

Delaware DDATA

Delaware Drug and Alcohol Tracking Alliance

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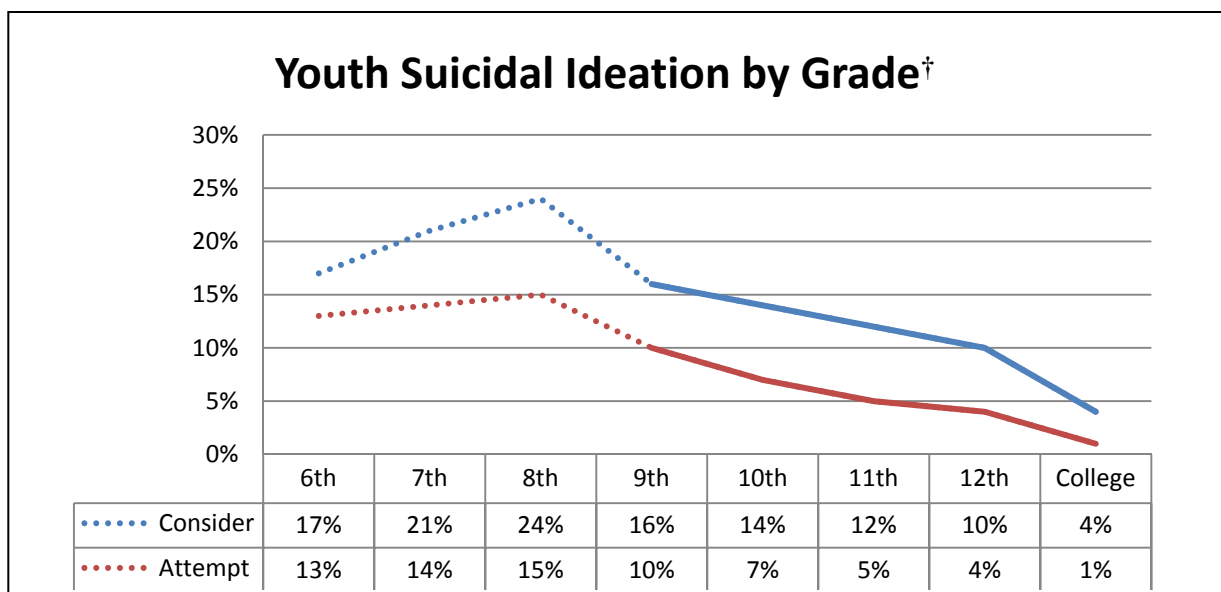
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Youth Suicidal Ideation

According to data collected from middle school, high school, and college students in the state of Delaware, prevalence rates for suicidal ideation appear to peak in middle school or early high school. At the start of their high school career, 16% of students report having considered suicide in the past year, and 10% report having actually attempted it. As students progress through high school, the prevalence rates steadily decline until reaching 10% and 4% respectively.

Reports of ever having considered or attempted suicide or serious self-injury from middle school indicate higher prevalence rates. However, because these include more than past year suicide ideation as well as non-suicidal serious self-injury, it is not clear whether rates are actually higher in middle school.

College students report much lower rates than students at younger ages. In addition to the possible aging out of suicidal ideation, this may be the result of the selection bias of which students continue into college.



[†] Sixth through eighth grade students were asked whether they had *ever* considered suicide; all other ages were asked only about the past twelve months. Middle school students were asked whether they had *ever* attempted to seriously injure or kill themselves; all other ages were asked only if they had attempted suicide and only in the past year.

**Source: 2009 Delaware Youth Risk Behavior Survey, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies
2009 College Risk Behaviors Study, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies**

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