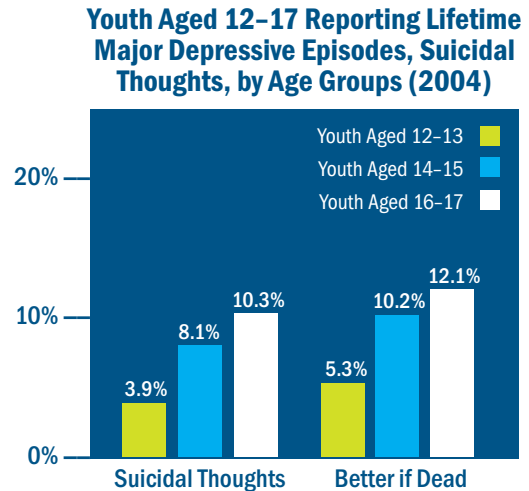
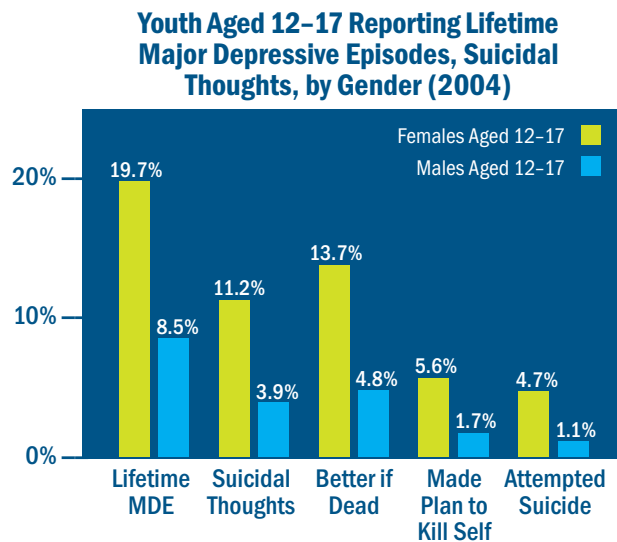




## More Girls Than Boys Attempt Suicide, Suicidal Thoughts More Common in Older Teens

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) most recent *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, an estimated 900,000 youth (3.6%) made a plan to commit suicide and 712,000 (2.9%) attempted suicide during their most recent or worst major depressive episode (MDE).<sup>1</sup> While suicide ranked the eleventh leading cause of death among the general U.S. population, it ranked third among those aged 15 to 24, following only accidents/unintentional injuries and assaults/homicides.<sup>2</sup> Notably, female youth were significantly more likely than male youth to have experienced an MDE in their lifetime (19.7% vs. 8.5%), to have experienced suicidal thoughts (11.2% vs. 3.9%), to have expressed feeling like it "would be better if they were dead" (13.7% vs. 4.8%), to have planned to kill themselves (5.6% vs. 1.7%) and to have attempted suicide (4.7% vs. 1.1%).



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. (2005). "Suicidal Thoughts among Youths Aged 12 to 17 with Major Depressive Episode." The NSDUH Report, 9 September 2005. Retrieved October 17, 2005, from <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/suicide/suicide.htm>.

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC.

<sup>2</sup> Hoyert, D. L., Kung, H. C. and Smith, B. L. (2005). Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 53(15), 1-48.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).

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