Child Death Review: A process to help us understand scope of and circumstances of youth suicide

Teri Covington, MPH, Director

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
Child Death Review is:

An engaged, multidisciplinary community, telling a child’s story, one child at a time, to understand the causal pathway that leads to a child’s death to identify pre-existing vulnerabilities and circumstances- in order to identify how to interrupt the pathway for other children

.... generating a broad spectrum of data for an ecological understanding of the individual, community, and societal factors that interact at different levels to influence child health and safety

....Then taking action to improve systems and prevent deaths.

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
Essential Elements

- Multi-disciplinary.
- Telling a story through the sharing of case information from multiple sources.
- Focused on improving systems and prevention of deaths; not culpability.
- Balance between individual cases and accumulation of fatal and non-fatal data for trends.
The Process

Local Team: Case Selection

Teams bring records to review

Case Review

Recommendations for Systems change and Prevention; Data Entry into National CDR-CRS

State Advisory Board

State Action for Policy, Practice, Prevention

Local Action for Policy, Practice, Prevention
Records Shared at a “Typical” Suicide Review

- Medical Examiner/Coroner Reports
- Scene Investigation/Law Enforcement Reports
- Mental Health History
- School Performance and Behaviors
- CPS and Social Service Histories
- Public Health Involvement
Prevention

Improved agency systems

Improved identification, diagnosis and reporting

Improved communication

Review
CDR in 2016

CDR in 50 states

1350 local and state teams

Dept. of Defense

Guam

Tribes
45 states have legislation mandating or enabling the reviews.

39 states provide CDR dedicated funding. Ranging from $829,100 (New York) to zero (six states).

Median funded amount is $102,000; average is $159,360
National CDR Case Reporting System since 2005, that allows for data to be aggregated across programs at the local, state and national level.

- Web Based
- Over 1200 data elements
- Free
- Housed at MPHI
The Case Reporting System: By the Numbers

- 45 states using the System
- Over 2000 authorized users
- Over 1300 CDR teams have recorded a death in the System
- More than 167,000 deaths have been entered
  - 99% deaths
  - 54% infants
  - 76% cases from 2005-2014
  - 58% males
  - 50% natural deaths; 24% accidents
State Level Reports

• 26 states have a CDR State Advisory Board that reviews local findings

• 43 states publish an annual CDR Report
### Child's Mental Health (MH):
- Child had received prior MH services?
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K
- Child was receiving MH services?
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K
- Child on medications for MH illness?
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K
- Issues prevented child from receiving MH services?
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K

### Child's History of Substance Abuse:
- N/A
- Yes
- No
- U/K
- Alcohol
- Other, specify:
- Cocaine
- Marijuana
- Methamphetamine
- Opiates
- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter drugs

### Child's History of Child Maltreatment:
- As Victim
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K
- As Perpetrator
  - N/A
  - Yes
  - No
  - U/K
- If yes, how was history identified:
  - Through CPS
  - Other sources

### Was there an open CPS case with child at time of death?
- N/A
- Yes
- No
- U/K

### Child's Delinquent or Criminal History:
- N/A
- Yes
- No
- U/K
- Assaults
- Other, specify:
- Robbery
- Drugs
- U/K

### Child spent time in juvenile detention?
- N/A
- Yes
- No
- U/K

### Child's Acute Illness During the Two Weeks Before Death?
- Yes
- No
- U/K

### Was any parent a first generation immigrant?
- Yes
- No
- U/K

### Child's Gender Identity?
- Male
- Female
- U/K

### Child's Sexual Orientation?
- Heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Questioning
- Lesbian
- U/K
### FOR SUICIDE

27. For suicide, select yes, no or u/k for each question. Describe answers in narrative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>U/K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- A note was left
- Child talked about suicide
- Prior suicide threats were made
- Prior attempts were made
- Suicide was completely unexpected
- Child had a history of running away
- Child had a history of self-mutilation
- There is a family history of suicide
- Suicide was part of a murder-suicide
- Suicide was part of a suicide pact
- Suicide was part of a suicide cluster

28. For suicide, was there a history of acute or cumulative personal crisis that may have contributed to the child’s despondency? Check all that apply.

- None known
- Suicide by friend or relative
- Other death of friend or relative
- Bullying as victim
- Bullying as perpetrator
- School failure
- Move/new school
- Other serious school problems
- Pregnancy
- Physical abuse/assault
- Rape/sexual abuse
- Problems with the law
- Drugs/alcohol
- Sexual orientation
- Religious/cultural issues
- Job problems
- Money problems
- Gambling problems
- Involvement in cult activities
- Involvement in computer or video games
- Involvement with the Internet, specify:
- Other, specify:
- U/K
A quick Look at suicide Data of Youth Associated with Foster Care and/or Juvenile Justice

Data download from 02/11/2016 - approved dataset for release, n=95,691 from 36 states 2004-2015

SUICIDE ONLY
N=4,607

data from 33 states from 2004-2015
# Child Had History of Maltreatment

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>838</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1723</td>
<td>37.4</td>
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<tr>
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# Child Ever Placed Outside of Home

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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>402</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2634</td>
<td>57.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>946</td>
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# Child With Open CPS at Time of Suicide

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<td>Yes</td>
<td>208</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3286</td>
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<tr>
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<td>640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Had Criminal or Delinquent History</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Answered</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>15.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>42.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td>Not Answered</td>
<td>717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>223</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>RISK FACTOR</td>
<td>Criminal or Delinquent History</td>
<td>Maltreatment History</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>n=675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talked about suicide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior suicide threats</td>
<td>40.9</td>
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<td>Prior suicide attempts</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>30.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unexpected</td>
<td>36.0</td>
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<td>Hx of running away</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>15.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hx of self mutilation</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>23.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family hx of suicide</td>
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<td>Part of suicide cluster</td>
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<tr>
<td>No personal crises known</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>RISK FACTOR</td>
<td>Criminal or Delinquent History</td>
<td>Maltreatment History</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Family discord</td>
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<td>Parent divorce/separation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument w parent/caregiver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument w bf/gf</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break up w bf/gf</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument w other friends</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rumor mongering</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide by friend or relative</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems w law</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual orientation</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISK FACTOR</td>
<td>Criminal or Delinquent History</td>
<td>Maltreatment history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% = Yes</td>
<td>% = Yes</td>
<td>% = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other death of friend or relative</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying as victim</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying as perp</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School failure</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Move/new school</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other serious school problem</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical abuse/assault</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape/sexual abuse</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
74 suicide deaths (1.6%) that indicated their type of residence was licensed foster home, relative foster home, or jail/detention facility.

There were 53 (1.2%) where place of incident was a foster home (28) or jail/detention facility (25).
What Can You Do?

- Participate in your state or local CDR review meetings
- Ask to be included on state board
- Make sure CDR is identifying and reviewing all youth suicides
- Educate CDR programs on suicide prevention
- Help teams with developing/implementing recommendations
- Ask for CDR data on suicide
- Help analyze this data
- Use the data in your GLS assessments/reports
- Help fund improvements to CDR using your GLS dollars
For more information:
tcovingt@mphi.org 517-927-1527
childdeathreview.org