AAS 2011 Youth Suicidal Behavior Fact Sheet

4,822 youth age 15-24 died by suicide.\textsuperscript{1} We want to change that.

For 15-24 year-olds, suicide was the 2\textsuperscript{nd} leading cause of death in 2011.

The 2011 Youth Risk and Behavior Survey found that in the previous 12 months among high school students: 15.8 percent seriously considered suicide; 12.8 percent made a plan for suicide; 7.8 percent attempted suicide one or more times; 2.4 percent made a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.\textsuperscript{ii}

### Risk Factors*

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse\textsuperscript{iv}
- Firearms in the household\textsuperscript{v}
- Previous suicide attempts\textsuperscript{viii}
- Nonsuicidal self-injury\textsuperscript{s}
- Exposure to friends’/family members’ suicide\textsuperscript{vii}
- Low self-esteem\textsuperscript{xiii}

### Protective Factors

- Family and school connectedness\textsuperscript{iii}
- Safe schools\textsuperscript{v}
- Reduced access to firearms\textsuperscript{vii}
- Academic achievement\textsuperscript{ix}
- Self-esteem\textsuperscript{xi}

Talking to teens about suicide does not make them want to kill themselves. However, resources and help should ALWAYS be made available along with the discussion.

**Fast fact:** Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are 4.34 times more likely to die by suicide than girls.

Suicide doesn’t happen without warning, and it doesn’t just affect a certain type of person.

(Kaminski et al, J Youth Adol, 2010)

(Brent et al., J Am Acad Child Adol Psych, 1999.

(Eisenberg et al., J PED, 2007)

(Brent et al., J Am Acad Child Adol Psych, 1999)

(Grossman et al., JAMA, 2005)

(Beautrais, SLTB, 2004)

(Borowsky et al., Pediatrics, 2001)

(Nock et al., Psychi Res, 2006)

(Sharaf e al., JCAPN, 2009)

(Borowsky et al., Pediatrics, 2001)

(Resnick et al., JAMA, 1997)