ROBERT L. KAROL, PH.D., L.P., ABPP, CBIST

SUICIDE AND BRAIN INJURY

ORAL PRESENTATION AND ALL SLIDES © KAROL 2017

THIS IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE, ALL-ENCOMPASSING DELINATION OF SUICIDE
Epidemiological research in the United States found that people with TBI (all severity levels) had an 8% lifetime rate of suicide attempts, compared with 2% for the population as a whole.

“People with severe TBI are four times more likely to commit suicide compared with the general population”.

Cited by and Quotes From:


WARNING SIGNS
VERBAL THREATS
SEEKING METHODS
SEEKING ACCESS
TALKING/Writing ABOUT DEATH


WARNING SIGNS
HOPELESSNESS
ANGER, REVENGE
RISK TAKING
FEELING NO SOLUTIONS
INCREASE ALCOHOL/DRUG USE
WITHDRAWAL
CHANGE IN SLEEP
ANXIETY
NO PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR


HOPELESSNESS
WARNING SIGNS
HOPELESSNESS
ANGER, REVENGE
RISK TAKING
FEELING NO SOLUTIONS
INCREASE ALCOHOL/DRUG USE
WITHDRAWAL
CHANGE IN SLEEP
ANXIETY
NO PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR

HOW YOU PRESENT
SURPRISED
SHOCKED
OVERWHELMED
DISAPPROVING
JUDGEMENTAL
ACCEPTING
CONCERNED
EMPATHETIC
SUPPORTIVE
CONFIDENT
REASSURING

QUESTIONS
IDEATION
PREFERRED METHOD
PLAN
ACCESS
INTENT

YES, WE REALLY...

ASK THESE QUESTIONS

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAYING:

"I WISH I HAD DIED IN THE ACCIDENT."

OR

"IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I HAD DIED."

VERSUS

"I WANT TO KILL MYSELF."

-- BUT DO ASK: "ARE YOU SAYING..."
Risk Factors
- Past Attempts
- Substance Abuse
- Psychiatric Dx
- Impulsivity
- Recent Losses
- Family/Friends Hx of Attempts
- Abuse Hx
- Lack of Spirituality
- Lack of Support
- Lack of Family
- Lack of Therapeutic Relationship
- Poor Coping/P.S. Skills


Preferred Method
RESPONSE: HAVE A SAFETY PLAN
STAY WITH PERSON
INFORM TEAM/SUPERVISOR
INFORM PSYCHOLOGIST
LIMIT OR CONTROL ACCESS
CHART
911

PASSES/OUTINGS

VALUES