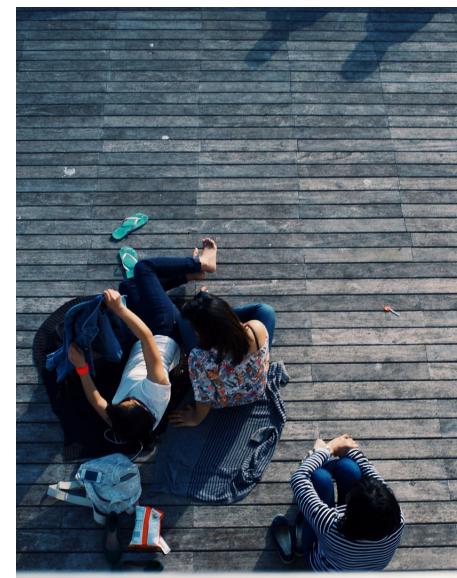


# RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Kevin & Margaret  
**HINES**  
FOUNDATION



In the next 24 hours  
1,439 teens will attempt  
suicide

**MYTH:** Asking about suicide causes suicidal behavior

**FACT:** Addressing the topic of suicide in a caring, empathetic, and nonjudgmental way shows that you are taking your child seriously and responding to their emotional pain

# NEED HELP NOW?

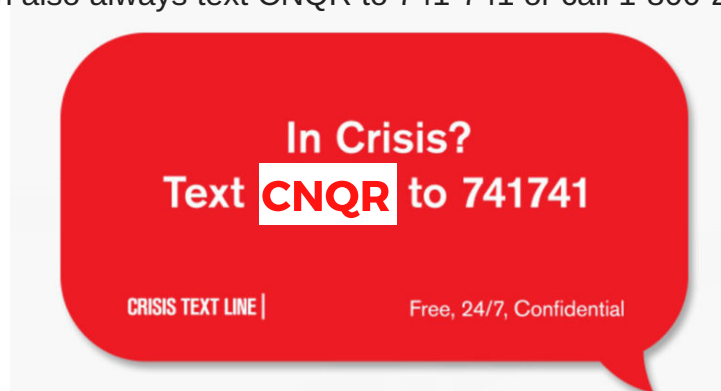
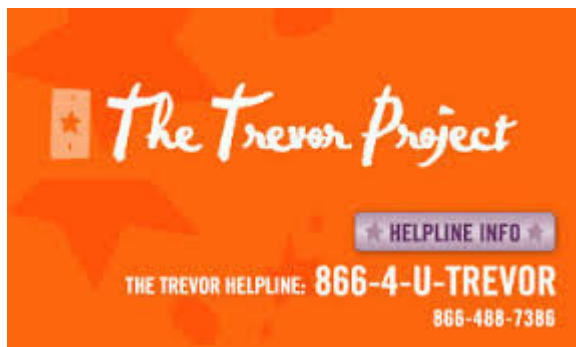
If you or someone you know needs help immediately, please call 911, text CNQR to 741-741 or call 1-800-273 TALK (8255).

You can also contact The Trevor Project, specializing in supporting the LGBTQ community: call 866.488.7386 or text “Trevor” to 1-866-4-U-TREVOR.

If someone is threatening their own life or someone else’s life, this is an emergency. If you feel comfortable, you should bring your friend to the Emergency Room, or call 911 or other emergency services immediately. If it’s safe to do so, stay with that person or do what you can to contact them or find someone to stay with them until help arrives.

If you see someone behaving dramatically differently than usual, it may signal that this person needs help. If you have a gut feeling that something is not right, you should act on it.

If you or someone you know is struggling, but not in immediate danger, reach out to a mental health/healthcare professional or trusted adult as soon as possible. You can also always text CNQR to 741-741 or call 1-800-273 TALK (8255) for support.





During high school your children will be gaining academic skills and knowledge to prepare for life, but thriving in adulthood requires more than just facts learned in classes. Throughout this site, we'll share information, tools and guidance to help you and your student through the transition out of high school and onto the next step. We will help them with finding the right college fit, developing important emotional and life skills, increasing their knowledge about important health issues for teens and young adults and provide guidance about adjusting to life at college.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.settogo.org/for-families/>

**COLLEGE IN  
PERSPECTIVE**

**BASIC LIFE SKILLS**

**SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL SKILLS**

**MENTAL HEALTH AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
LITERACY**

**THE TRANSITION**

# THE JASON FOUNDATION

<http://jasonfoundation.com>



- Educate yourself about the magnitude of the problem, the signs of concern and the tools of prevention.
- Encourage your local school system to incorporate The Jason Foundation school-based curriculum into their guidance or health/wellness programs. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Encourage the administration of your local school to provide staff training for all school personnel. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Encourage your local schools and youth organizations to place The Jason Foundations Parent Resource Program on their website. Schools and organizations can contact us [here](#) for the instructions and button.
- Encourage your local service organizations, churches and community centers to become aware of the problem of youth suicide and its prevention opportunities.
- Watch and listen to your children and pay attention to sudden changes in behavior that cause you concern.
- Be willing to seek professional help and guidance if you feel your child is becoming depressed or contemplating hurting him/herself.
- Talk openly and honestly with your child or your child's friends about your concerns and be supportive in helping them cope with their feelings.
- Use the Community Assistance Resource Line (C.A.R.L.) to talk with a professional, about any concerns you have about a young person or a situation. The C.A.R.L. Line is answered 24/7, is confidential and is provided at no-cost. 1-877-778-CARL(2275)

# WHAT TO DO

Youth who feel suicidal are not likely to seek help directly; however, parents, school personnel, and peers can recognize the warning signs and take immediate action to keep the youth safe. When a youth gives signs that they may be considering suicide, the following actions should be taken:

- Remain calm.
- Ask the youth directly if he or she is thinking about suicide (e.g., "Are you thinking of suicide?").
- Focus on your concern for their well-being and avoid being accusatory.
- Listen.
- Reassure them that there is help and they will not feel like this forever.
- Do not judge.
- Provide constant supervision. Do not leave the youth alone.
- Remove means for self-harm.
- Get help: No one should ever agree to keep a youth's suicidal thoughts a secret and instead should tell an appropriate caregiving adult, such as a parent, teacher, or school psychologist. Parents should seek help from school or community mental health resources as soon as possible. School staff should take the student to a school-employed mental health professional or administrator.



# PREVENTING YOUTH SUICIDE

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among school age youth. However, suicide is preventable. Youth who are contemplating suicide frequently give warning signs of their distress. Parents, teachers, and friends are in a key position to pick up on these signs and get help. Most important is to never take these warning signs lightly or promise to keep them secret. When all adults and students in the school community are committed to making suicide prevention a priority-and are empowered to take the correct actions-we can help youth before they engage in behavior with irreversible consequences.

## Parental Notification and Participation

Even if a youth is judged to be at low risk for suicidal behavior, schools may ask parents to sign a documentation form to indicate that relevant information has been provided. Parental notifications must be documented. Additionally, parents are crucial members of a suicide risk assessment as they often have information critical to making an appropriate assessment of risk, including mental health history, family dynamics, recent traumatic events, and previous suicidal behaviors. After a school notifies a parent of their child's risk for suicide and provides referral information, the responsibility falls upon the parent to seek mental health assistance for their child. Parents must:

- **Continue to take threats seriously:** Follow through is important even after the child calms down or informs the parent "they didn't mean it." Avoid assuming behavior is simply attention seeking (but at the same time avoid reinforcing suicide threats; e.g., by allowing the student who has threatened suicide to drive because they were denied access to the car).
- **Access school supports:** If parents are uncomfortable with following through on referrals, they can give the school psychologist permission to contact the referral agency, provide referral information, and follow up on the visit.
- **Maintain communication with the school:** After such an intervention, the school will also provide follow-up supports. Your communication will be crucial to ensuring that the school is the safest, most comfortable place for your child.

## SUICIDE RISK FACTORS

Although far from perfect predictors, certain characteristics are associated with increased odd of having suicidal thoughts.

These include:

- Mental illness including depression, conduct disorders, and substance abuse.
- Family stress/dysfunction.
- Environmental risks, including presence of a firearm in the home.
- Situational crises (e.g., traumatic death of a loved one, physical or sexual abuse, family violence).

## SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

Most suicidal youth demonstrate observable behaviors that signal their suicidal thinking.

These include:

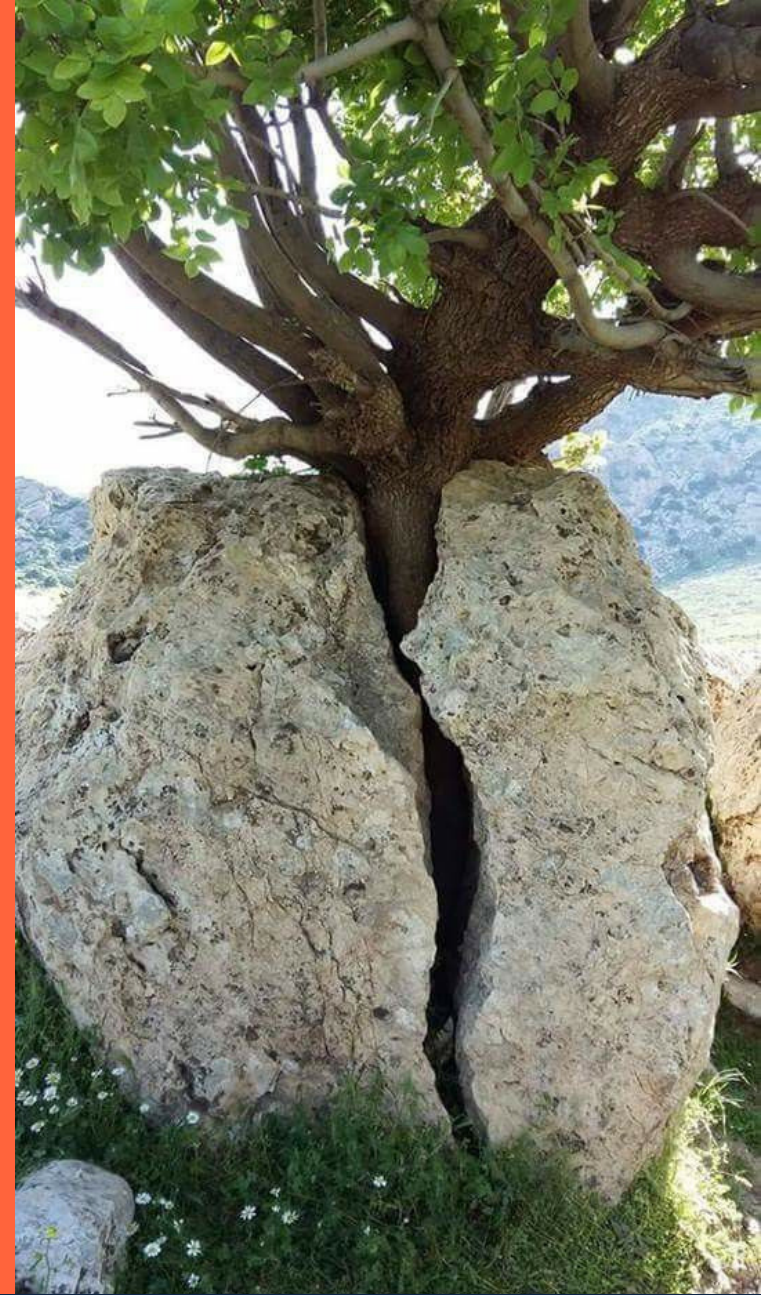
- Talking about or making plans for suicide.
- Expressing hopelessness about the future.
- Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
- Showing worrisome behavioral cues or marked changes in behavior, particularly in the presence of the warning signs above. Specifically, this includes significant:
  - Withdrawal from or changing in social connections/situations
  - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased)
  - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context
  - Recent increased agitation or irritability



# RESILIENCY FACTORS

The presence of resiliency factors can lessen the potential of risk factors to lead to suicidal ideation and behaviors. Once a child or adolescent is considered at risk, schools, families, and friends should work to build these factors in and around the youth. These include:

- Family support and cohesion, including good communication.
- Peer support and close social networks.
- School and community connectedness.
- Cultural or religious beliefs that discourage suicide and promote healthy living.
- Adaptive coping and problem-solving skills, including conflict-resolution.
- General life satisfaction, good self-esteem, sense of purpose.
- Easy access to effective medical and mental health resources.



# We Can All Prevent Suicide

## Hope Can Happen

Suicide is not inevitable for anyone. By starting the conversation, providing support, and directing help to those who need it, we can prevent suicides and save lives.

## We Can All Take Action

Evidence shows that providing support services, talking about suicide, reducing access to means of self-harm, and following up with loved ones are just some of the actions we can all take to help others.

## Crisis Centers are Critical

By offering immediate counseling to everyone that may need it, local crisis centers provide invaluable support at critical times and connect individuals to local services.

# #BeHereTomorrow

# Suicide Statistics

While this data is the most accurate we have, we estimate the numbers to be higher. Stigma surrounding suicide leads to underreporting, and data collection methods critical to suicide prevention need to be improved.

SUICIDE IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 24.

MORE TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS DIE FROM SUICIDE THAN FROM HEART DISEASE, AIDS, BIRTH DEFECTS, PNEUMONIA, INFLUENZA, CANCER, AND LUNG DISEASE COMBINED.

17% OF TEENAGERS HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE

EVERY 40 SECONDS, SOMEONE DIES BY SUICIDE GLOBALLY

# Hotlines for Parents

According to experts – symptoms of depression or other mental illnesses in adolescents are not to be ignored. If you're concerned about your teen, talk to him/her and seek professional help immediately. Below is a list of resources.

**National Suicide Hotline:** 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Both toll-free, 24-hour, confidential hotlines which connect you to a trained counselor at the nearest suicide crisis center.

**National Alliance of the Mentally Ill:** 1-800-950-6264

Toll-free, confidential hotline operating Mon.-Fri., 10 am- 6 pm (EST). Trained volunteers provide information, referrals, and support to anyone with questions about mental illness.

# Web Sites for Parents (page 1 of 3)

## **The Jed Foundation**

The Jed Foundation offers programs and resources that will help you learn more about your child's emotional health and what you can do to support them if they are struggling.

## **American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry**

Under the link to "Facts for Families," you can find detailed information on the symptoms of adolescent mental illness, and where to seek help.

## **Not My Kid**

A non-profit organization born out of the real life experience of a family dealing with substance abuse with their teenage son, this Web site provides information and resources for families about teens at risk for destructive behavior – including a list of warning signs and symptoms, and tips on how to take preventative action.

## **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**

A go-to resource for comprehensive information on all diagnosable mental illnesses, statistics, government-funded research and trials, and information about treatment. Its Child & Adolescent Mental Health page lists all the mental disorders that affect young people, and research and reports on each topic.

## **Protecting Your Child's Mental Health: What Can Parents Do?**

A Parenting guide from the JED Foundation.

[http://www.jedfoundation.org/assets/Programs/Program\\_downloads/parentsguide.pdf](http://www.jedfoundation.org/assets/Programs/Program_downloads/parentsguide.pdf)

# Web Sites for Parents (page 2 of 3)

## **About Our Kids: New York University's Child Study Center**

Devoted to improving the treatment of child psychiatric disorders through scientific practice, research, and education, and to eliminating the stigma of being or having a child with a psychiatric disorder. The Center's site offers parents thorough information on when and how to seek help, definitions and symptoms of mental illnesses, and a list of links to helpful resources online.

## **National Alliance on Mental Illness**

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country.

## **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

A non-profit organization dedicated to reducing loss of life from suicide. Its Web site offers tips on how to reach out to those at-risk for suicide, as well as helpful statistics and resources in every state.

## **The Suicide Prevention Action Network**

A non-profit organization dedicated to preventing suicide through public education and awareness, community action and federal, state and local grassroots advocacy. Its Web site serves as an online resource center aimed at providing authoritative and problem-specific information about suicide prevention.

## **Families for Depression Awareness**

An organization that helps families recognize and cope with depressive disorders, and prevent suicide. Its Web site contains helpful resources, and inspirational stories about recovering from mental illness.

# Web Sites for Parents (page 3 of 3)

## **DepressedTeens**

This Web site provides valuable information and educational resources that will help.

## **Teen Moods**

Teen Moods is a depression support community created by an adolescent with depression, and is open to all **including teens and parents.**

## **Depression Forums**

A supportive, informative Web site that offers a caring, safe environment for members to talk to their peers about depression, anxiety, mood disorders, medications, therapy and recovery.

## **Beech Acres Parenting Center**

Beech Acres Parenting Center offers parents guidance and support with its ultimate goal of strengthening parents' ability to raise children who achieve their unique potential.

## **[www.teenscreen.org](http://www.teenscreen.org)**

The TeenScreen National Center for Mental Health Checkups at Columbia University is a non-profit privately funded public health initiative working to increase youth access to regular mental health checkups and the early identification of mental illness. TeenScreen Schools and Communities is the National Center's flagship program, offering mental health checkups to youth through more than 500 local sites in 43 U.S. states. Visit the Web site to read facts/figures about teenage mental health, and to learn more about the National Center's programs and initiatives. You can also call the center's information line at 866-833-6727.





hope

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THIS GUIDE, WHILE EVIDENCE BASED, IS FOR INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE OR BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUICIDE PREVENTION ON FACEBOOK, GO TO:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HELP/SUICIDEPREVENTION](https://www.facebook.com/help/suicideprevention)

FOR RESOURCES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REPORTING A POST YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ON INSTAGRAM, GO TO THE INSTAGRAM HELP CENTER:

[HTTPS://HELP.INSTAGRAM.COM/](https://help.instagram.com/)  
SELECT PRIVACY AND SAFETY THEN REPORTING SOMETHING AND THEN SELF HARM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND HOW TO HELP YOURSELF OR A FRIEND, VISIT:

[WWW.HALFOFUS.COM](http://www.halfofus.com)

[HTTP://WWW.PBS.ORG/WNET/CRYFORHELP/FEATURED/RESOURCES-HOTLINES-AND-WEB-SITES-FOR-PARENTS/8/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/cryforhelp/featured/resources-hotlines-and-web-sites-for-parents/8/)

Instagram

