

SUICIDE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

Background on Florida's Suicide Prevention Initiative:

Since its inception in 2000, the Governor's Suicide Prevention Task Force has been working diligently to formulate state policies that will prevent suicide. Through the diverse Task Force membership that includes government agencies, dedicated grassroots organizations, academia, and survivors, Florida developed a strategy to reduce suicide across the life span by one third by 2010. Florida's efforts to decrease its suicide rate has coalesced to the degree that it is time to codify and further direct integrated state activity through the Office for Suicide Prevention.

What will this legislation do?

Senate Bill 224 and House Bill 139 propose to create the Office for Suicide Prevention within the Office of Drug Control and to establish the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (formerly know as the Florida Suicide Prevention Task Force or the Governor's Suicide Prevention Task Force) in law in order to provide central coordination and sustainability to the suicide prevention initiative. It would also provide for two (2) FTEs.

Senator Evelyn Lynn and Representative Hugh Gibson are sponsoring the bill which will:

- **Create the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention within the Office of Drug Control;**
- **Provide for two (2) FTEs within the office;**
- **Create the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within the Office of Drug Control (the Office of Drug Control was chosen to lead this effort due to the high correlation between substance abuse and suicide);**
- **Create an interagency workgroup for state agencies within the coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency plans for suicide prevention**

The Need for Reform:

As outlined in the Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy, it's imperative for Florida to use a variety of tools to reduce suicide. The strategy provides recommendations for interventions through improving organization, increasing awareness, providing education and training, using screening and early intervention, providing access to treatment, creating safer environments, providing appropriate postvention, encouraging research and utilizing existing resources.

Action, not words are required to solve this problem. If we are to save the lives of hundreds of Floridians, we need a long-term effort that both raises awareness and directs coordinated programs as an integrated whole. In order to achieve longevity, suicide prevention must be recognized as a major public health issue that is not only worthy of its own office, but also worthy of financial backing.

The Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report shows that suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in Florida in 2005

Cause of Death	Total Deaths (170,300)
Heart Diseases	45,992
Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer)	40,321
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	9,454
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	9,321
Unintentional Injury (Accident)	8,744
Diabetes Mellitus	5,181
Alzheimer's Disease	4,600
Influenza & Pneumonia	2,787
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis	2,386
Suicide	2,308
Chronic Liver Diseases	2,134
Septicemia	1,837
Hypertension	1,807
HIV	1,706
Parkinson's Disease	1,463
Aortic Aneurysm & Dissection	998
Benign Neoplasms	997
Homicide	988

Suicide is a major killer of Floridians:

- In 2005, 2,308 Floridians died by their own hand
- Florida's suicide rate is more than double its homicide rate (988 homicides in 2005)
- For Florida's youth, suicide is the third leading cause of death
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for college students
- More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza and chronic lung disease combined
- The highest rate of suicide occurs among the elderly
- Suicide can be prevented

The Average Cost of Completed Suicides in Florida from 1999- 2003:

Medical= \$8,306,727
 Work-Loss Cost= \$2,193,533,100
Total= \$2,201,839,827

*Calculated by the Suicide prevention Resource Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Average Cost of Medically Treated Suicide Attempts in Florida in 2003:

Medical= \$112,242,456
 Lost potential Earnings= \$125,464,854
Total=\$237,707,310

*Calculated by the Suicide prevention Resource Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Disease Control calculates the Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) due to suicide. The following data is for 2004, all races, all sexes, and specific for Florida

Cause of Death	Years of Potential Life Lost Before Age 85
1. Malignant Neoplasms (cancers)	563,881
2. Heart Disease	403,814
3. Unintentional Injuries	291,346
4. Suicide	84,213
5. Chronic low respiratory disease	79,828
6. Cerebrovascular	76,285
7. HIV	67,958
8. Perinatal Period	66,446
9. Diabetes Mellitus	63,120
10. Liver Disease	51,168
11. Homicide	50,861

Suicide Deaths in Florida, By County, 2005

	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>HIV</u>
Florida	2,308	988	1,706
Alachua	26	8	9
Baker	3	2	1
Bay	33	7	8
Bradford	5	0	2
Brevard	97	23	22
Broward	176	76	294
Calhoun	1	2	0
Charlotte	29	4	2
Citrus	31	7	6
Clay	26	9	6
Collier	32	7	7
Columbia	9	5	1
Miami-Dade	194	174	407
Desoto	5	2	1
Dixie	2	0	2
Duval	124	105	117
Escambia	43	14	32
Flagler	6	0	6
Franklin	2	0	0
Gadsden	5	6	3
Gilchrist	6	1	1
Glades	5	1	2
Gulf	4	0	1
Hamilton	1	3	2
Hardee	3	2	2
Hendry	2	1	1
Hernando	23	0	1
Highlands	19	3	3
Hillsborough	128	48	103
Holmes	0	2	1
Indian River	29	4	13
Jackson	2	5	6
Jefferson	2	0	0

Source: Florida Office Of Vital Statistics - Table D-12 (Adapted). Resident Deaths by Leading Cause of Death, By County, Florida, 2005

	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>HIV</u>
Lafayette	2	0	0
Lake	36	10	8
Lee	95	31	38
Leon	20	10	16
Levy	13	6	2
Liberty	1	0	0
Madison	3	3	0
Manatee	31	17	23
Marion	46	20	15
Martin	22	4	10
Monroe	11	3	10
Nassau	12	3	4
Okaloosa	34	5	6
Okeechobee	6	3	6
Orange	103	74	106
Osceola	30	13	6
Palm Beach	146	76	149
Pasco	65	19	15
Pinellas	154	61	65
Polk	81	23	37
Putnam	19	3	5
St Johns	21	6	7
St Lucie	27	10	36
Santa Rosa	25	5	6
Sarasota	53	11	11
Seminole	51	12	20
Sumter	9	0	4
Suwannee	3	1	3
Taylor	4	1	1
Union	3	0	8
Volusia	91	28	25
Wakulla	7	1	1
Walton	8	4	1
Washington	1	2	0

Source: Florida Office Of Vital Statistics -Table D-12 (Adapted). Resident Deaths by Leading Cause of Death, By County, Florida, 2005