



# International Association for Suicide Prevention

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The International Association for Suicide Prevention continues to encourage the sharing of research and evidence related to mental health and suicide prevention to strengthen and inform collective efforts to raise consciousness of this issue. IASP also calls upon member states to remain vigilant and reactive to changes in suicide trends and to include mental health and suicide prevention in COVID-19 national and international response and recovery plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge countries the world over and the mental health impacts may be felt for generations. Since the pandemic began, where contemporaneous data is available, a significant increase in suicide has not, as yet, been seen. However, we share concerns about the longer term impact; current data does not provide a global picture accounting for the varied and significant challenges countries currently face around the world.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds. We therefore welcome the recent launch of the 'Helping Adolescents Thrive Toolkit' launch by the WHO & UNICEF in efforts to prevent the onset of mental health conditions during adolescence.

The WHO Mental Health Action Plan's focus on achieving the target rate of reducing suicides in countries by one third by 2030, alongside the suicide mortality SDG indicator 3.4.2, is imperative. Renewed efforts are required:

- Towards awareness and understanding; accessible communications to reach at-risk, marginalized people, that are sensitive of their potential impact on mental health.
- Towards reducing stigma; human rights violations against people with mental health conditions are numerous and widespread around the world.
- Towards workplace support; work and working conditions is one of the key social determinants of mental health; and towards helping adolescents secure their mental wellbeing.

IASP calls on member states to action strategic plans to meet these targets by 2030 and stands ready to assist alongside WHO.