

# Self-Harm among Wisconsin Female Emergency Department (ED) Patients Ages 10 to 19

This factsheet describes a population with the highest self-harm injury rate.

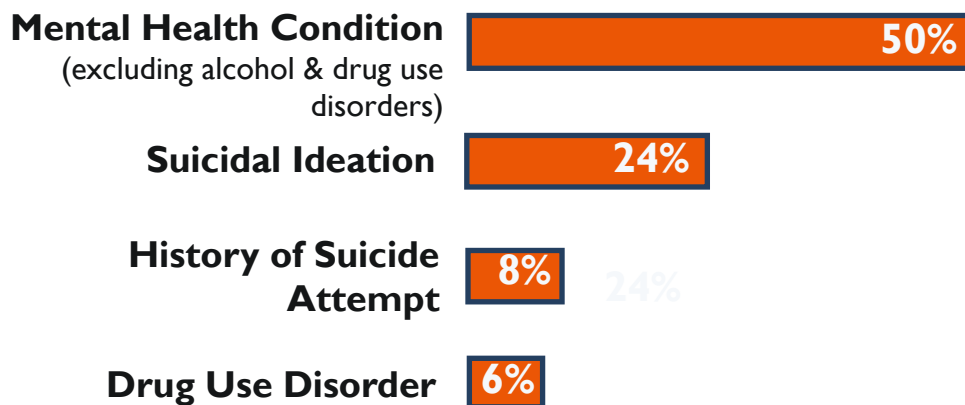
In 2021, there were **1,340** female ED patients 10-19 years-old with self-harm injuries, with or without suicidal intent.

**Rate = 360 out of 100,000<sup>1</sup>**



**Almost two-thirds used drugs** as method of self-harm (prescription, legal, or illegal).

## Additional health issues noted in the ED record



## Repeat self-harm ED visits



**91** girls (enough to fill more than one school bus) had 2 or more visits in 2021.

## Comparison by race<sup>2</sup> and ethnicity<sup>3</sup>

Race	Ethnicity
<i>Higher rate compared to all females 10-19</i>	
American Indian <b>106%</b> ↑	Non-Hispanic <b>2%</b> ↑
Black <b>25%</b> ↑	
<i>Lower rate compared to all females 10-19</i>	
White <b>3%</b> ↓	Hispanic <b>16%</b> ↓
Asian <b>52%</b> ↓	

Disparities may be partially explained by stressors resulting from discriminatory & inequitable structures impacting BIPOC<sup>4</sup> populations, which may contribute to self-harm. Discrimination by gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or class or income may also impact self-harm rates and exclusion of this information in state-reported ED data does not allow measurement.

## Select Strategies to Prevent Self-harm and Suicide

- Identify and support youth through universal health screening with follow-up contacts
- Promote culturally-tailored peer support programs
- Increase access to care by expanding tele-mental health services
- Teach problem-solving skills

<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Department Visits; includes only nonfatal visits, treated and released from the ED, presented as patient-level. WI Department of Health Services; 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Race categories inclusive of Hispanic/non-Hispanic ethnicity. Asian race inclusive of Pacific Islander.

<sup>3</sup>Hispanic/non-Hispanic ethnicity inclusive of all races. <sup>4</sup>Black, Indigenous, People of Color.



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