Overview

- In 2011, 4,822 youth age 15-24 died by suicide.¹

- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year-olds in 2011

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

- Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are 4.34 times more likely to die by suicide than girls.

Risk Factors

- Mental Illness
- Substance abuse³
- Firearms in the household⁵
- Previous suicide attempts⁷
- Non-suicidal self-injury⁹
- Exposure to friends’/family members’ suicide¹⁰
- Low self-esteem¹¹

Protective Factors

- Family and school connectedness¹²
- Safe schools¹³
- Reduced access to firearms¹⁴
- Academic Achievement¹⁵
- Self-esteem¹⁶

Youth Suicide Can Be Prevented

Youth across America are affected by suicide, be it in families, at school, or in their own lives. The cost is immeasurable, but help is available.

Friends are often the first to know their friend is suicidal, and we need to help them know where to find help.


¹ Kaminski et al, J Youth Adol, 2010
³ Eisenberg et al., J PED, 2007
⁴ Brent et al., J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psych, 1999
⁵ Grossman et al., JAMA, 2005
⁶ Beautrais, SLTB, 2004
⁷ Borowsky et al., Pediatrics, 2001
⁸ Nock et al., Psychi Res, 2006
⁹ Sharaf et al., JCAPN, 2009
¹⁰ Borowsky et al., Pediatrics, 2001
¹¹ Resnick et al., JAMA, 1997