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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

The Franklin County Coroner's Office is releasing its preliminary death by suicide statistics for the first six months of 2020.

From January 1 to June 30, 2020 the Franklin County Coroner's Office saw a 4% increase in deaths by suicide compared to the same period in 2019.

The demographics of the decedents remained largely the same except for age. In 2020, 9% were 19 years old or younger compared to 4% the year before. The same is true for the 20 to 24 age group: 17% in 2020 compared to 12% in 2019. However the 25 to 34 year old group saw a decrease: 20% in 2020 compared to 28% in 2019.

The use of a firearm as the injuring weapon also saw a decrease in 2020 with a subsequent increase in the use of hanging. In 2020 45% of the deaths involved a firearm compared to 65% in 2019 while hanging occurred in 36% of deaths in 2020 compared to 22% in 2019.

For full information please see attached report.

Here in Franklin County we have two excellent sources of prevention and information for our residents, The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition works to increase suicide awareness and the number of community members who are prepared to identify and respond to mental health and suicidal crises. It also aims to bring hope and support to those impacted by suicide. The Coalition does this through targeted trainings, hosting conferences, evaluating local data, and connecting suicide prevention partners in the county. Organizations and community members can visit the Coalition's website to schedule a suicide prevention training or locate suicide loss survivor resources at www.FranklinCountySPC.org.

The Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital aims to understand and prevent youth suicide which it views as a pressing public health issue. Their research team helps them understand what underlies vulnerabilities to suicide and their prevention team works with schools, providers, mental health agencies, and families throughout Central and Southeast Ohio to build awareness and a broader safety net for at risk youth. Many of their programs including their school-based suicide prevention program, Signs of Suicide (SOS), have a strong evidence base and are offered without cost to those interested. Additional resources on youth suicide prevention are available at www.nationwidechildrens.org/Suicide-prevention.

Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition Contact for Media

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Other resources for those in crisis are the suicide prevention/crisis hotline: 614-221-5445 and the Netcare crisis hotline: 614-276-2273.

Responsible reporting on suicide can save lives by increasing awareness of suicide, minimizing suicide contagion for vulnerable individuals, and promoting local resources. Ohio's suicide reporting guidelines are available at <https://mha.ohio.gov/Researchers-and-Media/Reporting-on-Suicide>

