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## Youths from poor areas more likely to attempt suicide than richer peers: study

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Older teens living in poor neighbourhoods are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers in more affluent environments, according to new national study published in the journal *Psychological Medicine*. The study, conducted by researchers from Universite de Montreal, Montreal's Sainte-Justine Hospital Centre and Tufts University in the United States, found that youth in poor neighbourhoods were also more sensitive to upheavals in life, which caused them to be twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts. These teens also exhibited higher levels of symptoms of depression, but were less likely to enjoy support systems, the researchers found. But even those factors did not fully explain the prevalence of suicidal thoughts and actual attempts to take their own lives. The researchers crunched data from 2,779 youth, aged 18 and 19, surveyed as part of a federal government study that has tracked their development since 1995. The income levels of the neighbourhoods were culled from 2001 census data.

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