



Are Negative Behaviors a Cry for Help?

Results from the 2010 Missouri Student Survey

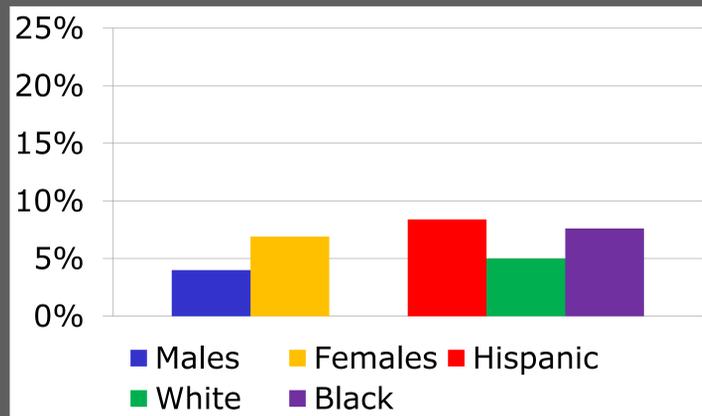


Approximately 130,000 youth in 6th through 12th grade completed the 2010 Missouri Student Survey, sponsored by the Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Of these students, 5.5%, or 7,084 attempted suicide in the past year. This analysis pinpoints behaviors in the school setting that can be used to identify students at high risk for suicide. The specific warning signs identified were:

- ▶ Poor school performance
- ▶ Excessive unexcused absenteeism
- ▶ Fighting
- ▶ Emotional bullying
- ▶ Substance use

Although it may appear that these students want to distance themselves from others, their negative behaviors may in fact be a cry for help. If school personnel are alert to these warning signs, they may be in a position to connect students to needed resources and services.

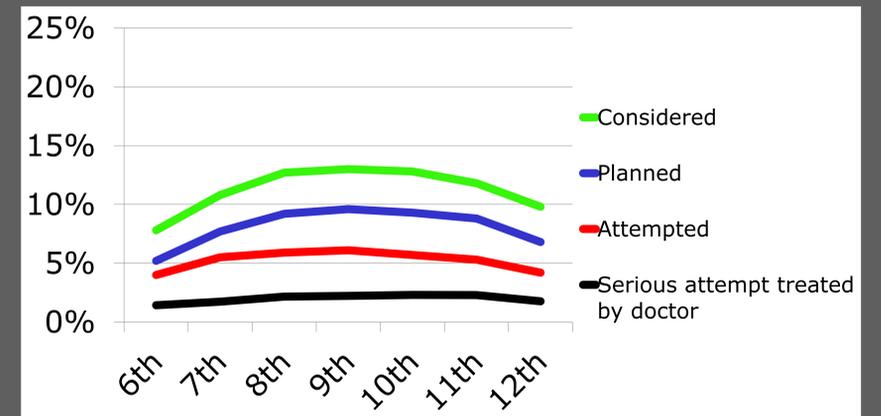
Suicide Attempts by Gender and Race/Ethnicity



Females are slightly more likely to attempt than males

Hispanic and Black youth are slightly more likely to attempt than White youth

Suicidal Ideation and Attempts by Grade

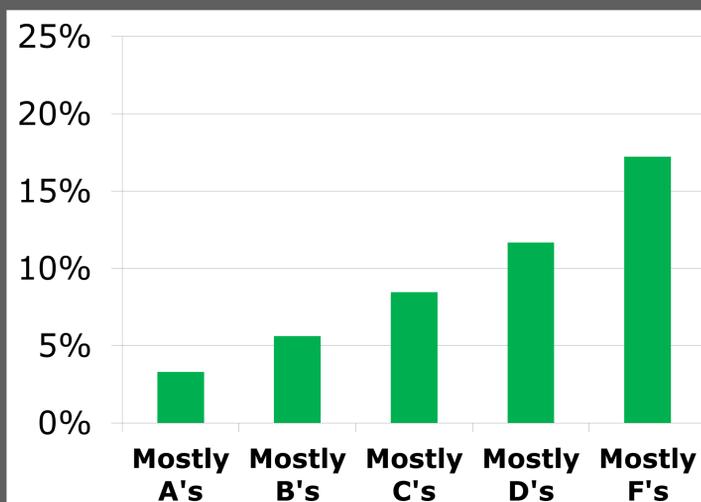


Suicidal ideation is slightly higher among 8th, 9th and 10th graders

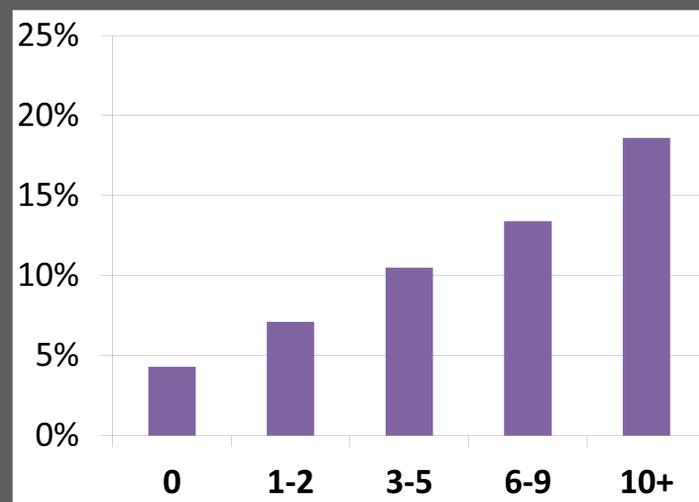
Those with lower grades and a greater number of unexcused absences are more likely to attempt suicide

Around 25% of all females with poor grades attempted suicide

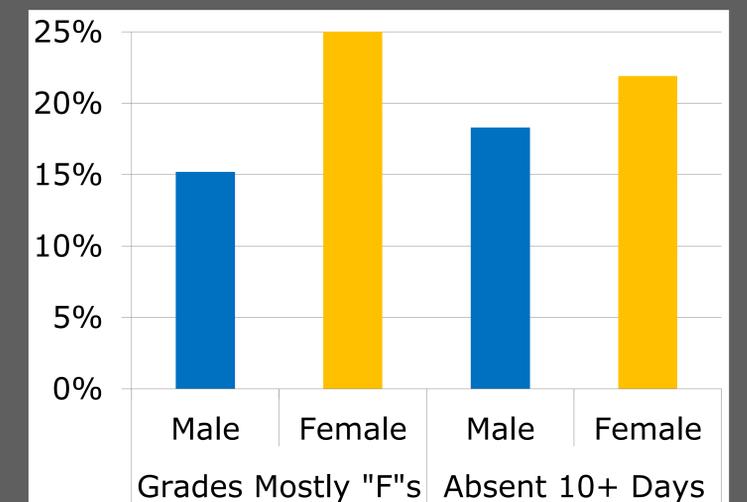
% Who Attempted by Past Year's Academic Grades (self-report)



% Who Attempted by # of Days Skipped School (Past 30 days)

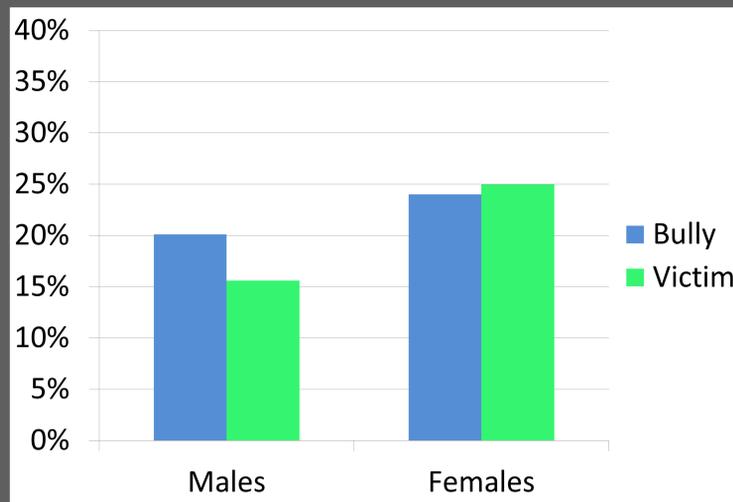


% Who Attempted by Academic Grades and # of Days Skipped School : Males and Females



Major Warning Signs for Suicide Attempts

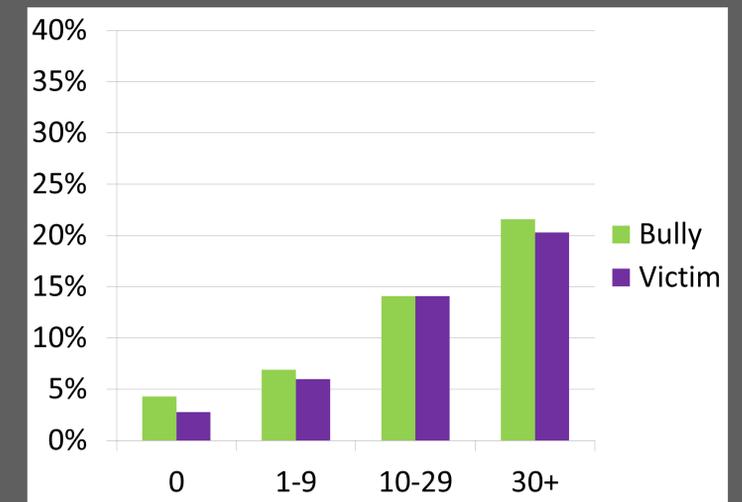
% Who Attempted Among Emotional Bullies* and Victims of Emotional Bullying: Males and Females



In general, bullies are just as likely to attempt suicide as victims

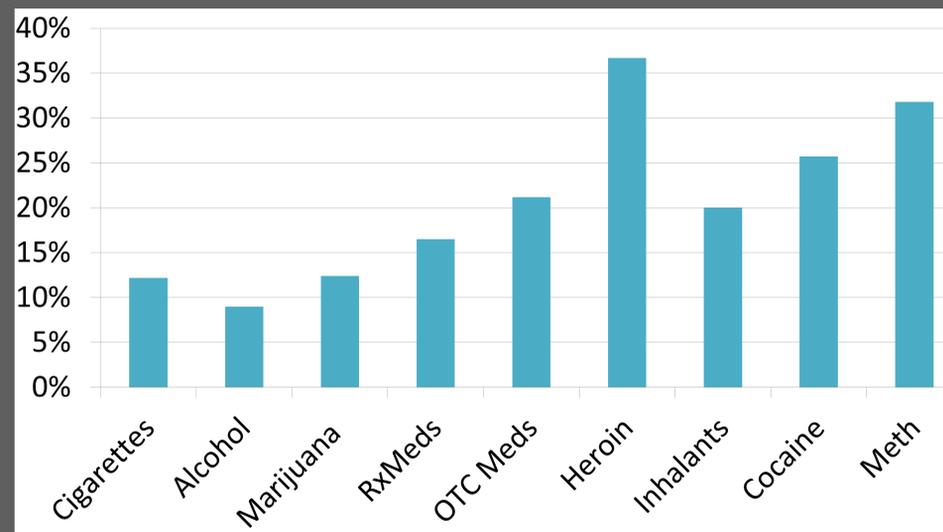
- ❖ Among males, more bullies than victims attempt suicide
- ❖ Among females, there is no difference in suicide attempts between bullies and victims.
- ❖ Significantly more females who are victims attempt suicide than males

% Who Attempted Among Emotional Bullies and Victims of Emotional Bullying by Frequency of Behaviors



**Defined as those students who had spread mean rumors about another student at school in the past 3 months.*

% Who Attempted Among Those Using Cigarettes, Alcohol and Other Drugs



❖ Substance use is highly correlated with suicide attempts

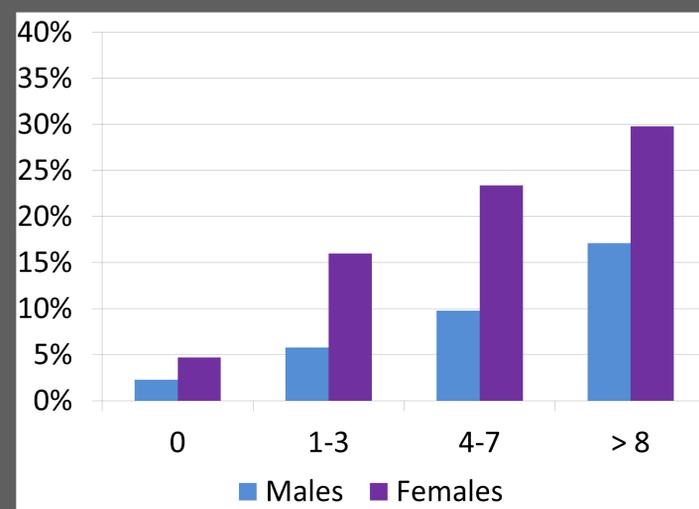


❖ Heroin and methamphetamine use are very strongly related to suicide attempts



❖ Around 20% of youth who have used inhalants or over-the-counter medications for non-medical reasons attempted suicide in the past year

% Who Attempted Who Engaged in Physical Fighting in the Past 3 Months



❖ Among females who have been in 8 or more fights in the past 3 months, 30% have attempted suicide

❖ Females who fight are much more likely to attempt suicide than their male counterparts