

Fact Sheet

Suicide Prevention

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

Student Assistance Programs

A Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides services designed to assist students experiencing personal or social problems that can impact school performance, physical health, or overall well-being.

- 34.0% of states and 51.2% of districts require that SAPs be offered to all students.
- 62.0% of elementary, 63.1% of middle/junior high, and 64.6% of high schools offer SAPs to students.

Health Services

- 16.0% of states and 48.6% of districts require that districts or schools provide one-on-one or small-group discussions on suicide prevention to students when needed (not including classroom instruction).
- 36.7% of districts have arrangements with organizations or professionals not located on school property to provide one-on-one or small-group discussions on suicide prevention to students when needed.

Percentage of Schools Providing One-on-One or Small-Group Discussions on Suicide Prevention,¹ by Service Provider

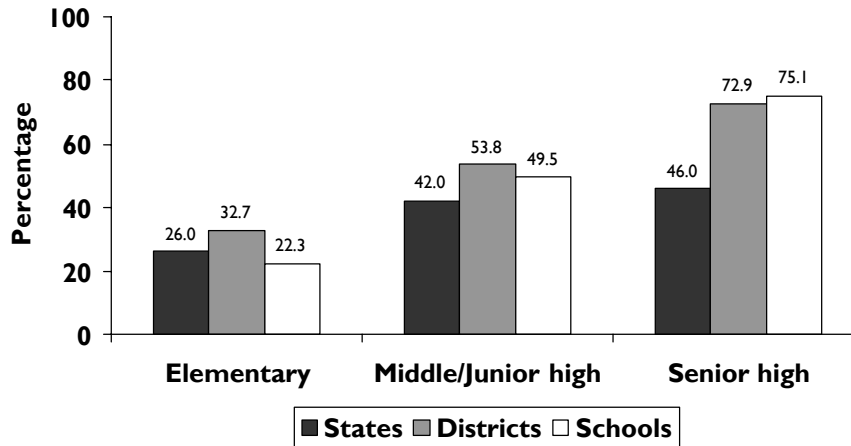
Service provider	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
School health services staff ²	31.4	33.5	44.9
School mental health or social services staff ²	73.0	77.4	87.5
Organizations or professionals outside the school	37.4	28.9	38.5

¹Not including classroom instruction.

²As part of standard school health services.

Health Education

Percentage of States, Districts, and Schools Requiring Suicide Prevention Education, by School Level



Percentage of Schools Teaching Topics Related to Suicide Prevention in at Least One Required Class or Course, by Topic

Topic	All schools	Elementary schools	Middle/junior high schools	Senior high schools
How to handle stress in healthy ways	87.5	84.7	90.0	96.5
Recognizing stressors and signs of depression that might be associated with suicide	42.3	24.2	64.8	86.5
What to do if someone is thinking about suicide	37.8	19.6	60.3	82.1

During the two years preceding the study:

- 50.0% of states and 41.5% of districts provided funding for or offered staff development on suicide prevention education to health education teachers.

- 12.0% of elementary school classes, 22.6% of required health education courses in middle/junior high schools, and 28.6% of required health education courses in senior high schools had a teacher who received staff development on suicide prevention education.

For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.