

Hispanic Female Adolescents' Use of Illicit Drugs and the Risk of Suicidal Thoughts

Cecily Luncheon, MD, DrPH; Sejong Bae, PhD; Adela Gonzalez, PhD; Sue Lurie, PhD; Karan P. Singh, PhD

Objectives: To examine the association between female adolescents in high school who use illicit drugs and seriously consider attempting suicide. **Methods:** Data were analyzed from the 2003 Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System. Variables for suicidal thought, illicit drugs, and covariables were chosen to explore the association. **Results:** Seriously considering attempting suicide was associated with Hispanics, suburban youth, use of

marijuana, inhalants, methamphetamines, and steroids without MD's prescription. **Conclusions:** Greater effort may be necessary to raise awareness about the physical and mental health status of Hispanic adolescents and to ensure good mental health programs are available.

Key words: Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, drug use, suicide, Hispanic female adolescents

Am J Health Behav. 2008;32(1):52-59
