



## SUICIDE RISK DETECTION & INTERVENTIONS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS:

**WHAT DO WE NEED?**

Jane Pearson  
Chair, NIMH Suicide Research  
Consortium

| Rank | <1   | 1-4   | 5-9                               | 10-14 | 15-24                | 25-34 | 35-44                | 45-54 | 55-64                | 65+    | Total         |
|------|--|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|---------------|
| 1    | Congestive Heart Failure                     | 1,316 | Unintentional Injury              | 746   | Unintentional Injury | 775   | Unintentional Injury | 1,161 | Unintentional Injury | 1,132  | Heart Disease |
| 2    | Stroke                                       | 4,728 | Unintentional Injury              | 4,292 | Unintentional Injury | 4,412 | Unintentional Injury | 4,448 | Unintentional Injury | 4,485  | Heart Disease |
| 3    | National Research Camp                       | 937   | Congestive Heart Failure          | 170   | Unintentional Injury | 448   | Unintentional Injury | 4,818 | Unintentional Injury | 4,820  | Heart Disease |
| 4    | SIDS   | 1,593 | Malignant Neoplasms               | 102   | Unintentional Injury | 4,386 | Unintentional Injury | 4,386 | Unintentional Injury | 4,386  | Heart Disease |
| 5    | Pneumonia                                    | 1,106 | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 152   | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 10,341 | Heart Disease |
| 6    | Pneumonia & Other Lower Respiratory Diseases | 953   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 75    | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 20,457 | Heart Disease |
| 7    | Bacterial Septicemia                         | 578   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 67    | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 8,785  | Heart Disease |
| 8    | Bacterial Septicemia                         | 522   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 64    | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 15,422 | Heart Disease |
| 9    | Cirrhosis                                    | 458   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 53    | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 11,061 | Heart Disease |
| 10   | Hypertension                                 | 389   | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 47    | Unintentional Injury | 3,673 | Malignant Neoplasms  | 1,045 | Unintentional Injury | 83,786 | Heart Disease |

Data Source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC using WISQARS™

Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™



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## Presenter Disclosure



### National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

The Action Alliance is *the* Public/Private Partnership Advancing the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) in the U.S.

**The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation exist:**

No relationships to disclose.

200+ organizations are involved in Action Alliance activities (via the Executive Committee, 14 Task Forces, Priority Initiatives, and Advisory Groups).

- **Mission:** To advance the NSSP by:
  - *Championing* suicide prevention as a national priority.
  - *Catalyzing* efforts to implement high-priority objectives from the NSSP.
  - *Cultivating* the resources needed to sustain progress.



## Examples of National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Efforts to Improve Suicide Prevention in Healthcare

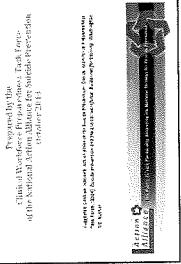


**A Prioritized Research Agenda for Suicide Prevention:**  
An Action Plan to Save Lives  
Behavioral Health Care Task Force

Action  
Agenda



### Suicide Prevention and the Clinical Workforce: Guidelines for Training



<http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/>

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## Research Prioritization Task Force Overarching Goal

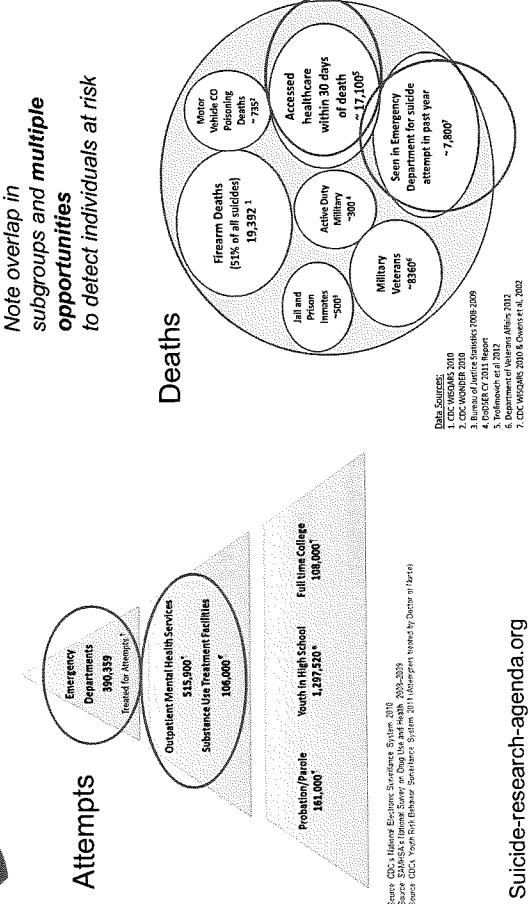


**A Prioritized Research Agenda for Suicide Prevention:**  
An Action Plan to Save Lives  
Behavioral Health Care Task Force

**Overall U.S. rates of suicide deaths have not decreased appreciably in 50 years. Each year, over 678,000 individuals report that they received medical attention for a suicide attempt; each year, more than 30,000 individuals die by suicide.**

**RPTF Goal:** To develop an agenda for research that has the *potential* to reduce morbidity (attempts) and mortality (deaths) each, by at least 20% in 5 years, and 40% or greater in 10 years, if implemented successfully.

## Suicide Burden (Attempts; Deaths) in the United States



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## Information on Suicide Events Reported by Healthcare Facilities

**2004 through 2014 (N=856)**  
*The majority of events have multiple root causes*

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Assessment             | 684 |
| Communication          | 503 |
| Human Factors          | 471 |
| Leadership             | 440 |
| Physical Environment   | 342 |
| Information Management | 190 |
| Continuum of Care      | 163 |
| Care Planning          | 158 |
| Medication Use         | 51  |
| Special Interventions  | 24  |

■ Death  
■ Serious Injury

FIGURE 22:  
Suicide or Attempted Suicide, 2004-2014

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## Research Indicating a Large Proportion of US Decedents Access Care Before they Die by Suicide



### 6 Key Qs and 12 AGs (continued)

#### National Violent Death Reporting System for 18 states

57,877 adult (age 18+) suicides from years 2005 through 2010

**28.5% (16,470) had received treatment *within two months* of suicide.** Niederkrotenthaler et al 2014

#### HMO settings – all types of care settings (ED, specialty, primary care, etc)

**83% of participants (all age groups) of the Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) *within 12 months* of suicide death.** Ahmedani et al 2014

#### Active Duty Military During 2001-2010

**45% of suicide decedents and 75% of attempters had outpatient encounters *within 30 days* prior to suicide/self-harm.** Trofimovich et al., 2012



## 6 Key Questions & 12 Aspirational Goals (AGs)



### Settings Where Known At-Risk Groups are Found Adult Suicide Attempters in Emergency Care

#### 136 million ED visits that occur annually in the United States

**■ 390,000 (.3%) are adults seen for suicide attempts**

2011 data: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/emergency-department.htm>

**■ Estimated 15% (58,500) will reattempt; 2% (7,800) will die by suicide *within 12 months* [additional 1% die from other causes]**

UK figures: Owens et al 2002

**■ 7,800 = ~ 20% of all U.S. Suicide Decedents Access ED**

**NIMH Research (ED-SAFE) findings to date:** Implementing universal screening led to a nearly two-fold increase in identification of suicide risk (severe ideation): from 2.9% to 5.7% of all adult ED patients

Boudreax et al 2014. Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting

An improvement of 3% detection translates to 3 million more at risk individuals identified and helped

#### Question 4: What Services Are Most Effective for Treating the Suicidal Person and Preventing Suicidal Behavior?

Aspirational Goal 7: Ensure that health care providers and others in the community are well trained in how to find and treat those at-risk.

Aspirational Goal 8: Ensure that people at risk for suicidal behavior can access affordable care that works, no matter where they are.

Aspirational Goal 9: Ensure that people getting care for suicidal thoughts and behaviors are followed throughout their treatment so they don't fall through the cracks.

Aspirational Goal 10: Increase help-seeking and referrals for at-risk individuals by decreasing stigma.

#### Question 5: What Other Types of Preventive Interventions (Outside Health Care Settings) Reduce Suicide Risk?

Aspirational Goal 11: Prevent the emergence of suicidal behavior by developing and delivering the most effective prevention programs to build resilience and reduce risk in broad-based populations.

Aspirational Goal 12: Reduce access to lethal means that people use to attempt suicide.

#### Question 6: What Existing Infrastructure Can Be Better Utilized, and What New Infrastructure Needs Must Be Met in Order to Further Reduce Suicidal Behavior in the United States?

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## In Progress: Screening with Youth in EDs

### Leveraging neurocognitive and statistical approaches to better estimate risk among youth in emergency care

NIMH funded Emergency Department Screen For Teens at Risk for Suicide (ED-STARS) taking place in 14 sites. In addition to the Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ; Horowitz et al 2012), the study includes innovative approaches to screening and assessment:

- Implicit Association Task (Cha et al., 2010)
- Approach similar to the Computerized Adaptive Screen (Gibbons et al. 2013)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2014/personalized-screen-to-id-suicidal-teens-in-14-ers.shtml>

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## Veteran's Administrations National Registry for Depression (NARDEP)

Among 887,859 depressed VA patients, researchers examined suicide rates for five sequential 12-week periods following treatment events that health systems can readily identify:

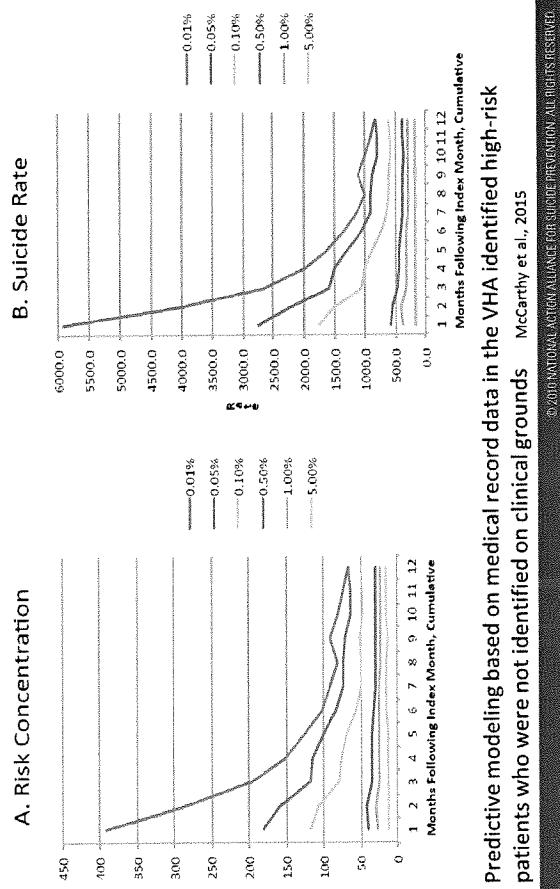
- Psychiatric hospitalizations 568/100,000
- New antidepressant starts (>6 months without fills) 210/100,000
- “Other” antidepressant starts 193/100,000
- Medication dose changes 154/100,000

Valenstein et al., 2009

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## Identifying Adults in Health Care Systems at High Risk for Suicide is Possible: Veterans Health Care Example



## What Do We Need? More Available, Effective Interventions

Psychotherapy interventions appear robust for adults who made attempts...

Erlangsen (et al 2015) case control study of Danish health care registry, where 5678 recipients of psychosocial therapy and 17,034 controls followed for 20 years:

- Reduced risk for attempt by 16%;
- Reduced risk for suicide deaths by 25%;
- Reduced risk for death of any cause by 31%.

**Short-term and long-term effects of psychosocial therapy for people after deliberate self-harm: a register-based, nationwide multicentre study using propensity score matching**

Annette Erlangsen, Berit Ditt Lind, Elizabeth A. Stewart, Ring Jin, Elizabeth Stenmark, Kim Juul Larsen, August E. Wang, Marianne Hord, Ann Gøtzsche, Christian Møller Petersen, Jan Henrik Winkel, Charlotte Mikkelsen, Birthe Mikkelsen, Birthe Mikkelsen, Birthe Mikkelsen

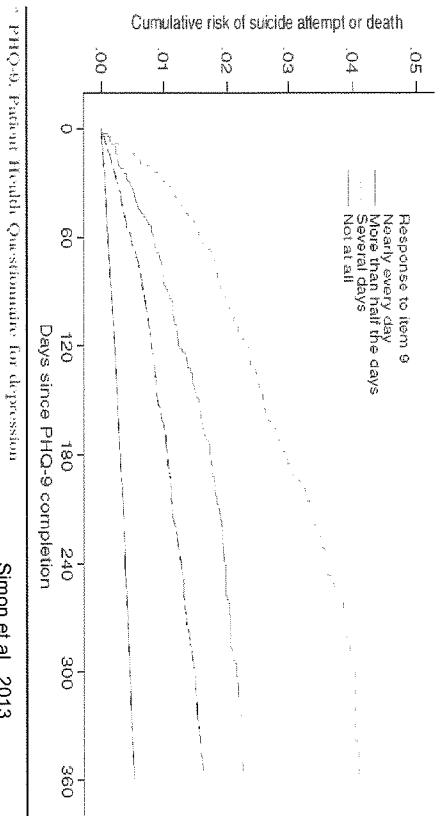
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# Identify High Risk Patients over 12 Months Using Medical Records



Figure 1

Cumulative risk of suicide attempt or death among 84,418 responders to PHQ-9 item 9 in 2007–2011<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> PHQ-9, Patient Health Questionnaire for depression

Simon et al., 2013

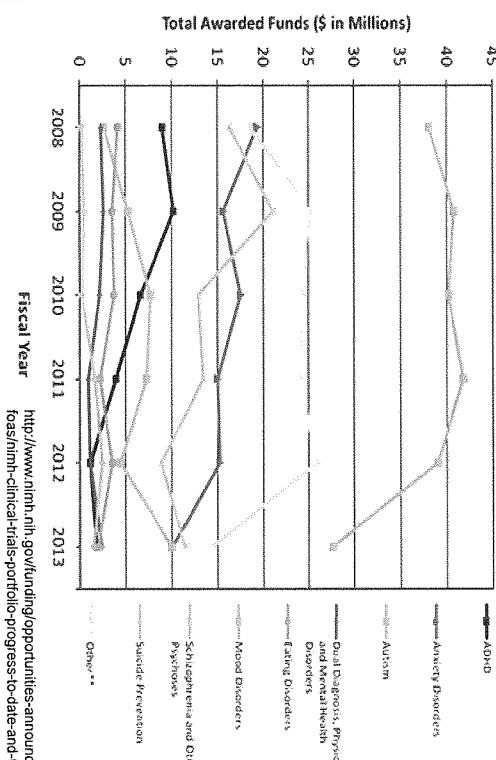


Figure 2: NIMH Awards to Clinical Trials by Disease  
FY 2008 – FY 2013  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/funding/opportunities/announcements/cClinical-Trials-foas/nimh-clinical-trials-portfolio-progress-to-date-and-the-road-forward.shtml>

# What Do We Need? More Trials for Suicide Prevention



## References 1 of 4

- Pragmatic trial testing interventions within systems:
- Routine screening in primary care (e.g., Patient Health Questionnaire PHQ-9) item 9, and its associated risk for suicide within the year (Simon et al., 2013), led to testing an intervention to reduce suicide ideation <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2014/groundbreaking-suicide-study.shtml>
- ~20,000 patients with severe ideation assigned to 1 of 3 conditions-- Treatment as usual; Henry Ford/collaborative care; and "Now Matters Now" – developed by Whiteside (et al 2014) as an educational website that teaches DBT skills. This intervention (e.g., approach; content) was informed by persons with 'lived experience'. <http://www.nowmattersnow.org/>
- Differences in suicide rates at 18 months will be examined



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Joint Commission (see p. 24 for suicide events)  
[http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/Root\\_Causes\\_by\\_Event\\_Type\\_2004-2014.pdf](http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/Root_Causes_by_Event_Type_2004-2014.pdf)

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