

## Alaska – Youth Suicide

### Statistical Impact



According to the latest CDC's WISQARS National Data Reporting (2019):

- ❖ Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in Alaska.
- ❖ Suicide is the 1<sup>st</sup> leading cause of death for ages 12-18 (middle and high school ages) in Alaska.
- ❖ Suicide is the 1<sup>st</sup> leading cause of death for college-age youth ages 18-22 in Alaska.
- ❖ When examined as an age group 10-24 comparison, suicide is the 1<sup>st</sup> leading overall cause of death for Alaska. In Alaska, every 6.18 days on an average a young person (ages 10-24) is lost to this “Silent Epidemic” of youth suicide.

Alaska 2019 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC): (Most Recent Released Report)

#### When young people were asked in Alaska:

- **“Have you experienced the feeling of hopelessness and sadness for a constant period of two weeks or greater during the past twelve months (possible beginning of clinical depression)?”**  
38.1% answered YES or over 1 out of every 3 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 36.7% (depression is a leading cause of suicide)  
This equates to 14,574 youth in the state that will have these feelings in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
25.3% answered YES or over 1 out of every 4 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 18.8%  
This equates to 9,678 youth in the state that will consider suicide in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you made a plan to attempt suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
21.6% answered YES or over 1 out of every 5 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 15.7%  
This equates to 8,262 youth in the state that will make a plan *if nothing is done differently.*
- **“Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”**  
19.7% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 5 young people.  
Compared to Nationally – 8.9%  
This equates to 7,536 youth in the state that will make an attempt in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*  
This is an average of 20 per day.

\*Projected using the National 2019 YRBS, which surveys grades 9-12, and the Alaska 2017-18 school state population numbers. If these results were also applied to grades 7 & 8, where suicide is also a major health issue, the impact numbers would be higher.

**“Let’s Do Something Differently...”**