

Proactive Crisis Intervention for Law Enforcement Officers

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More officers lose their lives to suicide rather than homicide. Some research indicates the suicide rate of law enforcement officers is three times that of the national average. Another researcher reported the suicide rate among police officers doubled between 1950 and 1990. Considering the emotional wreckage a suicide causes for friends, colleagues, and family members, a single suicide is one too many. Groups that track police suicides estimate that a police officer kills himself or herself every 24 to 52 hours, nationwide. Sadly, communication between suicidal officers and intervention or prevention specialists occurred in only a small percentage of these cases, which leads to the conclusion that if steps were taken to recognize and address the signs and symptoms early enough, suicide may be preventable. Law Enforcement agencies in Florida were surveyed to determine what proactive means, if any, can be done to combat this issue.