

ROUND TABLE:

Suicide Data: The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, Data & Surveillance Task Force

The National Action Alliance For Suicide Prevention

(www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org) is a public-private partnership working to advance the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*

- The Action Alliance was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years.
- Current leadership: Jessica Garfola Wright, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, US Dept. of Defense and Robert Turner, Senior Vice-President, Union Pacific Corporation.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance.
- The Action Alliance advances the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* (NSSP) by:
 - Championing suicide prevention as a national priority
 - Catalyzing efforts to implement high priority objectives of the NSSP
 - Cultivating the resources needed to sustain progress

Data and Surveillance Task Force

Leadership

Private Sector: Melvin Kohn, MD, MPH, Director, Adult Immunizations, Merck Pharmaceuticals

Public Sector: Scott K. Proescholdbell, MPH, Epidemiologist, North Carolina Division of Public Health

Goal, Objectives, and Action Steps

The goal of the task force is to identify and prioritize actionable objectives, building on recommendations from *Improving National Data Systems for Surveillance of Suicide-related Events* and the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention's* strategic direction to improve suicide surveillance. The emphasis is on increasing the timeliness and usefulness of national surveillance systems relevant to suicide prevention and to improve the ability to collect, analyze, and use this information for action.

The task force has identified and prioritized three objectives:

1. Improve timeliness of suicide death data
2. Improve the quality of data available on suicides
3. Create a strategy to develop a surveillance system on suicide attempts

Roundtable Agenda

-Welcome & Introductions

-Purpose: awareness of D&STF and identify individuals interested in these types of issues

Questions for discussion:

1. What are some of the challenges for collecting and using public health data on suicide? Discuss for both suicide mortality and morbidity.
2. What do you consider to be timely mortality data? Timely morbidity data? Have you/your constituents seen tangible benefits from having more rapid data? Please describe.
3. How does your jurisdiction process suicide data?
4. Have you evaluated the quality of your suicide data? If you haven't done a formal evaluation, do you have a general understanding about the completeness/accuracy/details of the data?
5. Does your state have electronic death certification?
6. What type of suicide data would be most useful to you in your job?
7. Does your state report any data on nonfatal suicide attempts for any age group?
8. Does your state have a surveillance plan for nonfatal attempts? (challenges with self-harm)
9. Have you evaluated your suicide surveillance system?
10. Who are your suicide data stakeholders? What are you doing with the data?

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