Boys Do(n’t) Cry: Suicide among Black Boys

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Suicide in Youth

• From 1999 through 2015, 1,309 children ages 5 to 12 died of suicide in the U.S. (CDC, 2015)

• 1 child under the age of 13 dies of suicide almost every 5 days in the U.S.

• 76% of those who died in 1999-2015 were male
Prevalence in Black Youth

- **Suicide**: 3rd leading cause of death among all Black American youth, ages 10-19 (CDC, 2014).

- From 1993-2012, suicide rates have doubled among Black children, principally males (Bridge et al., 2015).

- **Black boys ages 5-11**: Only age group where rates are higher than any other age group (Bridge et al., 2015).
From: Suicide Trends Among Elementary School–Aged Children in the United States From 1993 to 2012

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Suicide rates in the U.S. are closely correlated to poverty rates (Kubrin et al., 2006; Kerr et al., 2017).

Trauma and Suicide: Among urban males, PTSD is associated with increased suicide attempts (Wilcox et al., 2009).

Incarcerated youth die by suicide at a rate 2-3x higher than that of youth in the general population (Abram et al., 2008).
Other Contributing Factors

- Depression/Anxiety
- Lack of access to mental health treatment
- Bullying or Teasing
- Substance abuse
- Racial discrimination and other psychosocial stressors (e.g., police harassment, violence)
- Puberty
Solutions

-) Educate on signs/symptoms of depression, trauma, anxiety at school and at home

-) Need school-wide mental health prevention programs

-) Provide more support for boys with caring adults, family members, and friends

-) Increase opportunities for positive involvement in afterschool and mentoring programs
In Memory of...

...Gabriel Taye, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, and the many other young Black boys ages 5-11 we are losing to suicide.