

Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly (YSPA) 2006 Annual Report
Executive Summary

- A downward trend continues in the number of youth and young adult suicides in New Hampshire. 2006 had the lowest number of deaths during the past ten years with a total of 12 youth and young adults who took their own lives (10 males and 2 females). 2006 was also unique in that there were no suicide deaths of youth age 18 or under. This is all positive news, but in a state as small as New Hampshire, these numbers have the potential to vary greatly from year to year. It should also not be assumed that the problem of youth and young adult suicide has been “solved”. Keeping the number of youth and young adult deaths in New Hampshire low will require continued effort and support from all parties.
- A marked decrease in youth and young adult suicide deaths by firearms was found between 1997-2001 and 2002-2006. From 1997 to 2001 firearms accounted for 54 percent of all youth and young adult suicide deaths, while from 2002 to 2006, firearms accounted for only 40 percent of all youth and young adult suicide deaths. Even with this decrease, firearms are still the most common method used by youth and young adults in completed suicides. It should be noted that there was also a decrease in the proportion of suicides with drugs or poisoning as the method and an increase in the percentage of suicides by hanging. Overall, however, the decrease in suicides by firearms seems to have resulted in the decrease in the total number of suicide deaths.
- The primary focus of this report, and YSPA overall is on youth and young adult suicide prevention. This focus has begun to broaden as we look at suicide prevention across the lifespan. At the state level, the Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) is charged with addressing suicide as a problem for individuals of all ages.
- New Hampshire continues to move ahead with implementation of its State Suicide Prevention Plan. YSPA, the Suicide Prevention Council and the Frameworks Project continue to work collaboratively with each other and both public and private partners across the state to identify and implement effective measures to reduce suicidal behavior.
- More information on each of these points can be found in the report