

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance**  
**Data Workgroup**

*Approved April 8, 2013*

Monday, February 11, 2013

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Conference call)

**Introductions**

Peter Mulhall	Center for Prevention Research and Development
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Steve Moore	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Illinois Chapter
Mark Flotow	Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics

**Announcements**

- Mr. Flotow reported vital records is still going through data clean up for the recent mortality data.
- Ms. Martin shared a data burden fact sheet developed by the Department's Office of Health Promotion Data Unit. It was created as a result to a data request on youth suicide-related data. The sheet provides mortality and hospital data in addition to youth suicide behavioral information.
- Ms. Martin mentioned the President's recommendations on gun violence prevention included expansion of the Violent Death Reporting System.
- Ms. Martin mentioned the American College of Preventative Medicine plans to release a statement regarding the President's recommendation to expand VDRS. They want to share information with states working on VDRS in case we get requests to respond to their release

**Approve October 9, 2012 minutes**

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. All members approved the minutes.

**Discuss any newly released suicide-related data**

*2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* – Ms. Martin provided a link to the [2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) results which includes data on adults who had serious thoughts, plans and attempts of suicide.

- In 2011, an estimated 8.5 million adults (3.7 percent) aged 18 or older had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. The estimated number and percentage remained stable between 2008 (8.3 million, 3.7 percent) and 2011.
- Among adults aged 18 or older in 2011, 2.4 million (1.0 percent) made suicide plans in the past year, and 1.1 million (0.5 percent) attempted suicide in the past year.
- Adults aged 18 or older with a past year substance use disorder were more likely than those without dependence or abuse to have had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year (11.2 vs. 3.0 percent). Adults with a substance use disorder also were more likely to make suicide plans compared with adults without dependence or abuse (3.6 vs. 0.8 percent) and were more likely to attempt suicide compared with adults without dependence or abuse (1.9 vs. 0.4 percent).

Dr. Mulhall Peter uses data for this survey. They are done annually with rolling averages. It samples a new group of youth regarding their challenges and monitors for the future. He added the Youth Risk

Behavior Survey and the Illinois Youth Survey are school-based surveys, whereas the NSDUH is a telephone survey, so estimates are calculated differently.

#### **Agree on what data to include in the 2012 annual report**

The workgroup reflected on the recent discussions regarding what data should be included in the annual report (e.g., narrow down the number of data charts, include a time series, keep the county maps.) Members decided a time series should be based on a ten year span. Mr. Moore asked if the county maps could be done by legislative district. Mr. Flotow explained though a Geographic Information System is built into their data system, they do not have the internal expertise to analyze the results.

#### **Identify other workgroup activities**

- Dr. Mulhall mentioned the Illinois Youth Survey is preparing a statewide report on a couple of indicators. Once the report is completed, they may be able to look at other indicators. The Illinois Department of Human Services outlines what indicators they want analysed; perhaps suicide-related indicators could be included.
- Ms. Martin mentioned the Youth Risk Behavior Survey currently is being implemented in schools. The results will be complete in the summer. Workgroup members would like to invite the Illinois State Board of Education to share their findings during the workgroup meetings in June 2013.
- Dr. Mulhall is interested in finding out what data needs do local groups have?
- Mr. Moore shared the lawyer assistance program is conducting a suicide prevention training. It would be beneficial to look at data by employment.
- Ms. Martin shared she received an inquiry from another state as to if our hospital association has developed processes, protocols and reporting forms (HIPPA compliant) to collect and report suicide attempt data and coordinate w DOH. The inquiry also asked if Illinois has uniform standards for investigation of cases of apparent or suspected suicide, and for collecting and reporting of suicide death data. If not, what would the state coroners/medical examiners association feel are barriers to this being implemented? Ms. Martin outreached to others to find the answers to these questions. She found that Illinois doesn't have uniform standards for investigating suicides, but was encouraged to contact the IL Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners for further insight about this and barriers to implementation.
  - This sparked a conversation among the workgroup about psychological autopsies. Dr. Mulhall the executive director of the Kendall County Health Department did postmortem work with coroner's office. He'll invite her to join the next workgroup call to learn about her efforts and if there policies/procedures they learn, which could be expanded statewide.

#### **New business**

None

#### **Set agenda items for next meeting**

Same agenda items