Suicide: A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Risk, Prevention & Assessment

Minneapolis Psychiatric Society
May 4, 2019

In 2017, 47,173 Americans died by suicide.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US.

In 2017, there were an estimated 1,400,000 suicide attempts.
Veterans account for **8.3%** of the population, but **14.3%** of suicide deaths.

Male Veterans are **1.3x** more likely to die by suicide.

Female Veterans are **2.0x** more likely to die by suicide.

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37% of transgender adults report a suicide attempt before age 25.

LBGTQ teens attempt suicide **5x** more often; attempts require medical attn **5x** more often.

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Increases in Demand for Crisis and Other Suicide Prevention Services After a Celebrity Suicide

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- Increases in daily deaths by suicide were observed in the 30 days after Robin Williams’ suicide.
- Calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline increased by 300% on the day after Mr. Williams’ suicide, but only 57% of these calls were answered.
- As a critical component of crisis mental health services in the United States, suicide prevention hotlines need to develop contingency plans to accommodate anticipated increases in demand, including for at least 2 days after a celebrity suicide.
Calls increased 300% on Aug 12th

Online searches for both harmful ("hanging") and helpful ("lifeline") information about suicide increased

An estimated 1,841 suicides in the U.S. were attributed to imitation between Aug and Dec 2014, following Mr. Williams' death on 8/11/14

Most of the excess suicide deaths during this period was due to suffocation, the same cause of death as Mr. Williams, who died by hanging himself

TODAY'S SESSIONS

- Presentation: Tools to Aid in Suicide Risk Prediction
- Panel: Regulatory Issues Around Suicide Prevention
- Presentation: Bullet-Proofing your Documentation
- Presentation: Rethinking Lethality in Teen Suicide Attempts
- Panel: Approaches to Addressing Suicide in Rural Areas
- Presentation: Suicide Prevention in Veterans
- Panel: Using Media to Build Awareness, Educate the Public