Suicide in Alabama

Fact #1 - Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death among all Americans and the third leading cause among young (15-24) Americans.

Fact #2 - The suicide rate (13.3) is much higher than the homicide rate (7.9), both in Alabama and in the U.S. as a whole.

Fact #3 - In Alabama, 82 youth suicides occurred in 2011, and more than 90% were males of all races.

Fact #4 - The suicide rate increases during hard economic times. The highest suicide rates ever recorded were during the Great Depression. During our current economic crisis, rates have increased an average of 0.51 deaths per 100,000 people a year. Without the increase in the rate, the total deaths from suicide each year in the United States would have been lower by about 1,500.

Fact #5 - The most common and most lethal method of suicide is by using firearms. The most recent U.S. data (2009) showed that 51% of suicides used firearms. During 2011 in Alabama 70% of suicides used guns. The use of a gun almost always guarantees a fatal outcome.