

West Virginia – Youth Suicide
Statistical Impact



According to the latest CDC's WISOARS National Data Reporting (2018):

- ❖ 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 7.93 days on an average a young person (ages 10-24) is lost to this “Silent Epidemic” of youth suicide.

West Virginia 2019 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)?”***
36.4% answered YES or over 1 out of every 3 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 36.7% (depression is a leading cause of suicide)
This equates to 28,503 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?”***
20.9% answered YES or over 1 out of every 5 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 18.8%
This equates to 16,365 youth in the state that will consider suicide in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
- ***“Have you made a plan to attempt suicide in the past twelve months?”***
13.9% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 7 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 15.7%
This equates to 10,884 youth in the state that will make a plan *if nothing is done differently.*
- ***“Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”***
11.2% answered YES or over 1 out of every 9 young people.
Compared to Nationally – 8.9%
This equates to 8,770 youth in the state that will make an attempt in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
This is an average of 24 per day.

***Projected using the National 2019 YRBS, which surveys grades 9-12, and the West Virginia 2017-18 school state population numbers. If these results were also applied to grades 7 & 8, where suicide is also a major health issue, the impact numbers would be higher.**

“Let’s Do Something Differently...”