MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUICIDE
FACT SHEET

FLORIDA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

In 2006, Florida ranked 14th among the states in suicides, with a rate of 14.2 suicides per 100,000 population. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

In Florida in 2008, there were 2,723 suicides, more than double the number of homicides (1,301). (Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, accessed 2010)

In Florida, from 1999 to 2005, suicide was the 9th ranking cause of death; an average of 2,256 residents died by suicide each year; the suicide rate was 14.4 per 100,000; and there was an average of 6.2 suicides every day. (Suicide Prevention Resource Center, accessed 2010)

For the same time period, males in Florida accounted for 77% of suicides with a rate of 22.8 suicides per 100,000 population; suicide was the 7th ranking cause of death for males (Suicide Prevention Resource Center, accessed 2010)

Females in Florida accounted for 23% of suicides, with a rate of 6.3 suicides per 100,000 population; suicides were the 15th ranking cause of death for women (Suicide Prevention Resource Center, accessed 2010)

From 1999 to 2005 in Florida, the male suicide rate was 3.6 times the female suicide rate. (Suicide Prevention Resource Center, accessed 2010)

March 30, 2011 is Florida Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol.

For more information Call: 850-224-6048 Visit: www.fccmh.org
Ninety percent of all people who die by suicide have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of their death. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

More than 30 percent of patients suffering from major depression report suicidal ideation. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

About 15 percent of the population will suffer from clinical depression at some time during their lifetime. Thirty percent of all clinically depressed patients attempt suicide; half of them ultimately die by suicide. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Suicide rates are the highest among the divorced, separated, and widowed and lowest among the married. (American Association of Suicidology, accessed 2010)

Survivors of suicide represent “the largest mental health casualties related to suicide” (Edwin Shneidman, Ph.D., AAS Founding President).

There are currently over 33,000 suicides annually in the USA. It is estimated that for every suicide there are at least 6 survivors. Based on this estimate, approximately 6 million American became survivors of suicide in the last 25 years. (American Association of Suicidology, accessed 2010)

24% of the general population has considered suicide at some time in his/her life (Linehan et al., 1982)

There are an estimated 864,950 attempts per year in the U.S. (SAMHSA)

13.8 million Americans will attempt suicide in their lifetime (Kessler, et al., 1999)

Each suicide produces at least six, and as many as hundreds of “survivors,” or people left behind to grieve. Based on the 766,042 suicides from 1982 through 2007, it can be estimated that the number of survivors in the U.S. is 4.6 million. (AAS)

For every two people who die from homicides, three people die of suicide (Kochanek et al., 2002)

There are more suicides globally than deaths from war and violence combined (WHO)

More than 60% of adolescents and 90% of adults who die by suicide have depression or another diagnosable mental or substance abuse disorder (Brent et al., 1999; Cavanaugh et al., 2003; Conner et al., 2007; Conwell et al., 1996; Fortune et al., 2007; Hawton et al., 2002)

There are four male suicides for every female suicide, but three times as many females as males attempt suicide. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Between 20 and 50 percent of people who kill themselves had previously attempted suicide. Those who have made serious suicide attempts are at a much higher risk for actually taking their lives. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

There are an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides for every suicide death. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Among young people aged 10-14 years, the suicide rate has doubled in the last two decades. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)


Risk factors for suicide among the young include suicidal thoughts, psychiatric disorders (such as depression, impulsive aggressive behavior, bipolar disorder, certain anxiety disorders), drug and/or alcohol abuse and previous suicide attempts, with the risk increased if there is situational stress and access to firearms. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

The suicide rates for men rise with age, most significantly after age 65. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

The rate of suicide in men 65+ is seven times that of females who are 65+. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

The suicide rates for women peak between the ages of 45-54 years old, and again after age 75. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

About 60 percent of elderly patients who take their own lives see their primary care physician within a few months of their death. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Elderly adults have rates of suicide close to 50% higher than that of the nation as a whole (all ages). (American Association of Suicidology, accessed 2010)

Ninety-six percent of alcoholics who die by suicide continue their substance abuse up to the end of their lives. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Alcoholism is a factor in about 30 percent of all completed suicides. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)

Approximately 7 percent of those with alcohol dependence will die by suicide. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, accessed 2010)