

## **SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Myth: If a suicidal youth tells a friend, a friend will tell an adult.*

**Fact: Most suicidal young people do not tell an adult.**

### **Good Friends Don't Keep Deadly Secrets**

Warning signs to look for in young people:

- Change in interaction with family and friends
- Recent disappointment or rejection
- Sudden decline or improvement in academic performances
- Physical symptoms: eating disturbances, changes in sleep patterns, chronic headaches, stomach problems, menstrual irregularities
- Increased apathy
- Being expelled from school/ fired from job
- Family problems/ alienation
- Feeling embarrassed or humiliated in front of peers
- Victim of assault or bullying

### **Some things you need to know about suicidal young people:**

- Many young people are reluctant to seek or accept help for any problem, including suicide. This seems to be especially true for males. Part of this may be due to the fact that males often feel less comfortable than females in talking about their problems or feelings. Therefore, if you are at all suspicious that a teenaged boy or young man may be suicidal, be bold and persistent in your efforts to be helpful.
- In general, boys and young men are less likely to recognize their own symptoms of depression or to seek treatment when they feel bad. Instead, they often drink heavily or use drugs to try to feel better. Boys also tend to use firearms or other highly lethal means to kill themselves.
- While girls and young women are almost twice as likely to suffer from depression, their depressive illness may be less impulsive and violent than depression in boys. Perhaps as a result, boys complete suicide much more frequently than girls.
- Lastly, adolescent boys and young men are more likely than girls to have experienced a crisis sometime in 24 hours prior to a suicide attempt (especially in relation to break-ups with a girlfriend, disciplinary problems, legal crisis or humiliating events).

**If you are concerned about your student or friend you can call:**

**Youth Crisis Line**

**1-800-371-4373 (HERE)**