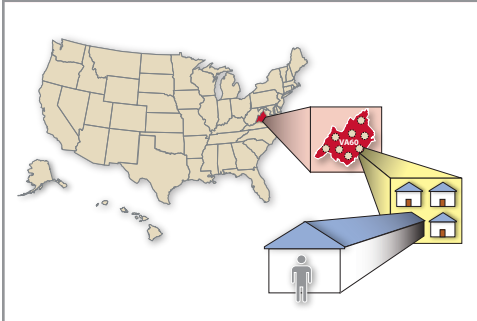


The NSDUH Report

Data Spotlight

April 17, 2014



Half of Adults with Serious Thoughts of Suicide Did Not Receive Mental Health Services

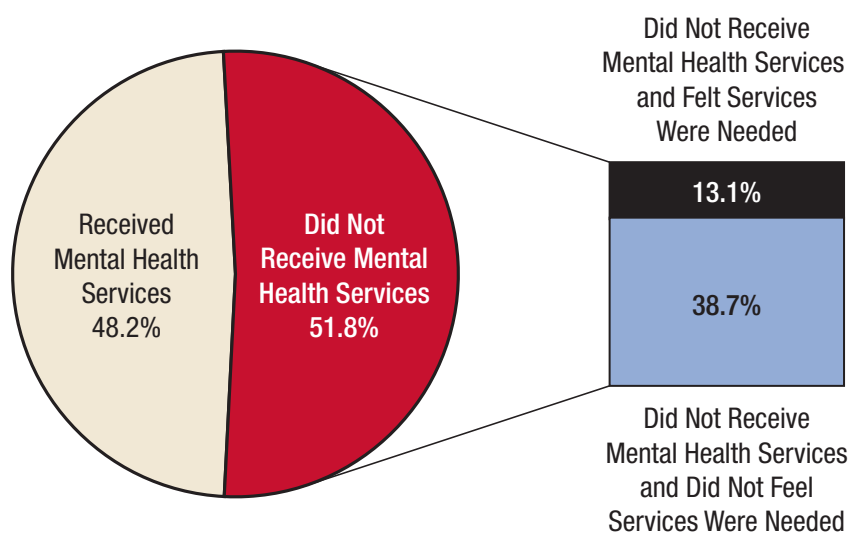
More than 35,000 reported deaths are due to suicide each year.¹ Serious thoughts of suicide increase the risk of suicide attempts and eventual death by suicide.¹ Timely receipt of mental health treatment can be a critical prevention tool for helping people with serious thoughts of suicide.^{1,2}

According to the 2008 to 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 8.6 million adults aged 18 or older had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. Half of adults with past year serious thoughts of suicide did not receive mental health services. Almost 40 percent neither received services nor felt they needed them.

Suicide is a major public health problem in the United States. It is critical to provide intervention for people with serious thoughts of suicide.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides suicide prevention resources (<http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention/suicide.aspx>) and a toll-free suicide prevention hotline with free and confidential crisis counseling (<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>).

Receipt of Mental Health Services and Perceived Need for Services in the Past Year among Adults Aged 18 or Older with Past Year Suicide Ideation: Annual Averages, 2008 to 2012



1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Surgeon General and National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. (2012). *2012 national strategy for suicide prevention: Goals and objectives for action*. Retrieved from <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/national-strategy-suicide-prevention/full-report.pdf>

2. Han, B., McKeon, R., & Gfroerer, J. (2014, January 16). Suicidal ideation among community-dwelling adults in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health, 104*(3), 488-497. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2013.301600

Source: National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2008 to 2010 (revised March 2012) and 2011 to 2012. NSDUH is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. The **Data Spotlight** may be copied without permission. Citation of the source is appreciated. Find this report and those on similar topics online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.

