
John Draper, Ph.D., Project Director, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Dr. John Draper has more than 25 years of experience in crisis intervention and suicide prevention and is considered one of the nation's leading experts in crisis contact center practices (such as hotline, online chat, and SMS services). Since 2004, he has served as the director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-TALK), a network of nearly 160 crisis call centers across the country, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



Dr. Draper is also the president of Link2Health Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC). Under his leadership, Link2Health Solutions administers or supports other national crisis hotline networks, including the Disaster Distress Helpline, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Crisis Line, and the NFL Life Line.

Prior to his efforts administering national crisis line networks and beginning in 1996, Dr. Draper was the founding director of LifeNet, MHA-NYC's award-winning crisis hotline, which was central to New York's mental health response following the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001.

Dr. Draper frequently presents at national conferences on subjects related to best practices in crisis intervention and suicide prevention, as well as the use of innovative technologies (e.g., text, chat, other online programs) in helping persons in emotional distress. He frequently discusses the role of persons with lived experience of suicide (e.g., attempt survivors, loss survivors) in suicide prevention. Dr. Draper has been quoted in the *New York Times*, ABC News, the *New York Post*, and *TIME*, among other news outlets.

Dr. Draper received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri–Columbia and his B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas.