Suicide Prevention:  
A National Imperative on the Move  
SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting  
December 13, 2005  
Jerry Reed, MSW  
Executive Director

Magnitude of the Problem

- 31,655 deaths by suicide in 2002
- 17,638 deaths by homicide in 2002
- 1 person every 17 minutes, 87 per day
- 11th ranking cause of death in U.S.
- 3rd leading cause of death for youth 15-24
- 4:1 male to female
### Ranking of Suicide – Select Age Groups
(United States, 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>5 - 14</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-44</th>
<th>45-64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Septicemia</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2002

### Suicide Death Rates
United States, 2000-2002

[Map showing suicide death rates across the United States, 2000-2002]
The Federal Response to Suicide Prevention

- **UN Guidelines for National Strategies**
- **SPAN USA forms**
- **S. Res. 84 H. Res. 212**
- **The Reno Conference**
- **SG’s Call to Action to Prevent Suicide**
- **NSSP**
- **$9 million for crisis line grant**
- **$9 million for SPRC**
- **$9 million for crisis line grant**
- **Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act signed**
- **PNFC Report on Mental Health**

**Yearly Events**
- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005

Data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

Source: National Institute of Mental Health
2006 Legislative Update

• Labor, HHS, & Education Conference Report
  – Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act funding (state & campus grants, SPRC)
  – Suicide Prevention Lifeline
  – Mental health screening demonstrations
• Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Report
  – NSSP & Action Alliance
  – Language re: NIH & CDC

The Executive Branch

• New Freedom Commission Report on Mental Health
• Program Support – NIH, SAMHSA, CDC, HRSA, IHS, DVA, DOD, Education, Justice
• President’s budget includes suicide prevention
• SAMHSA’s Mental Health Action Agenda
• Research Support
• Evaluation
The Suicide Prevention Community Must Fly in Formation

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