

Facts about Youth Suicide in Wisconsin

Youth Suicide deaths in Wisconsin¹

- Boys have more suicide deaths, more than 4 times as often as girls.
- The White race has the highest suicide death rate for youth.
- Firearms were the most common method for boys and suffocation is the most common method used by girls in the last 13 years (2000-2012).
- January, March, April, & May were the most common months for emergency room visits and hospitalizations for suicide attempts (2002-2012).

Comparing WI & US²

- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for youth in Wisconsin and 3rd in the country.
- Wisconsin had the 14th highest rate of suicide in youth among all states (age 5-19).
- Wisconsin has fallen below the national average only once from 2000-2013. (in 2008)
- Wisconsin's youth suicide rate has been higher than the national rate for 29 of the last 32 years (1981-2013).
- After dipping in 2012, Wisconsin's suicide rate has resumed the trend of increasing since 2008.

Youth Suicide Attempts and Related Risk Factors³

- Wisconsin youth reported higher levels of binge drinking than most states. Binge drinking can be positively correlated with suicide attempts. (Higher binge drinking = higher suicide attempts.)
- 1 in 4 high school students don't feel like they belong in their school.
- 1 in 3 high school girls and 1 in 6 boys reported symptoms of depression.
- 13% of youth reported seriously considering suicide.
- More than 12% of students reported making a plan about how they would attempt suicide.
- About 6% of high school girls and about 6% of boys reported making a suicide attempt. About 3% reported requiring medical attention because of a suicide attempt.
- Among students that had sexual contact with someone of the same sex, 49% reported feeling sad/hopeless and 33% made a plan about how they would attempt suicide.

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¹ DHS WISH data, 2000-2012, ages 5-19, retrieved 8/15

² CDC WISQARS data, 2000-2013, ages 5-19, retrieved 9/15

³ 2013 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, WI DPI