

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER (LGBT) RESOURCE CENTER**

LGBT Suicide Prevention

- Suicide is the third leading cause of adolescent mortality in the United States, accounting for 13 percent of deaths between ages 15 and 24.
- In 1996, more teenagers and young adults died of suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia and influenza, and chronic lung disease combined.
- According to Fleischer and Fillman (1995), a 1989 Department of Health Report on youth suicide found that gay and lesbian youth are up to five times more likely to attempt suicide.

Some Risk Factors for LGBT Youth

- Disclosed their identity to a greater extent, and by doing so, lost more friends and experienced more victimization
- Lower self-esteem
- Acknowledged more mental health problems
- Early Awareness
- Peer/Parental Rejection
- Victimization

Warning Signs

- Hopeless Comments
- Preoccupation with death
- School Problems
- Signs of depression
- Excessive use of alcohol or drugs
- Dramatic changes in Behavior
- Recent loss of friend or family member
- Giving Away Important Possession(s)
- Specific Suicide Plans

Suicide Hotlines and Websites

Suicide hotlines have compassionate people who may be able to help a person considering suicide think things through.

- California Youth Crisis Line, 1-800-843-5200: phone counseling, information and referrals. Message relay. Spanish when available.
<http://www.ccyfc.org>

- L.A. County/USC Medical Center, 1-323-226-5581: Full service psychiatric medical center. Outreach team gives referrals and evaluations for hospitalization. Provides other mental health services.
- Suicide Prevention Hotline, 1-877-727-4747 or 1-877-7-CRISIS or 1-310-391-1253: operates 24hrs a day 7 days a week. Part of Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center which includes adult, family, emergency, and substance abuse services. For more information check out: <http://www.didihirsch.org/index.html> and <http://www.suicidepreventioncenter.org/>
- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, 1-866-444-9752: outreach service to schools, you programs. Distributes cards so youth feel comfortable asking for help. Check out their website: <http://www.yrla.net>
- TEEN LINE, 1-800-TLC-TEEN: a confidential telephone help line for teenaged callers. It operates every evening from 6pm to 10pm and is toll-free from anywhere in California. When you call, you do not have to give your name, and everything you say will be strictly confidential. The TEEN LINE volunteers who answer the calls are Los Angeles area teenagers who have been trained. They will not judge you or give you advice – their job is to listen to your feelings and help you to clarify your concerns to define the options available to you, and to help you make positive decisions. No problem is too small, too large, or too shocking for the TEEN LINE volunteers. Visit: <http://www.teenlineonline.com>

Related Website

- www.suicidolgoy.org

Reference:

Teen Line's Youth Yellow Pages (6th edition)