



# YOUTH SUICIDE IN INDIANA

**Hoosier youth are significantly more likely to consider or attempt suicide than their peers nationally. Indiana faces significant disparities in youth suicide among vulnerable groups.**

## Youth Suicide Deaths

- In 2016, 57 Hoosier youth ages 19 and younger died by suicide. This represents an increase from 55 deaths in 2015 and 52 deaths in 2014.
- Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24 and the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for youth ages 5-14.
- 39% of Indiana’s youth suicide deaths are concentrated in 5 counties: Lake, Marion, Allen, Hendricks, and Porter.
- 59 of Indiana’s 92 counties had zero youth suicide deaths in 2016.<sup>1</sup>



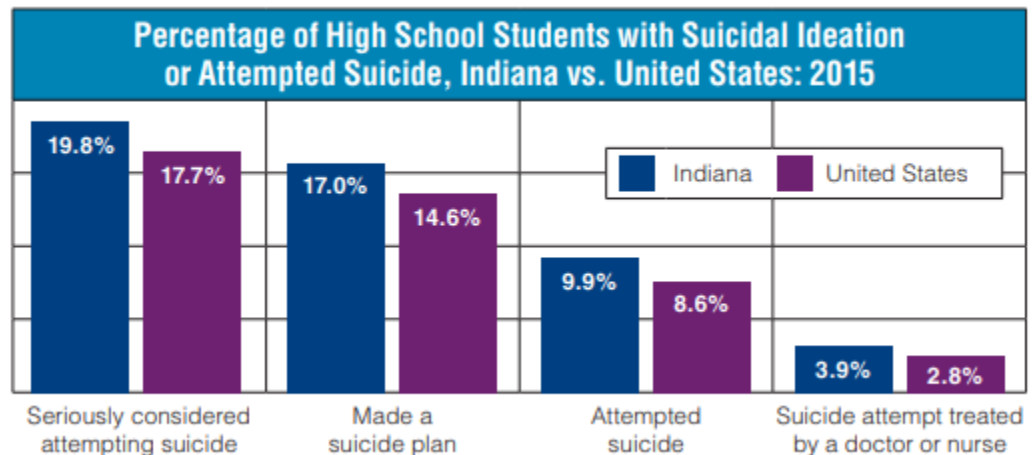
**In Indiana, one in five high school students seriously considered attempting suicide in the last 12 months.**

*Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey*

## Suicidal Ideation

- 1 in 5 Indiana high school students seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. The percentage of students who seriously considered suicide increased from 18.0% in 2005 to 19.8% in 2015.
- Hoosier youth are more likely to consider suicide and engage in suicidal behavior than their peers nationally. Indiana ranks 2nd out of 34 states in the percentage of students who made a suicide plan and ranks 3rd out of 37 states in the percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide.
- Among our neighboring states, Indiana has the highest percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide and the highest percentage of students who made a suicide plan.<sup>2</sup>

High School Students Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide: 2015	
Indiana	19.8%
Michigan	17.3%
Illinois	15.9%
Kentucky	15.7%
Ohio	N/A

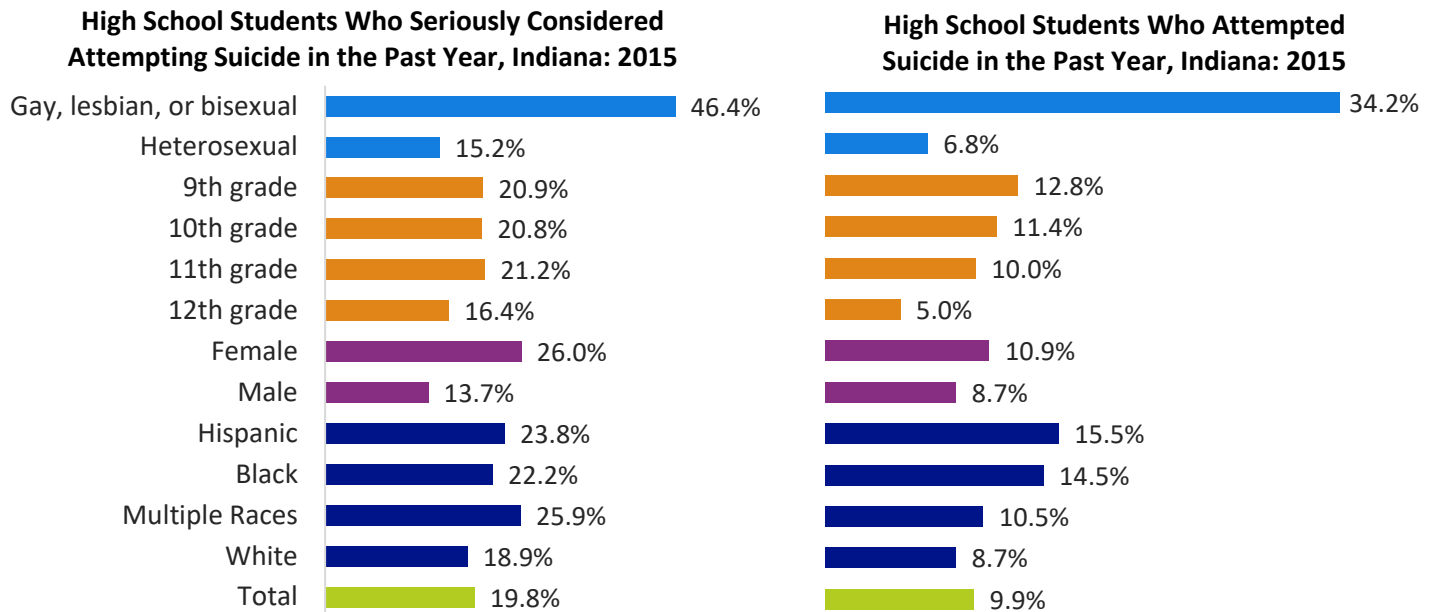


*Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey*

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## Disparities in Suicidal Ideation

- Youth who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are three times more likely to consider suicide and five times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers.
- Females are twice as likely to consider suicide as males.
- Younger youth and youth of color are also more likely to attempt suicide.<sup>3</sup>



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Risk Factors for Youth Suicide

**Considering or attempting suicide is often indicative of serious mental health problems or traumatic life events such as physical or sexual abuse. Other risk factors include substance or alcohol use disorders, a family history of suicide, physical illness, and easy access to lethal methods.<sup>4</sup>**

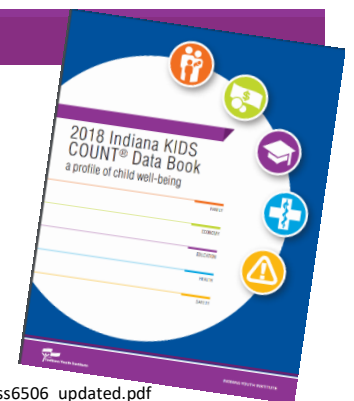
- An estimated 90% of those who die by suicide experience mental illness.<sup>5</sup>
- Youth with a higher suicide risk include those with mental health or substance use disorders, survivors of suicide loss, suicide attempt survivors, youth who self-injure, rural youth, and youth who have experienced trauma.<sup>6</sup>
- Research shows that asking youth if they are considering suicide will not increase their risk of a suicide attempt.<sup>7</sup>
- Protective factors against suicide include access to mental health care and family and community support.<sup>8</sup>

## IYI Resources

The latest data is at your fingertips with IYI's Data Center. Search statistics and gather data to improve your program planning and grant writing or, request customized data. Go to [www.iyi.org/data](http://www.iyi.org/data).

Get the most comprehensive overview of children's well-being in Indiana. Download the Indiana KIDS COUNT Data Book at [www.iyi.org/databook](http://www.iyi.org/databook).

Want in-depth information on youth? Contact us at [data@iyi.org](mailto:data@iyi.org) to request custom data.



<sup>1</sup> Indiana State Department of health (2016). Mortality Report, Table 9. Retrieved from <https://www.in.gov/isdh/reports/mortality/2016/toc.html>

<sup>2</sup> Indiana State Department of Health (2015). Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2015/ss6506\\_updated.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2015/ss6506_updated.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Indiana State Department of Health (2015). Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.in.gov/isdh/20627.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Child Trends (2016). Suicidal Teens. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/suicidal-teens/>

<sup>5</sup> National Alliance on Mental Illness (n.d.). Risk of Suicide. Retrieved from <https://www.nami.org/learn-more/mental-health-conditions/related-conditions/suicide>

<sup>6</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (n.d.) Suicide Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/suicide-prevention-update>

<sup>7</sup> Mayo Clinic (2018). Suicide: What to Do When Someone is Suicidal. Retrieved from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/suicide/in-depth/suicide/art-20044707>

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2018). Suicide: Risk and Protective factors. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/riskprotectivefactors.html>