

## Second 9-year-old in Alabama to commit suicide raises youth suicide prevention awareness

**By:**

[Cory McGinnis](https://www.cbs42.com/meet-the-team/cory-mcginnis/1388180446) (https://www.cbs42.com/meet-the-team/cory-mcginnis/1388180446)

✉ (mailto:cory.mcginnis@cbs42.com)

[Jordan Highsmith](https://www.cbs42.com/meet-the-team/jordan-highsmith/846695240) (https://www.cbs42.com/meet-the-team/jordan-highsmith/846695240)

✉ (mailto:jordan.highsmith@wiat.com)

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WIAT) -- A counselor reports suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people. It falls second to unintentional accidents.

9-year-old McKenzie Adams took her own life this December and her family is speaking out. Her mother, Jasmine Adams, says her daughter was bullied to the point of suicide. McKenzie was a fourth grade student at U.S. Jones elementary school in Demopolis, Ala. According to Adams, McKenzie told her teachers and her assistant principal she was being bullied a number of times.

In a statement released by the Demopolis City Schools attorney, Alex Baswell, they stated there have been no findings of any reports of bullying by either the student or the family.

Full statement:

"We have concluded our internal investigation to the allegations of bullying which led to this senseless death. There have been no findings of any reports of bullying by either the student or family. The findings of this internal investigation are consistent with the results of the investigation of the Linden (Alabama) Police Department at this point in time. The Linden Police Department investigation is still pending. All further results will be disseminated as they become available. The Demopolis City School System will continue to have grief counselors, crisis counselors and mental health professionals available to all of our students and teachers".

This is the second suicide involving a 9-year-old child in Alabama in as many months. Madison Whitsett died by suicide in Birmingham this past November.

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The Birmingham Crisis Line offers 24-hour support for anyone who needs to talk to someone. The number is 205-323-7777.