Suicide was the fourth leading cause of death for Georgia children aged 5-17 in 2022.¹

Youth Suicides in Georgia, Ages 5-17
Source: State Child Fatality Review Panel

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>62</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BREAKING DOWN THE 2022 DATA**¹ ²

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### Race

- White: 66%
- Black: 29%
- Other: 5%

### Gender

- Male: 66%
- Female: 34%

### Age

- 5 to 9: 73%
- 10 to 14: 27%
- 15 to 17: 10%

### Method

- Firearm: 47%
- Hanging: 46%
- Other: 7%

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1. 2022 data are provisional
2. There were no deaths for the 5-9 age range.

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Georgia Student Health Survey
Source: Georgia Department of Education

![Graph showing the increase in the number of students reporting having seriously considered harming themselves from 2013 to 2023.](image)

In 2023:
- 73,081 students reported having seriously considered harming themselves
- 44,330 students reported having harmed themselves

*The Georgia Student Health Survey was not administered during the 2020-2021 school year. Instead, the GaDOE developed a brief Student Wellness Survey to highlight non-academic barriers to learning.

Important to note: Responses on the Student Health Survey have been lower post-2021 than prior to that date. In 2022, there were 418,705 responses in comparison to 725,229 responses in 2020.

The number of children, age 0-17 in Georgia who visited emergency rooms for reasons related to suicide more than doubled between 2008 and 2022.³
Warning Signs of Suicidal Behavior

These signs may mean that someone is at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if the behavior is new or has increased, and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change. Risk is also greater with the presence of multiple warning signs.⁴

- Feeling like a burden
- Being isolated
- Increased anxiety
- Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Increased substance use
- Looking for a way to access lethal means
- Increased anger or rage
- Extreme mood swings
- Expressing hopelessness
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Talking or posting online about wanting to die
- Making plans for suicide

Protective Factors to Prevent Suicide

There are a range of protective factors at the individual, relationship, and community levels that can buffer individuals from suicidal thoughts and behaviors.⁵

**Individual Protective Factors:**
- Effective coping and problem-solving skills
- Reasons for living (i.e., family, friends, pets, etc.)
- Strong sense of cultural identity

**Community Protective Factors:**
- Feeling connected to school, community, and other social institutions
- Availability of consistent and high quality physical and behavioral healthcare

**Relationship Protective Factors:**
- Support from partners, friends, and family
- Feeling connected to others

Comprehensive Prevention Strategies and Examples⁶

1. Identify and assist persons at risk
   - Examples: training for community leaders, suicide screening, teaching warning signs, referral to professional help (e.g., 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, My GCAL line and app)

2. Support safe care transitions and organizational linkages
   - Examples: formal referral protocols, interagency agreements, crosstraining, follow-up contacts, rapid referrals, and patient/family education

3. Ensure access to effective treatment
   - Examples include: safety planning, evidence-based treatment, and reducing financial, cultural, and logistical barriers to care

4. Respond effectively to individuals in crisis
   - Examples: mobile crisis teams, walk-in crisis clinics, hospital-based psychiatric emergency services, and peer-support programs

5. Reduce access to means of suicide
   - Examples: educating families, distributing gun safety locks, changing medication packaging, installing barriers on bridges

6. Provide coping and problem solving skills
   - Examples: Skills training, including parenting programs and education programs that support resilience

7. Promote social connectedness and support
   - Examples: social programs for specific population groups, promote healthy peer norms, and engage community members in shared activities

8. Provide immediate and long-term support after a suicide
   - Examples: protocols to respond effectively and compassionately after a suicide, supports for people bereaved by suicide
References for Youth Suicide in Georgia


2  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2021, and from provisional data for years 2022-2023, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. December 1, 2023. http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html.


