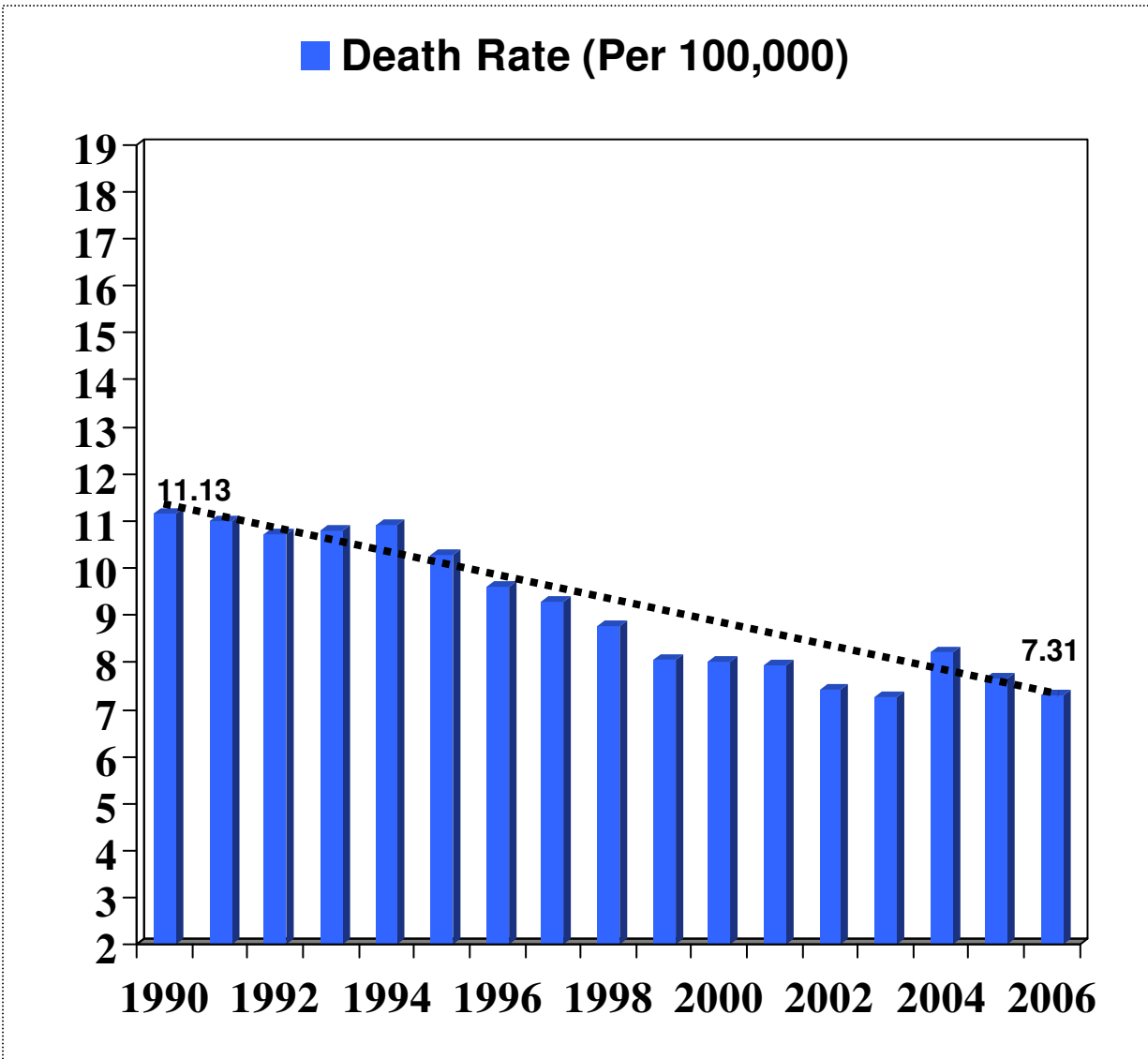


## Death rates for 15-19 year-olds who died by suicide in the U.S. from 1990 to 2006



### Why the decrease?

- More awareness of depression in self/peers.
- More teens are getting counseling.

Source: CDC WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports for suicide ages 15-19, both genders in the United States from 1990-2006. Developed by J Ciffone for the SEHS Suicide Prevention Program, SD U-46, Elgin, Illinois. Updated on 9/13/08.

**Why was there an increase in the suicide rate among 15-19 year olds between 2003 and 2004?  
(The male rate increased by 9%  
the female rate increased by 32%)**



**Labeling Change for  
Antidepressant Medications**



In 2004, the FDA mandated labeling for Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI) antidepressant medications, after reviewing research that indicated a small increase in suicidal thinking (NOT ACTIONS) among young people taking the medications. **As a result of the FDA's activities, a [22%] decrease in the use of SSRI's with depressed teens was noted.** Other research has shown a general relationship between the use of SSRI's and decreasing suicide rates. **We must therefore wonder if the FDA's actions and the decreased use of these antidepressants have in fact have caused an increase in youth suicide.**

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Excerpts of a statement by David Shern, Ph.D., President of Mental Health America, Alexandria, VA, February 5, 2007 including information from page 6 of *The Bell Newsletter* Vol.1, No.2 Fall 2007.