Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
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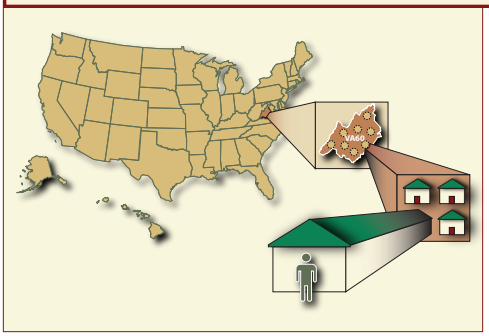
National Survey on Drug Use and Health

The NSDUH Report

Data Spotlight

May 10, 2013

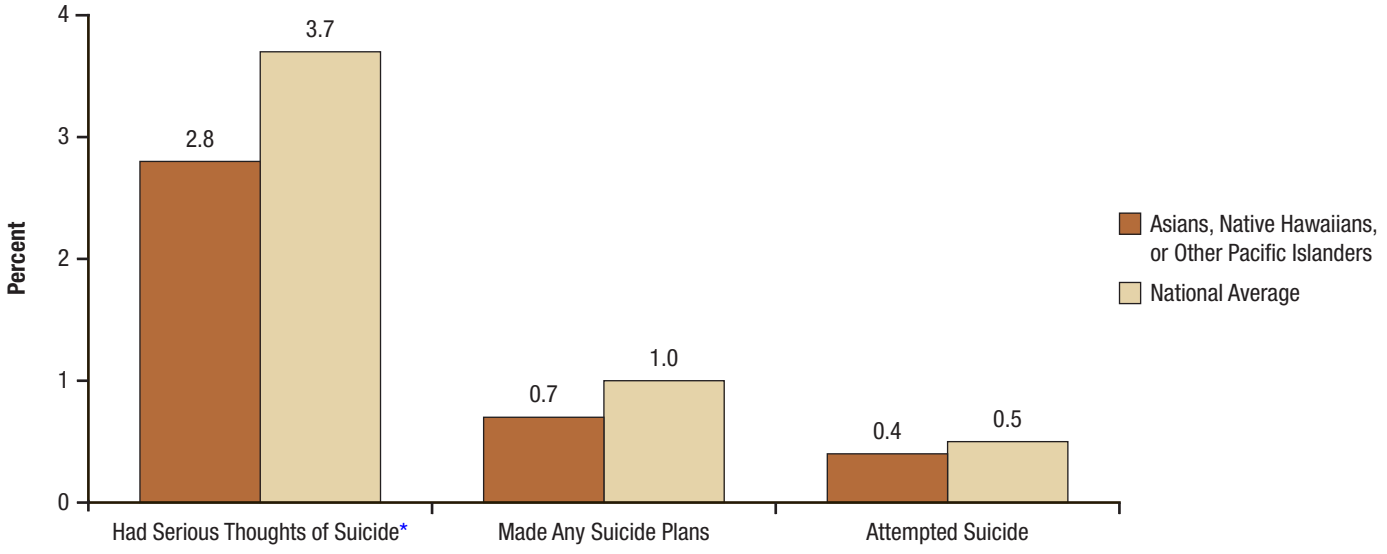


Suicidal Thoughts among Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders

Suicide affects Americans of every racial and ethnic group. Each year millions of adults think about and attempt suicide. Raising awareness within racial and ethnic groups can help prevent suicide. One such group is the Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander population. According to the combined 2008 to 2011 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, each year about 8.5 million adults aged 18 or older had serious thoughts of suicide. This number includes about 315,000 Asians, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders each year. Asians, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders had a lower rate of suicidal thoughts (2.8 percent) than the national average (3.7 percent). Rates of Asians, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders making suicide plans or suicide attempts did not differ from the national averages.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides suicide prevention resources to individuals, families, and organizations (http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention/suicide.aspx).

Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior in Past Year among Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders Aged 18 or Older, Compared with the National Average: 2008 to 2011



* Difference between Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders and national average is significant at the .05 level.

Source: National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2008 to 2010 (revised March 2012) and 2011. 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.

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