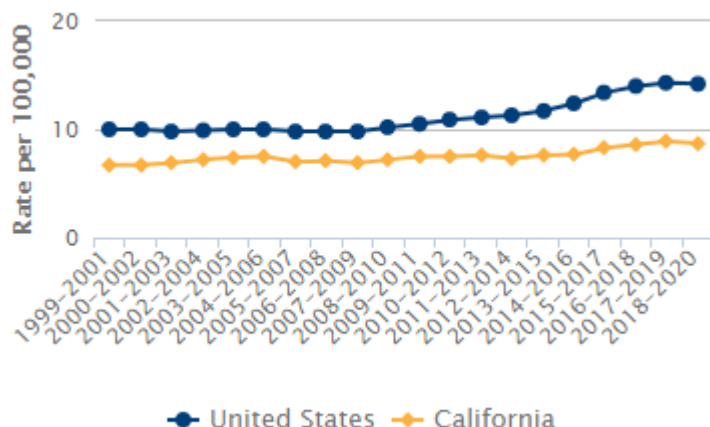


# Youth Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injury in California

## Rate of Suicide Among Youth Ages 15-24



**Definition:** Number of suicides per 100,000 youth ages 15-24 (e.g., in 2018-2020, the suicide rate among California youth was 8.7 per 100,000).

**Data Source:** California Dept. of Public Health, Death Statistical Master Files; California Dept. of Finance, [Population Estimates and Projections](#); CDC WONDER Online Database, [Underlying Cause of Death](#) (Apr. 2022).

## Rate of Hospitalization for Self-Inflicted Injuries Among Youth Ages 5-20: 2015

Locations	Rate per 100,000
United States	62.7
California	36.5
Alameda County	34.3
Contra Costa County	66.8
Fresno County	32.5
Kern County	43.2
Los Angeles County	35.6
Orange County	40.0
Riverside County	30.0
Sacramento County	38.2
San Bernardino County	22.3
San Diego County	39.0
Santa Clara County	46.0

**Definition:** Number of hospital discharges for non-fatal self-inflicted injuries per 100,000 children and youth ages 5-20 (e.g., in 2015, there were 36.5 hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries per 100,000 California children and youth).

**Data Source:** California Dept. of Public Health, [EpiCenter](#) (Feb. 2020); California Dept. of Finance, [Population Estimates and Projections](#) (Jan. 2020); CDC, [WISQARS](#) (May 2020).

## Percentage of Students Who Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide in the Previous Year, by Gender: 2017-2019

### What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides the following indicators of youth suicide and self-inflicted injury:

- The estimated percentage of students in grades 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous year, by grade level, gender, level of school connectedness, parent education level, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation
- The rate of suicide per 100,000 youth ages 15-24, along with the number of youth suicides by age group, gender, and race/ethnicity
- The number and rate of hospital discharges for self-inflicted injuries among children and youth ages 5-20 overall, and the number of discharges by age group

### Why This Topic Is Important

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people ages 15-24 statewide and nationally, behind only unintentional injuries and homicide. Rates of youth suicide and self-injury hospitalization, even among younger adolescents, have risen over the past decade. In 2018, the number of suicides among California youth ages 12-19 was 15% higher than in 2009, and incidents of youth self-harm requiring medical attention were 50% higher. While self-inflicted injuries typically are not the result of suicide attempts and do not involve intent to die, non-suicidal self-injury is a risk factor for suicide. A 2019 survey of U.S. high school students estimated that about one in five seriously considered suicide in the previous year, a figure more than 35% higher than findings from a decade earlier.

Suicide risk is higher for some groups than for others. While girls and young women more often seriously consider, plan, and attempt suicide, males are more likely than females to die by suicide—although the gap may be narrowing. Nationally, American Indian/Alaska Native youth have the highest suicide rate among racial/ethnic groups with data. In addition, LGBTQ youth are more likely to engage in suicidal behavior than their non-LGBTQ peers. Other common risk factors for youth suicide include prolonged stress, mental illness, disability, past suicide attempts, family history of suicide or mental disorders, poor family communication, stressful life events, placement in out-of-home settings, access to

