

The impact of the importance of suicide in our society should not be neglected or overlooked. It is an important cause of death specially among adolescents . Suicide behavior is increasing in developing countries including Iraq during last decades.

This was a cross sectional school based epidemiologic study which was conducted during the period from February to May, 2017. The aim of this study was to identify the prevalence of suicidal ideation among the 4th and 5th grades secondary school students. Five secondary schools were selected randomly (one male, one female and three mixed secondary schools), a multi stage sampling technique was used to select 420 students from the 4th and 5th grades after obtaining their verbal consents. A self-filled questionnaire(prepared from the Global School Health Survey) was used to collect data.

Results revealed that about half of the participants (49.5%) mentioned that they were having thoughts of engaging in behavior intended to end their lives, females were significantly having higher rate (55%)of suicidal ideations $p < 0.05$.

There were a significant relationship between suicidal ideations and low school academic achievement < 0.05 . There was no significant association between suicidal ideations and low family income > 0.05 .

In conclusion very high prevalence rate of suicidal ideations in the last 24months was noticed among secondary school students the main associated factors were being female and low school performance. Strategic multisector intervention plan is strongly requested to address this emerging serious public health problem among Iraqi students.