




Suicide Statistics

US AND MASSACHUSETTS


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- In the United States, a youth dies by suicide every six hours.
 - Youth suicides are on the rise nationally; after a stable period from 2000 to 2007, suicide rates for youth aged 10–24 increased between 2007 and 2017 (Curtin, 2019).
 - Suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers (CDC, 2019).
 - Among young adults 15–24 years old in the U.S., the rate of death by suicide in 2019 was about 14 per 100,000 people — slightly higher than one suicide for every 10,000 people in this age group.
(<https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>)



In Massachusetts:

In 2007, there were 504 suicides in Massachusetts — more than deaths from homicide (183) and HIV/AIDS (143) combined .

- Male suicides exceeded female suicides by more than 3 to 1 .

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- In the United States, 91% of youth who die by suicide are 15-24, though very young children and pre-teens also experience suicidality and their numbers are on the rise. On average, one child under 13 dies of suicide every five days (Hanna, 2017).
 - In the United States, between 2007 and 2017, there has been a 178% increase in suicides of children aged 10-14.
 - The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted every two years, suggests suicidality among children in middle school is on the rise and demonstrates that children in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades are particularly vulnerable to suicide ideations.



Violent deaths have been rising among young people aged 10-19 years in the United States since 2007, driven largely by increases in suicides, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

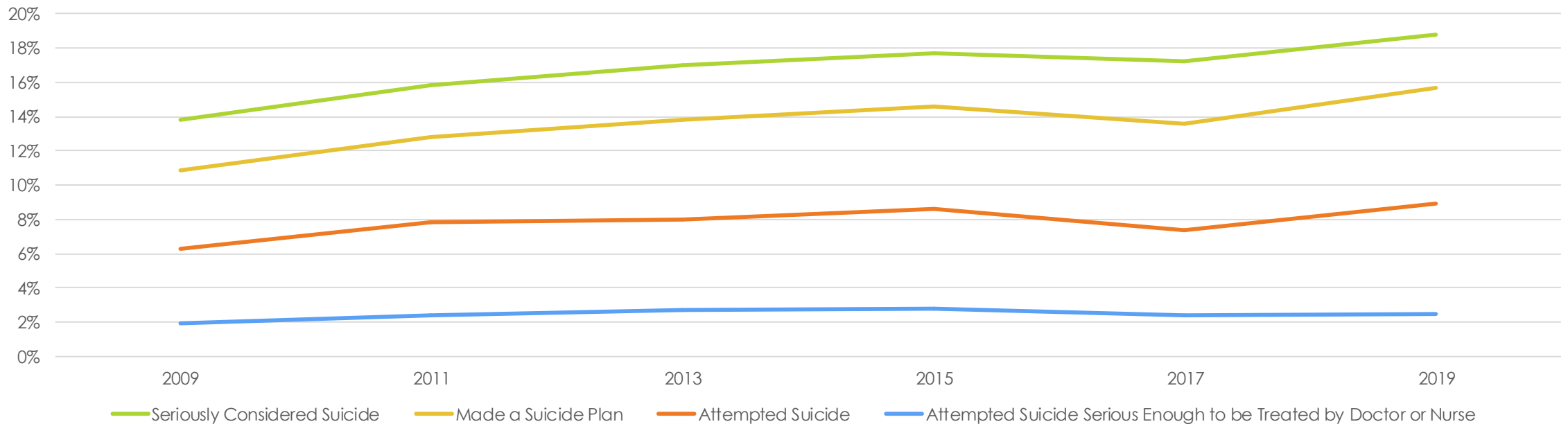
Nonfatal self-injury also burdens the Commonwealth's health care system— there were 4,305 hospital stays and 6,720 emergency department discharges for nonfatal self-inflicted injury in FY2009 .

Youth Behavior Risk Study 2019

- 19 % of youth in grades 9-12 seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months
- 16% made a suicide plan
- 9 percent of reported that they had made at least one suicide attempt in the past 12 months
- 19 % of youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months
- One out of every 40 high school students (2.5 percent) reported having made a suicide attempt that was serious enough to be treated by a doctor or a nurse.


Youth Behavior Risk Study, 9th-12th Grade Students

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 9th-12th Grade Students 2009-2019



Mental Health During the Pandemic

- ▶ A recent CDC study of 7,700 students in grades 9-12 found that in the first half of 2021:
 - ▶ 49% of females and 24% of males reported poor mental health during the pandemic
 - ▶ 26% of females and 14% of males reported seriously considering suicide
 - ▶ 12% of females and 5% of males reported attempting suicide
 - ▶ 41% of females and 54% of males felt strongly connected to someone at school
 - ▶ 72% of all students felt virtually connected during the pandemic
- ▶ **Students who felt close to people at school were much less likely to:**
 - ▶ **Experience poor mental health (28% vs. 45%)**
 - ▶ **Seriously consider attempting suicide (14% vs. 26%)**
 - ▶ **Make a suicide attempt (6% vs. 12%)**
- ▶ Jones SE, Ethier KA, Hertz M, et al. Mental Health, Suicidality, and Connectedness Among High School Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021. MMWR Suppl 2022;71(Suppl-3):16–21. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.su7103a3external icon>.



► For each suicide death among young people, there may be as many as 100–200 suicide attempts (McIntosh, 2010).

<https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics>

Risk Factors: Mental Illness

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Mood Disorders
- ▶ History of Childhood Trauma
- ▶ Substance Use

Risk Factors: Gender

- ▶ Nationally, victims of youth suicide are overwhelmingly male and the suicide rate for boys 15-19 has increased significantly in past decades.
- ▶ Historically, boys die by suicide at a higher rate than girls, but since 2007 the gap has greatly narrowed. Girls aged 10 to 14 experience the largest percentage increase in suicide rates compared with other age groups.
- ▶ In Massachusetts, almost three quarters of youth who died by suicide between 2011 and 2015 were boys.

Risk Factors: Race and Ethnicity

- In the United States, youth suicides disproportionately affect Native Americans and Alaska Natives. For example, the suicide rate among 15–19-year-old American Indian/ Alaska Native high school students is 25.5% compared to 7.9% among white students.
- White youth are the third most-affected racial/ethnic group, with suicide rates far above Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Black youth.
- Important racial differences emerge when looking at particular age groups, which point to concerning trends among preadolescent Black children.
- In Massachusetts, the gaps among rates of suicidality of different racial/ethnic groups are narrower than nationally.

Risk Factors: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- ▶ Nationally, LGBTQ youth are at an increased risk for suicide.
- ▶ Both nationally and in Massachusetts, LGBTQ youth of color are particularly affected by suicidality, especially Native American LGBTQ youth.
- ▶ In Massachusetts, LGBTQ students are 3.9 times more likely to have attempted suicide in the previous year than their non-LGBTQ peers.

Risk Factors: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth.
- LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all of the people they lived with attempted suicide at half the rate of those who did not have their pronouns respected by anyone with whom they lived.

Source: [The Trevor Project 2021 National Survey](#)

Risk Factors: Juvenile Justice

- Suicide is three times as prevalent in juvenile justice residential placements compared to the general population. Gallagher et al. (2006)

Risk Factors: Multiple

- Many young people may have multiple risk factors
- For example,
 - LGBTQ youth who diagnosed with autism had over 50% greater odds of attempting suicide in the past year compared to those who had never been diagnosed with autism.

Risk Factors: Foster Care

- Young people placed in the child welfare system attempt suicide more than three times as often as children in non-care populations
- Youth living in group homes were seven times more likely to have suicidal ideations than youth living in kinship care and five times more likely to consider suicide than youth placed in foster care
- Over a quarter of preadolescent children (9-11 years old) in foster care had a history of suicidality (Taussig, 2014).
- Children (9-11 years old) in foster care who have been physically or sexually abused have higher rates of suicidal ideation compared to children who have suffered other forms of maltreatment. The study noted no gender differences for this age group (Taussig, 2014).