

## DAILY NEWS

## HEALTH

# 1 in 12 teens have attempted suicide: report

CDC finds suicide among high school students on the rise

BY MEGHAN NEAL / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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The attempted suicide rate for high school students has risen from 6.3% to 7.8% in the last three years.

Teen suicide is a growing problem, a new study shows.

Nearly 1 in 6 high school students has seriously considered suicide, and 1 in 12 has attempted it, according to the semi-annual [survey on youth risk behavior](#) published Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More female teens than males have attempted or considered suicide, the survey found. The rate was highest among Hispanic females, at 13.5%, and lowest among white males, at 4.6%. Students struggled with suicide more during the first two years of high school - roughly ages 14 to 16. Rates dropped off slightly when students reached junior and senior year.

Overall, the suicide rate among teens has climbed in the past few years, from 6.3% in 2009 to 7.8% in 2011, numbers which reflect the trend gaining national attention as more teen suicides are reported as a result of bullying.

According to the survey about 20% of high-schoolers said they'd been bullied while at school, and 16% said they'd been 'cyberbullied' through email, chat, instant messaging, social media or texting.

As more and more forms of communication spring up, there's opportunity for bullying to occur, which could eventually lead to an increased rate of attempted suicides, neuropsychologist Dr. Hector Adames told MSNBC.

"What happens with an increase in communication among students is that there's more pressure. There's more bullying," he said. "When adolescence and children feel embarrassed, it's kind of like the end of the world for them."

Electronics are encouraging other risky behavior too, the CDC study found.

The majority of older teens admitted to texting or emailing on their mobile phones while driving - 58% of seniors and 43% of juniors.

Considering a typical teen sends and receives about 100 text messages a day, the figures aren't too surprising, Amanda Lenhart, senior researcher at the Pew Research Center, told the Associated Press.

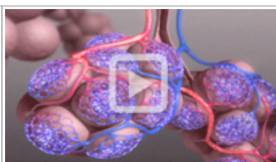
The CDC anonymously surveyed more than 15,000 high school students in the U.S. over a one-year period, with a 95% confidence rate.

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