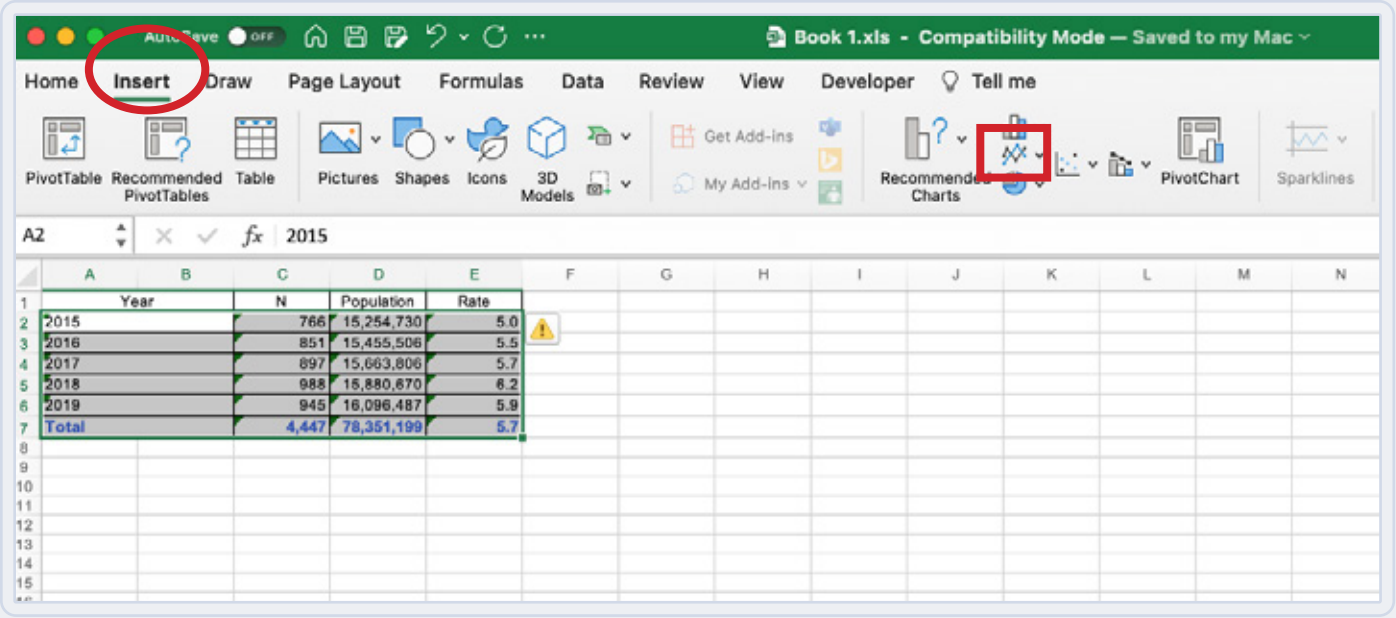
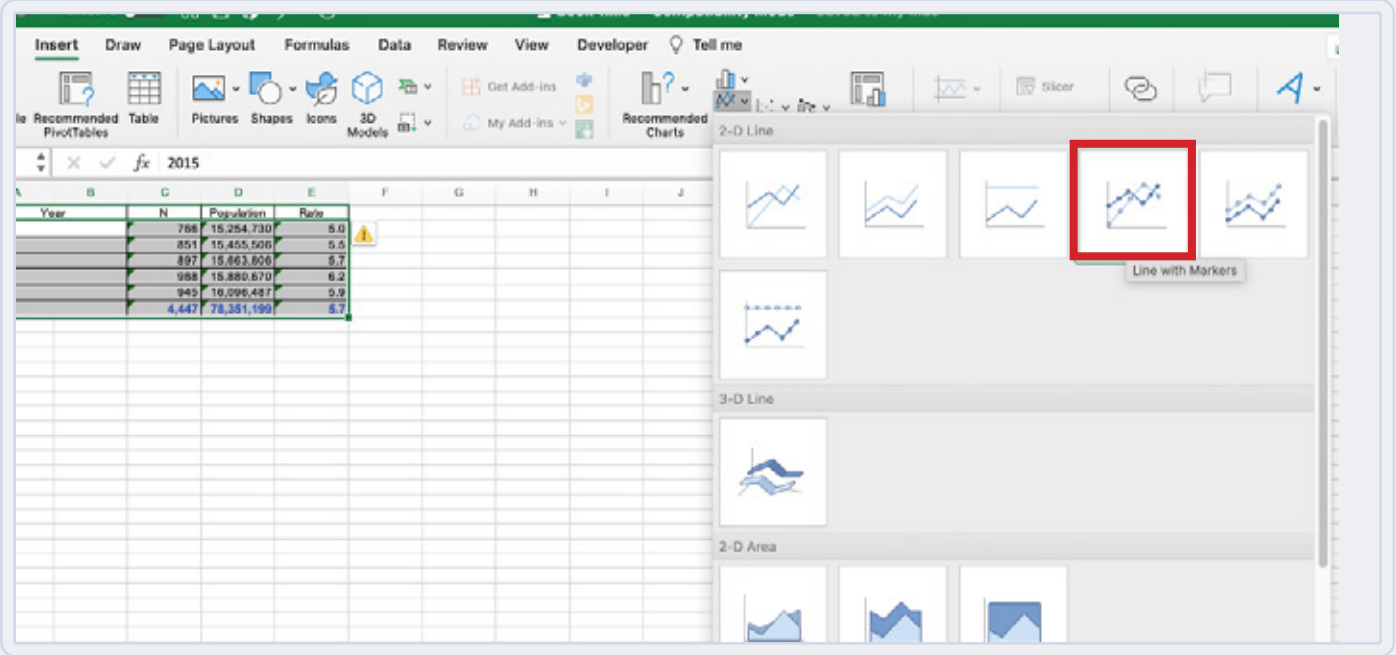
6	2019		945	16,096,487	5.9
7	Total		4,447	78,351,199	5.7

How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

4. On the top, select insert and insert line chart.

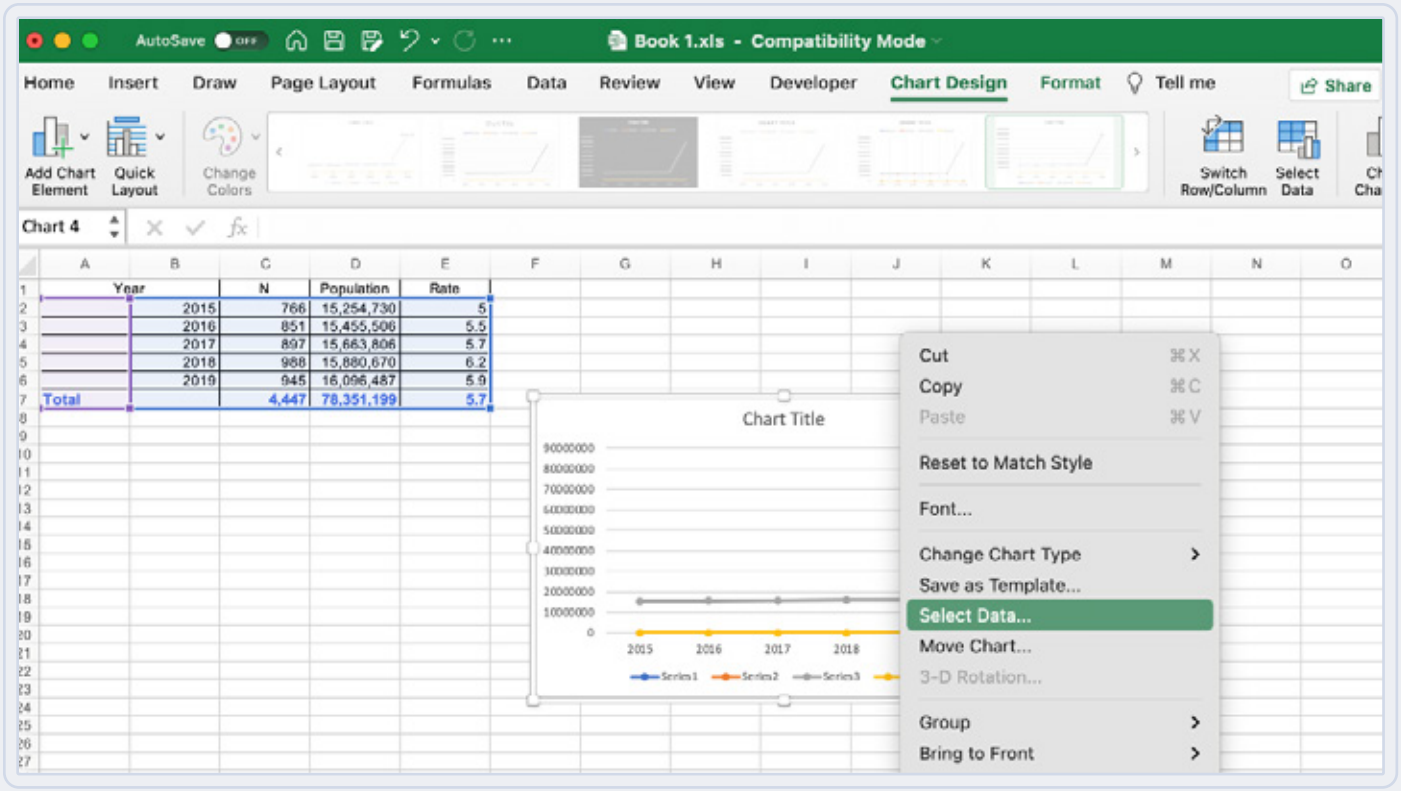


5. Select the line chart you would like (most preferred is the line with markers).

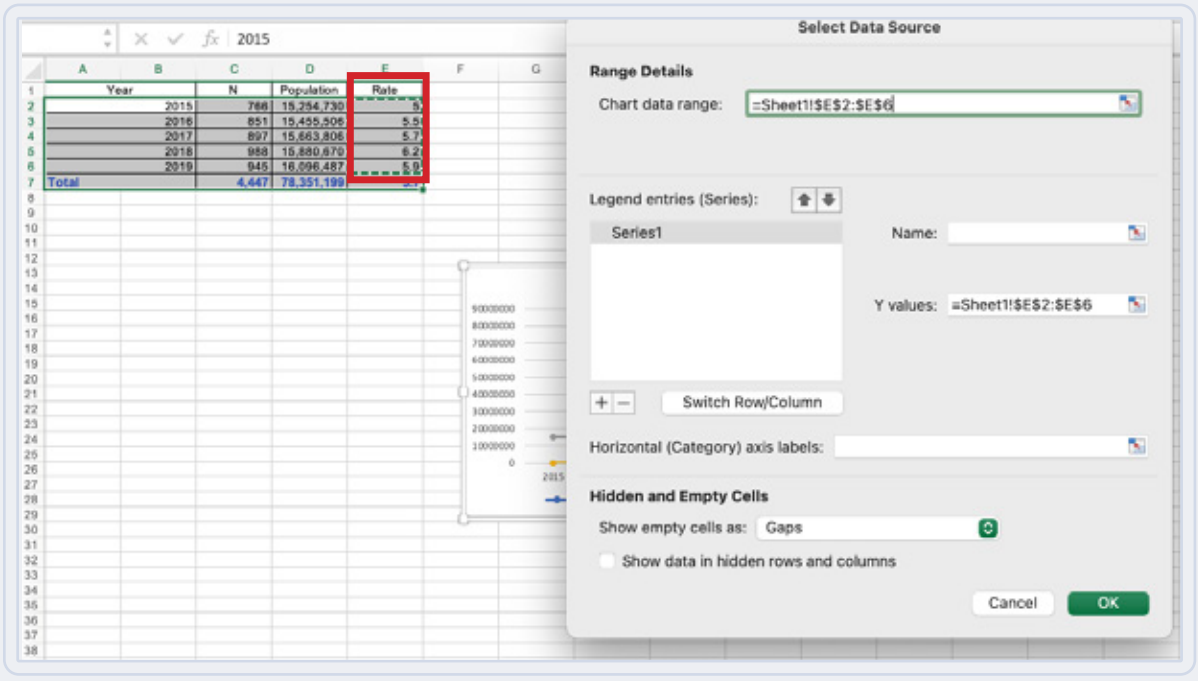


How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

6. Right click the blank chart and click on select data.

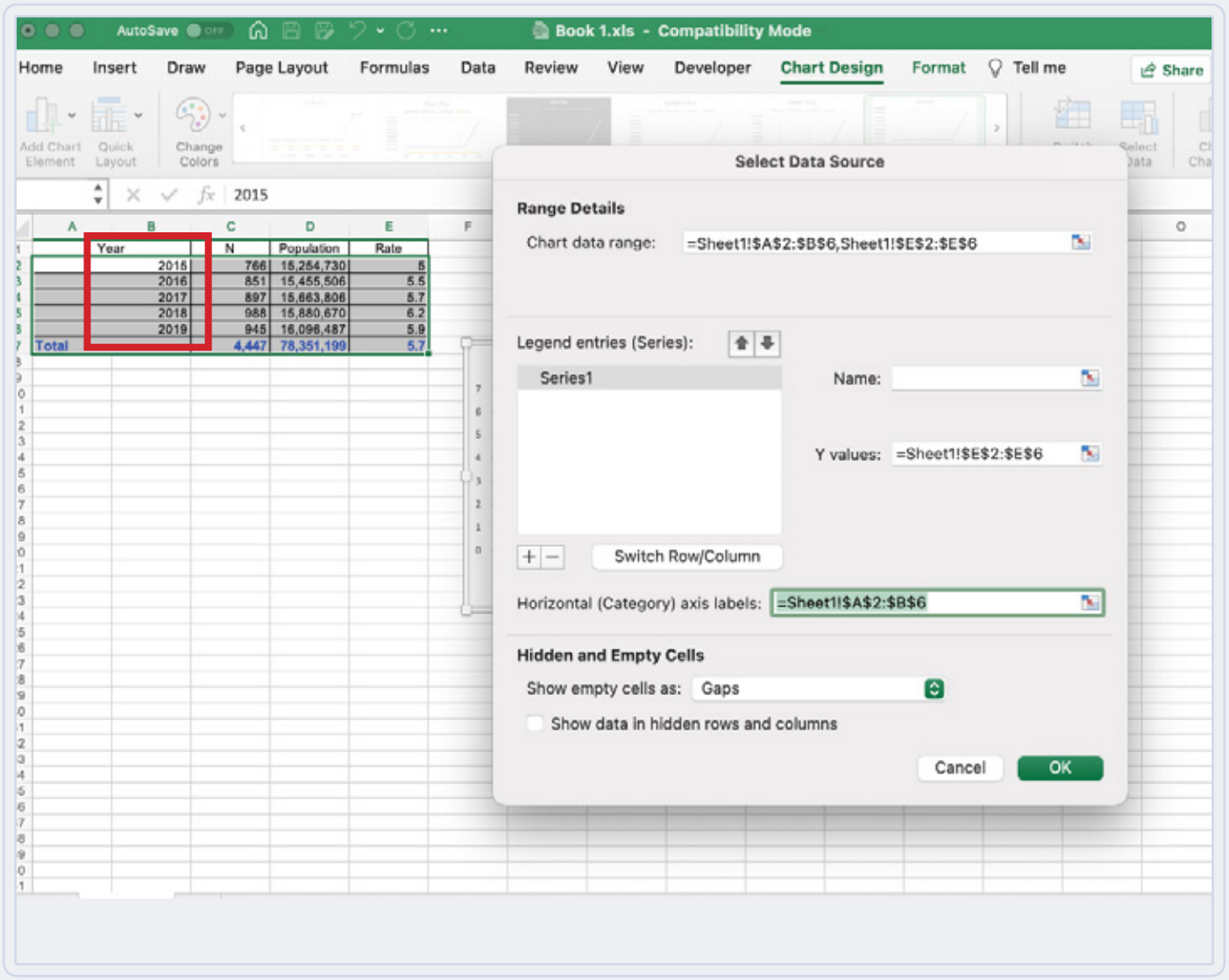


7. In the Select Data Source menu, for Chart Data Range, select the values in the "Rate" column of the table.



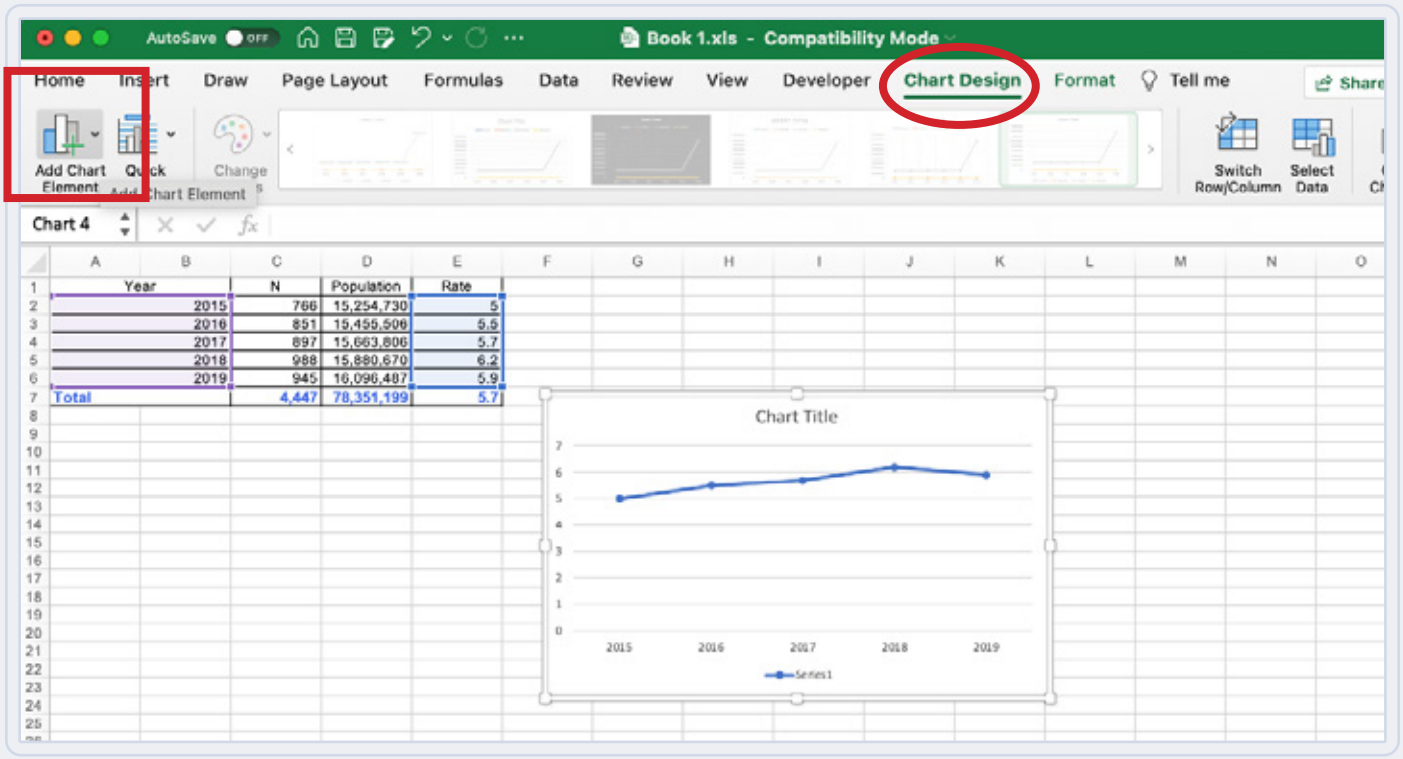
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

8. Select the values in the "Year" column of the table for Horizontal (Category) Axis Labels.



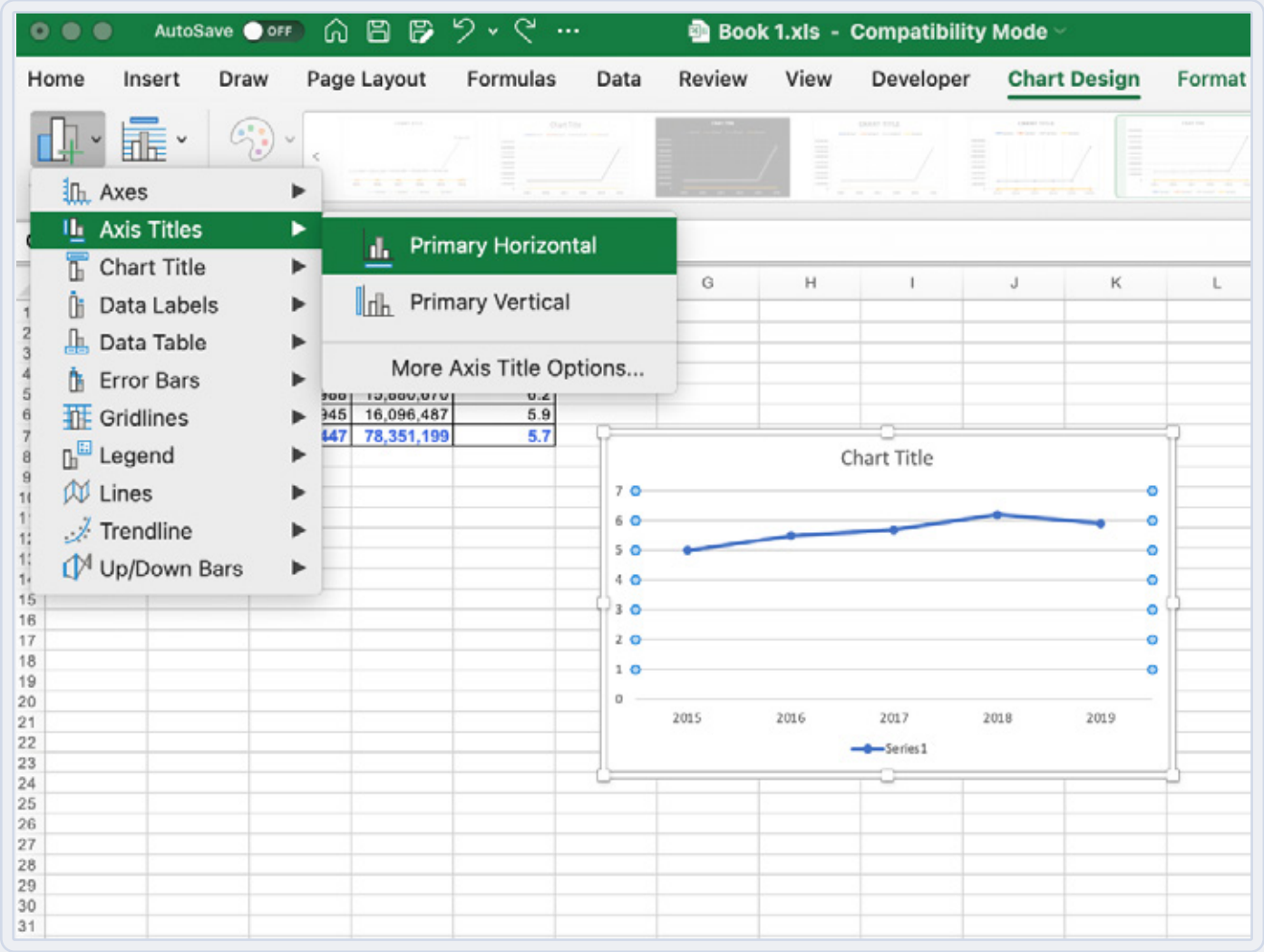
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users(cont.)

9. On the top, select Chart Design and open Add Chart Element.



How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

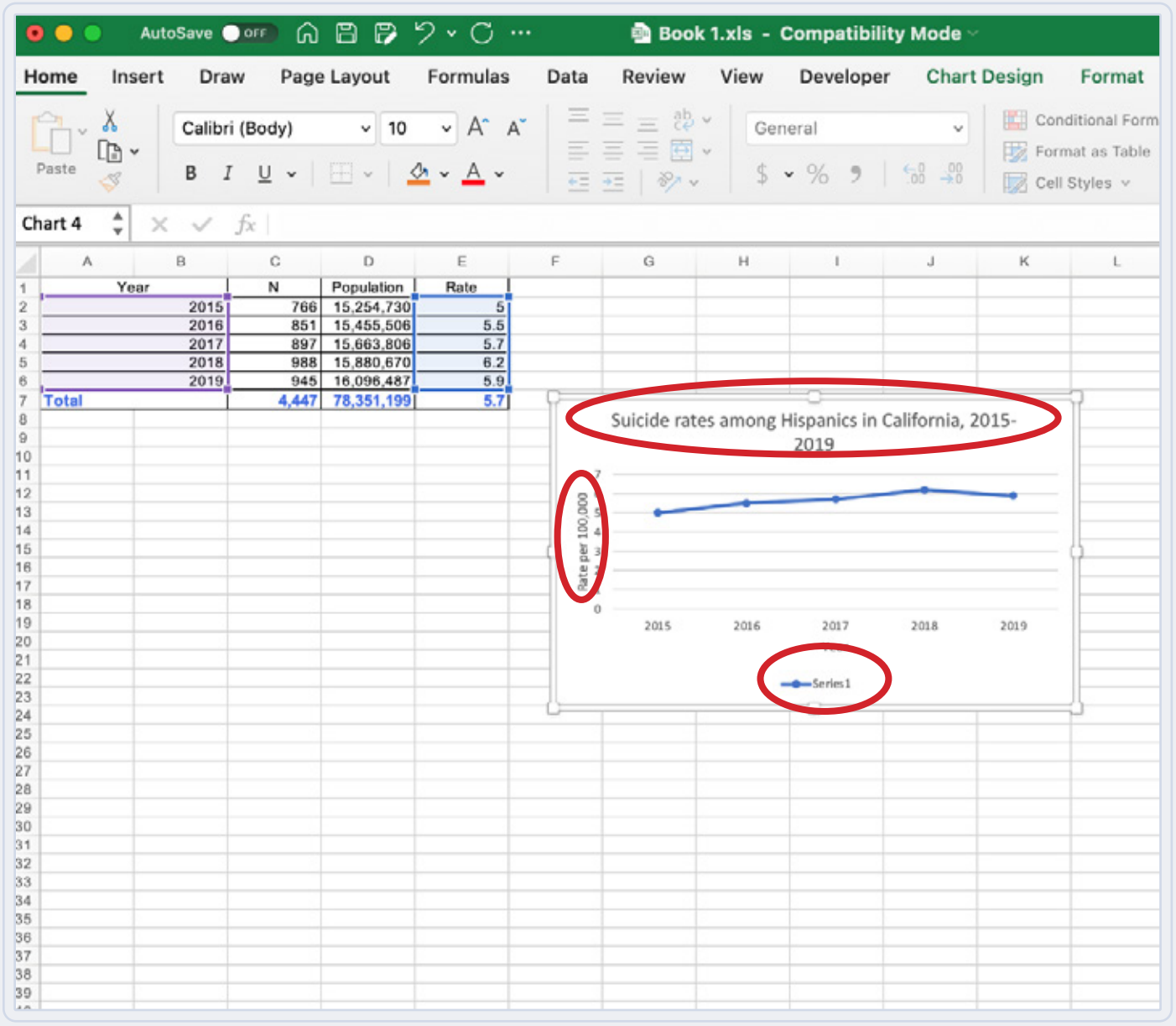
10. Hover over the box for Axis Titles and select Primary Horizontal (X-Axis).



11. Edit the Axis Title for the Y-Axis to say “Year.”
12. Repeat step 9, hover over the box for Axis Titles, and select Primary Vertical (Y-Axis)”
13. Edit the Axis Title for the Y-Axis to say “Rate per 100,000.”

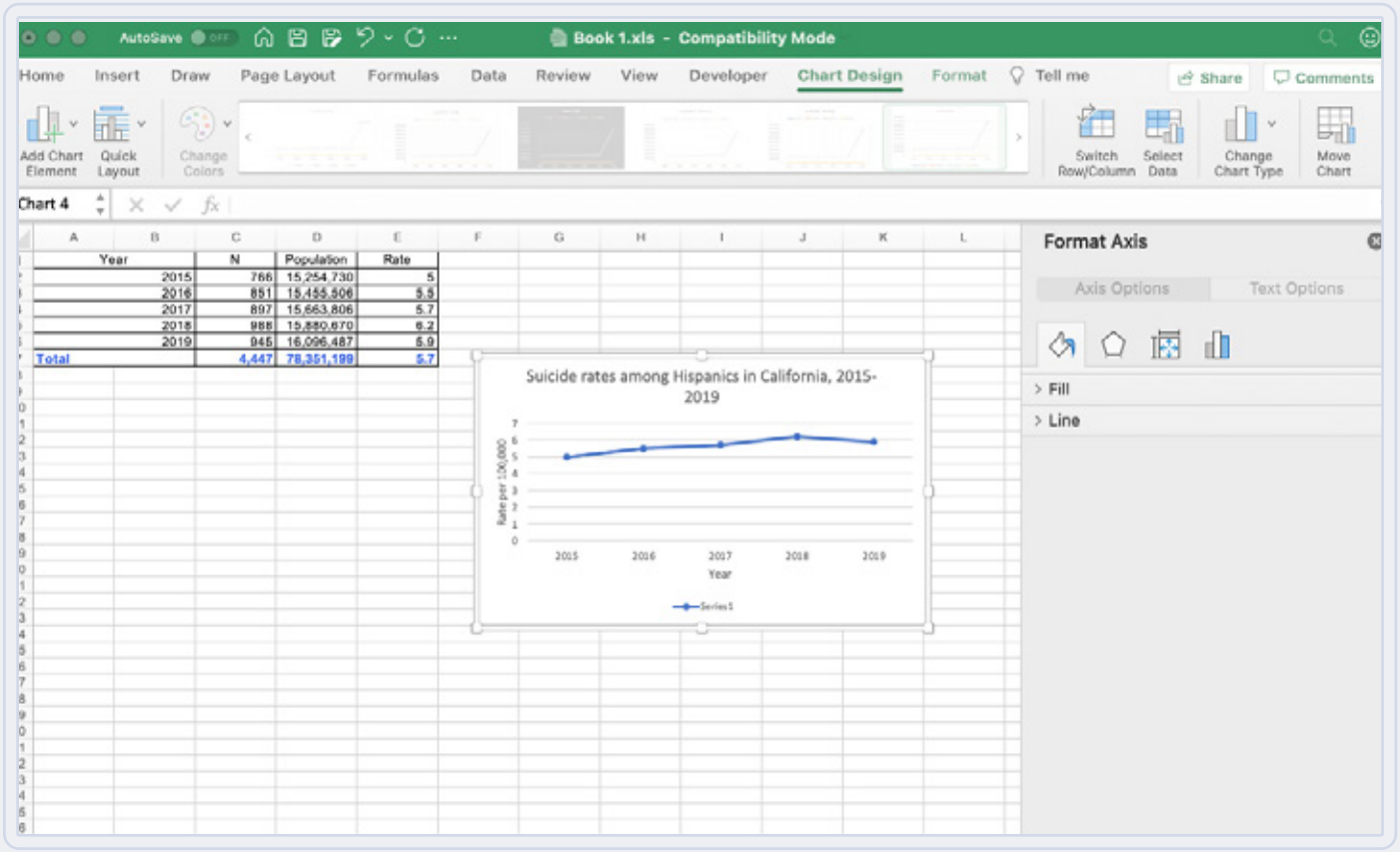
How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

14. Edit the Chart Title to say "Suicide rates among Hispanics in California, 2015–2019."



How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac users (cont.)

15. Format rates on the Y-axis to 1 decimal point. Double click the Y-axis to open up the Format Axis menu to the right.

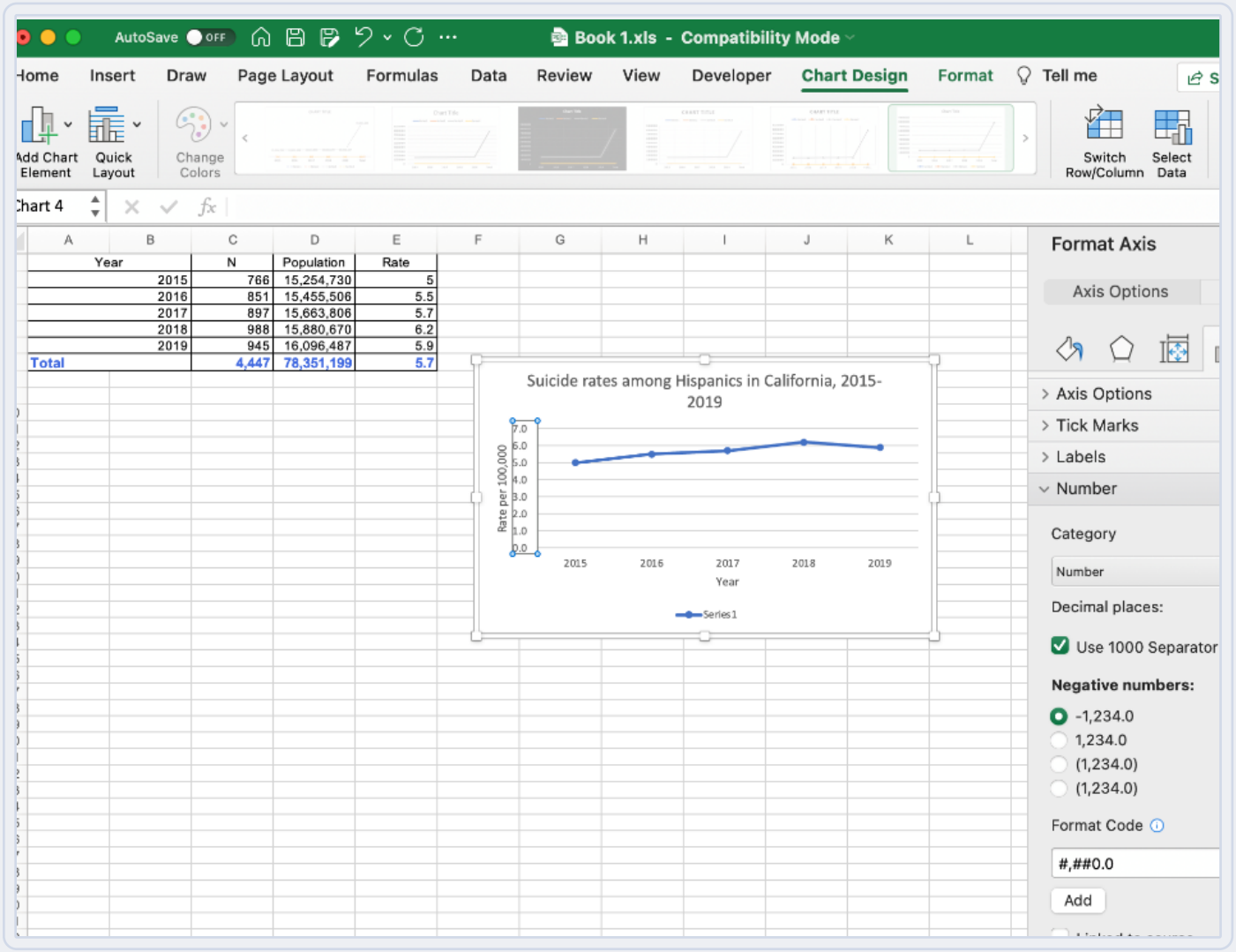


16. Select the symbol with the three bars then select “Number.”

17. For Category, select “Number” and then for decimal, enter 1.

How to Produce a Line Graph in Excel for Mac Users (cont.)

18. Hit enter to submit edits.



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