

Preventing child abuse begins in the family by parents' trying to understand children, keeping children healthy, getting help with alcohol or drug problems (if any), watching words when communicating, getting control of themselves before disciplining a child, taking a time-out, making their home a violence-free zone, etc.

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### **THE ROLE OF U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN PREVENTING SELF-DIRECTED VIOLENCE**

Self-directed violence (SDV) is an action directed at oneself that intentionally results in injury or the potential injury. SDV includes suicide and suicide attempt. According to the latest data of the WHO about 50,000 people aged 15-64 years committed suicide in 2019 in the U.S. For every one suicide, there are 30 attempts. Suicides and suicide attempts cost the U.S. almost \$70 billion annually in lifetime medical and work-loss costs alone. The role of law enforcement officers is to prevent SDV among the people they serve. A person, who is attempting suicide especially with a gun or other lethal weapon, could provoke a call to 911. The first responsibility of the officers in this case is to ensure that a person and the officers themselves are not in imminent danger in order to avoid "police-assisted suicide". All officers have special training in de-escalating such situations. Police departments also have some officers trained in negotiation. There is a big possibility of suicide during the arrest as far as the offenders have greater risk factors for suicide attempts (e.g. alcohol or drug abuse, behavioral disorders). Individuals thought to be at severe risk factors of any type of SDV should be closely monitored. Objects they can use to hurt themselves should be removed. If a situation occurs in which a person has died by suicide, the police officer must demonstrate patience and delicacy communicating with the victim's family and friends. Police officer should stay with them until the emotional situation appears stabilized in order to avoid negative consequences.

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