DVP Digest: June-August 2015

News and Updates from CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP)

Suicide is a serious public health problem in the United States. In fact, at almost 40,000 deaths each year, suicide is the leading cause of injury death in the United States. The devastating effects of suicide extend beyond its victims to their families and communities, and to society overall. For example, suicides and self-inflicted injuries cost society billions every year in combined medical and work loss alone.

Suicides are also on the rise, especially among middle-aged adults. Now, more than ever, we must unite as a nation to support our families, friends and neighbors and prevent suicide. In observance of September as National Suicide Prevention Month, we have dedicated this issue of the DVP Digest to highlighting CDC’s efforts to prevent suicide. As you will read, DVP’s work involves tracking trends, conducting research to better understand the problem, and putting that information into practice to prevent suicide. This edition also contains news and updates from across DVP as we continue our efforts to prevent violence in all its forms. Thank you for your continued partnership!

Sincerely,
James Mercy, PhD
Director, Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DVP Spotlight on...Suicide Prevention

DVP’s efforts to prevent suicide focus on supporting surveillance, research, and prevention practices that promote awareness of suicide as a public health problem and reduce risk for suicidal behavior. Some examples include:

Surveillance

- The National Violent Death Surveillance System, a state-based surveillance system that pools information about violent deaths from multiple sources, is the most comprehensive database on circumstances surrounding suicide in the U.S., and is used by many states to
inform their suicide prevention efforts.

- DVP collaborates with the Defense Centers of Excellence: National Center for Telehealth and Technology (T2) on suicide surveillance efforts. For example, the agencies recently completed a project linking Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports with NVDRS. Scientists from both DVP and T2 are finishing a third study with these data, which will provide information to help tailor military suicide prevention strategies.

**Research**

- DVP is funding and evaluating two interventions: Links to Enhancing Teens’ Connectedness (LET’s CONNECT), led by Dr. Cheryl King from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and The Senior Connection, headed by Dr. Yeates Conwell from the University of Rochester. Both studies utilize randomized controlled trials to test the effect of their respective interventions to enhance individual, family, and community connectedness on suicidal thoughts and behavior and adaptive functioning.
- A 2013 DVP report found that suicide rates among U.S. adults ages 35-64 increased 28% between 1999 and 2010, while suicide rate changes for younger and older groups were comparatively small. Beginning in Fall 2015, DVP will fund research specific to suicide prevention among middle-aged adults to expand the evidence for effective and scalable suicide prevention strategies for this age group.

**Prevention Practice**

- In 2014, DVP published The Relationship between Bullying and Suicide: What We Know and What It Means for Schools to provide concrete, action-oriented guidance to help school staff increase their understanding of and ability to prevent and respond to bullying and suicide-related behavior.

**DVP Program Updates**

- DVP hosted an Action Planning Meeting for CDC’s Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grantees and their campus partners to develop multi-year action plans to prevent sexual violence on campuses. The RPE grantees that attended were: Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Wyoming, Minnesota, New York, Texas, Iowa, Oregon, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Montana, Oklahoma, and Missouri. (July 21-22, 2015)
- Throughout August, DVP and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration co-sponsored the 1 Photo, 6 Words, #VetoViolence social media project in observance of National Suicide Prevention Month. Participants posted their actions to help prevent suicide and support others to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, using #VetoViolence. Watch for select actions and images on CDC’s VetoViolence Facebook page and other social media channels throughout September.

**DVP Success Story**

**Suicide Prevention Selected as Topic for Next Public Health Grand Rounds**

DVP is pleased to announce that suicide prevention will be featured during CDC’s Sept. 15, 2015,
Public Health Grand Rounds. Grand Rounds is a monthly webcast created to foster national discussion on major public health issues. Topics are selected based on their timeliness and public health importance.

CDC will welcome four leading experts in suicide prevention to co-present at the Grand Rounds:

- Alex Crosby, M.D., Chief, Surveillance Branch, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Eric D. Caine, M.D., John Romano Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Injury Control Research Center; Co-Director, Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide
- Jerry Reed, Ph.D., MSW, Director, Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Education Development Center; Vice President and Director, Center for the Study and Prevention of Injury, Violence and Suicide
- Jarrod Hindman, MS, Violence and Suicide Prevention Section Manager, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The session will focus on the following key themes:

- Suicide is a significant public health issue that impacts millions;
- Promising prevention strategies can help guide action while research continues;
- The public health sector’s focus on data-driven approaches, relationship and community risks, and primary prevention broadens the reach and potential impact of suicide prevention strategies; and
- Suicide’s connections to other forms of violence and public health issues mean that suicide prevention can have many short- and long-term health and cost benefits.

For non-CDC staff interested in viewing the session, a live external webcast will be available. For individuals who are unable to view the session during the scheduled time, the archived presentation will be posted 48 hours after each session.

DVP Scientific Releases

Please note that whenever possible we have provided links to the full texts of the articles listed below. For more information on articles that do not include full texts, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.

Suicide

- Acute and chronic risk preceding suicidal crises among middle-aged men without known mental health and/or substance abuse problems: an exploratory mixed-methods analysis. Crisis, June 30, 2015

Child Abuse & Neglect

- Positioning a public health framework at the intersection of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence: Primary prevention requires working outside existing systems. Child Abuse & Neglect, May 2015

• **It's not as simple as it sounds: Problems and solutions in accessing and using administrative child welfare data for evaluating the impact of early childhood interventions.** Children and Youth Services Review, July 15, 2015

**Firearms**

• **Firearm injuries in the United States.** Preventive Medicine, August 17, 2015

**Sexual Violence/Intimate Partner Violence**


• **Masculine discrepancy stress, teen dating violence, and sexual violence perpetration among adolescent boys.** Journal of Adolescent Health, June 2015

• **Changes in J-SOAP-II and SAVRY scores over the course of residential, cognitive-behavioral treatment for adolescent sexual offending.** Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, July 21, 2015

• **Effect of screening for partner violence on use of health services at 3-year follow-up: A randomized clinical trial.** Journal of the American Medical Association, August 4, 2015

• **Masculine discrepancy stress, substance use, assault, and injury in a survey of U.S. men.** Injury Prevention, August 2015

• **The protective effects of intimate partner relationships on depressive symptomatology among adult parents maltreated as children.** Journal of Adolescent Health, August 2015

• **Effect of screening for partner violence on use of health services at three-year follow-up: A randomized controlled trial.** The JAMA Network Journals, August 4, 2015

• **DELTA PREP: Building Capacity to Meet the Health Urgency of Intimate Partner Violence.** Health Education & Behavior, August 2015

• **The DELTA PREP Initiative: A Multi Case Study of Accelerating Coalition Capacity for Intimate Partner Violence Prevention.** Health Education & Behavior, August 2015

• **Evaluation of the DELTA PREP Project: Catalyzing Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.** Health Education & Behavior, August 2015

• **Abuse Impedes Prevention: The Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and HIV/STI**
Risk Among Young African American Women. *AIDS & Behavior*, August 2015

**Teen Dating Violence**


**Other**


**DVP Partnership Matters**

- DVP hosted a virtual forum to provide updates on plans for enhancing its *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*. (July 10)
- DVP hosted staff from the *Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office* to share information and discuss collaborations around preventing sexual assaults in the military. (July 15-16)
- DVP hosted the quarterly meeting of the *STRYVE Action Council*, a consortium of national organizations dedicated to preventing youth violence. (July 15)
- DVP staff met with leaders from the *Laura and John Arnold Foundation* to share information on evidence-based practices and discuss opportunities for collaboration. (July 22)
- Dr. Tom Simon, DVP Associate Director for Science, presented at a Congressional briefing on youth violence prevention hosted by the *National Prevention Science Coalition*. (July 22)
DVP Resources and Tools

This section features select tools and resources from DVP that communities can use to translate research and data into practice and evaluation.

- New Tool! EvaluACTION tool on the VetoViolence Web site. EvaluACTION is an award-winning tool designed to help you evaluate your public health programs and strategies. Features include: Motion Graphic Video to orient you to the evaluation process and tool; People of Evaluation to help you identify and engage stakeholders; Do’s & Don’ts to underscore what you should & shouldn’t do when evaluating your efforts; Evaluation Plan & Logic Model Builder to help you evaluate your programs and strategies.

- New Training! The updated DATING MATTERS®: Understanding Teen Dating Violence Prevention training on VetoViolence. A free, online course, DATING MATTERS® is available to educators, school personnel, youth mentors, and others dedicated to improving teen health.

- The Oregon Health Authority released the Oregon Suicide Report, based on data from its Violent Death Reporting System.

Contact Us

For more information about DVP or to speak with one of our staff, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.