

Suicide: Some Statistics

1. The difficulty with statistics in this area.
2. For college students, S is the 2nd most common cause of death.
3. For males 15-24, S. is third, after accidents and homicide.
4. For females S is 4th after acc/ cancer/ homicide (15-24)
5. Among U.S. population: about 22,000 people successfully attempt S. each year, about 222,000 unsuccessfully attempt
6. 75 per cent of those who attempt (successfully or unsuccessfully) have seen a doctor within six months of the act
7. World wide, 3 to 4 times as many men than women commit S.
8. Most common U. S. victim; male, white Protestant; middle-aged or older

The Work of Schneidman and Farberow:

1. Most potential victims; consciously or not, plant clues beforehand.
2. Many people, perhaps most, who attempt don't want to die.
3. Many have committed S. soon after buying new clothes and making expensive plans for the future, showing their ambivalence.
4. Due largely to the work of these men the following table is given:

MYTH	FACT
1. Talk about S. does not lead to act.	1. 80% gave previous indication
2. S. is an impulsive act.	2. S. is often planned: clues are given
3. Attempters fully want to die	3. Most are ambivalent.
4. S. is inherited.	4. Not by genes; maybe by example
5. Once suicidal, always suicidal.	5. Not necessarily; many are temporary
6. After improvement, no more risk.	6. Most occur about 3 mos. after "improvement when person is stronger
7. All S. patients are mentally ill.	7. Unhappy, yes, but not necessarily ill. It is rather democratic.
8. S. is limited to certain classes.	

Teenage Suicide: Based on research done at Los Angeles County Medical Center the following is a profile of the suicidal teenager; (N.B. Within the last year (1972) La. suicides for teens went up 100%)

1. Early life painfully separated from an important relationship;
2. Feels alone in attempts to cope with stress and strain of growing up
3. Feels unable to cope with problems that tend to fall in 5 categories: parents - poverty - peers - pregnancy - broken love affairs