



## Connecting For Life

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### Characteristics of Juvenile Suicide in Confinement.

**The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)** has published "[Characteristics of Juvenile Suicide in Confinement.](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=23)" <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=23>. This bulletin draws on data from the first national survey of suicides of youth in confinement, which was sponsored by OJJDP, to review juvenile suicides that occurred in confinement between 1995 and 1999. It describes the demographic characteristics and social history of the victims and examines the characteristics of the facilities in which the suicides occurred.

A more comprehensive account of the survey and its findings may be found in the online report "[Juvenile Suicide in Confinement: A National Survey.](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/213691.pdf)" <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/213691.pdf>

Resources: "Characteristics of Juvenile Suicide in Confinement" (NCJ 214434) is available at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=235973>.

To access the online report, visit <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/213691.pdf>

### Veterans & major depressive episode: New data

#### SAMHSA News

Nearly one in ten veterans (9.3%) ages 21 to 39 experienced a major depressive episode (MDE) in the past year, according to new data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The annual survey, conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, also showed that nearly all (99.2%) veterans who reported MDE in the past year experienced disruption in the areas of home life, work, or relationships.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume\\_16\\_Number\\_6/VeteransDepressiveEpisode.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume_16_Number_6/VeteransDepressiveEpisode.aspx)

### A prospective investigation of suicide ideation, attempts, and use of mental health service among adolescents in substance abuse treatment. Ramchand, R., Griffin, B., Harris, K., McCaffrey, D., & Morral, A. (2008). *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 22(4), 524-532.

Research shows that youths with substance use disorders are among those with the highest risk for suicide. This large prospective study, funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is the first to examine suicide ideation and attempts among youths admitted to substance abuse treatment programs. Youths (n=948; 72% male; average age=16) from six sites were observed at admission and every three months for a year. Retention rate was high (86% at 12 months). At each observation time point, symptoms of depression, conduct disorder, and substance use disorders were assessed, as were history of suicide ideation (SI) and suicide attempts (SA); SI/SA were assessed for the past year at baseline and for the past 90 days at each follow-up. Over the two-year course of the study, nearly one third (30%) of youths reported suicide ideation and over 10% reported having attempted suicide. Notably, nearly half of all reports of ideation and a quarter of the reported attempts occurred post-treatment, "with a particularly strong link between SI at one time point and either SI or attempts at the next assessment," the authors reported. "Collectively, these results stress that youth who report SI/SA in substance abuse treatment should be targeted for specific suicide prevention, and that this prevention should begin as soon as they enter treatment." After controlling for previous SI/SA, youths with higher levels of conduct disorder were more likely to also experience SI or SA, which implies that youth with conduct disorder in substance abuse treatment should be monitored more closely for suicide risk. Depression differed from conduct disorder in that it only predicted SI, not SA. Substance abuse severity was not linked to SI or SA after adjusting for other factors.