Increased Suicide Rates in the U.S.
Alexis Donnelly, Ayah Issa, Pamela Hinkle, Sandy Rodriguez, Austin Bond
Learning Community 01 Psychology 101 & English 101, Professors Isaiah Pickens & Maria Grewe

Introduction
Suicide has been an increasing problem over the past decade. With the drastically soaring number of suicides dangling over our head, we have to look at factors that could be affecting these statistics so we can save the lives of others and our future. Three problems that can be seen are: the quality of life at home, access to a weapon, and their record of mental illnesses.

Methods & Materials
- Virtual copies of Mental Illness
- Previous Suicidality
- Access to guns in The United States

Family/Friend Influence
- Suicide victims are more likely to come from nonintact families
- Children who are physically abused may have difficulty developing the social skills necessary for healthy relationships
- Students who described family life in terms of a high degree of mutual involvement, shared interests, and emotional support were 3.5 to 5.5 times less likely to be suicidal than were adolescents from less cohesive families who had the same levels of depression or life stress

Mental Illness
At least 90% of teens suicides had some type of mental disorder such as bipolar disorder or depression. Bipolar disorder causes unusual mood swings that range from lows of depression and highs of mania. Depression is a medical illness that causes a feeling of sadness and the lost in many interests. Both of these disorders can be caused by hormones imbalance or life events.

Access to Guns
- Guns were used in the deaths of 29,500 people in the United States.
- The laws of gun control aren’t strict and it is very easy to get access to guns from others or illegally.
- In the Columbine shooting, the murderers purchased their guns at a regular Kmart.

Conclusions
Through the combined efforts of our individual research, we have concluded that there are many factors contributing to the increase in suicide rates. These have been identified as a person’s family involvement, their access to guns and how lax gun control laws are and if a person is suffering from mental illness.

References