

Missouri Youth Suicide



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology
Workgroup

The 2nd leading cause of death in youth aged 12-18 in both the United States and the state of Missouri was suicide in 2015¹.

Deaths by Suicide

In 2015, 19.8% of all deaths of youth aged 12-18 in the United States were by suicide with the most common means being suffocation and firearm use¹. In Missouri, 20.5% of all deaths of youth in this age group were by suicide in 2015¹.

Suicidal Ideation and Attempts

On the 2016 Missouri Student Survey, youth in grades 6-12 were asked if they had considered, planned, or attempted suicide in the last year².

Over 1 in 10 (13.9%) Missouri students in grades 6-12 report that they had considered suicide in the last year.

Nearly 1 in 10 (9.9%) Missouri students had made a plan to end their life in last year.

Nearly 1 in 15 (6.3%) Missouri students report attempting suicide in the last year. Of these students, 1.3% had attempts that resulted in injury.

Female students were more likely than males to consider (18.1% vs. 9.6%), plan (13.2% vs. 6.4%), and attempt suicide (2.0% vs. 0.5%).

Considering and planning suicide was reported most frequently by Caucasian students and actual attempts were reported most frequently by African American students.

Additional Information and Resources

To find additional information about suicide, or to find help, please see the resources listed here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/mentalillness/suicide/prevention.html>

¹ National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. WISQARS™ Produced by National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

² Missouri Student Survey, 2016