



# Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative

## YOUTH SUICIDE FACT SHEET

### From NATIONAL DATA REPORTS AND FACT SHEETS (Centers for Disease Control, American Association of Suicidology, Columbia University TeenScreen Program)

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24 accounting for 4,189 deaths in 2006.
- In 2005, 270 children ages 10-14 completed suicide in the U.S.; rates for that age group have increased 50% from 1981-2005.
- Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among youth, accounting for 49% of all completed suicides.
- Males take their own lives at four times the rate of females and represent 79.4% of all suicides in the U.S.
- In 2007, 14.5% of youth in grades 9-12 seriously considered suicide, 11.3% had a suicide plan, 6.9% of youth attempted suicide, and 29% sometimes thought life was not worth living.
- 7-12 million youth suffer from a mental illness.
- 60-80% of teens who suffer from depression will go untreated; over three million youth are at risk for suicide, but only 36% receive treatment.
- Over 90% of teens who die by suicide suffer from mental illness.
- Adolescent depression directly or indirectly results in 1,700 suicides per year.

### From COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DATA REPORTS:

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for males ages 10-44 and fourth for females. Overall in Pennsylvania, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24.
- From 1999-2005, 412 youth ages 10-18 completed suicide in Pennsylvania. In 2006, there were 50 suicides among youth ages 15-19 and 117 suicides among youth ages 20-24.
- For every female suicide, there are 22 non-fatal self-injury inpatient hospitalizations; for every male suicide, there are 3.5 non-fatal self-injury inpatient hospitalizations. Female self-injury peaks for ages 15-19; male self-injury peaks for ages 20-24.
- Hispanics show the highest rates of self-injury, whites the highest rates of suicide, Asians the highest overall percentage of fatalities, and African American males show higher self-injury rates than females.
- From 2000-2006, 73% of all self-injuries in PA, whether fatal or not, were by poisoning; firearms have the highest percentage of fatality, followed by hanging.
- From 2004-2006, 49 Pennsylvania counties reported at least one youth suicide.

#### Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/Suicide-DataSheet-a.pdf>
- American Association of Suicidology, <http://www.suicidology.org/web/guest/stats-and-tools/fact-sheets>
- Columbia University TeenScreen, <http://www.teenscreen.org/fact-sheets>
- Pennsylvania Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program, [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

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*The Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative is a public/private ongoing collaborative including: Survivors of Suicide, Statewide & Regional Representatives from Departments of Public Welfare, Health, Education, and Aging, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, County MH/MR Administrators Association and several county programs, County CASSP Coordinators, American Trauma Society, The STAR Center, PA Child Death Review Team, PA Protection and Advocacy, PA Psychiatric Society, PA Association of School Social Workers, NAMI of PA, Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Mental Health Association of PA, PIN of PA, PA Del Val NAPNAP, a County Medical Examiner, a City Health Bureau, a State University, a Behavioral Health MCO, Common Roads, Juvenile Detention Center Association of PA, Pennsylvania Community Provider's Association, Pennsylvania Council on Children, Youth, and Family Services, Providers and Student Assistance Program Trainers, School Districts, Yellow Ribbon Chapters, Feeling Blue Suicide Prevention Council, multiple county task forces and other grassroots organizations. Web site: [www.payspi.org](http://www.payspi.org).*