

SAMARITANS IN THE NEWS 2009

Media Response to the Impact of the Economy On Suicide

During this time of economic crisis, the media has consistently turned to Samaritans to provide a humanistic perspective on this downturn. *The New York Times* devoted an entire column (Looking In on the City's Samaritans At a 'Dark Time' in the Land) in February on Samaritans hotline. *Condé Nast Portfolio*, *Time*, *AM New York*, *Associated Press* and *New Statesman* all looked to us to explain how it was not just the economy but an ongoing series of complex intertwined problems (anxiety, unrest, terrorism, political upheaval, unemployment, fear of the future and mental illness) that combined have led to a country in crisis. Some excerpts:

The New York Times

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Looking In on the City's Samaritans At a 'Dark Time' in the Land

"We see it in soldiers, but a large cross-section of America has been emotionally wounded," Mr. Ross said. "They're talking about the financial rescue of the country? I don't mean to be cliché, but no one's talking about the emotional rescue of the country."

Condé Nast Portfolio.com

Desperation Economy February 6, 2009

Over the next few months, the Samaritans of New York, a suicide prevention group and crisis line for New York City and the New York State Office of Mental Health will be strategizing how corporations can play a more active role in suicide prevention, said Samaritans director Alan Ross.

"The government and Congress and president are focusing on rescue and working to rebuild the financial credit and industrial structures of this country," Ross said. "No one's talking about rebuilding the emotional and well-being of the public that is just as affected as the economy."

TIME

Suicides: Watching for a Recessions Spike

Monday, February 9, 2009

Only about a third of people in need of treatment are getting any. "If we were in the professional world in advertising and marketing we'd all be fired because we are not reaching the majority of our audience," says Alan Ross, executive director of the New York chapter of the Samaritans, an international

counseling organization. Last year his center fielded 58,000 calls, which in the last couple of years have been increasing at double previous annual growth rates. He attributes this to a tremendous increase in stress levels due to things like economic insecurities exacerbated by globalization.



Cash woes fueling murder-suicides?

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

"What impacts depression and suicide is a multiplicity of things, and so we're dealing with all of those," said Alan Ross, executive director of calls to the Samaritans, a suicide prevention hotline.... Calls increased by 14 percent between 2007 and 2008.

AP Associated Press

Suicides from financial crisis cause concern

Tue. Oct 14, 2008 9:00 AM ET

With nowhere else to turn, many people are calling suicide-prevention hot lines. The Samaritans of New York have seen calls rise more than 16 percent in the past year, many of them money-related.

DAILY NEWS

Dalton death raises red flag on depression

Friday, February 20, 2009

Taking a friend or child's feelings seriously is especially important for youths who may feel ostracized, said Alan Ross, executive director of the suicide prevention hotline Samaritans of New York. "You have to listen and suspend your own judgement."

NewStatesman

Hard times

August 20, 2009

Since the financial crisis began, people have been calling the Samaritans in their thousands. ... Ross calls [the financial crisis] a "humbling and scary" period for people who might anyway be vulnerable.