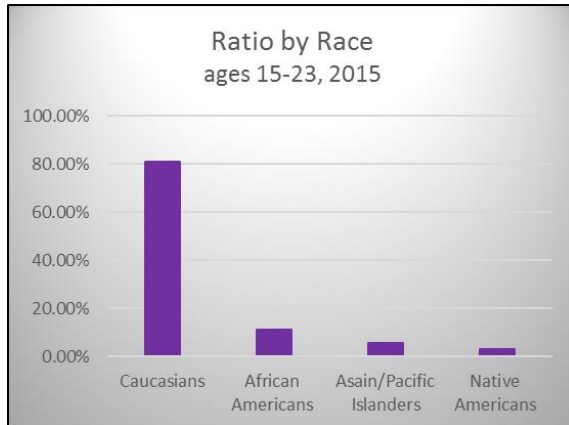


AAS 2015 Youth Suicidal Behavior Fact Sheet

5,491 youth age 15-24 died by suicide. We want to change that.



Youth suicide can be prevented.

Youth across America are affected by suicide, be it in families, at school, or in their own lives. The cost is immeasurable, but help is available. Friends are often the first to know their friend is suicidal, and we need to help them know where to find help.

For 15-24 year-olds, suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death in 2015.

The 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that in the past year among high school students: 17.7% seriously considered suicide; 14.6% made a plan for suicide; 8.6% attempted suicide one or more times; 2.8% made a suicide attempt that had to be treated by doctor or nurse. Suicide doesn't happen without warning, and it doesn't just affect a certain type of person.

Risk Factors*

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Firearms in the household
- Previous suicide attempts
- Nonsuicidal self-injury
- Exposure to friends'/family members' suicide
- Low self-esteem

Protective Factors

- Family and school connectedness
- Safe schools
- Reduced access to firearms
- Academic achievement
- Self-esteem

Talking to teens about suicide does not make them want to kill themselves. However, resources and help should ALWAYS be made available along with the discussion.

Fast fact: Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are 4.34 times more likely to die by suicide than girls.