

Hennepin County
Public Health
Assessment Team

FACT SHEET



Hennepin County
Public Health

Adolescent suicidality

Why is this indicator important?

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among adolescents in Hennepin County and across Minnesota. While there is no single cause of suicide, some common risk factors include a history of previous suicide attempt, history of depression or other mental illness, alcohol or drug use, family history of suicide or mental illness, and feeling alone.¹

A suicide attempt is when people harm themselves with the intent to end their lives, but they do not die as a result of their actions. Many more people survive suicide attempts than die, but they often have serious injuries. However, a suicide attempt does not always result in a physical injury. Females tend to consider and attempt suicide at higher rates than boys, but males are more likely to die by suicide.¹

What is the current status?

In 2016, about one in ten 9th graders in suburban Hennepin County seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months. Girls in 8th, 9th and 11th grade were almost twice as likely as boys to consider suicide (Table 1).

About three percent of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders attempted suicide in the past year.

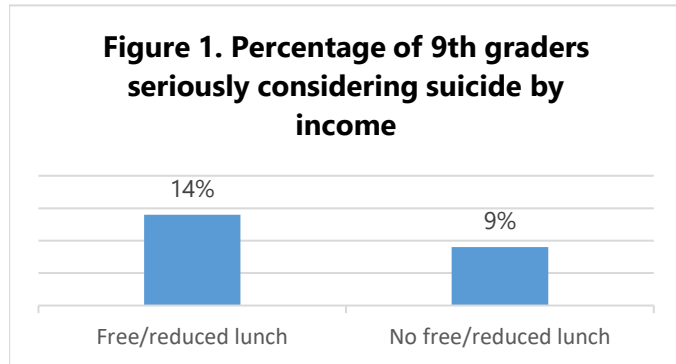
Table 1: Adolescent suicidal thoughts and attempts in past year, 2016

Suburban Hennepin County students	8 th graders	9 th graders	11 th graders
Seriously considered suicide in past year	11%	10%	11%
Boys	7%	6%	8%
Girls	15%	14%	15%
Attempted suicide in past year	3%	3%	3%
Boys	2%	2%	2%
Girls	4%	4%	4%

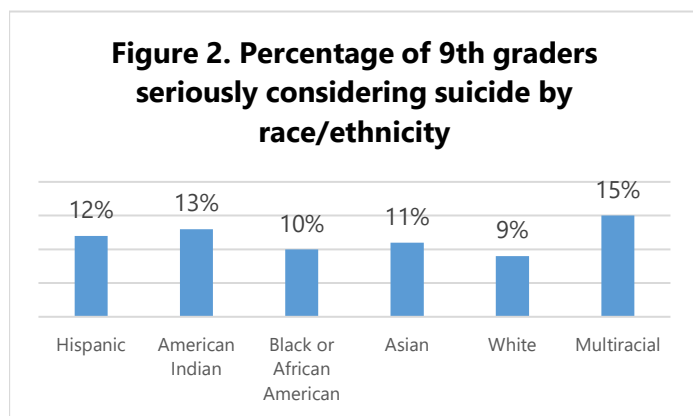
For more information on the health of Hennepin County residents, visit: www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData or email: PublicHealthData@hennepin.us

What are the disparities?

Ninth graders receiving free or reduced price lunch were more likely to consider suicide compared to non-low income students. In addition, these students were also more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year (4%) than non-low income students (2%). (Figure 1).

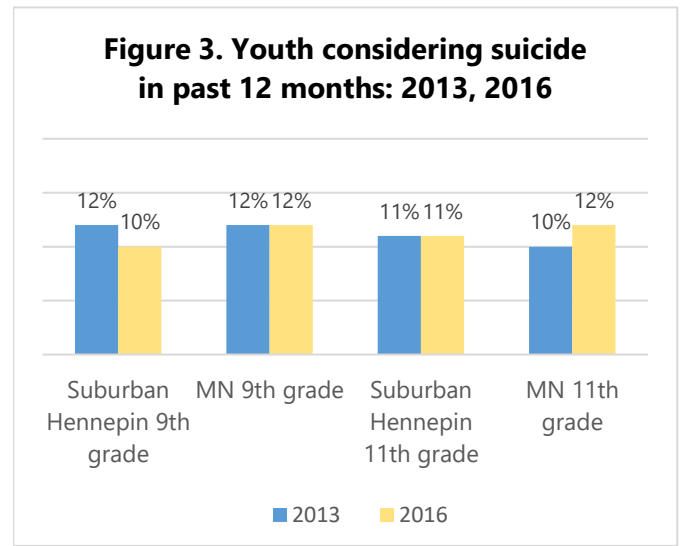


Hispanic, American Indian and multiracial 9th graders were more likely to consider suicide in the past year than other students. Rates of suicide attempts were similar for students of most race/ethnicities, though multiracial students were slightly more likely to attempt (4% vs 2-3%) (Figure 2).



How do we compare?

In suburban Hennepin County, 9th graders were less likely to seriously consider suicide between 2013 and 2016. However, the percentage of 11th graders across Minnesota who said they seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months increased in 2016.



The data on students who reported they had seriously considered suicide and attempted suicide was drawn from the Minnesota Student Survey – 2016, 2013 and 2010 data files. The survey questions included:

1. *Have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide: No; Yes, during the last year; Yes, more than a year ago.*
2. *Have you ever actually attempted suicide: No; Yes, during the last year; Yes, more than a year ago.*

Note that Minneapolis Public School District did not participate in the survey in 2013 and had a low response in 2016, and as a result, are not included in this report for 2013 or 2016.

¹www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicide_fa-ctsheets-a.pdf