



Suicide Prevention Resource Center

Promoting a public health approach to suicide prevention



The nation's only federally supported resource center devoted to advancing the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*.

System-level data and surveillance in juvenile justice and foster care



2016 GLS Grantee Meeting
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Our Session Today

- ✓ Brief overview of suicide risk for systems-involved youth
- ✓ Suicide surveillance in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems
- ✓ Child Death Review systems
- ✓ Group discussion

Systems Involved Youth

✓ Juvenile Justice:

- ✓ >31 million youth under juvenile court jurisdiction
 - ✓ 79% ages 10-15
- ✓ Minority youth overrepresented (esp. African Americans and AI/AN)

✓ Child Welfare/Foster Care

- ✓ ~415,000 children in foster care
 - ✓ 46% in nonrelative foster family homes
 - ✓ 29% in relative foster family homes
 - ✓ 8% in institutions
 - ✓ 6% in group homes
 - ✓ 5% on trial home visits
 - ✓ 4% in preadoptive homes



Systems-involved AI/AN youth

- ✓ AI/AN Youth in Juvenile Justice:
 - Disproportionate % of juveniles in custody
 - Higher rates of out-of-home placement or waiver to adult system
 - Multiple jurisdictions/ double jeopardy

- ✓ AI/AN Youth in Foster Care:
 - Disproportionate reporting/system involvement – 10,000 AI/AN children
 - Majority under non-tribal care

National Indian Child Welfare Association. *Time for Reform: A Matter of Justice for AI/AN Children*. Accessed online at: http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/foster_care_reform/nicwareportpdf.pdf

Coalition for Juvenile Justice. *American Indian Youth and the Juvenile Court System*. Accessed online at: http://tloa.ncai.org/documentlibrary/2010/09/factsheet_3.pdf/

Campaign for Youth Justice. *A Tangled Web of Justice: American Indian and Alaska Native Youth in Federal, State, and Tribal Justice Systems*. Accessed online at: http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/images/policybriefs/race/CFYJPB_TangledJustice.pdf

Suicide Risk in Juvenile Justice

- ✓ Youth in juvenile detention have high rates of trauma and mental health issues
- ✓ Elevated risk of suicide attempts and deaths
 - ✓ Many show signs before detention
- ✓ Separation from loved ones, crowding, solitary confinement may increase risk



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Detained Youth*. Accessed online at:

<https://educationdevelopmentcenter.sharepoint.com/teams/hhd/IVSPSS/sprc/ATARI/5-Populations%20and%20Settings/Juvenile%20Justice/OJJD%20Suicidality%20in%20Detained%20Youth%202014.pdf>

Suicide Risk in Child Welfare



- ✓ Youth in foster care more likely to have a mental health or substance use disorder
- ✓ High rates of physical/sexual abuse and neglect
- ✓ Youth in foster care experience
 - ✓ Separation from parents and caregivers
 - ✓ Frequent moves
 - ✓ Sense of loss and shame

SPRC Project

- ✓ Assess needs and gaps around suicide surveillance in:
 - ✓ Juvenile Justice Systems
 - ✓ Foster Care Systems
 - ✓ Public behavioral health systems
- ✓ Focus on suicide attempt and death data

Major Tasks

1. Conduct Key Informant Interviews with top Administrators and National Agency Representatives from JJ and CW.

2. Identify “Success Stories” from GLS grantees who have successfully linked with JJ and CW.

3. Survey State GLS grantees to assess access to CW and JJ data and TA interest/needs.

Findings

- ✓ Child Death Review teams play an active role in gathering information on in-system suicide deaths.
- ✓ Prioritization is a major barrier to collecting suicide-related information in a systematic way in JJ and CW systems.
- ✓ Suicide-related information in JJ and CW systems is currently used mainly for case management purposes and, less commonly, for system-improvement purposes.

Findings: Methodological Problems

- ✓ JJ and CW data can have a host of methodological problems, including:
 - ✓ Inconsistent reporting (stemming, in part from lack of consistent definitions in some systems)
 - ✓ Use of narrative-based systems. Qualitative analysis of incident report data would be required to access this information. This is particularly common in CW.
 - ✓ Small n's (particularly for in-facility juvenile justice populations)
 - ✓ Poorly-coordinated systems (e.g., Corrections, County Jails, and Diversion systems with different collection systems)

Findings: System Needs

- ✓ Given these barriers, JJ and CW systems need:
 - ✓ Strong partnerships and reduced “silos”
 - ✓ Help determining enhancements that could/should be made to the current system
 - ✓ Resource assistance on common terms and definitions used nationally
 - ✓ TA that is politically sensitive, designed to meet the needs of partners where they are

Findings: Other Supports

- ✓ Those seeking to connect with JJ or CW should:
 - ✓ Conduct a social network analysis to find previously-existing connections.
 - ✓ Seek opportunities to “feed back” the data to JJ or CW.
 - ✓ See what the system has to offer – you may need to think about using different data.
 - ✓ Capitalize on public support when possible.
 - ✓ Identify key stakeholders and establish buy-in early.

Resources

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- ✓ Action Alliance Juvenile Justice Task Force Resources: <https://go.edc.org/ActionAllianceJJ>
- ✓ National Center for the Review & Prevention of Child Deaths website: <https://www.childdeathreview.org/>
- ✓ Screening and Assessing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System (OJJDP): <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/204956.pdf>
- ✓ Suicide Prevention in Juvenile Correctional Facilities webinar series: <https://go.edc.org/SPRCJJTraining>
- ✓ Suicidal Thoughts & Behaviors Among Detained Youth (OJJDP): <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/243891.pdf>

FOSTER CARE

- ✓ Youth Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Tribal Child Welfare Providers (NICWA): <http://www.nicwa.org/YouthSuicidePreventionToolkit/YSPToolkit.pdf>
- ✓ Foster Care Providers: Helping Youth at risk for Suicide: <https://go.edc.org/SPRCFosterParents>
- ✓ Preventing Suicidal Behavior among Youth in Foster Care (AAS): <https://go.edc.org/AAS-Foster-Care>

Questions & Discussion



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