

ZERO SUICIDE IN TEXAS



June 2016



Facebook To Begin New Suicide Prevention Tool

On June 14th, one of the biggest technology companies in the world introduced a tool to aid suicide prevention efforts. Facebook's newest feature allows users to flag friend's posts that they perceive as indicative of suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

The tool will allow the person reporting a menu of options, including to send a private message, to coordinate with a third mutual friend for help, or to contact a professional helpline.

Posts that are flagged as potential self-harm or suicide are reviewed more quickly by Facebook's community operations team, a group that reviews flagged posts 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2015 YRBS Released

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) released the results of the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Scale (YRBS). While Texas data is not included in the initial report, national data can provide information on recent trends.

Nationwide, 8.6% of students had attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months before the survey. The prevalence of having attempted suicide was higher among female (11.6%) than male (5.5%) students; and higher among Hispanic (11.3%) than white (6.8%).

During 1991–2015, a significant linear decrease occurred overall in the prevalence of having attempted suicide (7.3%–8.6%).

Read more [here](#).

Safety Planning and Follow Ups

•••

A recent study among Veterans Health Administration patients found that safety plans are more effective when clinicians follow up with their clients to determine if the safety plans need updating, if the safety plans were utilized, and if their outpatient providers were incorporating the safety plans into their treatment.

According to the study, on average the safety plans were "fairly complete and of moderately good quality," but there was a lack of follow up by providers to ensure the plans were updated and used accordingly.

The authors suggest the lack of follow up may be due to a gap in service coordination: patients are frequently discharged and treatment is provided by a separate provider at an outpatient clinic.

To access the full article, please [click here](#).

Twitter Chat on African American Men's Mental Health

On June 16th, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) hosted a twitter discussion on African American men's mental health. NIMH experts answered questions and facilitated the discussion.

To read the full Twitter discussion, use the hashtag #NIMHchats.

Upcoming Events



Legal and Liability Issues in Suicide Care
Webinar, Recoded by Zero Suicide
Archived at www.zerosuicide.com

Health and behavioral health care organizations and providers implementing suicide prevention practices often have concerns about liability and legal issues. Providing quality patient care while minimizing liability risk is a priority across healthcare organizations, especially when caring for patients at risk for suicide.

Health and behavioral health care organizations can support providers and manage risk by adopting practices that ensure: suicide risk is properly identified and assessed; timely and effective treatment that allows for patient choice and involvement is provided; patient health information is appropriately communicated between providers, patients and collaterals; and documentation is thorough.

This webinar will explore the legal and liability issues related to implementing systems-level changes designed to improve suicide care practices. Participants will hear from three experts who will discuss common liability concerns including those related to confidentiality and HIPAA, key elements in liability cases, and strategies to minimize liability against a provider or health care organization.

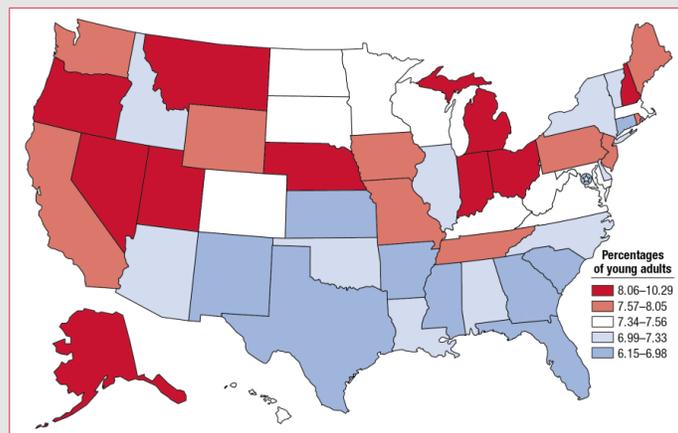
For more details and to access this webinar, please [click here](#).

What the data tells us



A recent study using data from the 2012, 2013 and 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) has examined suicide rates in young adults age 18 to 25. Texas was found to have the lowest suicide rate within this age group of all of the states across both years, but experienced a small, nonsignificant increase between the two time periods (5.83% in 2012/2013 and 6.15% in 2013/2014). Read more [here](#).

Figure 1. Serious thoughts of suicide in the past year among young adults aged 18 to 25, by state: annual averages, 2013-2014



Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2013 and 2014.