Suicide Is an Urgent Public Health Issue in America

Screening for suicide risk can save lives

More than 48,000 people died by suicide in 2021.¹

Suicide was the 11th-leading cause of death in the country in 2021.²

From 2000 to 2020, the suicide rate increased 30% across all sexes, races, and ethnicities.³

Rate increase among females:
- 135% American Indian & Alaska Native
- 61% Black
- 36% Asian & Pacific Islander

Rate increase among males:
- 92% American Indian & Alaska Native
- 27% Black
- 17% Asian & Pacific Islander

Screening tools for suicide risk can help reduce death and connect people to treatment, but these tools are not widely used.

About half of all people who die by suicide interact with the health care system within a month of their death, giving health care providers a critical opportunity to screen for suicide risk.⁴

Eight hospital emergency departments found 30% fewer suicide attempts among patients who were screened for suicide risk and received evidence-based care, such as additional screening and follow-up phone calls, compared with patients who were not screened.⁵

Hospitals and health systems can implement evidence-based suicide screening to identify patients at risk and connect them to lifesaving care.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or visit 988lifeline.org and click on the chat button.

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² Ibid.