Surveillance of Suicide Attempts

How can we develop a complete picture of suicidal behaviors to inform our plans and programs?
Background

- Data and Surveillance Task Force recommendation to the NAASP Executive Committee
- Questions from local programs about how to access attempt data
- Non-fatal surveillance task force subcommittee
What is public health surveillance?

And why do we do it?
Public Health Surveillance

“...the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of outcome-specific data...

for use in planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice.”

Steven Thacker
Public Health

- All organized measures (whether public or private) to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population as a whole.

- Monitoring and diagnosing thing health concerns of entire communities and promoting healthy practices and behaviors to ensure that populations stay healthy.

- Population Health
Objectives of Public Health Surveillance

- Estimate magnitude of a problem in the population at risk
- Understand the natural history of a disease or injury
- Detect outbreaks or epidemics
- Document the distribution and spread of a health event
- Evaluate control strategies
- Identify research needs
- Facilitate planning
Suicide Surveillance

- Typically, suicide *mortality* surveillance

WHY?
Surveillance of Attempts

- Why?
  - Est. 160.4/100,000 treated in EDs in 2013
  - can provide a much richer and more informed understanding of local patterns of suicidal behavior
Surveillance of Attempts

- Why not?
“If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there.”

Lewis Carroll
SELF-DIRECTED VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE
UNIFORM DEFINITIONS AND RECOMMENDED DATA ELEMENTS
Non-fatal Attempt Toolkit/Technical Package
Background

- Inspired by CDC technical packages
- Meant to compliment the state-specific “toolkits” released by SAMHSA last fall
- Meant to be specific, straightforward, simple (but not simplistic)
CDC Technical Packages

- Compilation of a core set of strategies to achieve and sustain substantial reductions in a specific risk factor or outcome

- Help communities and states prioritize prevention activities based on the best available evidence.
Our Goal

- Usable and useful document!
  - High graphic, easy to read content
  - Lots of examples
  - Lots of links to resources
Our Goal

Our goal is not to do the work for you, but to get you moving in the right direction from the start and give you the tools to get where you need to go.
A STRATEGY FOR ACQUIRING AND USING DATA IN COMMUNITY-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

DATA AND SURVEILLANCE TASK FORCE
NATIONAL ACTION ALLIANCE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION
Data

1. facts or information used to calculate, analyze or plan

2. factual information (as measurements or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation
data MODEL:

DEFINE THE QUESTIONS
ACCESS THE DATA
TURN DATA INTO ANSWERS
ACT ON THE ANSWERS
Define the question

- Need to be very specific in what questions you need answered?
  - Numbers?
  - Demographic profile?
  - Catchment area?
  - Where identified?
  - Preceding and/or precipitating circumstances?
  - ???????

- Turn key info. into goals

  **Nice**–to–know vs. **Need**–to–know
Define the question

- State or local plan as a source
- Systematically “profile” your community on suicide event rates, injury mechanisms, and context and risk factors
  - Community Health Needs Assessment
    - Look at risk and protective factors
    - Demographic, economic, geographic variables
    - Local, state, national extant data sources
    - Key informant interviews
Define the question

- What else do programs need to know about defining the question?
Access the data

- Common sources

- What do you need to know about them?
  - Do you know what ICD–10 codes are?

- Known barriers (and solutions!)
Access the data

- Uncommon sources
- Barriers and solutions
Turn data into answers

- Data analysis
- Interpretation of findings
Turn data into answers
Act on the answers

- Turn your answers into solutions
Continue to have input!

- Email me your contact info. with the subject "I’m in!"

  Smithp40@michigan.gov

- Provide examples; review a draft; ask questions; other things you need to know; random thoughts that pop into your head after you leave here; etc., etc., etc.
Thanks for helping build the buzz on non-fatal suicide surveillance!