Suicide: facts and figures

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year-olds.

There are more deaths from suicide than from war and homicide together.

Close to 800,000 people die by suicide every year.

1 death every 40 seconds.

High-income countries account for 78% of suicides occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

Pesticides, hanging, and firearms are the most common methods used globally.

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Suicides are preventable:
- Restricting access to means
- Responsible media reporting
- Introducing alcohol policies
- School-based interventions
- Training of health workers in early identification and treatment
- Follow-up care and community support
- Key is a comprehensive multisectoral approach

Most countries currently do not have a national suicide prevention strategy.

Reduction of suicide rates:
- by 10% in the WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020
- by 1/3 in the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030

World Health Organization