

# Youth Suicide

Sally Fogerty

Director, Children's Safety Network

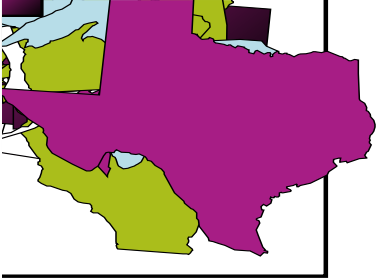
National Injury and Violence Prevention

Resource Center

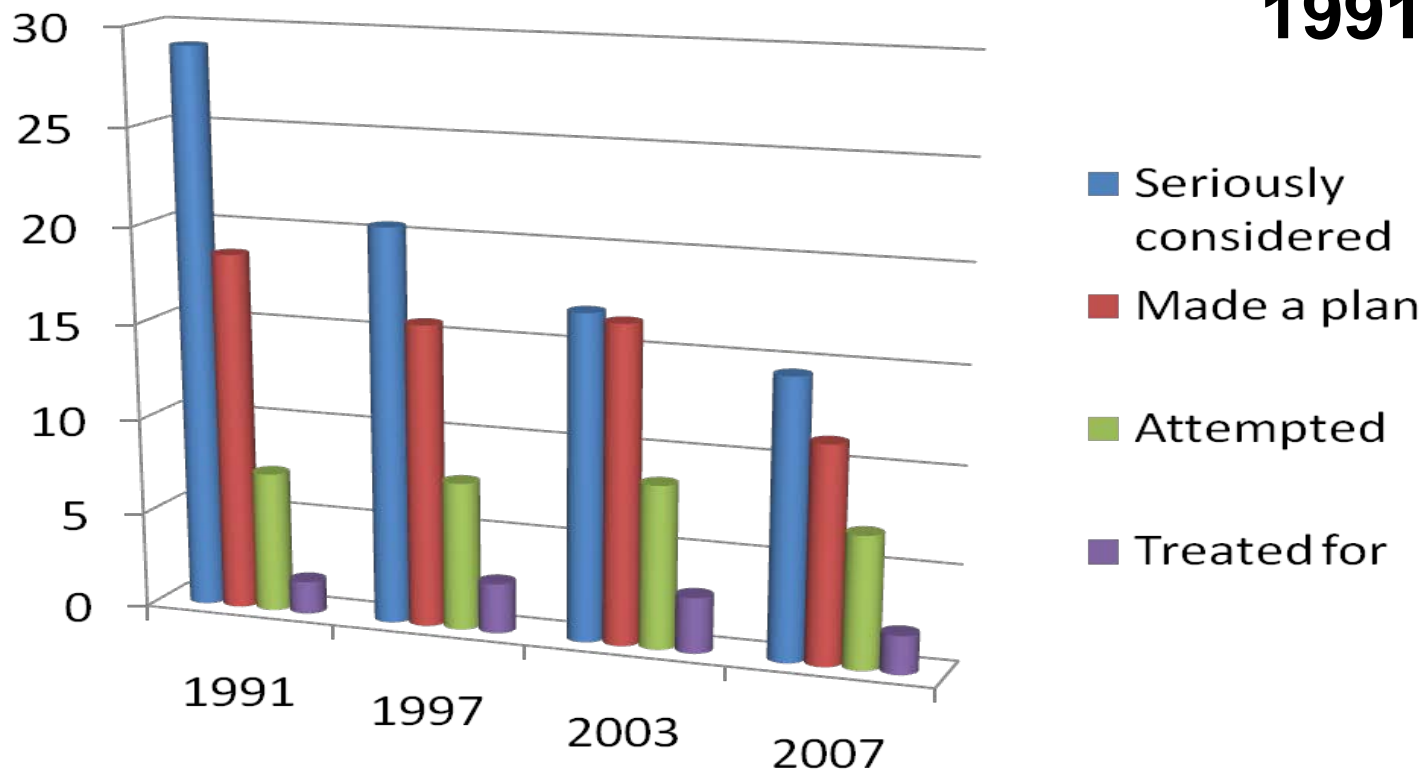
May 20, 2009



- Significant cause of both mortality and morbidity for youth between 10-24
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24
- U.S. National youth suicide rate for youth ages 15-19 decreased from 7.90 per 100,000, 2001 to 7.66 per 100,000, 2005
- National MCH Block Grant Performance Measure



## Trends in the Prevalence of Suicide-Related Behaviors, National YRBS: 1991-2007





# Examples of CDR Recommendations

- Provide suicide prevention training and interventions for school personnel, teachers, community members, parents – AL, GA, ID
- Education: Statewide, local, parents, community members, health professionals, and youth – AL, AZ, GA, ID, MT, NE, UT
- Safe storage or removal of firearms – AL, OR
- Improve access to mental health services for children – AR, MO, NV

# Examples of CDR Recommendations cont...

- Create review & multidisciplinary teams, workgroups, coalitions, or task forces to establish protocols /programs on youth suicide prevention – CA, OR, WV
- Work with schools, clergy, and others to identify the warning signs of teen depression and suicide – MD
- Provide counseling for children and recently divorced parents and include parenting plans – TN

## Examples of CDR Recommendations cont...

- Identify youth at risk for suicide – AL, GA, OR
- Conduct thorough investigations of suicides by including information from sources beyond the immediate family members at the death scene – ID, OR
- Identify resources to increase suicide prevention awareness and referral process – AL, TN
- Incorporate suicide prevention education into schools and other student-related organizations – NV

# HSPH Survey of State Suicide Prevention Coalition

- Telephone interviews with Director/leader of statewide suicide prevention coalition or comparable planning body, as identified on SPRC website
- Summer '06-March '07
- Obtained information related to integration with MCH - Title V

# Key Findings

- 96% of the states reported having a state-wide suicide prevention plan published or in process
- 73% report they are actively implementing programs
- Coalition Interaction with State Title V/MCH program
  - 54% included a representative from MCH in the group
  - 50% reported they interacted with MCH some or alot
  - 68 % did not know that youth suicide was a performance measure for Title V/MCH program

# One State Example: MA

From State Plan → Budget  
Language → Program

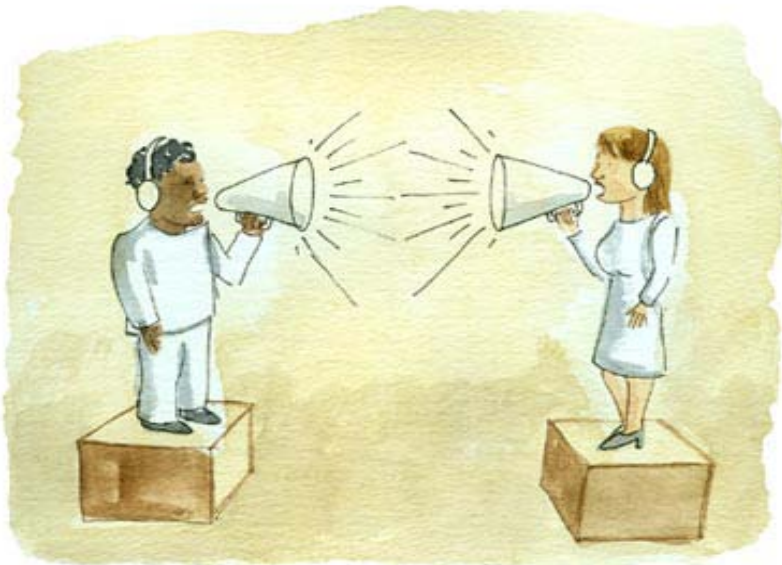
- Joint effort IVP and MCH to support development of state suicide prevention plan
- Legislator who lost brother to suicide
- Budget provided funding and defined scope of program
- Mandated collaboration between Mental Health and Public Health
- Strong advocacy support

# WHO OWNS?

## Mental Health

or

## Public Health

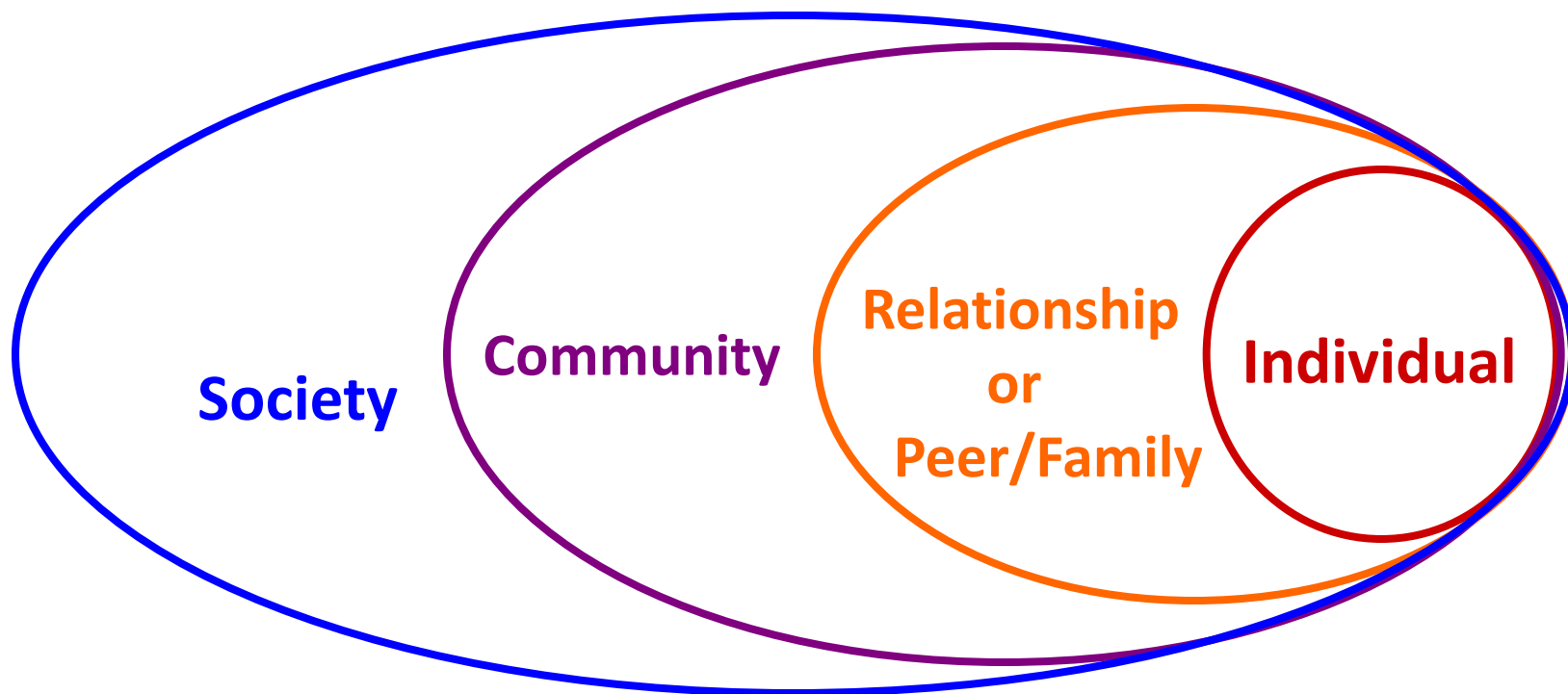


## Guided by:

- The Massachusetts Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention
- The national registry of evidence-based practices
- Public health and life span prevention approach
- Data



# Social Ecological Model





Middle & High Schools  
SOS Program

Child Death Review

First Responders/Emergency  
Services

Reducing stigma

Gatekeeper training

Hotlines

Risk Reduction-  
Residential  
Facilities

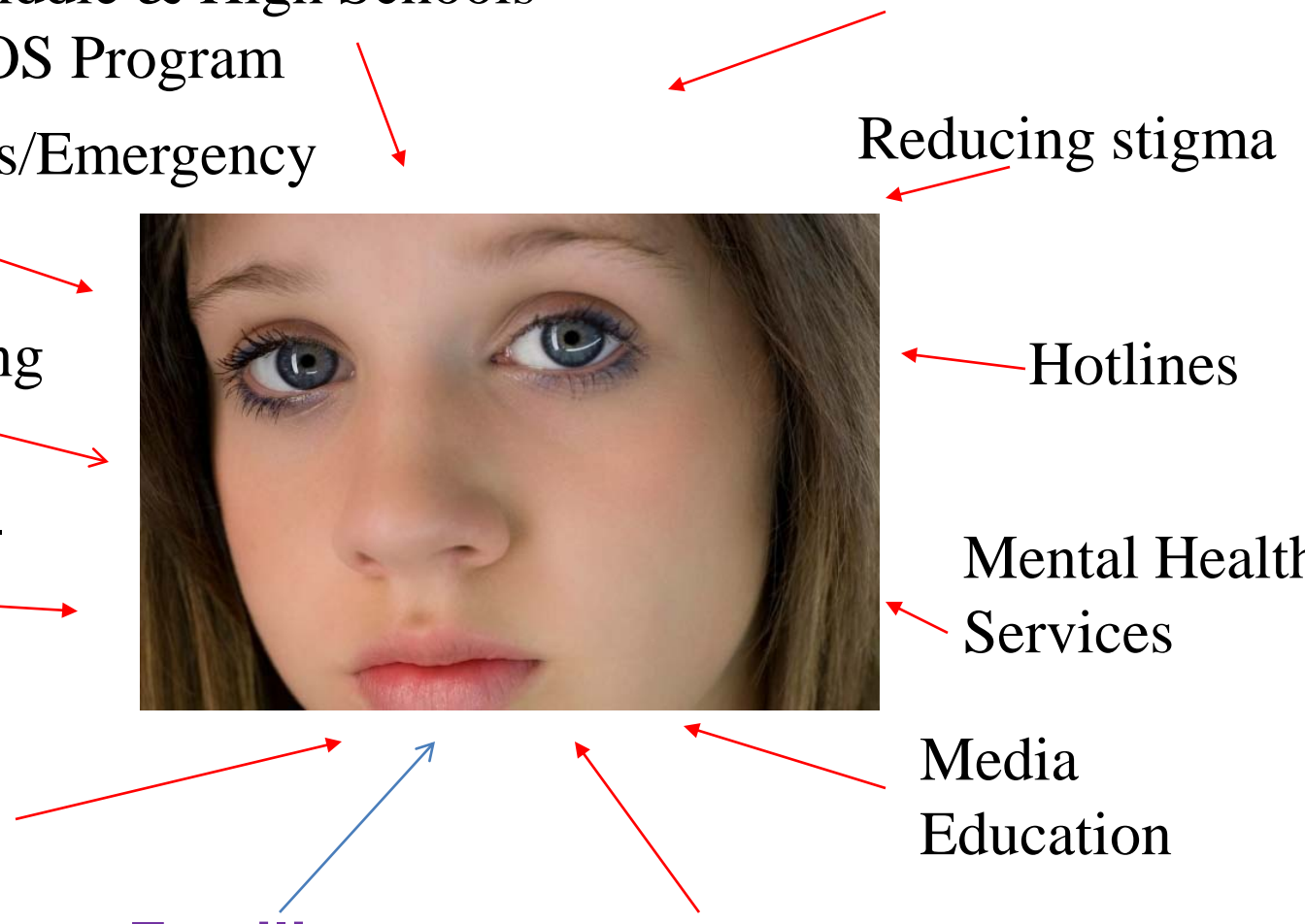
Mental Health  
Services

Professional  
Education &  
Training

Media  
Education

**Families**

Garrett Lee Smith Grant



# Cross-Program Integration

- Data sharing
- IVP to MCH to Substance Abuse to EMS to Hospital ER's
- Public Health to Mental Health to Youth Services to Child Welfare to Education
- Public Health to providers to community groups to media to advocates



# Contact Information

Children's Safety Network  
Education Development Center, Inc.

55 Chapel Street

Newton, MA 02458

[www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org](http://www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org)

1-617-618-2918

CSN is funded by Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau