

SUICIDE AND BLACK YOUTH: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

PRESENTED BY:

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SUICIDE AND BLACK YOUTH: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Objectives

- Increased knowledge around the prevalence of suicide among Black students
 - Increased awareness around cultural considerations and the impact of systems of oppression for Black students
 - Recognize the impact of suicide prevention
 - Discuss the parameters of school liability
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SUICIDE AND BLACK YOUTH: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- 1995
 - Suicide the 3rd leading cause of death among Black youth aged 15-19
 - Between 1980-1995 3,030 Black youth aged 10-19 completed suicide in the US
- 1980
 - Suicide rate for White youth 10-19 **157% GREATER** than rate for Black youth
 - By 1995 rates for White student suicide only **42% Greater**

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- 1995 Continued...
 - Suicide rate for Black youth
 - 10-14 increased by **233%**
 - Suicide rate for White youth
 - 10-14 increased by **120%**
- Youth aged 15-19
 - Black youth **126%** rate increase
 - White youth **19%** rate increase
 - Black males **146%** rate increase
 - White males **22%** rate increase

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- 1995
 - Firearms predominant method for Black youth 10-19
 - Suffocation/Strangulation/Hanging predominant method for elementary age



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- 2003-2017
 - 1,810 suicide deaths in Black youth
 - 5-11 years (191 youth died by suicide)
 - 12-14 years (514)
 - 15-17 years (1105)
 - 1,299 Black males
 - 511 Black females

Younger Black youth less likely to leave a suicide note

88.5 % of suicides happened at home

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- Precipitating Circumstances
 - Boyfriend/Girlfriend problems
 - History of abuse
 - Interpersonal violence experiences (victim or offender)
 - School problems
 - Death (family/friend)
 - Legal Problems
 - Disclosed intent to die

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- Precipitating Circumstances (2003-2017)
 - 5-11 (69)
 - family/school problem
 - 12-14 (154)
 - family/school problem
 - 15-17 (327)
 - Boyfriend/Girlfriend problems
 - Recent legal problems



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- Current Mental Health Problem
 - 15-17
 - 67.3%- Depression Diagnosis
 - 12-14
 - 49%- Depression Diagnosis
 - 5-11
 - 22 % Depression Diagnosis



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- Current Mental Health Problem (2003-2017)
 - ADHD
 - 5-11 years 72%
 - 12-14 years 36.4%
 - 15-17 years 17.7%
- Rates of alcohol and substance misuse problems low
 - 15-17 years 6%

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- Black females (2003-2017)
 - Experienced the highest annual rate increase, regardless of age
 - 75% of Black girls who died by suicide between the ages of 12-14 died by hanging
 - More likely to experience relationship crises



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- Black males
 - Presentation of mental health symptoms of depression, substance misuse, externalizing behavior
 - Lead to disciplinary action and juvenile justice involvement-
RATHER THAN MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

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- 2019
 - 1,646 Suicide deaths for Black youth reported
 - 111,000 reported cases of self harm
 - Ages 5-17
 - Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - Increased self-reported suicide attempts between 2009-2019

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- Risk factors for suicide differ for Black youth
 - Poverty
 - Barriers to Mental Health Services
 - Economic
 - Transportation
 - Educational opportunities
- Greater exposure to violence
- Greater exposure to traumatic stress
- Earlier onset of puberty
- Breakdown in traditional stabilizing social forces
 - Churches
 - Community Centers



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- Understanding Situational Factors of Suicide with Black Youth
 - Explore less typical suicidal behaviors
 - Culture discussions
 - Black community is underserved
 - Internalized stigma within the Black community
- Healthcare systems disproportionately pathologize Black communities
- Mental Health Professionals
- Systems of oppression

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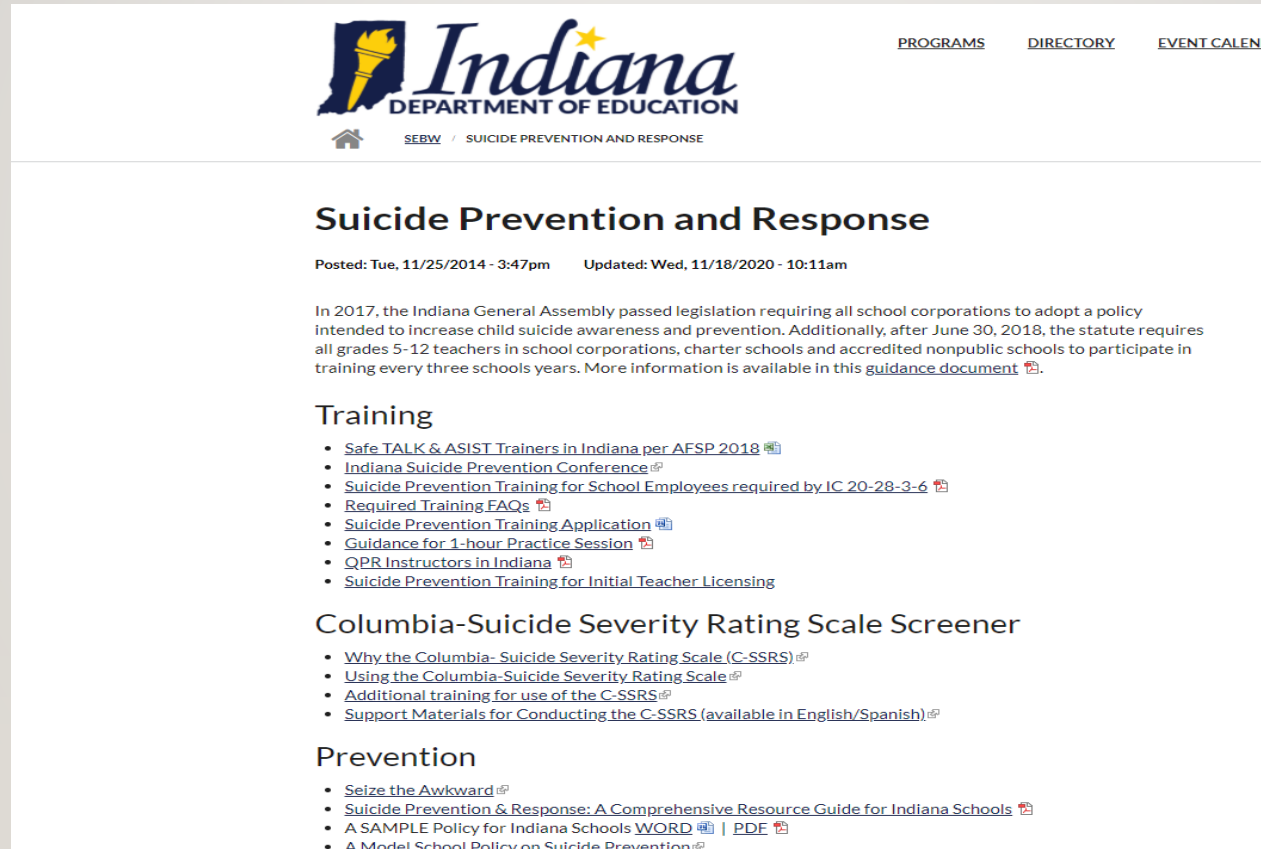
- Suicide Prevention and Intervention with Black Families
 - Assisting with Access to mental health service NOT criminal justice system
- Consider developmental age and sex
 - Age 5-14
 - Sisters of Nia
 - Brothers of Ujima
 - Age 15-17
 - Adapted-Coping With Stress Course (A-CWS)

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Suicide Prevention and Intervention with Black Families Cont'd

- Community Based Services
 - Accurate Mental Health Diagnosis
 - Address systemic racism and trauma
- While interpreting risk factors associated with Black youth suicide incorporate principles of...
 - Justice
 - Equity
 - Diversity
 - Inclusion

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The screenshot shows the Indiana Department of Education website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Indiana DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION". To the right are navigation links for "PROGRAMS", "DIRECTORY", and "EVENT CALENDAR". Below the logo is a home icon and the text "SEBW / SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE". The main heading is "Suicide Prevention and Response". Below this, it says "Posted: Tue, 11/25/2014 - 3:47pm" and "Updated: Wed, 11/18/2020 - 10:11am". The main text paragraph states that in 2017, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation requiring all school corporations to adopt a policy intended to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. It also mentions that after June 30, 2018, the statute requires all grades 5-12 teachers in school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools to participate in training every three school years. More information is available in this [guidance document](#). Below this are three sections: "Training" with a list of seven links, "Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale Screener" with a list of four links, and "Prevention" with a list of four links.

Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROGRAMS DIRECTORY EVENT CALENDAR

SEBW / SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Suicide Prevention and Response

Posted: Tue, 11/25/2014 - 3:47pm Updated: Wed, 11/18/2020 - 10:11am

In 2017, the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation requiring all school corporations to adopt a policy intended to increase child suicide awareness and prevention. Additionally, after June 30, 2018, the statute requires all grades 5-12 teachers in school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools to participate in training every three school years. More information is available in this [guidance document](#).

Training

- [Safe TALK & ASIST Trainers in Indiana per AFSP 2018](#)
- [Indiana Suicide Prevention Conference](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Training for School Employees required by IC 20-28-3-6](#)
- [Required Training FAQs](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Training Application](#)
- [Guidance for 1-hour Practice Session](#)
- [QPR Instructors in Indiana](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Training for Initial Teacher Licensing](#)

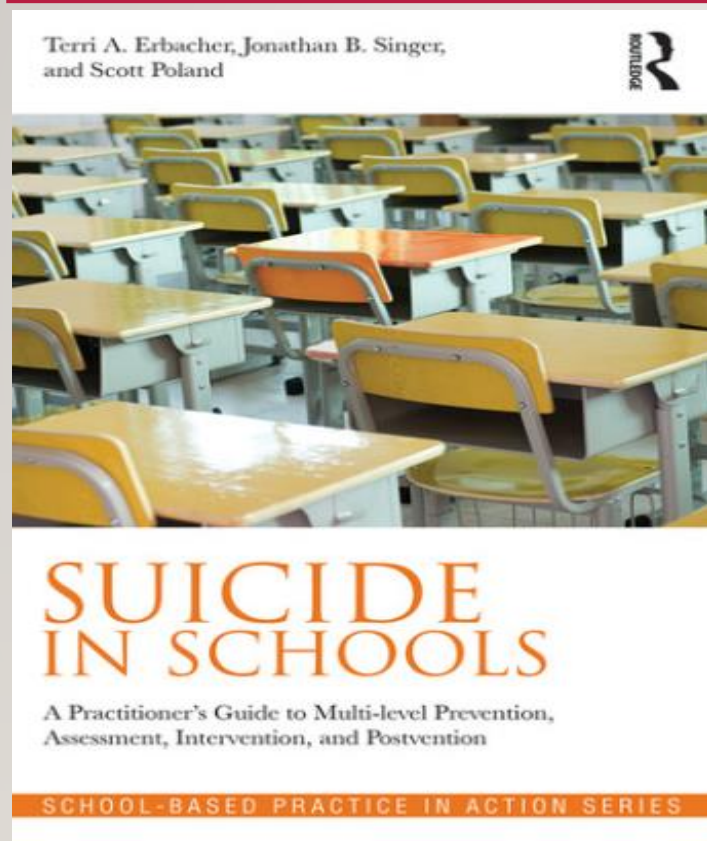
Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale Screener

- [Why the Columbia- Suicide Severity Rating Scale \(C-SSRS\)](#)
- [Using the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale](#)
- [Additional training for use of the C-SSRS](#)
- [Support Materials for Conducting the C-SSRS \(available in English/Spanish\)](#)

Prevention

- [Seize the Awkward](#)
- [Suicide Prevention & Response: A Comprehensive Resource Guide for Indiana Schools](#)
- A SAMPLE Policy for Indiana Schools [WORD](#) | [PDE](#)
- [A Model School Policy on Suicide Prevention](#)

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- Maintain liability insurance
- Consult with colleagues and/or school suicide prevention experts
- Detailed documentation
- Keep a record of crisis training
- Use best practices for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention

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- **Dr. Christopher Drapeau**
- State Suicide Prevention Director
- Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- **Email:** christopher.drapeau@fssa.in.gov

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References

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Talley, D., et. Al. 2021. Journal of Aggression and Violent Behavior. Understanding Situational Factors and Conditions Contributing to Suicide among Black Youth

Ring the Alarm: The Crisis of Black Youth Suicide in America: A Report to Congress from the Congressional Black Caucus. Emergency Taskforce of Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health

Erbacher, T., et. al. Suicide in Schools

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