



### **SUICIDE RISK FACTORS**

- **Mental illness** (90% of adolescent suicide victims have at least one diagnosable psychiatric illness at the time of death, most often depression, substance abuse, and conduct disorders)
- **Substance abuse** (In about 2/3 of youth suicides, substance abuse or dependence was involved)
- **Firearms** (Having a firearm in the home greatly increases the risk of adolescent suicide.)
- **Stress** (Suicide may be triggered when the victim has gotten into some sort of trouble or has experienced recent disappointment or rejection. Family disruptions such as discord, domestic violence, separation/divorce, or frequent moves may be a factor.)
- **Previous attempt** (20% to 50% of adolescent suicide victims have made a previous attempt.)