USING CHILD DEATH REVIEW DATA TO INFORM PROGRAMMING

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Focus on child deaths by firearm and/or suicide.
March 2013 – June 2014
Six deaths – Five cases
Ages 13-17
Representatives from School Districts, Law Enforcement, Coroners, Mental Health, Chaplaincy, Juvenile Justice, Child Protective Services, District Attorneys
Community Partners

• We participate in Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force. The director came to us having issues getting into a school that had a child death that would not recognize the death as a suicide. There was another suicide by firearm the following month. With a sibling murder/suicide two months after that.

• Some of our cases cross county lines. One child lived in neighboring county, but the death occurred in Benton County.

• Local media tries not to report youth suicide to prevent copycat incidents, so not all make the “news”.
Data Review

- Vital Records department provides death certificates to Injury Prevention Coordinator for all children who die in Benton and Franklin counties.
- Children who are transported to Level I or Level II trauma centers and perish are more difficult to capture.
- Relationship with County Coroner who will call if/when they notice trends.
- As we review the death certificates, we may contact Law Enforcement and the Coroner to determine if the death was preventable.
CDR - Findings

• All firearm deaths lacked safe gun storage

• Inadequate mental health resources

• Difficult to engage parents in prevention discussions
Safe Gun Storage Event

• In April 2015, we partnered with Seattle Children’s, Kadlec Regional Medical Center and Safe Kids Benton-Franklin to hold a Safe Gun Storage event at Ranch & Home in Kennewick.

• Gave away 350 lock boxes and 50 trigger locks
Safe Gun Storage Event

• Gave out all 400 items; line started after 6:00 am and all were claimed before official start time of 10:00 am
• Excellent media coverage – all local television stations, newspaper, radio and even local blogger
• All participants received education but safe gun storage message reached tens of thousands more through the local news
Child Death Review

- When we notice trends we do not wait for the CDR to be final – currently we are monitoring sleep deaths/SIDS with our next CDR on 12/15/16

- Unsafe sleep environment

- Capitalized on grant opportunity
  - Port-a-cribs
  - Distribution has begun