Overview

- In 2016, 5,723 youth age 15-24 died by suicide. ¹

- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24-year-olds in 2016. Suicide was also the 2nd leading cause of death for youth aged 10-14 years old.

- The most recent Youth Risk and Behavior Survey found that in the preceding year among high school students: 17.7% seriously considered suicide; 14.6% made a plan for suicide; 8.6% attempted suicide one or more times; 2.8% made a suicide attempt that had to be treated by doctor or nurse. ²

- Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are 4.34 times more likely to die by suicide than girls. ³

- Among ages 15-24, 4,550 Caucasians, 686 African Americans, 316 Asian/Pacific Islanders and 171 Native Americans died by suicide during 2016. ¹

- 51.3% of males age 15-24 used firearms to take their life, and 34.8% used suffocation; however, among females 44.3% died by suffocation compared to 29.2% by firearms. ¹

RISK FACTORS

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse ³
- Firearms in the household ³
- Previous suicide attempts ⁴
- Non-suicidal self-injury ⁵
- Exposure to friends/family member's suicide ⁶
- Low self-esteem ⁷

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Family and school connectedness ⁸
- Safe schools ³
- Reduced access to firearms ⁹
- Academic achievement ⁶
- Self-esteem ⁸

Youth Suicide Can Be Prevented

Youth across America are affected by suicide, be it families, at school, or in their own lives. The cost is immeasurable, but help is available. Friends are often the first to know their friend is suicidal, and we need to help them know where to find help.


If you or someone you know is suicidal, please contact a mental health professional or call 1-800-273-TALK (8255).