



## Arkansas – Youth Suicide

### Statistical Impact

According to the latest CDC's WISOARS National Data Reporting (2015):

- ❖ Suicide is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in Arkansas.
- ❖ Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 12-18 (middle and high school ages) in Arkansas.
- ❖ Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for college-age youth ages 18-22 in Arkansas.
- ❖ When examined as an age group 10-24 comparison, suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading overall cause of death for Arkansas. In Arkansas, every 5.3 days on an average a young person (ages 10-24) is lost to this “Silent Epidemic” of youth suicide.

Arkansas 2015 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC): (Most Recent Released Report)

#### When young people were asked in Arkansas:

- **“Have you experienced the feeling of hopelessness and sadness for a constant period of two weeks or greater during the past twelve months (possible beginning of clinical depression)?”**  
30.7% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 3 young people  
Compared to Nationally – 29.9% (depression is a leading cause of suicide)  
This equates to 65,612 youth in the state that will have these feelings in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
18.9% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 5 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 17.7%  
This equates to 40,393 youth in the state that will consider suicide in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you made a plan to commit suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
16.7% answered YES or 1 out of every 6 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 14.6%  
This equates to 35,691 youth in the state that will make a plan *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
12.1% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 8 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 8.6%  
This equates to 25,860 youth in the state that will make an attempt in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*  
This is an average of 70 per day.

**\*Projected using the National and State 2015 YRBS and the  
State 2013-14 School Population for Grades 7-12  
“Let’s Do Something Differently...”**