

Thursday, 31 March 2016

Communications and Knowledge Management

TEN THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN REPORTING SUICIDE

1. Leave out technical details about the method of suicide, such as describing the type of firearm used or the number and type of pills taken, and mention when suggest that a method is used, help others in search for help to death.
2. Language matters. Avoid dramatic headlines and terms such as 'suicide epidemic' or 'suicide wave'.
3. Include references to support groups and professional help. People can feel help is only there when it's different. [Samaritans 116 123](#)
4. Treat suicidal people with particular caution and when discussing suicides or networks that promote or glorify suicide.
5. Avoid all events or social media pictures or video taken from including content from suicide cases.
6. Young people are especially vulnerable to negative media coverage. Do not give undue prominence to photographs of a young person who has died and avoid repeated use of images such as children.

7. To not to give a story undue prominence, for example with front cover choice.
8. Don't focus on the suicide method of suicide and to report on those left behind. Remember that people bereaved by suicide are often vulnerable and are more likely to seek help than the rest of the general population.
9. Speculation about the 'trigger' for a suicide, even if presented by a close family member, should be avoided.
10. Use specialist media contacts. Check with Samaritans, IAS or the relevant national mental health agency to make sure you have the most recent data and are complying with the law.

Contact Samaritans' press office for advice on reporting:
+44 (0)20 8394 8300
or email press@samaritans.org
press@samaritans.org
www.samaritans.org/mediaguidelines



A guidance poster for newsrooms which includes ten things to remember when reporting suicide. The poster is taken from Samaritans and Irish Association of Suicidology's Media Guidelines for Reporting Suicide.

Details

Format

A3 poster

Target group

Journalists, editors, sub-editors

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[PHA A3 Poster Ten Things to Remember March 2016_1.pdf](#) 246.39 KB

Tags

- [reporting on suicide](#)
- [Samaritans](#)
- [ten things](#)

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