



The need for effective treatment options is evidenced by the following information, which provides a glimpse on the importance of providing effective legislation, at the State level, to ensure children and families continue to have those options in a safe, nurturing environment.

- ♦ The *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* reports that major depression strikes about 1 in 12 adolescents. Among those adolescents that develop major depression, 1 in 14 will commit suicide as a young adult (Weissman, et.al., *Depressed Adolescents All Grown Up*, JAMA.1999 281, 1701-13).
- ♦ The *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* reports suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among those 5-14 years old and the third leading cause of death among those 15-24 years old. Risk factors for suicide include suicidal thoughts, psychiatric disorders (such as depression, impulsive aggressive behavior, bipolar disorder, certain anxiety disorders), drug and/or alcohol abuse and previous suicide attempts. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; Facts and Figures; National Statistics)
- ♦ The *National Institute of Mental Health* reports that nearly 5% or an estimated 2.7 million children are reported by their parents to suffer from definite or severe emotional or behavioral difficulties, problems that may interfere with their family life, their ability to learn, and their formation of friendships. (America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2005)
- ♦ The *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)* reports almost 8.6 million (34.3%) youths aged 12 to 17 had used alcohol (National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report – April 2005)
- ♦ According to the *2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* 1 in 10 adolescents ages 12 to 17 admit to using illicit drugs. The rate of illegal drug initiation for children 12 and over was an estimated 2.9 million in 2005 – nearly 8,000 new users every day.