

Suicide awareness forum set for Oct. 27

From Staff Reports | Posted: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 5:16 pm

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, suicides are the third leading manner of death for people ages 10 to 17.

Three Wiregrass teens have committed suicide in recent months. SpectraCare Health Systems wants to raise awareness on the issue.

SpectraCare will host a Suicide Awareness For Everyone Forum Oct. 27 from 6-8 p.m. at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center in Dothan.

The free forum is open to everyone, but is ideal for youth, parents, school personnel, youth pastors and youth group leaders.

Professional counselors will be available to answer questions and provide information on resources that are available.

SpectraCare is a nonprofit public corporation that provides mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services in Barbour, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties.

In 2011 (the most recent year for which full statistics are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.

Nearly 40,000 suicides were reported in 2011, approximately 12.3 deaths for every 100,000 people in the U.S. population. The suicide rate is about four times higher among men than among women.

The CDC says suicide is a preventable public health problem, and the goal is to reduce factors that increase risk and increase factors that promote resilience.