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# Email Alert

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Updating you about current events in the battle against addictions

## New Study Looks at Suicide in the US

In 2008, the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) undertook a large national survey to examine the public health issue of suicide. According to the findings, 8 million American adults seriously considered suicide in the last year. In addition to those who considered suicide, more than 2 million made a plan and about 1 million actually attempted it.

The study showed significant age related differences. Adults between the ages of 18 and 25 were two to three times as likely to have considered suicide as those between the ages of 26 and 49 and those over the age of 50.

Women were slightly more likely than men to report suicidal thoughts or behaviors. About two-third of individuals who attempted suicide received medical attention for their attempt. Nearly one half required one or more nights in the hospital for treatment of their attempt.

Substance abuse was associated with an increased risk of considering, planning or attempting suicide. Compared to individuals without substance abuse disorders, individuals with substance abuse disorders were about four times as likely to have seriously considered suicide or to have planned suicide and almost seven times as likely to have attempted suicide.

Eric Broderick, acting administrator of SAMHSA said "...the magnitude of the public health crisis revealed by this study should motivate us as a nation to do everything possible to reach out and help the millions who are at risk -- preferably well before they are in immediate danger...."

**September is National Suicide Prevention Month**

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