

PSYCHIATRIC FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE FACT SHEET

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IS THE #1 SUICIDE SITE IN THE WORLD. 1,300 BODIES FOUND.

TWO DEATHS PER MONTH, DESPITE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, SCOOTER PATROLS AND EMERGENCY PHONES SINCE 1999.

BARRIERS PREVENT SUICIDE

- Empire State Building, New York City
- Eiffel Tower, Paris
- Sydney Harbor Bridge, Australia

MYTHS

#1: Jumpers will go somewhere else to commit suicide.

They won't go elsewhere. R. Seiden's 1978 study of 515 people taken from the Bridge found that 25 years later 94% were still alive or had died of natural causes. Bridge rescue is a special message about another chance in life.

#2: Bridge suicide is painless.

Bridge suicide is not painless. Jumpers die from internal bleeding with shattered rib cages, crushed organs, or drowning.

#3: Jumpers are exercising free will. Let them do what they want to do.

When one is deeply depressed or overwhelmed and in psychic pain, they do not think clearly but act impulsively to escape their pain. They are not acting rationally.

#4: They're all mental patients anyway.

Jumpers include people in all walks of life: A physician in October 2004, a high school senior with 1400 college board scores in February 2005.

#5: They come from all over the world.

87% are Bay Area residents; only 5% from outside state of California.

OUR BELIEF: Suicidal ideation is a time-limited, acute, preventable response to overwhelming pain or stress. A 222 foot jump at 75 mph in 4 seconds does not allow second chances.

BRIDGE JUMPERS ARE ATTRACTED BECAUSE

- **The Golden Gate Bridge is an icon—beautiful, alluring, magical. The view is romantic, magnificent. Most jump facing the City.**
- **The Golden Gate Bridge is convenient—bus access, easy parking, a 4 foot rail—and final.**

**IF JUMPERS ARE STOPPED, THEY DO NOT RETURN OR
COMMIT SUICIDE ELSEWHERE.**