

# YOUTH SUICIDE FACTS

## **MESSAGE: Suicide is a preventable public health problem.**

- Most people who complete suicide are not looking to end their lives, but instead, looking to end the pain in their lives.
- An estimated four out of five people who completed or made a near-fatal first attempt at suicide stated their intent to do so or exhibited other warning signs.
- Up to 90 percent of people completing suicide suffered from depression or another mental disorder, most of which are treatable.

Sources: American Association of Suicidology [www.suicidology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=2](http://www.suicidology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=2) accessed August 2007, and The Colorado Trust: *Suicide in Colorado*, 2002. [www.thecoloradotrust.org/repository/publications/pdfs/SuicideReport.pdf](http://www.thecoloradotrust.org/repository/publications/pdfs/SuicideReport.pdf) .

## **GENERAL TRENDS**

- Adolescent boys are 3-4 times more likely to complete suicide than girls.
- Adolescent girls are more likely to be hospitalized for a suicide attempt.
- Although risk for suicide among young people is greatest among young white males, suicide rates had increased most rapidly among young black males through the 1990s.
- There are approximately between 100 and 200 youth attempts for every completed suicide.
- Firearms are the most common method of suicide by adolescents.

Source: The American Association of Suicidology [www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/Youth2004.pdf](http://www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/Youth2004.pdf).

## **COLORADO**

- Suicide is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for adolescents ages 10-19 (2003-2007).
- Colorado's youth suicide rate is 6.8 per 100,000 youth ages 10-19 (2003-2007).
- 16.4% of high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide in the last 12 months.
- 9.0% of high school students had attempted suicide one or more times in the last 12 months.

Sources: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Colorado Health Information Data Set, [www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/) and Colorado Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, 2007 (grades 9 through 12, Males and Females) [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/yrbs/yrbs.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/yrbs/yrbs.html) .

## **EL PASO COUNTY**

- Suicide is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for adolescents ages 10-19 (2003-2007).
- El Paso County's youth suicide rate is 5.6 per 100,000 youth ages 10-19 (2003-2007).

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Colorado Health Information Data Set [www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/) .