

LASPN Youth Workgroup Meeting

June 7, 2021

Nicolle Perras – Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health

CDC report on youth suicide - The CDC analysis was drawn from data collected by the National Syndromic Surveillance Program. There was a 22.3 percent spike in ER trips for attempts among youth aged 12 to 17 in summer 2020 compared to 2019, according to findings published in the CDC's "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report." That trend seemed to continue into this recently completed academic year as visits were up by 39.1 percent this winter, compared to the previous winter, the report said. Among girls aged 12 to 17, between Feb. 21 and March 20 this year, emergency department visits for potential suicide attempts were up 50.6 percent compared to the same period in 2019, data showed.

Updated youth suicide brief though the County DPH office - last one was 2018 – how many attempted and treated, how many admitted, how many suicidal – one limitation: suicide numbers are small, so can't report one year data

DPH is not seeing a rise in suicidal deaths in L.A. County for any youth vs previous years – suicides have decreased compared to last year – classification includes there has to be evidence that there is an intent to die

ICAN – increases in deaths overall: some from Covid and others with drug overdoses – the latter makes it difficult to properly determine if these overdoses were intentional

Despite the decrease in suicide numbers, youth are still in pain – suicidality numbers are up

Attempts in L.A. County – investigating whether they higher in BIPOC communities among youth

Suicide during the pandemic –

ICAN Adolescent Suicide Death Review - Student support services director or principal are notified of review of death of student – they include speaking with a person close to student (i.e. teacher, coach)

School support services – LACOE sends out to every school when they notify school of student death – If they don't have resources in place, then LACOE and DMH provides them

Postvention services – LASPN is going to help build out these resources

Trends and concerns regarding Orange County youth - *Jennifer Ponce, MSW, CHES - Program Specialist, Crisis Response Network - Orange County Department of Education*

Mayu Iwatani – Manager at OC Dept of Education– Covers all districts, as well as charter and public schools

Deaths vs those pending investigation – history of suicidality and hospitalization in youths that are pending investigation and an overdose

Students 18 and under (2020-21) = 12 suicide deaths

First 12 months of pandemic (March 2020-2021) = 13 suicide deaths

Past 5 years – trends – 13 vs male 43; 10-12 years (5), 13-14 years (10), 15-16 (16), 17-18 (20)

LACOE – gets all suicide death reports from Los Angeles county (5 – 18 years old) – for all 80 districts – they do not get reports from private schools & charters (not LACOE affiliated) are not consistent in reporting

Coroner – uses the address where youth are living to find out school, then sends to LACOE

Instead of direct comparisons w/Orange County, use a rate instead – how do we improve notification to schools and families in partnership with the Coroner's Office

State does cleaning on data sent from L.A. County Coroner and get back data – may not match the format

CA Healthy Kids Survey – It is not a requirement for L.A. County schools, so responses are dwindling – Jewel can access the data – understanding the value of the survey and a better evaluation (feedback) could improve – create infographics to promote better understanding of value (OC County does)

Money and support needed for districts to do this survey – Districts aren't required by state to report assessments