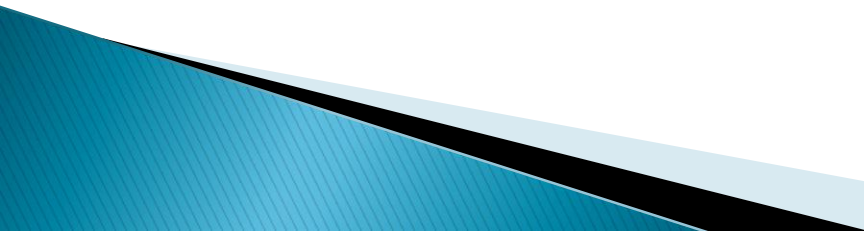


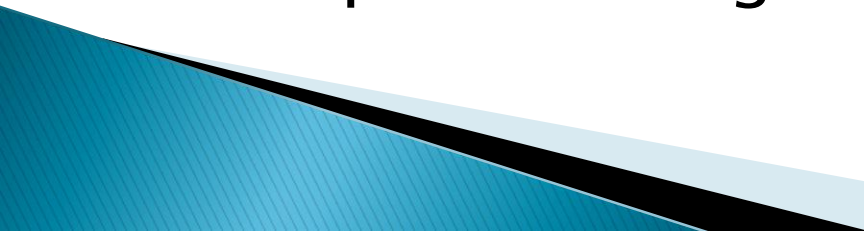
The Georgia Suicide Prevention Program

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Suicides and Suicide Attempts in Georgia


- ▶ Suicide and suicide attempts are two sides of the same coin. Both are violence against the self with the intent to die.
 - ▶ Each year in Georgia the number of suicides rises. We are approaching 1,000 suicides in 2008.
 - ▶ We have been seeing a decline in the rate of suicides but anticipate the suicide rate to increase when the data comes out from 2009 and 2010.
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Suicides and Suicide Attempts in Georgia

- ▶ Youth have the lowest rate and number of suicides and the highest rate and number of suicide attempts
 - ▶ Middle aged men have the highest number of suicide deaths
 - ▶ Older adults have the highest rate of suicide
 - ▶ Men are four times more likely than women to complete suicide
 - ▶ About 2/3 of the suicide deaths are completed using firearms
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Gwinnett County

In 2007 Gwinnett County:

- ▶ Had the second largest number of suicide deaths (70) in Georgia behind Fulton
 - ▶ Had the second largest number of suicide deaths of middle aged men 40 –55 (35) in Georgia behind Fulton
 - ▶ Had the third largest number of suicide deaths of youth 10–24 (9) in Georgia behind Fulton and Cobb
 - ▶ Had the fourth largest number of suicide deaths (9) of older adults over 60 in Georgia behind DeKalb, Cobb and Fulton
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Georgia Provides Strong Leadership in Suicide Prevention

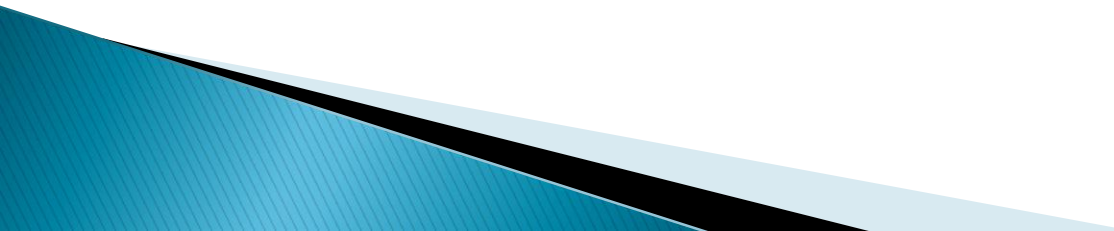
- ▶ Georgia has produced some of the most effective leaders in the suicide prevention movement:
 - Iris Bolton of The Link
 - Dr. Satcher, former Surgeon General
 - Jerry and Elsie Wyrich of The Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN)
 - The Georgia Suicide Prevention Coalition
- ▶ Georgia was the first state to produce a State Suicide Prevention Plan – Saving Lives in Georgia based on international and national plans. Our State Plan is 10 years old in 2010.

The Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan (2001) Guides Our Work

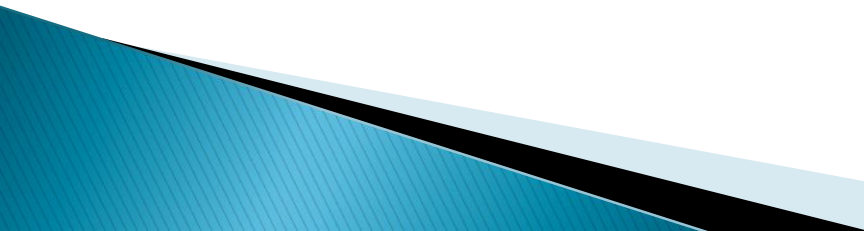
The main components of the "life span approach" Plan are:

- AWARENESS
 - Increasing awareness; reducing stigma
- INTERVENTION
 - Community gatekeeper training
 - Professional training
 - Evidence-based programs for general and at-risk populations
- METHODOLOGY
 - Surveillance (tracking numbers and rates over time)
 - Evaluation
 - Research

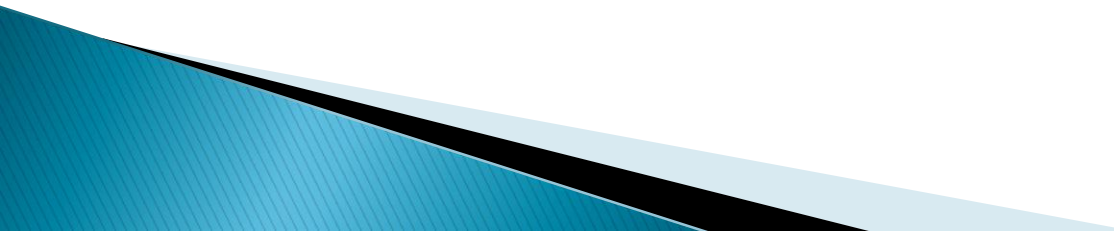
The Suicide Prevention Program

- ▶ Georgia General Assembly created the program in 2006 with limited funding
 - ▶ The program was first housed in the DHR Division of Public Health and moved in 2009 to the new Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, thus merging the public health approach and a behavioral health approach.
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The Infrastructure of the Suicide Prevention Program

- ▶ Serving all of Georgia
 - ▶ Envisions prevention as universal and targeted
 - ▶ State staff consists of the coordinator, state Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Director, a part time epidemiologist and part time executive secretary
 - ▶ Local work is supported by local suicide prevention coalitions. Currently we have five active coalitions and are anticipating five more in the next year.
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What Are Georgians' Top Priorities for Suicide Prevention Activities

1. Community Education
 2. Professional Education
 3. Evidence-based prevention programs
 4. Coalitions so citizens can participate
 5. Seamless system of care
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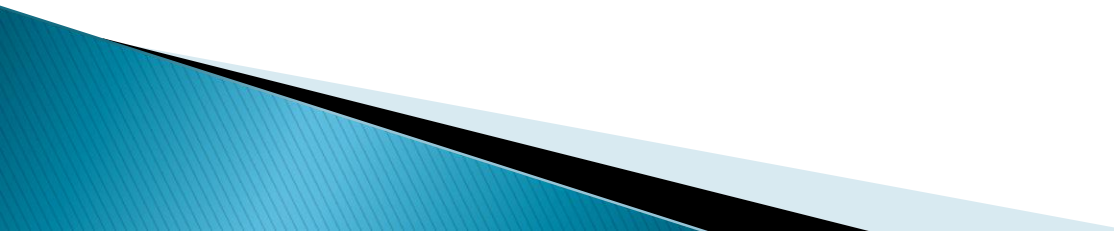
Here's How You Can Help

- ▶ Provide awareness and stigma reduction activities to the communities in your area
 - Large community awareness events
 - Join in other organizations awareness events such as Lisa's Ride and the Out of the Darkness Walks
 - Provide suicide prevention material at other community events
 - Provide awareness materials to important groups such as law enforcement, funeral directors, parents, etc.

Here's How You Can Help


- ▶ Sustain the work through developing local trainers in gatekeeper training
 - QPR
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - ▶ Sustain the work by supporting professional education
 - Package of Programs for Mental Health Professionals
 - Means Reduction Education
 - Primary Care Physicians
- 

Here's How You Can Help

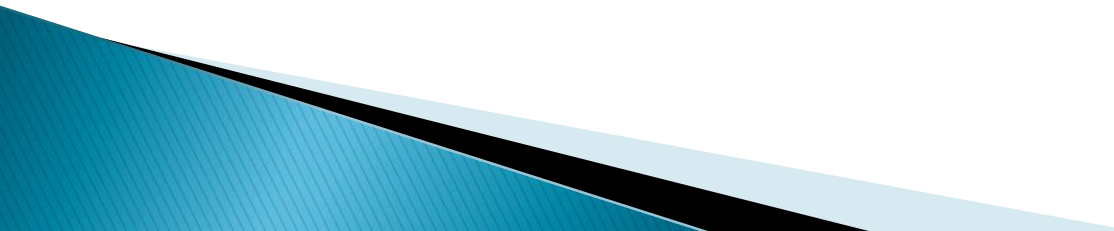
- ▶ Sustain the work by supporting survivors of suicide deaths to lead peer led support efforts
 - SOS Groups
 - Home Visits
 - ▶ Sustain the work by supporting consumers of mental health and substance abuse services to lead peer led support efforts including suicide prevention
 - Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network
 - Federation of Families
- 

Here's How You Can Help

Work with the System of Care for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- ▶ Educate the system of care on suicide risk and resilience, warning signs, and how to get help. Cross-training is very effective.
 - ▶ Educate the professionals in the system of care about effective screening, evaluation, and intervention.
 - ▶ Link system of care collaboratives with suicide prevention coalitions for developing effective systems of care with no breaks in service.
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Here's How You Can Help

- ▶ Bring as many stakeholders as possible into the coalition
 - ▶ Sustain the work by supporting coalitions and bringing best practices statewide and nationally to local service providers and other local coalitions.
 - ▶ Sustain the work by building databases, surveillance, and evaluation of all programs.
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Contact Information

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