Suicide Facts

1. Suicide takes the lives of over 40,000 Americans every year.
2. Suicide is the leading cause of death on college campuses.
3. Many who attempt suicide never seek professional care.
4. There are twice as many deaths due to suicide than HIV/AIDS.
6. Over half of all suicides occur in adult men, ages 25-65.
7. In the month prior to their suicide, 75% of elderly persons had visited a physician.
8. Suicide rates in the United States are highest in the spring.
9. Over half of all suicides are completed with a firearm.
10. Suicide rates among the elderly are highest for those who are divorced or widowed.
11. 80% of people that seek treatment for depression are treated successfully.
12. 15% of those who are clinically depressed die by suicide.
13. There are an estimated 8 to 25 attempted suicides to 1 completion.
14. The highest suicide rate is among men over 85 years old: 65 per 100,000 persons.
15. 1 in 65,000 children ages 10 to 14 commit suicide each year.
16. Substance abuse is a risk factor for suicide.
17. The strongest risk factor for suicide is depression.
18. Depression is the #1 disability in the world. (World Health Organization)
19. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. (homicide is 15th). (CDC)
20. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-old Americans. (CDC)
21. It is estimated that there are at least 4.5 million survivors in this country. (AAS)
22. An average of one person dies by suicide every 16.2 minutes. (CDC, AAS)
23. More than 22 Veterans will die from suicide every day.
24. There are four male suicides for every female suicide. (CDC, AAS)
25. Research has shown medications and therapy to be effective suicide prevention.
26. Suicide can be prevented through education and public awareness.
27. There are three female suicide attempts for each male attempt. (CDC, AAS)
28. According to the Violent Death Reporting System, 73% of suicides also tested positive for at least one substance (alcohol, cocaine, heroin or marijuana).