



## YOUTH SUICIDE

### Overview

Unfortunately teen suicide is an issue that all communities face at some point in time. This 2007 report outlines the statistics related to suicidal action, thoughts, and self-harm among middle and high school students across Massachusetts.

### *Health and Risk Behaviors of Massachusetts Youth, 2007: the Report*

- **Geography:** By state
- **Years Available:** Report issued May, 2008
- **Website:** [www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprograms/yrbs](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprograms/yrbs)

### Key Findings:

- Overall, 13% of students in 2007 reported they seriously considered suicide and 11% made a suicide plan within the past year; both represent a significant drop since 2001.
- **High School Students:**
  - In 2007, 8% of high school students reported attempted suicide in the past year.
  - Seventeen percent (17%) of students reported hurting themselves on purpose in the past year.
  - Suicidal thoughts as well as non-suicidal self harm were more prevalent among females than males. Twenty-two percent (22%) of female students reported non-suicidal self harm (vs. 12% among males), 16% seriously considered suicide (vs. 9% among males), and 13% reported making a suicide plan (vs. 9% among males). However, the percentage of females (9%) who reported attempting suicide in the previous year was not significantly greater than that of males (6%).
- **Middle School Students:**
  - Sixteen percent (16%) of middle school students reported non-suicidal self-injury during the previous year.
  - Six percent (6%) of middle school students reported attempting suicide one or more times in the past year.
  - During the past year, there were no differences between grades in the percentage of students who reported attempted suicide or non-suicidal self-injury

### *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth Suicide Statistics, Ramon Johnson, About.com Guide*

**Geography:** State

**Year:** 2006

**Website:** <http://gaylife.about.com/od/gayteens/a/gaysuicide.htm>

### Key Findings:

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth are up to **four times more likely** to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, according to the Massachusetts 2006 Youth Risk Survey.