

Facts about Youth Suicide in Wisconsin

Suicide deaths and common methods¹

- Boys completed suicide more than 4 times more often than girls.
- Suffocation (e.g. hanging) was the most commonly used method by youth in 2009.
- Firearms were the most common method for boys and suffocation is the most common method used by girls in the last 10 years (2000-2009).
- January through May was the most common months for emergency room visits and hospitalizations for suicide attempts (2002-2009).

Comparing WI & US²

- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death among Wisconsin youth and 4th in the country.
- Wisconsin had the 14th highest rate of suicide in youth among all states (2000-2007).
- For ages 10-14, our rate is 8th highest in the nation (17 states had too few suicides among youth age 10-14 to accurately report a rate) (2000-2007).
- Wisconsin's youth suicide rate has been higher than the national rate for 25 of the last 27 years (1981-2007). There is a slow, downward trend in the rate.

Suicide Attempts and Related Risk Factors³

- Wisconsin youth reported higher levels of binge drinking than most states. Binge drinking is highly correlated with suicide attempts.
- 1 in 3 high school girls and 1 in 6 boys reported symptoms of depression.
- 13% of youth reported seriously considering suicide.
- More than 11% of students reported making a plan about how they would attempt suicide.
- About 8% of high school girls and about 5% of boys reported making a suicide attempt.
- About 3% reported that they required medical attention because of a suicide attempt.
- Among students that had sexual contact with someone of the same sex, 45% reported feeling sad/hopeless and 32% made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (2009).

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¹ DHS WISH data, 2000-2009, ages 5-19, retrieved 1/12

² CDC WISQARS data, 2000-2008, ages 5-18, retrieved 1/12

³ 2011 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, WI DPI