Alabama – Youth Suicide

Statistical Impact

According to the latest CDC’s WISQARS National Data Reporting (2015):

- Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in Alabama.
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 12-18 (middle and high school ages) in Alabama.
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for college-age youth ages 18-22 in Alabama.
- When examined as an age group 10-24 comparison, suicide is the 3rd leading overall cause of death for Alabama. In Alabama, every 4.9 days on an average a young person (ages 10-24) is lost to this “Silent Epidemic” of youth suicide.

Alabama 2015 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC): (Most Recent Released Report)

When young people were asked in Alabama:

- “Have you experienced the feeling of hopelessness and sadness for a constant period of two weeks or greater during the past twelve months (possible beginning of clinical depression)?”
  29.3% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 3 young people.
  Compared to Nationally – 29.9% (depression is a leading cause of suicide)
  This equates to 98,435 youth in the state that will have these feelings in the next 12 months if nothing is done differently.

- “Have you seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months?”
  17.5% answered YES or over 1 out of every 6 young people.
  Compared to Nationally – 17.7%
  This equates to 58,792 youth in the state that will consider suicide in the next 12 months if nothing is done differently.

- “Have you made a plan to commit suicide in the past twelve months?”
  13.7% answered YES or almost 1 out of every 7 young people.
  Compared to Nationally – 14.6%
  This equates to 46,026 youth in the state that will make a plan if nothing is done differently.

- “Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”
  11.2% answered YES or over 1 out of every 9 young people.
  Compared to Nationally – 8.6%
  This equates to 37,627 youth in the state that will make an attempt in the next 12 months if nothing is done differently.
  This is an average of 103 per day.

*Projected using the National and State 2015 YRBS and the State 2013-14 School Population for Grades 7-12
“Let’s Do Something Differently…”