

TABLE 1. Risk and Protective Factors for Suicidal Assessment and Intervention*

Risk Factors	Protective Factors
<p>Historical</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of significant relationships (never married, separated, divorced) 2. Poor work history or chronic unemployment 3. Childhood abuse 4. History of violence 5. Mental disorder associated with suicidal behavior 6. History of head trauma 7. Prior suicidal behavior 8. Prior mental health treatment 9. Rigid thinking 10. Distorted thinking 11. Irrational beliefs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Married or in a significant relationship 2. Employed or involved in a structured program (school, treatment, etc.) 3. Intact support system 4. Having children under the age of 18 5. Constructive use of leisure time 6. General purpose for living 7. Involved in mental health treatment 8. Effective problem-solving skills
<p>Psychosocial-Environmental</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major life stressors (re-incarceration, first incarceration, recent diagnosis of HIV, physical assault) 2. Any significant loss 3. Breakdown of social support 4. Social isolation (e.g. time in the "hole") 	
<p>Clinical</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific behaviors associated with suicidal behavior (e.g. giving away belongings; saying goodbye to friends; verbalizing thoughts of death or suicide) 2. Acute change in mental status 3. Changes in behavior 4. Mood changes 5. Changes in attitude (e.g. sudden fatalism in face of declining T-cell count) 6. Lack of compliance 	

* Sanchez HG. Risk Factor Model for Suicide Assessment and Treatment. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* 2001;32(4):351-358.