

Presentation Title: Suicide data update and innovations from CoVDRS

Session Presenters: Ethan C Jamison MPH Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)

I am a researcher, suicide prevention advocate, and bereaved by suicide

Presentation Type: One-hour breakout/ Research track

Audience: Prevention Efforts/ Beginner

Previous BTM presentation: “Suicide Circumstances and Youth data from CoVDRS”, BTM conference 2015. The current presentation will cover different data topics (not previously covered), it will include new years of data, and it will touch on new data innovations, previously not covered.

Educational Objectives: At the conclusion of this presentation the participant should be able to identify the type of data that is collected through the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System. The participant should also be able to summarize some of the most prevalent circumstances and risk factors that precipitate suicide deaths in Colorado. Finally the participant should be able to discuss particular innovations and methods that CoVDRS is utilizing to better understand suicide in Colorado.

Abstract: In a one hour break out session, we will address some of the current suicide research that takes place at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The presentation uses surveillance data from the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System (CoVDRS) to describe aspects of suicide in Colorado. Since 2004 Colorado has participated in the National Violent Death Reporting System which collects detailed information on suicides and homicides. The CoVDRS provides a greater level of case detail compared to death certificate data alone. For every violent death that occurs in Colorado, death certificate data are collected and reports are requested from coroners and law enforcement agencies. The information in these reports is abstracted and entered into a database provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The presentation will describe the breadth of information that is captured under the CoVDRS. Additionally the presentation will present on two different subject areas. The first will examine the aggregated details of suicide, describing the various social, behavioral and environmental circumstances that influenced suicide mortality for all suicides in Colorado. The second portion will focus on describing some of the data innovations projects the CoVDRS and other partners are working to create. The presentation will work to engage the audience by presenting detailed information on the subject and then providing time for discussion and questions. This topic builds on known risk factors for suicide as well as presenting recent state specific data on suicide death. Overall, we aim to aspire toward zero suicide in Colorado, by using data to describe the growing public health issue. By better understanding common risk factors, we can help inform the suicide prevention community. These data can also shape future prevention programs, which aim to reduce suicide deaths and the toll they take on communities.