

Risk Factors

Major risk factors that increase the likelihood of suicide:

- Any prior suicide attempts
- Misuse or abuse alcohol
- Misuse or abuse of drugs, including prescription drugs like opioids
- Mental disorders, particularly mood disorders like depression
- Access to lethal means, especially firearms
- Knowing someone who died by suicide, particularly a family member
- Social isolation, like working primarily alone
- Chronic disease or disability
- Experiencing a negative patient outcome, board complaint, litigation, or loss of license or job
- Relationship problems, including separation or divorce
- Financial difficulties
- A terminal medical diagnosis
- Even some types of life transitions.

