

# Suicide in Montana among High School Youth

## Attempted Suicide



In 2019, **1 in 10** (10%) high school students in Montana reported having attempted suicide within the past 12 months.

Nearly 8 percent of male students and 12 percent of female students reported having attempted suicide. Almost **1 in 7** (15%) Native American high school students and **1 in 6** (17%) Hispanic students reported having attempted suicide.

## Risk Factors of Suicide

- Victimization
- Depression/Mental Disorders
- Lack of access to behavioral health services
- Drug/Alcohol misuse
- Parental disconnect
- Minority status: American Indian youths, LGBTQ youth
- Access to lethal means

## Students who attempted suicide were more likely than students who did not attempt suicide to report:

**Having been bullied on school property**

**48% versus 19%**

**Having been electronically bullied**

**47% versus 14%**

**Having been bullied based on perceived sexual orientation**

**35% versus 11%**

Among all Montana high school students:

**37% Felt Sad or Hopeless**

**23% Seriously Considered Suicide**

**20% Made a Suicide Plan**

For a complete report, see the [2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Suicide Report](#)

**Suicide = 2nd leading cause of death** among young Americans (15-24)

Most of these suicides occur **after school hours**, at home

LGBTQ youth are **4x more likely** to attempt suicide

Suicide Prevention Lifeline

If you are in crisis and want help, call the Montana Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 24/7, at **1-800-273-8255** or text "MT" to **741 741**

For a complete report, see the [Suicide in Montana Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention](#)

## Suicide is Preventable, Know the Signs

Expressed or communicated ideation

Increased alcohol and/or drug use

Isolation and/or withdrawal from friends, family, and society

Changes in mood, anxiety, agitation, anger, acting recklessly

Feeling trapped or hopeless, lacking a sense of purpose in life

Giving away possessions, not maintaining hygiene

Data sources:

1) 2019 Montana YRBS; <https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Data-Reporting/Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey> or <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

2) Suicide in Montana; <https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/suicideprevention/SuicideinMontana.pdf>