



# Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance --- United States, 2007

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## Suicide Information

In the United States, 72% of all deaths among youth and young adults aged 10--24 years result from four causes: motor-vehicle crashes (30%), other unintentional injuries (15%), homicide (15%), and suicide (12%)

### **Felt Sad or Hopeless**

During the 12 months before the survey, 28.5% of students nationwide had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities ([Table 19](#)). Overall, the prevalence of having felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row was higher among female (35.8%) than male (21.2%) students; higher among white female (34.6%), black female (34.5%), and Hispanic female (42.3%) than white male (17.8%), black male (24.0%), and Hispanic male (30.4%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th-grade female (34.8%), 10th-grade female (37.7%), 11th-grade female (34.5%), and 12th-grade female (35.9%) than 9th-grade male (22.1%), 10th-grade male (20.3%), 11th-grade male (19.5%), and 12th-grade male (22.6%) students, respectively. Overall, the prevalence of having felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row was higher among black (29.2%) and Hispanic (36.3%) than white (26.2%) students; higher among Hispanic (36.3%) than black (29.2%) students; higher among Hispanic female (42.3%) than white female (34.6%) and black female (34.5%) students; higher among black male (24.0%) and Hispanic male (30.4%) than white male (17.8%) students; and higher among Hispanic male (30.4%) than black male (24.0%) students. Prevalence of having felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks ranged from 17.1% to 32.5% across state surveys (median: 26.1%) and from 24.8% to 32.2% across local surveys (median: 27.8%) ([Table 20](#)).

### **Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide**

Nationwide, 14.5% of students had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before the survey ([Table 21](#)). Overall, the prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide was higher among female (18.7%) than male (10.3%) students; higher among white female (17.8%), black female (18.0%), and Hispanic female (21.1%) than white male (10.2%), black male (8.5%), and Hispanic male (10.7%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th-grade female (19.0%), 10th-grade female (22.0%), 11th-grade female (16.3%), and 12th-grade female (16.7%) than 9th-grade male (10.8%), 10th-grade male (9.3%), 11th-grade male (10.7%), and 12th-grade male (10.2%) students, respectively. The prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide was higher among Hispanic female (21.1%) than white female (17.8%) students. The prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide was higher among 10th-grade female (22.0%) than 11th-grade female (16.3%) and 12th-grade female (16.7%) students. Prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide ranged from 10.4% to 19.3% across state surveys (median: 14.5%) and from 9.7% to 15.0% across local surveys (median: 12.7%) ([Table 22](#)).

## **Made a Suicide Plan**

During the 12 months before the survey, 11.3% of students nationwide had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide ([Table 21](#)). Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide plan was higher among female (13.4%) than male (9.2%) students; higher among white female (12.8%), black female (12.0%), and Hispanic female (15.2%) than white male (8.8%), black male (7.1%), and Hispanic male (10.4%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th-grade female (13.4%) and 10th-grade female (16.1%) than 9th-grade male (9.2%) and 10th-grade male (8.9%) students, respectively. Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide plan was higher among Hispanic (12.8%) than white (10.8%) and black (9.5%) students; higher among Hispanic female (15.2%) than white female (12.8%) students; and higher among Hispanic male (10.4%) than black male (7.1%) students, respectively. The prevalence of having made a suicide plan was higher among 10th-grade female (16.1%) than 11th-grade female (11.6%) and 12th-grade female (11.7%) students. Prevalence of having made a suicide plan ranged from 8.1% to 17.8% across state surveys (median: 11.5%) and from 8.0% to 14.7% across local surveys (median: 10.9%) ([Table 22](#)).

## **Attempted Suicide**

Nationwide, 6.9% of students had attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months before the survey ([Table 23](#)). Overall, the prevalence of having attempted suicide was higher among female (9.3%) than male (4.6%) students; higher among white female (7.7%), black female (9.9%), and Hispanic female (14.0%) than white male (3.4%), black male (5.5%), and Hispanic male (6.3%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th-grade female (10.5%), 10th-grade female (11.2%), 11th-grade female (7.8%), and 12th-grade female (6.5%) than 9th-grade male (5.3%), 10th-grade male (4.9%), 11th-grade male (3.7%), and 12th-grade male (4.2%) students, respectively. Overall, the prevalence of having attempted suicide was higher among black (7.7%) and Hispanic (10.2%) than white (5.6%) students; higher among Hispanic (10.2%) than black (7.7%) students; higher among Hispanic female (14.0%) than white female (7.7%) and black female (9.9%) students; and higher among black male (5.5%) and Hispanic male (6.3%) than white male (3.4%) students. Overall, the prevalence of having attempted suicide was higher among 9th-grade (7.9%) and 10th-grade (8.0%) than 11th-grade (5.8%) and 12th-grade (5.4%) students; higher among 9th-grade female (10.5%) than 12th-grade female (6.5%) students; and higher among 10th-grade female (11.2%) than 11th-grade female (7.8%) and 12th-grade female (6.5%) students. Prevalence of having attempted suicide ranged from 4.8% to 14.3% across state surveys (median: 7.9%) and from 5.1% to 13.3% across local surveys (median: 9.0%) ([Table 24](#)).

## **Suicide Attempt Treated by a Doctor or Nurse**

During the 12 months before the survey, 2.0% of students nationwide had made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse ([Table 23](#)). Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse was higher among female (2.4%) than male (1.5%) students; higher among white female (2.1%) and Hispanic female (3.9%) than white male (0.9%) and Hispanic male (1.8%) students, respectively; and higher among 10th-grade female (3.1%) than 10th-grade male (1.0%) students. Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse was higher among Hispanic (2.9%) than white (1.5%) students; higher among Hispanic female (3.9%) than white female (2.1%) and black female (2.1%) students; and higher among black male (2.5%) and Hispanic male (1.8%) than white male (0.9%) students. Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse was higher among 9th-grade (2.3%) than 12th-grade (1.7%) students and higher among 10th-grade female (3.1%) than 11th-grade female (1.7%) students. Prevalence of having made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse ranged from 1.5% to 4.8% across state surveys (median: 2.6%) and from 1.4% to 4.7% across local surveys (median: 2.9%) ([Table 24](#)).

During 1991--2007, a significant linear decrease occurred in the percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide (29.0%--14.5%) and in the percentage of students who made a suicide plan (18.6%--11.3%). The percentage of students who attempted suicide did not change significantly during 1991--2001 (7.3%--8.8%) and then decreased during 2001--2007 (8.8%--6.9%). The percentage of students who made a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse did not change significantly during 1991-- 2003 (1.7%--2.9%) and then decreased during 2003--2007 (2.9%--2.0%). During 2005--2007, significant decreases also occurred in the percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide (16.9%--14.5%), who made a suicide plan (13.0%--11.3%), and who attempted suicide (8.4%--6.9%).