USING CHILD DEATH REVIEW DATA TO INFORM PROGRAMMING

Kathleen Clary-Cooke

June 14, 2018
CDR December 2014

• Focused 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
Ongoing Efforts

• YSPP funding is no longer available to pay local Coordinator

• Suicide Prevention Coalition has grown more robust with ESD123 and Lourdes Counseling as leads

• State Senator Sharon Brown has secured funding for Benton & Franklin Counties

• Safe Kids Benton-Franklin distributes cable locks at community events when possible
Locks for Life

• 2017 saw 54 deaths by suicide in Benton & Franklin Counties, including 10 in a four-week period in November & December

• 50-60% of our suicide deaths are by firearm

• Brenden Perkins lost two friends during that time and was inspired to start Locks for Life
USE A GUN LOCK
PROTECT A LIFE

SAVE THE DATE!

We are going to be at Ranch & Home Sept. 15th

Gun Lock Giveaway
Locks for Life's mission is to raise awareness of firearm related suicide and the importance of gun safety.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Find us on @Locks4LifeTC
2018 Safe Gun Storage Event

• Kadlec Regional Medical Center recognized the suicide issue in the community and dedicated funds to prevention efforts

• Coordinated with Safe Kids Benton-Franklin, Benton-Franklin Health District, Ranch & Home, and Locks for Life to hold a Safe Gun Storage event in September 2018

• Seattle Children’s has generously shared their toolkit
Questions

Kathleen Clary-Cooke
kathleencc@bfhd.wa.gov
509-460-4214
509-212-3792