5 Action Steps to Help Someone Having Thoughts of Suicide

We can all take steps to help prevent suicide. **Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can save lives.**

Here are 5 steps you can take to #BeThe1To help someone who is having thoughts of suicide:



1. ASK:

"Are you thinking about suicide?" It's not an easy question to ask, but it can help start a conversation. Studies show that asking people if they are suicidal does not increase suicidal behavior or thoughts.



2. BE THERE:

Listening without judgment is key to learning what the person is thinking and feeling. Research suggests acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce suicidal thoughts.



3. HELP KEEP THEM SAFE:

Reducing access to highly lethal items or places can help prevent suicide. Asking the person if they have a plan and making lethal means less available or less deadly can help the person stay safe when suicidal thoughts arise.



4. HELP THEM CONNECT:

Connecting the person with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (**call or text 988**) and other community resources can give them a safety net when they need it. You can also help them reach out to a trusted family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional.



5. FOLLOW UP:

Staying in touch with the person after they have experienced a crisis or been discharged from care can make a difference. Studies show that supportive, ongoing contact can play an important role in suicide prevention.

For more information on suicide prevention:
www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention
www.bethe1to.com

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