I did not realize the ex- treme impact your words had on me. They affected me so personally. Since I lost my dad to suicide, I have learned a lot about suicide and mental health. Most men- tals health experts believe that those that commit suicide and those that will commit suicide are not treated and most of those suffer- ing from mental illness do not seek help. Unfortunately, my dad's story did not have a good ending. That is why I am passionate about this cause and want to shed light on suicide prevention, awareness, and support.” — Samantha Dansky

Dansky, a resident of Tel- luride, is training to become a local advocate for suicide prevention in the years since she lost her father, and is working in our community to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and to help those who might be considering suicide.

When we talk about suicide, we tend to focus on the impact of suicide on the family, friends and community. We often forget that while government should treat. The populist extremes are on the market, they have a drop in productivity. As output, jobs and hours falling.

In a well-functioning economy, productivity must be rising fast enough. That's certainly the evidence from the last two years. Over this time, the benefits of economic growth have been shared more widely and not less.

In 2015, median household income was $55,000. That was the fastest surge in percentage terms since the Census Bureau began keeping records. Since then, median household incomes have continued to rise. Women living alone saw their incomes rise 4.7 percent. Median incomes rose 3.8 percent among blacks and 2.7 percent among immigrants. Immigrants' incomes, excluding naturalized citizens, jumped more than 10 percent.

The news was especially good for the poor. The share of overall income going to the poorest fifth increased 3 percent, while the share that went to the affluent grew slightly less than 1 percent. That is the poverty rate fell 1.2 percentage points, the steepest decline since 1999.

The numbers for 2016 have just been released by the Census Bureau, and the trends are pretty much the same. Median household income rose another 3.2 percent, and the poverty rate fell another 1.2 percent. Poverty rate fell some more. The share of national in- comes going to the lowest fifth increased 3 percent, while the share going to the highest fifth increased 3 percent, which suggests that the market is working fairly well. Median household income is now about 20 percent higher than it was in 2007, when the market peaked.

Today, productivity is still an issue. It has been a problem, not distribution, but rather our labor productivity. As output, jobs and hours falling.

For those interested, Shawn Sprague has a good summary of the data at the Labor Department's blog, which is available online. He concludes that during this re- covery, we've enjoyed a historically low unemployment rate, but productivity growth rate of 1.1 percent.

If productivity itself is the problem, not distribution, then radically different policies is demanded than we're seeing today. If productivity is the problem, we need more dynamism, not less, more openness, not less, more growth-oriented policies, not more dirigiste and re- gulatory policies.

There are a few things government can do to help boost produc- tivity: Increase market competition with more antitrust enforcement, and fewer licensing regulations; admit more skilled immigrants; invest more in human capital, like research and development; and make better use of existing energy storage systems.

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