

Resources—Preventing Youth Suicide

For Help—Organizations and Programs

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) -- The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. Click on [Contact Us](#) to chat 24/7.

[Hey Sam](#)-- Hey Sam is a dedicated peer-to-peer texting service for people up to 24 years old. Designed for and staffed by young people, Hey Sam gives youth the opportunity to reach peers if they are struggling, need someone to talk to, or need support. If you or someone you know is feeling lonely, depressed, overwhelmed, or suicidal, we are here for you. Whatever the reason, reach out. You are not alone. Text: 439-726 | Hours: 9AM-9PM

[Sharing Kindness](#) --Sharing Kindness, a Cape-based nonprofit provides suicide prevention, mental health education and grief support programs. Suicide prevention includes hosting the annual C&I Suicide Awareness Walk each May and partnering with schools to offer Hope Squad, an evidence-based, school-based peer suicide prevention program. Mental Health education includes community forums and documentaries on topics impacting mental health such as anxiety, suicide, racism, social media, and cyber-bullying. Peer Grief Support programs are offered for free and across the lifespan. [Sharing Kindness Young Adult Grief Group](#) --A new clinician-led peer grief support group. A place where young adults (18+) can connect and share their grief experiences. [Sharing Kindness Family Grief Support Groups](#) --Twice monthly, free grief support groups to meet the needs of family members—tweens (10-13), teens (14-18) and parents. A light supper followed by separate meetings for parents and for each age group. Studies show that grief support for children who have lost a parent or sibling reduces their risk for suicide, improves academics, decreases risk for substance use, and protects against entry into the juvenile justice system.

[The Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands](#)--a non-sectarian, non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to end suicide by fostering caring, connection, resilience, and public understanding. As members of the oldest and largest suicide prevention network in the world, we encourage our community to talk openly about suicide in order to best help and provide hope to those in need.

[The Trevor Project](#) --For young LGBTQ lives. Non-profit organization offers a toll-free telephone number where confidential assistance is provided by trained counselors. Learn how to help yourself and others.

[NAMI Cape Cod & the Islands Resources](#) (National Alliance on Mental Illness) -- a grass-roots non-profit organization serving the families and friends of people with mental illness, as well as the individuals who have a mental illness themselves on Cape Cod and The Islands. Programs and Services are provided through Support, Education, and Advocacy. We are an affiliate of both [NAMI Massachusetts](#) and [NAMI National](#) in Washington D.C.

[Cape & Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition Resources](#) --The mission of the Cape and Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition is to help give Cape Cod and Island communities the necessary information and tools to raise awareness, promote education, and increase action to reduce suicides.

[Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Gun Violence](#)-- a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization focusing on gun violence prevention and firearm safety. Our mission is to educate our members, collaborate with other groups who share our concerns, and advocate for public policy and legislation leading to reduced gun violence in all our communities.

[Care Solace-a School-based program in Chelmsford, MA](#) Care Solace can help students and family members quickly find treatment options matched to individual needs. Care Solace is a free and confidential service provided to students, staff, and their families by Chelmsford Public Schools. Care Solace's team is available 24/7/365 and can support you in any language.

[Duffy Health Center](#) – For more than 30 years, the Duffy Health Center, Hyannis, has provided equitable, integrated primary health care and support services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness on Cape Cod, and has improved the quality of life for vulnerable and marginalized populations through community collaborations, leadership, and advocacy. The agency is considered a leader in treatment, recovery and mental health services that are supportive and collaborative with community partners.

[Everytown for Gun Safety](#) – the largest gun violence prevention organization in America and a movement of nearly 10 million mayors, teachers, survivors, gun owners, students, and everyday Americans. They sponsor *Moms Demand Action*, *Students Demand Action*, and *The Everytown Survivor Network*.

[988 Partner Toolkit SAMHSA](#) --Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) explains the 988 National Helpline so that governments, states, territories, tribes, crisis centers, and partners gain a clear understanding about what 988 is and how it will work. It offers outreach materials for your community coalitions to meet the needs of your audiences.

[The Jason Foundation](#) --a private, non-profit foundation providing students, parents, and teachers the tools and resources to help identify and help at-risk youth. This is accomplished through a curriculum unit for students and informational seminars for teachers and parents. JFI's intention is to empower youth, educators, and parents to help recognize when young people are in pain and know to get professional help involved as soon as possible. The Foundation reports that, for middle and high school age youth (ages 12-18), suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death. For college age youth (ages 18-22), suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death. Over-all, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for our youth ages 10-24.

Statistics and Reports

[ABC News](#) -- *Gun suicide soars as cause of death among youth: Report.* Nearly half of all suicide attempts among young people involve a gun. June 2, 2022.

[The Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System \(YRBS\) of the CDC](#)--The **Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBS)** is a survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that includes national, state, and local school-based representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students. The purpose is to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth in the United States. The surveys are conducted every two years to determine the prevalence of these health risk behaviors. Behaviors that contribute to unhealthy lifestyles and those that indicate possible depression and/or suicidal ideation are included. [Click here to see the full report.](#)

[Everytown Research and Policy](#) -- Everytown Research & Policy conducts independent, methodologically rigorous [research](#), supports evidence-based policies, and communicates this knowledge to the public.

[Cape Cod Times](#)-- Teen girls report record levels of violence, sadness and suicide risk, CDC survey finds. Data showed 57% of high school girls felt persistently sad or hopeless in 2021 – a nearly 60% increase and the highest level reported over the past decade. In comparison, 29% of boys the same age reported the same feelings. Published 2/13/2023.

[CDC](#)-- Drug overdose deaths among adolescents increased substantially beginning in late 2019. Although deaths appear to have begun declining in late 2021, they are still alarmingly higher than in 2019. Urgent efforts to prevent overdose deaths among adolescents are needed. Collaboration among public health and safety agencies, physicians, mental health and substance use treatment providers, and educators to implement these efforts could save lives. MMWR December 16, 2022 / 71(50);1576–1582

[CNN Health](#) Youth depression and anxiety doubled during the pandemic, new analysis finds, By Sarah Molano, Tue August 10, 2021. 12:42 PM EDT

[NY Times](#) – A briefing. *Gun Violence and Children.* Guns are now the No. 1 cause of deaths among American children and teens, ahead of car crashes, other injuries, and congenital disease. Dec. 15, 2022.

[U.S. News](#) Youth depression and anxiety doubled during the pandemic, new analysis finds, Sarah Molano, CNN, published 12:42 PM EDT, Tue August 10, 2021 We've seen nearly a 5-fold increase in suicidal ideation of children from 10 to 12 since 2000.

[U.S. News](#) Suicide Rate Is Spiking Upwards in Preadolescent Children, March 15, 2022, at 11:49 a.m. Suicide is now the leading cause of death for Asian American youth and the second leading cause of death for young people nationally.

[CDC WISQARS](#) The CDC's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System reports an alarming increase in suicides in children ages 10 – 14. The number of suicides for this group has more than doubled since 2006, making it the second leading cause of death for that age group. More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease, combined. Each day in our nation, there are an average of over 3,703 attempts by young people grades 9-12. If these percentages are additionally applied to grades 7 & 8, the numbers would be higher. Four out of five individuals considering suicide give some sign of their intentions, either verbally or behaviorally.