

Physician Suicide Awareness Day is September 17, 2021

18%

of orthopedic surgeons have had suicidal thoughts

In a 2021 study,
20% of physicians
reported knowing a
physician who has
considered or
attempted suicide
during COVID-19

One doctor dies by suicide in the U.S.

everyday – the highest suicide rate of any profession

55% of physicians know of a physician who has considered, attempted, or died by suicide in their career

Physicians identify family & colleagues as most helpful to their wellbeing during the pandemic



What causes physician suicide?

- Multiple barriers that keep physicians from accessing mental health care include time constraints, confidentiality concerns, and fears of licensing repercussions
- Suicidal ideation has been linked with occupational factors such as medical errors and increased workload volume

How to prevent physician suicide

- Reduce stigma, acknowledge grief, and support physicians by developing preventative actions
- Create strong community and social support with opportunities to discuss and manage challenges to mental health
- Re-foster a deeper sense of collegiality by promoting belongingness

Resources

- 2020 AOFAS Keynote Speaker Address
- Informational Podcasts
- Journal Articles on Physician Suicide
- CME Learning Modules

