

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2005

Reporting Period Covered: October 2004 - January 2006

Felt Sad or Hopeless

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 28.5% of students nationwide had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for >2 weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. Overall, the prevalence of having felt sad or hopeless almost every day for >2 weeks was higher among female (36.7%) than male (20.4%) students; higher among white female (33.4%), black female (36.9%), and Hispanic female (46.7%) than white male (18.4%), black male (19.5%), and Hispanic male (26.0%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th grade female (38.5%), 10th grade female (37.0%), 11th grade female (38.0%), and 12th grade female (32.6%) than 9th grade male (19.9%), 10th grade male (21.3%), 11th grade male (19.4%), and 12th grade male (20.2%) students, respectively.

Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide

Nationwide, 16.9% of students had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey. Overall, the prevalence of having seriously considered attempting suicide was higher among female (21.8%) than male (12.0%) students; higher among white female (21.5%), black female (17.1%), and Hispanic female (24.2%) than white male (12.4%), black male (7.0%), and Hispanic male (11.9%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th grade female (23.9%), 10th grade female (23.0%), 11th grade female (21.6%), and 12th grade female (18.0%) than 9th grade male (12.2%), 10th grade male (11.9%), 11th grade male (11.9%), and 12th grade male (11.6%) students, respectively.

Made a Suicide Plan

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 13.0% of students nationwide had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide. Overall, the prevalence of having made a suicide plan was higher among female (16.2%) than male (9.9%) students; higher among white female (15.4%), black female (13.5%), and

(continued on next page)

Hispanic female (18.5%) than white male (9.7%), black male (5.5%), and Hispanic male (10.7%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th grade female (17.6%), 10th grade female (18.1%), 11th grade female (16.3%), and 12th grade female (12.0%) than 9th grade male (10.2%), 10th grade male (10.3%), 11th grade male (9.5%), and 12th grade male (9.0%) students, respectively.

Attempted Suicide

Nationwide, 8.4% of students had actually attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 18). Overall, the prevalence of having actually attempted suicide was higher among female (10.8%) than male (6.0%) students; higher among white female (9.3%), black female, (9.8%), and Hispanic female (14.9%) than white male (5.2%), black male (5.2%), and Hispanic male (7.8%) students, respectively; and higher among 9th grade female (14.1%), 10th grade female (10.8%), 11th grade female (11.0%), and 12th grade female (6.5%) than 9th grade male (6.8%), 10th grade male (7.6%), 11th grade male (4.5%), and 12th grade male (4.3%) students, respectively.