

HB1430 Suicide Awareness and Prevention

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The following provisions are the result of over a year of research into best practices in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (after a suicide occurs) policies conducted by the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children.

Required, On-going Teacher Training

After June 30, 2018, teachers (including superintendents, principals, school counselors, school social workers, & school nurses) of students in grades 5-12 shall participate in at least two hours of evidence-based youth suicide awareness and prevention training every three years. Schools may also require other employees as appropriate.

State Suicide Prevention Coordinator

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) shall employ a State Suicide Prevention Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring that training, awareness, programming, and services are coordinated among the regional suicide prevention task forces and coalitions. The coordinator shall be a resource to professionals and the public on information, resources, and funding opportunities that exist to facilitate prevention and intervention activities. The coordinator will also study and make recommendations about what professions should be required to receive suicide prevention and assessment training and how to fund the training.

Development of Training for Health Care Providers

The DMHA will develop and provide evidence-based training programs for health care providers, including mental and behavioral health providers, in suicide assessment, training, and management listed as approved by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) or the National Registry for Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

School Policies and Student Education

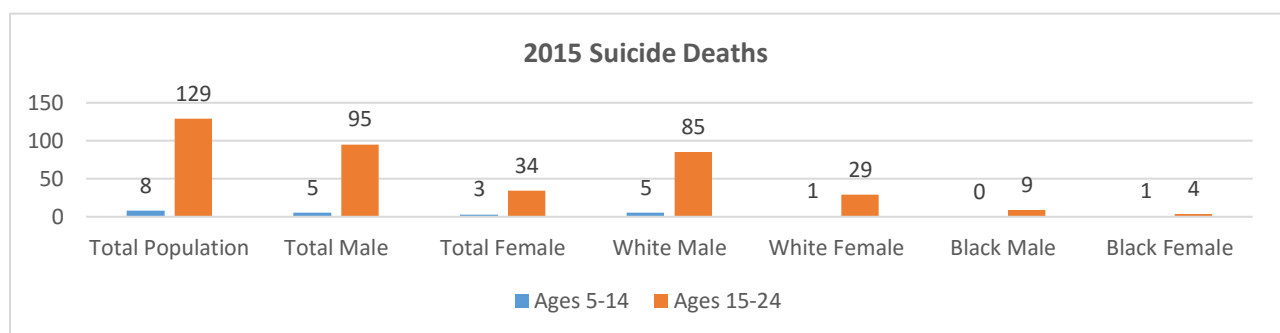
Schools shall develop and implement evidence-based policies and standards to prevent student suicide that include training and programming for staff and students, family involvement, partnerships with community mental health providers, and plans for intervention and postvention activities for students identified with suicide ideation or when a student dies by suicide.

Public and Private Higher Education Institutions

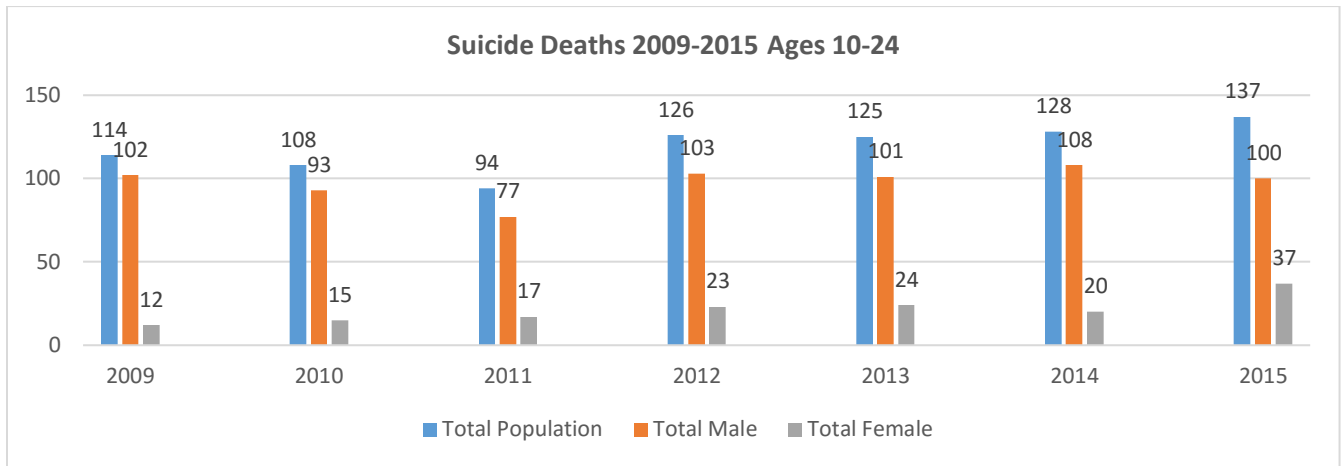
Colleges and universities across Indiana should develop and implement policies to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus that include access to information, resources, and services designed to provide a supportive learning environment for students. Crisis intervention and counseling services should be made available to all students and information about how to access those services should be communicated across the higher education institution's information platforms.

Youth Deaths by Suicide in Indiana

In 2015, suicide was the **4th leading cause of death** for youth **under the age of 14** and suicide has been the **2nd leading cause of death** for **youth ages 15-24** in Indiana since 2009. According to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Indiana has the **4th highest rate** of youth who **seriously consider suicide** (20%) in the country and the **4th highest rate** of youth who **make a plan to attempt suicide** (17%). Hoosier youth are more likely than their peers nationally to attempt suicide or have been treated by a medical professional as a result of a suicide attempt in the past year. Indiana ranks 26th in its age-adjusted death rate for overall suicides. A snapshot of 2015 data from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH):



Data from 2009 to 2015 shows an upward trend with some fluctuations:



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Epidemiology Resource Center, Data Analysis Team.
Indiana State Department of Health. Indiana Mortality Report, State and County Data 2015. Published December 2016
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/19096.htm>

According to the 2017 Indiana Kids Count Data Book published by the Indiana Youth Institute, one in 20 children have a behavior or conduct problem (5.3%), 4 percent have a problem with anxiety and 3.1 percent have experienced depression. Nearly 1 in 8 children over the age of 5 received treatment or counseling from a mental health professional in the last year (12%).

Sources:

2017 Kids Count Data Book, Indiana Youth Institute, https://s3.amazonaws.com/iyi-website/data-book/2017_Data-Book.pdf?mtime=20170227080137

Indiana Mortality Report, State and County Data 2015. Indiana State Department of Health, Epidemiology Resource Center, Data Analysis Team.
Indiana State Department of Health. Published December 2016 <http://www.in.gov/isdh/19096.htm>