

# YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN MONTANA



Youth Mental Health in the  
2019 Montana Legislature

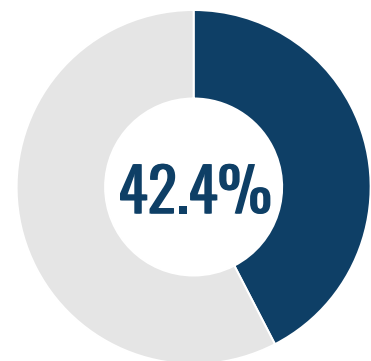
## HB 186

Bill which would establish a student mental health screening pilot program.<sup>1</sup>

## HB 187

Bill which would revise suicide prevention to prioritize research-based practices and provide funding for suicide prevention.<sup>2</sup>

About **2 in 5** grade 8, 10, and 12 students felt depressed or sad on most days.<sup>3</sup>



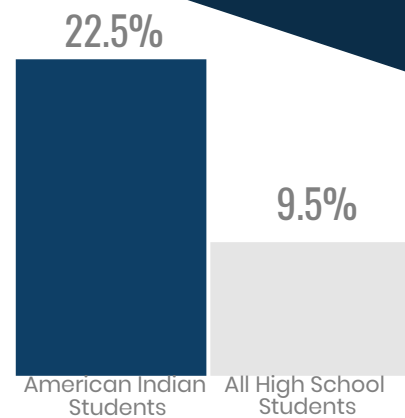
**42.4%** of adolescents (12 to 17) who had a Major Depressive Episode received treatment, slightly higher than the US at large (annual average of past year treatment from 2011 to 2015).<sup>4</sup>

**34%** of grade 8, 10, and 12 students sometimes thought that life is not worth it.<sup>3</sup>

**21%** of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide.<sup>5</sup>

**17%** of high school students planned how they would attempt suicide.<sup>5</sup>

**10%** of high school students actually attempted suicide.<sup>5</sup>



American Indian students on or near a reservation were **more likely to report having attempted suicide** compared to the general student population.<sup>5</sup>

Suicide has been the **2nd leading cause of death** among youth in the 10 to 14 and the 15 to 24 age groups **over the past decade.**<sup>6</sup>

**HB 186 and HB 187 will be heard at the legislature January 22.**

### Sources

1. HB 186, 66th Leg. (M.T. 2019)
2. HB 187, 66th Leg. (M.T. 2019)
3. 2018 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, MT DPHHS; grade 8, 10, and 12 students, measure of depression or sadness is for the past year
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Behavioral Health Barometer: Montana, Volume 4: Indicators as measured through the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services, and the Uniform Reporting System*. HHS Publication No. SMA-17-16-16-States-MT. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017.
5. 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, MT OPI; high school students, responses were for the past 12 months.
6. Rosston, K. (2018). *Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention*. MT DPHHS.

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