

Data Spotlight

National Survey on Drug Use and Health

September 10, 2012

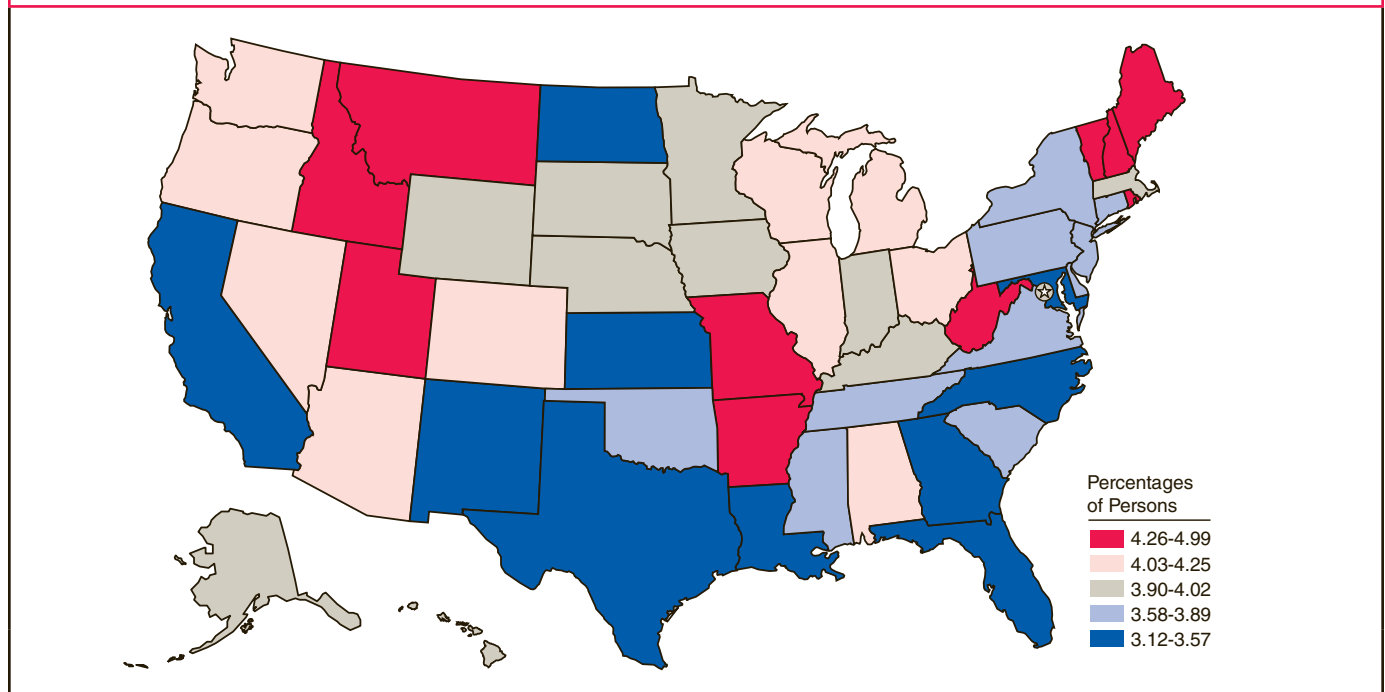
8.6 Million Adults Had Suicidal Thoughts in Past Year

Suicide ideation (i.e., having serious thoughts of suicide) is a public health concern that affects millions of adults and, if not addressed, can result in tragedy for individuals, families, and communities. According to combined data from the 2009 and 2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), an annual average of 8.6 million adults aged 18 or older (3.8 percent) had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. Although there is some variation among States in suicide ideation, NSDUH data show that no State is immune from this problem. The percentage of adults with suicide ideation ranged from 3.1 percent in Georgia and Texas to 5.0 percent in Utah (Figure).¹

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides individuals, families, professionals, and organizations with an array of information and resources for those seeking help and/or those implementing suicide prevention programs in their communities (<http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention/suicide.aspx>).

¹ The data for this report are based on Table B.25 from the following report: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2012). *State estimates of substance use and mental disorders from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health* (NSDUH Series H-43, HHS Publication No. SMA 12-4703). Rockville, MD: Author. This report and a variety of supplemental tables provide State-level estimates for a more extensive set of measures and are available at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/Index.aspx>.

Serious Thoughts of Suicide in the Past Year among Adults Aged 18 or Older, by State: 2009 and 2010



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2009 and 2010 (revised March 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 **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/>.

