

New York's Behavioral Health System for Kids is in Crisis

Across New York State, too many families find it impossible to get the mental health and substance use services their children desperately need. The consequences can be devastating: Children get sicker, parents miss work, schools are overburdened, and families are overwhelmed and sometimes broken.

Children are left on waitlists or forced into emergency rooms, hospitals, the juvenile justice system, or into preventable foster care placements because they cannot get the care they need when they need it. Families and communities suffer further when unaddressed problems in childhood develop into adult mental illness.

In New York State...

50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% begins by age 24



of high school students reported they seriously considered attempting suicide.



of children ages 3- 17 with a mental/ behavioral condition did not receive treatment when they needed it.

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15-19 year olds.
- In New York State there are only two child psychiatrists for every 10,000 children. In some counties, that number is zero.

New York Must Guarantee Children's Access to the Behavioral Health Services They Need

The current behavioral health system for children is under-resourced and unable to respond to the mental health crisis facing New York's children and youth. Despite federal and state parity laws, too many parents can't find, or afford, the services their children need. We have the knowledge and tools to provide excellent care – New York must now fulfill its obligation to New York children and families by ensuring:

- Access to services: The state must invest in a continuum of care, adequately funding services so that young people can find the care they need, when and where they need it.
- Accountability: Health plans must be held accountable so that children receive the care they are entitled to by state and federal parity laws.
- Innovation: New York has exceptional models for prevention, treatment, and clinical care. These models must be brought to scale so they can reach the children who need them.

The Campaign for Healthy Minds, Healthy Kids

The Campaign is a statewide coalition of behavioral health providers, advocates, and New York families, joining together to create the public and political will necessary to ensure that all children and adolescents in New York receive the high-quality behavioral health services they need.



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of children 2-17 <u>has one or</u> more emotional, behavioral, or developmental condition.¹



of high school students reported they seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.²

Suicide is the **2nd** leading cause of death*

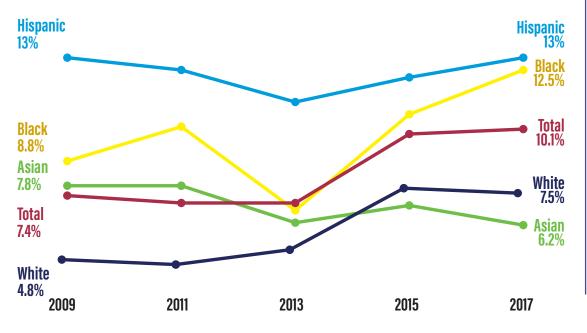


Suicide is the **3rd** leading cause of death***

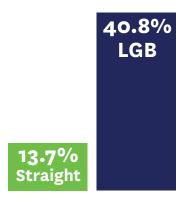


Suicide attempts among New York high school students are increasing

From 2009-2017, reported suicide attempts among high school students increased 27%.²



Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual students considered suicide at 3x the rate of non-LGB peers



Rate of high schoolers who reported seriously considering suicide, 2017²