

## SCHOOL HEALTH POLICIES AND PRACTICES STUDY

## Suicide Prevention

About SHPPS: SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. This fact sheet reports data from the 2014 study, which collected data at the school and classroom levels.

## Healthy and Safe School Environment

| Percentage of Elementary Schools, Middle Schools <br> and High Schools that Have a Plan for Actions to be <br> Taken When a Student at Risk for Suicide is <br> I dentified, and Among Schools with Such a Plan, the <br> Specific Plan Requirements |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Elementary |  |  | Middle |
| High |  |  |  |
| Has a plan for the actions <br> to be taken when a <br> student at risk for suicide <br> is identified | 88.1 | 92.0 | 99.6 |
| Plan requires that* |  |  |  |
| The student's family be <br> informed | 98.8 | 97.8 | 96.0 |
| The student be referred <br> to a mental health <br> provider | 72.3 | 80.0 | 78.2 |
| A visit with a mental <br> health provider be <br> documented before <br> the student returns to <br> school | 45.6 | 60.4 | 60.3 |
| *Among schools that had a plan for actions to be taken <br> when a student at risk for suicide is identified. |  |  |  |

## Percentage of Schools that Have or Participate in a Program to Prevent Suicide, by School Level



## Health Services and Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services

- The percentage of schools that provided suicide prevention services increased from 34.2\% in 2000 to 44.9\% in 2014.*
- During the two years before the study:
o $53.2 \%$ of school health services coordinators who served as study respondents received professional development on suicide prevention.
o $75.9 \%$ of school mental health and social services coordinators who served as study respondents received professional development on suicide prevention.

[^0]| Percentage of Schools that Provided Suicide Prevention Services in One-on-One or Small- <br> Group Settings, by School Level |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Location | Elementary | Middle | High |  |
| At school by health services or counseling, psychological, or <br> social services staff | 41.4 | 36.7 | 64.5 |  |
| Through arrangements with providers not on school property | 32.6 | 48.1 | 34.4 |  |

## Health Education

> Percentage of Schools in Which Students are Required to Receive Instruction on Suicide Prevention, by School Level


| Percentage of Schools in Which Teachers Taught* Specific Suicide Prevention Topics as Part of Required Instruction, by School Level |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Topic | Elementary | Middle | High |
| How students can influence, support, or advocate for others to prevent suicidal behaviors | 14.5 | 52.2 | 70.4 |
| How to find valid information or services to prevent suicidal behaviors | 11.8 | 42.1 | 69.8 |
| Recognizing signs and symptoms of people who are in danger of hurting themselves | 10.7 | 53.2 | 73.4 |
| Resisting peer pressure that would increase risk of suicidal behaviors | 13.1 | 45.2 | 62.1 |
| Social or cultural influences on suicidal behaviors | 8.2 | 40.1 | 63.6 |
| The influence of families on suicidal behaviors | 6.5 | 38.5 | 60.1 |
| The influence of peers on suicidal behaviors | 15.4 | 48.9 | 73.0 |
| The influence of the media on suicidal behaviors | 7.3 | 36.7 | 62.6 |
| The relationship between alcohol or other drug use and suicidal behaviors | 10.9 | 47.1 | 70.9 |
| The relationship between suicide and emotional and mental health | 9.7 | 50.8 | 73.6 |
| The relationship between suicide and other types of violence | 6.8 | 40.8 | 64.7 |
| What to do if someone is thinking about hurting himself or herself | 21.5 | 57.1 | 75.3 |
| When to seek help for suicidal thoughts | 14.5 | 52.7 | 73.4 |
| ${ }^{*}$ In at least one elementary school class or in at least one required health education course in middle schools or high schools. |  |  |  |

- $28.4 \%$ of required health education classes and courses had a teacher who received professional development on suicide prevention during the two years before the study.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/ shpps or call 800-CDC-I NFO (800-232-4636).


[^0]:    * Regression analyses were performed that took all available years of data into account, but not all significant trends are reported. To account for multiple comparisons, selected trends are included only if the p-value from the regression analysis was <.01, and either the difference between the two endpoints ( 2000 or 2006 and 2014) was >10 percentage points or the 2014 estimate increased by at least a factor of two or decreased by at least half as compared to the 2000 or 2006 estimate.

