

# Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Suicide Data Summary

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey, administered to students across Wisconsin in 2021, provides us a window into the mental health and emotional well-being of Wisconsin youth. What we can see through this window is that Wisconsin youth are in crisis, and we must do more to help them.

## Suicide

Over the past ten years, more and more students report seriously considering suicide – 18.1% this year. At the same time, the number of students who say that they can get the help they need when feeling distressed has decreased to only 22.4%. The numbers are even worse for female students, and for students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB), who are at higher risk for suicide and report a lower ability to receive the help they need or to identify a supportive adult in their school.



**FEMALE STUDENTS** were more than twice as likely to report seriously considering suicide, and twice as likely to actually attempt suicide.

Almost half of **LGB STUDENTS** reported seriously considering suicide. That is 4 times as high as their peers. LGB students are also 4 times as likely to actually attempt suicide.



If a young person expresses thoughts of suicide to you, please know there are resources to help you. The first line of support is good listening. Contacting a mental health professional in the youth's school is a good step. There are also public crisis support lines available to you.

- Call 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- Text HOPELINE to 741741.
- Call 1-866-488-7386 for the Trevor Project, LGBTQ+ Crisis Support Line, or text START to 678-678.