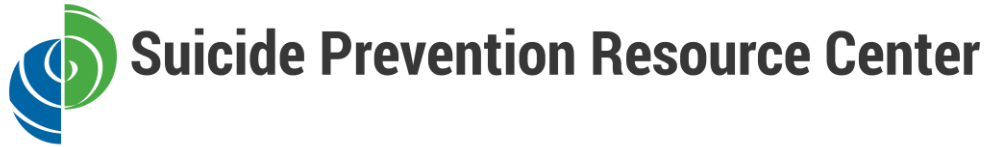# *Using Surveillance Data from Youth-Serving Public Systems*

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Agenda

- Identify how suicide surveillance data from juvenile justice, child welfare, and public behavioral health systems can enhance suicide prevention efforts.
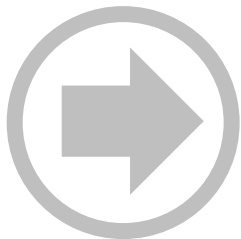
- Identify needs and opportunities to accessing and using suicide-related data from these systems.

- Identify future needs: What additional information would be useful to you as you engage in data sharing in these systems?

Poll: For which of the following systems do you currently have access to suicide-related data?

Juvenile Justice

Child Welfare

Public Behavioral Health

Poll: If you HAVE access, how have you used the data?
If you DON'T have access, how *might* you use this data?

Assess Program Impact

Enhance Prevention Planning

Motivate for Action

Focus Quality Improvement

Background

✓ Youth in juvenile justice, child welfare, and public behavioral health systems can have a large number of suicide-related risk factors.

✓ But… State suicide prevention efforts haven't historically known much about:

   ✓ How to connect with these systems

   ✓ Suicide-related data availability and quality in these systems

SPRC-Related Resources

In response, SPRC has developed two resources:

1. "Breaking Down Barriers: Using Youth Suicide-Related Surveillance Data from State Systems" (report)

2. Suicide Surveillance Success Stories (series)

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Using Youth Suicide-Related
Surveillance Data from State Systems

Suicide Prevention Resource Center

SAMHSA
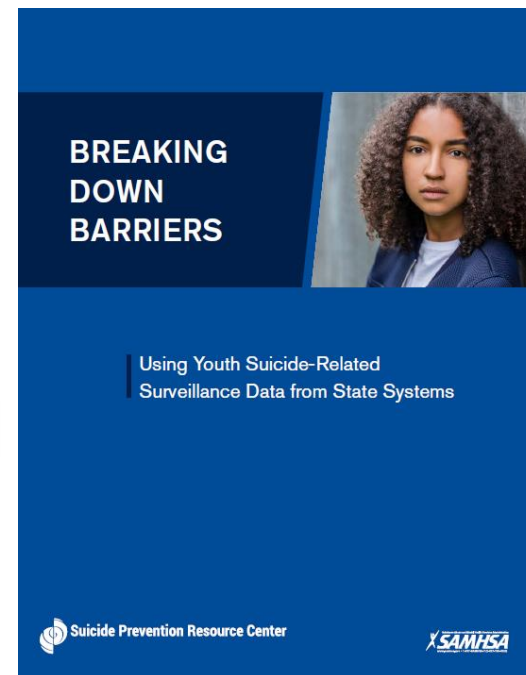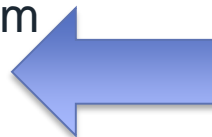
Breaking Down Barriers

Breaking Down Barriers:
Using Youth Suicide-Related Surveillance Data from State Systems

Purpose:

- Explore availability and utility of suicide surveillance data from youth-serving state systems.

- Offer recommendations and resources for working with surveillance data from youth-serving systems.

Report audience: Garrett Lee Smith state grantees and their partners

Breaking Down Barriers:
Using Youth Suicide-Related Surveillance Data from State Systems

Methods:

Key informant interviews with state administrators

Survey of Garrett Lee Smith grantees

Review of archival data, including Garrett Lee Smith state grant proposals

Findings

Existing Resources:

Using Surveillance Data from Youth-Serving Public Systems
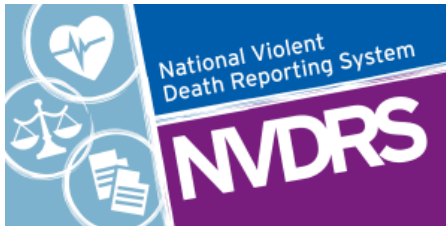
Availability as a Barrier

- Narrative data

  - *"…**Narrative data may include personally identifiable information and is often not easily aggregated**, so preparing this data for sharing and/or surveillance use may be too time-consuming to be practical."*

- Informal sharing agreements

- Lack of system resources

Availability as a Barrier:
Sample Recommendations

- Understand what data exist and develop a vision for how you'd like to use it.

- Articulate how shared data may be mutually beneficial, focusing on the positive impacts for all partner organizations.

Data Quality as a Barrier

- Lack of standardized definitions

  - *"…**inconsistencies may be present even with a single state system**; for example, a state's privately run jails may have different suicide-related data collection protocols and definitions than the state's prison or probation system."*

- Inconsistent reporting

- Difficulty tracking youth

Data Quality as a Barrier:
Sample Recommendations

- Consult with partners to enhance their ability to collect quality data.

- Enhance connections between existing suicide surveillance groups (e.g. Child Death Review) and youth-serving state systems.

Using Surveillance Data from Youth-Serving Public Systems

Share your story!

- How has <u>availability</u> impacted your use of surveillance data from these systems?

- What about <u>data quality</u>?

- What tools/resources have you found to be helpful?

- Questions??

Sample Worksheet

WORKSHEET 1: Before Connecting with Partner Agencies to Explore Data-Sharing Possibilities

1. Assess your current relationship with the identified partner.

   a.   Do you have an existing relationship? What existing linkages already exist?

   b.   Which stakeholders/agency leaders from that state system need to be brought on board to generate approval for data sharing? Which stakeholders/agency leaders can facilitate data-sharing agreements (e.g., are there in-system champions, agency personnel with connections to the suicide field)? How can they be brought on board?

2. Develop a clear vision of your data-related needs.

   a.   What kind of suicide-related data would you be looking to receive (e.g., deaths, attempts, ideation)?

Barrier: Efforts are not System-Wide

- Need for efforts that have adequate delivery and reach.

  - *"…limited prevention efforts that do not result in systems change and have less reach should not expect that system-level data, even if it is accessible, will demonstrate change."*

Barrier: Efforts are Not System-Wide Sample Recommendations

- Conduct an environmental scan to understand the extent of existing prevention efforts in these systems.

- Use a systems-level prevention approach.

Share your story!

- Who is involved with implementing change to a system as a whole?

  – How have you used related data for evaluation?

•If you're not working with the whole system, how have you used the data?

- What tools/resources have you found to be helpful?

- Questions??
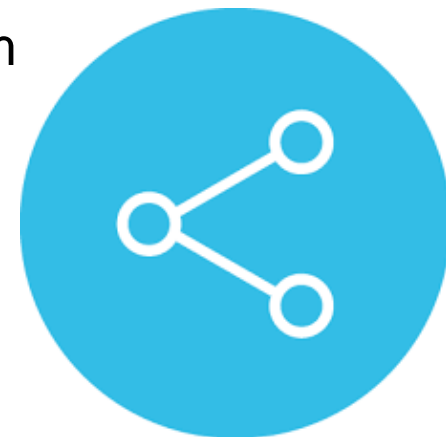
Barrier: Interpreting Trends with Small Numbers

- Small number of suicides, particularly in small systems, makes it difficult to interpret trends over time.

  - *"…If we make major changes to our prevention efforts because of a chance fluctuation in a small population, we will be constantly shifting our prevention plans, when in fact these changes are likely random and not connected to the success or failure of our efforts."*

- Unintentional personal identifiers can also be a concern when working with small numbers.

Barrier: Interpreting Trends with Small Numbers Sample Recommendations

- Consider using alternative measures to triangulate findings.

- Consider combining data points over time to increase the number of suicide-events.

- Use small numbers to inform quality improvement efforts.

Share your story!

- How has <u>interpreting trends with small numbers</u> impacted your use of surveillance data from these systems?

- What tools/resources have you found to be helpful?

- Questions??

Using Surveillance Data from Youth-Serving Public Systems

What's Next?

What other barriers exist to accessing and using surveillance data from youth-serving public systems?

What other solutions/ resources would you like to share?

What technical assistance would be helpful as you continue to work to access and use data from these systems?

Resources

Suicide Prevention Resource Center. *Breaking down barriers: Using youth suicide-related surveillance data from state systems*. Waltham, MA: Education Development Center, Inc. http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/breaking-down-barriers-using-youth-suicide-related-surveillance-data-state

Suicide Prevention Resource Center. *Suicide Surveillance Strategies for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*. Waltham, MA: Education Development Center, Inc.

(expected release in Spring 2018)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center: Surveillance Success Stories. These stories detail how states and/or counties have partnered with public behavioral health systems to collect and use suicide-related data:

- Kentucky: http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/surveillance-success-stories-kentucky

- Ohio: http://www.sprc.org/news/ohio-surveillance-success-story

- Vermont: http://www.sprc.org/news/vermont-surveillance-success-story

- Montana: http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/surveillance-success-stories-montana

- Texas: http://www.sprc.org/news/surveillance-success-stories-%E2%80%93-texas-denton-tarrant-counties

Using Surveillance Data from Youth-Serving Public Systems

Thank you!

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