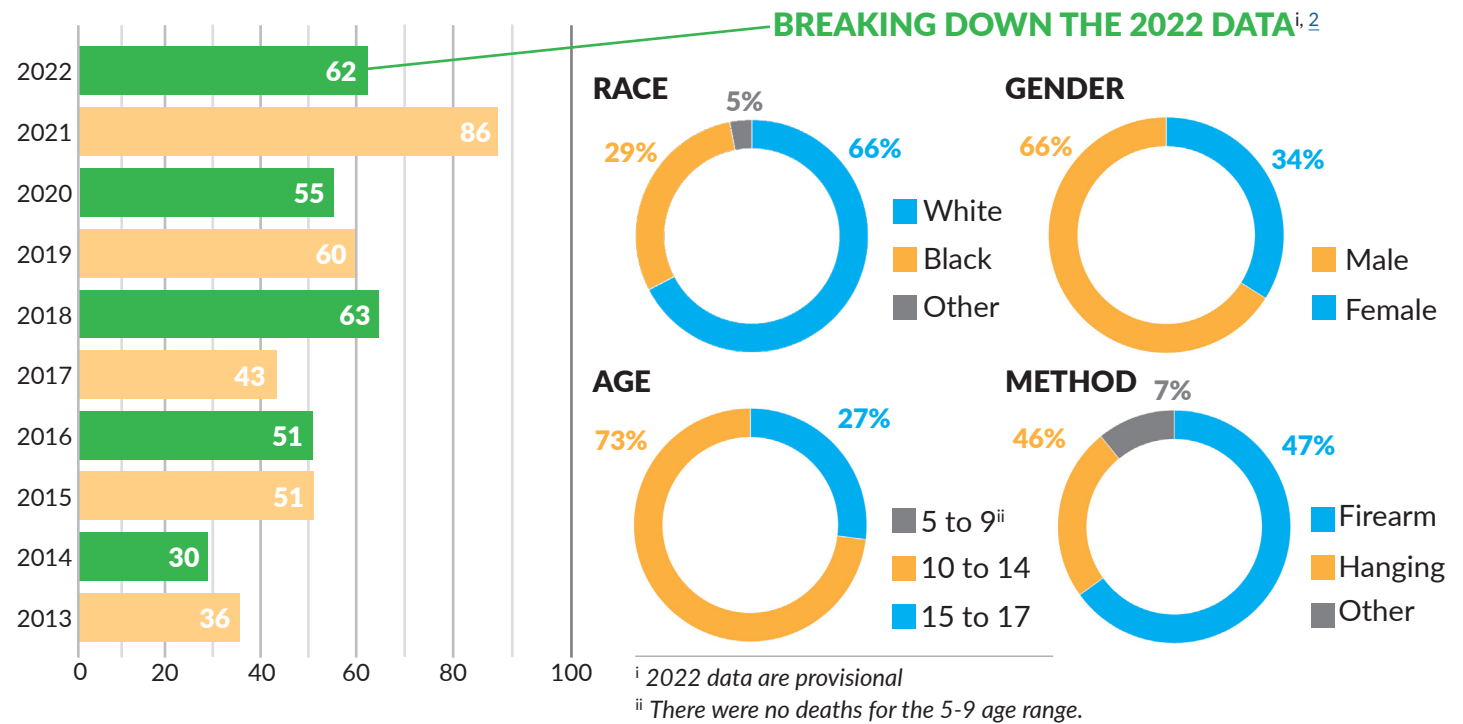


Suicide was the **fourth** leading cause of death for Georgia children aged 5-17 in 2022.¹

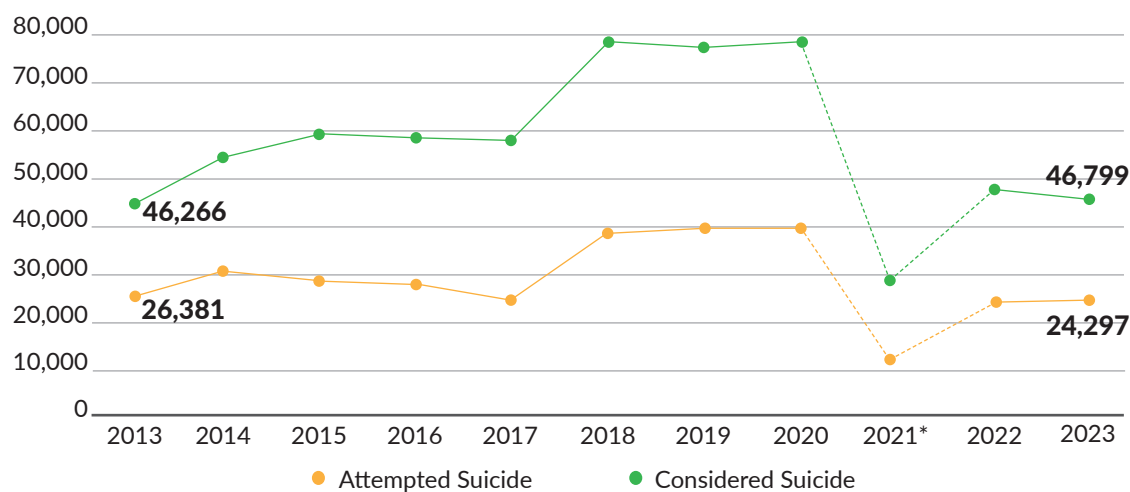
Youth Suicides in Georgia, Ages 5-17

Source: State Child Fatality Review Panel



Georgia Student Health Survey

Source: Georgia Department of Education



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.

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

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

*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.

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

Relationship Protective Factors:

- Support from partners, friends, and family
- Feeling connected to others

Community Protective Factors:

- Feeling connected to school, community, and other social institutions
- Availability of consistent and high quality physical and behavioral healthcare

Comprehensive Prevention Strategies and Examples⁶



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)



Ensure access to effective treatment

Examples include: safety planning, evidence-based treatment, and reducing financial, cultural, and logistical barriers to care



Reduce access to means of suicide

Examples: educating families, distributing gun safety locks, changing medication packaging, installing barriers on bridges



Promote social connectedness and support

Examples: social programs for specific population groups, promote healthy peer norms, and engage community members in shared activities



Support safe care transitions and organizational linkages

Examples: formal referral protocols, interagency agreements, crosstraining, follow-up contacts, rapid referrals, and patient/family education



Respond effectively to individuals in crisis

Examples: mobile crisis teams, walk-in crisis clinics, hospital-based psychiatric emergency services, and peer-support programs



Provide coping and problem solving skills

Examples: Skills training, including parenting programs and education programs that support resilience



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

Suggested citation: Voices for Georgia's Children. (2023). Fact Sheet: Youth Suicide in Georgia. Voices for Georgia's Children. <https://adobe.ly/47sZBg2>.

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