



Youth Suicide Rates Are on the Rise in the U.S.

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News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News

[PBS NewsHour](#) [1]

A recent [study](#) [2] suggests Black high school students are more likely to attempt suicide than their peers. Using nationally representative data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, researchers found that suicidal thoughts and suicide plans decreased among all high school students between 1991 and 2017. In that same period, however, suicide attempts increased among Black respondents by 73 percent. Racism, poverty, and limited access to mental health care may be placing Black youth at risk for suicidal behavior, according to lead author Michael Lindsey. He recommended increasing the numbers of culturally competent mental health professionals in schools and encouraging an open conversation about mental health and suicide in Black communities.

Spark Extra! Learn more about [addressing suicide among Black Americans](#) [3].

Links within this resource

[1] <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/youth-suicide-rates-are-on-the-rise-in-the-u-s>

[2] <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2019/10/10/peds.2019-1187>

[3] <http://www.sprc.org/news/addressing-suicide-among-black-americans>

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