Overview

- In 2015, 5,491 youth age 15-24 died by suicide.¹

- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds in 2015. Suicide was also the 2nd leading cause of death for youth aged 10-14 years old.

- The 2015 Youth Risk and Behavior Survey found that in previous 12 months 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.

- Among ages 15-24, 4,438 Caucasians, 610 African Americans, 283 Asian/Pacific Islanders and 160 Native Americans died by suicide during 2015.³

RISK FACTORS

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse iii
- Firearms in the household iii
- Previous suicide attempts iv
- Non-suicidal self-injury v
- Exposure to friends/family member's suicide vi
- Low self-esteem vii

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Family and school connectedness viii
- Safe schools iii
- Reduced access to firearms ix
- Academic achievement vi
- Self-esteem x

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.

---


