

Study: 8 million Americans consider suicide

September 17 2009

(AP) -- More than 8 million Americans seriously consider suicide each year, according to a new government study.

About 32,000 suicides occur in the United States each year, but a new study by the [Substance Abuse](#) and [Mental Health](#) Services Administration indicates that many more give the idea serious thought.

The new SAMHSA report is based on a survey of 46,190 people aged 18 and older. In the past, the question about [suicide](#) had only been asked of people who reported major depression but in 2008 it was added to all questionnaires.

Other findings:

- People 18 to 25 years old were far more likely to have seriously considered suicide in the previous year (6.7 percent) than those 26 to 49 (3.9 percent).
- Just 2.3 percent seriously considered suicide among those 50 or older.
- Among people with a substance abuse disorder, 11 percent had considered suicide, compared to 3 percent for people without such disorders.

On the Net:

SAMHSA: <http://www.samhsa.gov>

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Citation: Study: 8 million Americans consider suicide (2009, September 17) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2009-09-million-americans-suicide.html>

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