Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) Accomplishments

- Office established in State Fiscal Year 2006; Statutory Origin NRS 439.511, 439.513;
- Update of the 2007-2012 Nevada Suicide Prevention Plan in process;
- State of Nevada awarded $2.7 million in Federal Grants for youth suicide prevention since 2005;

Early Identification, Intervention and Prevention of Suicide

- Using the Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Memorial Act federal grant award, OSP is partnered with Nevada PEP to provide youth mental health screenings in schools and primary health care settings. Screenings are proven effective at identifying youths at risk of suicide, and protocol ensures referral to and follow up with appropriate mental health services;

Suicide Prevention Hotline

- Using the GLS federal grant award, OSP has partnered with Crisis Call Center to implement the nation’s first 24-hour, text-based crisis intervention service: TextToday;
- OSP and its partners will be presenting on this initiative at two national conferences this spring;
- Call volume of Crisis Call Center’s Suicide Prevention Hotline continues to increase with 28,051 calls in 2009 to 29,370 calls in 2010 and over 30,000 calls for 2011.

Suicide Prevention Awareness, Education and Training

- Over 1,000 Nevadans have been trained in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) program, which engages participants in two days of suicide-first-aid skills training;
- Anti-stigma campaign targeting parents and youth continues to be aired in cooperation with Southern Nevada Health District and Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium;
- Over 8,000 trained in NV Gatekeeper Training Awareness, Prevention and Postvention programs;

Increase in number of local or regional groups that collaborate with the Office of Suicide Prevention to implement the state plan

- OSP staff provides ongoing technical support to six rural suicide prevention networks and coalitions
- Nine County School Districts’ administrators, counselors, nurses and teachers have benefited from the available programs and trainings provided by OSP;
- OSP’s collaboration with the Pyramid Lake community and Indian Health Service led to a $5,000 award to conduct a youth focused needs assessment;
- OSP partners with Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention to host the “Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope” which has expanded from 1 community & 50 walkers to 8 communities & over 1,500 walkers.

The Facts about Suicide

- Nevada has the 4th highest rate in the nation at 20.3/100,000.
- Suicide is the 6th leading cause of death for Nevadans.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for our youth age 15-24.
- NV youth ages 10-19 averaged the 10th highest rate in the nation for 1999-2009 with 6.27/100,000.
- Males make up 80% of suicide deaths at an average rate of 33.3 per 100,000.
- Nevada seniors over 60 have the highest suicide rate in the nation, over double the national average for the same age group.
- More Nevadans die by suicide than by homicide, HIV/AIDS or automobile accidents.
- Native American Youth have one of the highest rates of suicide.
- Firearms are used in 53% of suicide deaths.
- Average medical cost per suicide deaths in Nevada: $3,577.*

*Source: Suicide Prevention Resource Center, State of Nevada Fact Sheet Online, 2011. Costs are based on 1999-2005 averages. Calculation based on CDC 2007 Suicide Deaths for Nevada (n=471) and the assumption that medical costs remained the same.
100 people per day die by suicide in the US. Imagine the horror and outrage if 100 passengers died in a plane crash every day, 365 days a year. That is the impact of suicide on our families and communities.

Nevada’s suicide rate/100,000 for 2009 is 19.1 and the 5th highest rate. The US rate/100,000 was 12.0

*2010 statistics are the most current available from the CDC but map is 2009 data.
The Toll on Our Youth in Nevada

Using Youth Risk Behavior Survey rates from 2009, the following are estimated:

- 62,920 NV youth seriously considered attempting suicide**
- 48,937 NV youth made a plan to attempt suicide**
- 34,955 NV youth attempted one or more times**
- 617 of those NV youth that made an attempt required treatment by a doctor or nurse**


Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 1999-2011

Nevada Seniors in Crisis

States with Highest Average Suicide Rates in the U.S from 1999-2009: Ages 60-85+


For more information about the Office of Suicide Prevention or the Nevada Suicide Prevention Plan please contact:

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Or visit our website: www.suicideprevention.nv.gov

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
TextToday: text “listen” to 839863