



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Mobile App to help health care providers save lives**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) unveiled a free, new mobile app called *Suicide Safe* now available to help health care providers assist patients with suicidal ideation and behaviors. The app was revealed during the ten-year anniversary event celebrating the SAMHSA-sponsored National Suicide Prevention Lifeline that has answered more than 7 million calls since 2005. Leaders in suicide prevention came together in Washington, DC, to commemorate a decade of progress in the field and to support SAMHSA's pioneering effort.

Suicide is the [tenth leading cause of death](#) in the United States, and it is the [second leading cause of death](#) among people age 15 - 34.

"Suicide devastates lives throughout all parts of our nation, but it is a public health issue that is preventable, and SAMHSA is working to provide people on the front lines with resources they need to save lives," said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde. "*Suicide Safe* is a major step forward in suicide prevention. The app gives behavioral and primary care providers an essential and modern prevention tool to help address suicide risk with their patients."

[Almost half of individuals](#) who die by suicide have visited a primary care provider in the month prior to their death, and [20 percent](#) have had contact with mental health services. Behavioral health and primary care settings provide unique opportunities for individuals at risk of suicide to access effective treatment. Yet, a surprising number of behavioral and primary health care providers have never received training on how to assess and manage suicidal patients.

*Suicide Safe* can help bridge this gap by furnishing behavioral and primary health care providers tips on how to assess suicidal risk, communicate effectively with patients and their families, determine appropriate next steps, and make referrals when needed.

SAMHSA's *Suicide Safe* app is now available for free download on Apple® and Android™ mobile devices. More information is available at <http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/suicidesafe/>.

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*The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.*