Suicide in Idaho

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for Idahoans age 15-34 and for males age 10-14. (The leading cause of death is accidents.)
- Idaho is consistently among the states with the highest suicide rates. In 2010 (the most recent year available) Idaho had the 6th highest suicide rate, 49% higher than the national average.
- In 2012, 299 people completed suicide in Idaho; a slight increase from 2011.
- A ten percent (10%) reduction in Idaho suicide attempts can immediately save over $4 million per year in medical costs alone. If the cost burden of suicide in Idaho was evenly distributed over the population (2008) the burden would amount to over $250 for every person living in Idaho (Piland, 2010).

Staffing Information

- This quarter volunteers contributed a total of 2,346 hours to the Hotline for an in-kind value of $44,620 (for 2014, 4,560 hours, valued at $87,129). ISPH has trained 87 volunteers since launch with 56 volunteers currently active.

- Current staff consists of one full time Project Director, a part time Volunteer Coordinator, 6 part time Phone Room Supervisors and an Americorp Volunteer (3.85 FTE).

2014 Program Goals

- Implement Contact USA accreditation recommendations (accredited December 2013).
- Expand 24/7 phone response.
- Develop and implement sustainable funding strategy.
- Increase statewide awareness of hotline.

Caller Issues

- Mental Health 31%
- Addiction 2%
- Interpersonal 16%
- 2nd Quarter 2014 Caller Issues
- Physical Health 4%
- Financial 8%
- Suicide 39%

“Enough Idahoans are lost to suicide annually to fill a commercial jet airplane. It is estimated that suicide attempts in Idaho result in $36 million in costs annually. The Hotline, with an annual budget of less than 1% of the annual cost of suicide attempts in Idaho, is a cost effective program to address this problem.”

—John R. Reusser, LCSW, ISPH Director