

# Youth online risk factors tied to suicide-related behaviors

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(HealthDay)—Discrete types of risk factors are identifiable from online

data that are associated with subsequent youth suicide-related behavior, according to a study published online Sept. 20 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Steven A. Sumner, M.D., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues evaluated the association between online risk factors and youth suicide-related behavior using real-world online activity data. The analysis included 227 youths having a severe suicide or self-harm alert requiring notification of school administrators matched (1:5) to 1,135 controls based on location, length of follow-up, and general volume of online activity.

The researchers found that all eight online risk factors (cyberbullying, violence, drug-related, [hate speech](#), profanity, [sexual content](#), depression, and low-severity self-harm) differed between case and control populations and were significantly associated with subsequent severe suicide/self-harm alerts. There was a range in these associations from an adjusted odds ratio of 1.17 for drug-related content to an adjusted odds ratio of 1.82 for depression-related content. There was an exponentially larger risk for severe suicide/self-harm alerts based on number of online risk factors, with youth with five or more of the eight [risk factors](#) having more than 70-fold increased odds of subsequently having a severe suicide/self-harm alert (adjusted odds ratio, 78.64).

"Our findings suggest novel avenues for more timely and efficient assistance and [youth](#) suicide prevention efforts," the authors write.

Several authors are employed by Bark, the online safety tool used in the study.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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