

West Virginia – Youth Suicide

Statistical Impact



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

- ❖ Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in West Virginia.
- ❖ Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 12-18 (middle and high school ages) in West Virginia.
- ❖ Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for college-age youth ages 18-22 in West Virginia.
- ❖ When examined as an age group 10-24 comparison, suicide is the 2nd leading overall cause of death for West Virginia. In West Virginia, every 7.6 days on an average a young person (ages 10-24) is lost to this “Silent Epidemic” of youth suicide.

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

When young people were asked in West Virginia:

- **“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)?”**
32.9% 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 39,806 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?”**
18.7% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 5 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 17.7%
This equates to 22,625 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?”**
15.4% answered YES or over 1 out of every 7 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 14.6%
This equates to 18,632 youth in the state that will make a plan *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”**
9.9% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 10 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 8.6%
This equates to 11,978 youth in the state that will make an attempt in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
This is an average of 32 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...”