

## Japan records highest-ever student suicides In 2024



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Japan recorded 529 student suicides in 2024, surpassing the previous high of 514 in 2022, according to data from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The alarming trend highlights ongoing challenges among elementary, junior high, and high school students.

Key factors contributing to the rise include academic struggles and concerns about the future (272 cases), mental health conditions like depression (164 cases), and family conflicts (108 cases).

Experts warn that these stressors continue to impact young individuals, emphasizing the need for proactive intervention.

In response, the Children and Families Agency is working to strengthen counseling services tailored to youth perspectives. Plans are underway to expand community-based support programs aimed at recognizing and addressing early warning signs among at-risk students.

Despite the rise in student suicides, Japan's overall suicide rate, including adults, declined by 1,517 cases to 20,320, the second-lowest figure since records began in 1978. Authorities remain committed to expanding mental health initiatives to curb the growing crisis among the country's youth.