

## Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition of Van Buren County

### Background Information:

- Suicide is the third overall cause of death of people between the ages of 10 and 24 (behind accidents and homicides).
- Over 4,000 children & young adults take their lives every year.
- Suicide attempts account for 670,000 ER visits per year. Experts estimate that there are 28 attempted suicides for each death by suicide
- In 2006 in Michigan, there were 1,132 deaths from suicide (all ages); 720 deaths due to homicide, and 184 due to HIV/AIDS.
- Van Buren County data: 13 deaths by suicide among youth ages 10-24 from 1999-2006. This is a rate of 9.8 per 100,000 – higher than the national rate of 7.05 per 100,000.
- According to Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2007):
  - 9.1% of high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times in past year;
  - 27% report symptoms of depression;
  - 15% said they had seriously considered suicide;
  - More females than males reported feeling depressed, as well as considering suicide, making a plan & actually attempting during the previous year.

50% of persons who die by suicide never receive any form of help.

50% of persons who die from suicide, die as a result of their first try.

Persons may not spontaneously report suicidal thoughts but 70% communicate their intentions to family/friends.

### **RISK FACTORS:**

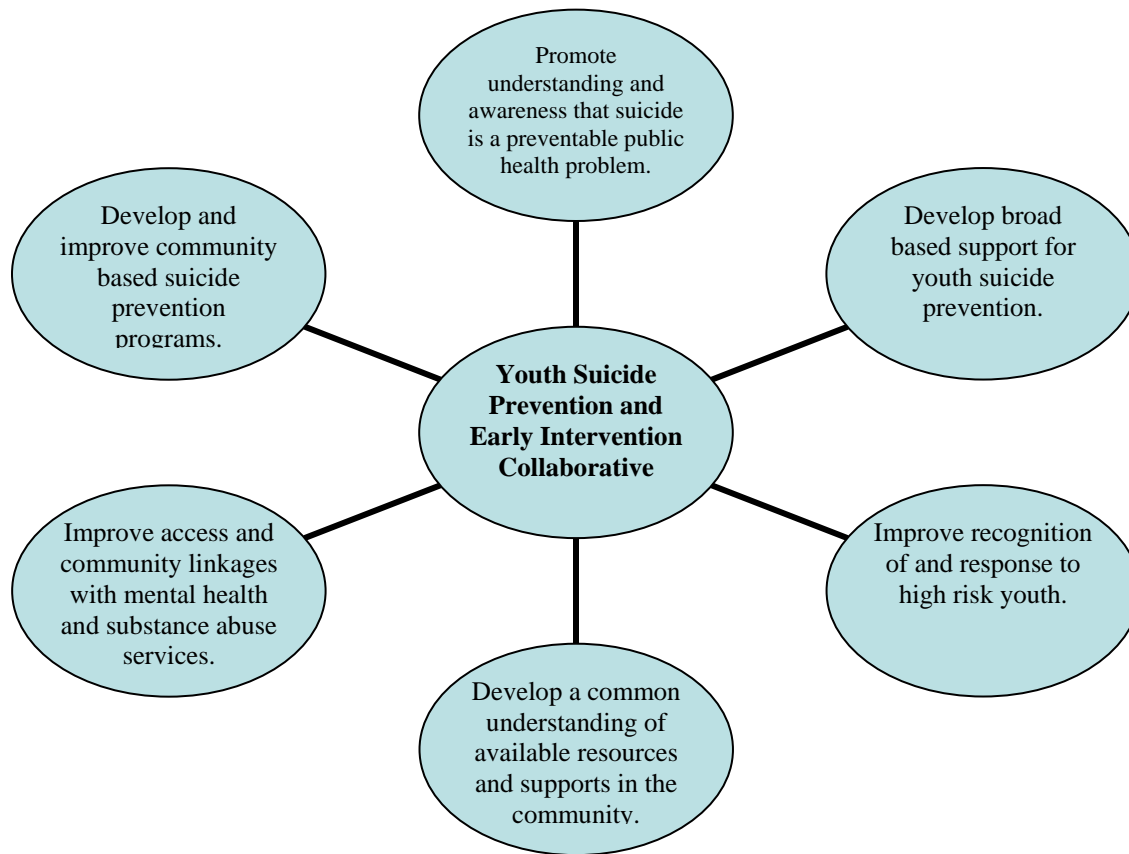
- Family history: suicide attempts; first degree relatives
- Current/past psychiatric history
- Childhood trauma
- Demographics: male; gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender; elderly; widowed, divorced, single (particularly for men)
- Access to firearms
- Physical illnesses: certain medical diagnoses including cancer, HIV/AIDS, kidney failure, pain syndromes, brain injuries, diseases of the nervous system
- Warning signs: loss of interest, impulsivity/recklessness, despair, social withdrawal, substance use, giving away possessions, etc.

### **PROTECTIVE FACTORS:**

- Effective clinical care; easy access to a variety of clinical interventions and support for help-seeking.
- Strong connections to family and community support.
- Skills in problem-solving, conflict resolution & nonviolent handling of disputes.
- Cultural & religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support self-preservation.
- Restricted access to highly lethal means of suicide.
- Support through ongoing medical & mental health care relationships.

## Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Details

Grant began March 1, 2010; continues until September 30, 2012.



The program will utilize a multi-faceted:

- Local youth leadership development (Yellow Ribbon Campaign);
- Adult leadership development through work on the Coalition and leadership in the community for activities related to the prevention of youth suicide;
- Training of key adults as gatekeepers using QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Gatekeeper Training;
- Assessing and Managing Suicidal Risk (ASMR) training for behavioral health professionals (a competency-based curriculum developed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Association of Suicidology);
- Improvement of referral networks through the development and dissemination of a comprehensive referral, resource and support guide specific to preventing youth suicide ages 10-24; and a planned social marketing campaign for preventing youth suicide
- Improvement of youth risk monitoring and assessment using Columbia University TeenScreen models; and
- Youth education utilizing Gryphon Place High School Gatekeeper Curriculum.

### Contact Information:

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