

## State Action Plan Table

### State Action Plan Table (Georgia) - Adolescent Health - Entry 1

#### Priority Need

Reduce suicide among adolescents

#### NPM

Percent of adolescents, ages 12 through 17, who are bullied or who bully others

#### Objectives

8.1. By 2020, develop a partnership with suicide prevention experts to identify strategies to reduce the rate of suicides.

#### Strategies

8.1.a. Collaborate with the Injury Prevention Program to identify partners and evidence-based strategies.

8.1.b. In partnership with suicide prevention experts implement prevention strategies to targeted communities with high rates of adolescent and youth suicide.

#### ESMs

#### Status

ESM 9.1 - 8.1.1. Communication plan to promote awareness of bullying and bullying prevention among youth

Inactive

ESM 9.2 - 8.2.1. Number of schools participating in whole school bullying prevention initiatives

Inactive

ESM 9.3 - 8.1.2. Developed at least one evidence-based strategy for suicide prevention

Active

#### NOMs

NOM 16.1 - Adolescent mortality rate ages 10 through 19 per 100,000

NOM 16.3 - Adolescent suicide rate, ages 15 through 19 per 100,000

## Adolescent Health - Plan for the Application Year

### Plan for Coming Year

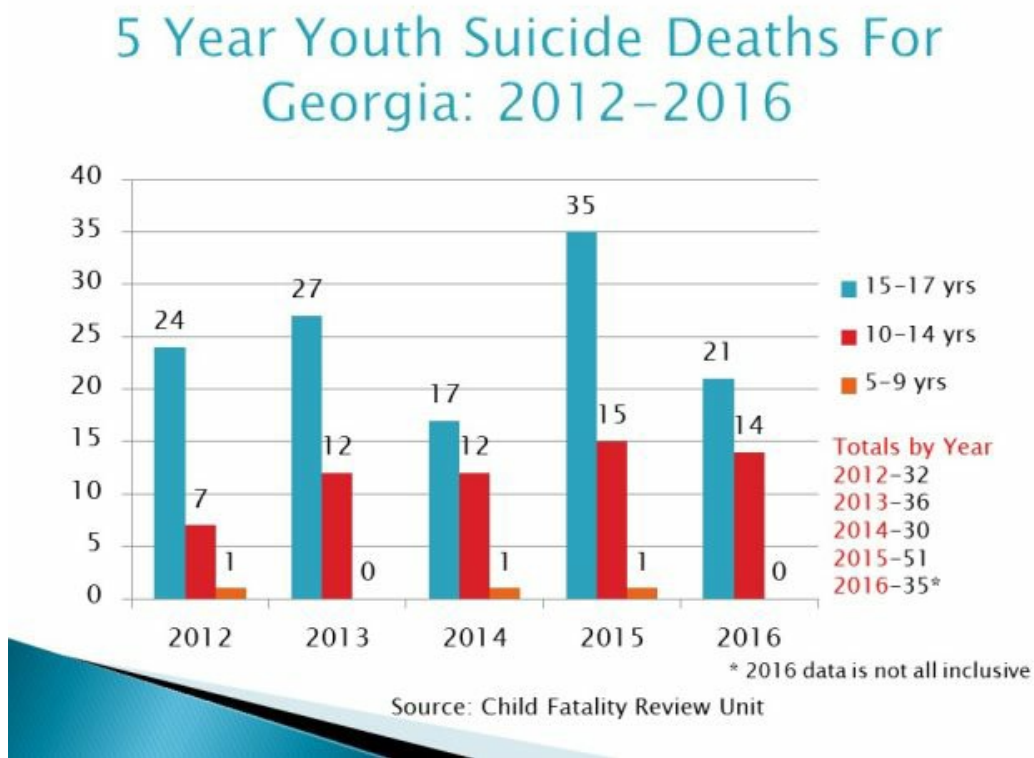
*Priority Need: Adolescent Suicide*

#### NPM 9: Bullying

Adolescent suicide was identified as a priority need for Georgia in 2015 with a strategic focus on adolescent bullying. Due to increasing concerns over youth suicide, the Title V Program will revise its state action plan to focus on strategies that reduce adolescent suicide.

Georgia's Child Fatality Review is conducted by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) who released updated youth suicide data on May 17, 2017. Youth suicides increased in 2015 and will presumably maintain the increase in 2017 (Table 1). GBI reports that 18 children have reportedly taken their lives from January 2017 through May 2017.

Table1: Five Year Suicide Deaths for Georgia 2012-2016



# Youth Suicide Data for Georgia: 2017

	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total
White Male	0	1	8	9
White Female	0	0	3	3
African-American Male	0	1	1	2
African-American Female	0	1	0	1
Hispanic Male	1	0	1	2
Hispanic Female	0	0	0	0
Asian Female	0	0	1	1
Total	1	3	14	18

	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17	Total
Gunshots	1	2	7	10
Hangings	0	1	5	6
Overdose	0	1	1	2
Total	1	4	13	18

Source: GBI Child Fatality Review Unit



The Georgia Department of Public Health will partner with the Georgia Child Fatality Review (GBI), Georgia Department of Education, and the Division of Family and Children Services to develop and support strategies to prevent youth suicide.

## Other Programs

### *Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program*

In the upcoming year, AHYD will provide Adolescent and Young Adult Centered Care (AYACC) training for public health family planning clinics. DPH's family planning clinics serve youth under 19. The AYACC training will help family planning providers tailor their organization and services to meet the needs of youth and adolescents. Each clinic will be designated an AYACC award once all recommended steps have been completed. Adolescent health will develop a referral list of AYACC family planning clinics for teens. In addition to AHYD activities ASH will continue with implementing new SUSI schools beginning August 2018.

## Adolescent Health - Annual Report

### Reporting Year Oct 2015-Sept 2016

*Priority Need: Reducing suicide among adolescents*

#### NPM 9: Bullying

The 2015 Title V Needs Assessment identified suicide as a priority need among the adolescent health population. This need was linked to National Performance Measure 9, Bullying. Georgia's Adolescent and School Health (ASH) Unit supports youth, schools, and parents in creating opportunities to be healthy and learn lifelong health habits in youth development, healthy behaviors, teen pregnancy prevention, sexual violence prevention, and bullying prevention.

Through the experiences of the Injury Prevention Program, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Program and Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program, MCH explored the possible relationship between sexual bullying and suicide during the reporting year. The 2016 On-going Needs Assessment identified potential relationships for all adolescents and specifically for adolescents that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ).

The Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) within the ASH Unit administers the Step Up Step In (SUSI) campaign which is an awareness campaign that targets middle and high school students to reduce sexual violence and bullying associated with sexual identity, gender and sexual acts. Sexual bullying behavior includes sexual activity unwanted touching, name calling (sexual identity), sexual rumors, sexting, and more. SVPP has successfully implemented SUSI in approximately 30 schools throughout Georgia from 2015 to 2016. Students, educators, staff, and administrators participate in a pledge to keep their school safe from sexual bullying and to hold each other to this standard. Activities and Incentives include poster contests, poetry slams, pep rallies, parades, creating PSA's, lunch and learns and more.

During the reporting year the Title V Manager, ASH Deputy Director, STD Senior Manager, and Injury Prevention Director met to discuss possible strategies to address suicide, bullying and particularly sexual bullying. The ASH Unit expanded its reach to Georgia schools by 3 schools and hired a State Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) Coordinator.

#### Program: AHYD

The Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program targets youth ages 10-24 and provides comprehensive implementation guidelines for youth focused health care and services at all levels. It includes disability, mental health, environmental health, reproductive and sexuality, violence and injury prevention and more. It is integrated into the health system and the broader system including advocacy among teachers, families, and peers. Program goals include building support for providers of care and youth, improving accessibility and availability of health services, strengthening partnerships, mobilizing resources, and improving data collection and utilization.

Approximately 50 middle schools participated in "Leadership through Life Skills" which allowed students to strengthen their life skills and act as peer counselors. Adolescents also participated in and designed activities around Red Ribbon Week, "Let's Talk Month" and World AIDS Day. Through the second quarter, 17 professional trainings and technical assistant activities have taken place. Activities included Adolescent and Youth Adult Centered Training workshops, Teen Outreach Program, among many others. During this period 27 public awareness and community education events occurred. Topics included were teen pregnancy prevention, effectively communicating with youth, World AIDS Day, and a program entitled "Choosing Health Activities and Methods to Promote Safety". About 275 youth participated in AHYD programs recognized by the Office of Adolescent Health including "Reducing the Risk", "Making a Difference", and "Making Proud Choices". Nine health districts have received funding for the 2017 fiscal year to implement a teen pregnancy prevention program either Making a Difference or Making Proud Choices for you ages 10-19. They will introduce a new program of four new sessions for Family Life and Sexual Health.

## Current Year Oct 2016-Sept 2017

*Priority Need: Reducing suicide among adolescents*

#### NPM 9: Bullying

#### **State Action Plan Progress:**

In the current year, the Title V Manager and ASH Unit met to discuss anti-bullying campaigns and expanding the whole-school anti-bullying program SUSI. These strategies along with creating a website are components of the Title V State

## Action Plan.

The ASH team supported five health districts Northwest, Coastal, East Metro, Clayton, and West Central to partner with 11 schools for the fall 2016 school year. Each school conducts a pledge drive for students, educators, staff, and administrators who pledge to keep their school safe from sexual bullying and to hold each other to this standard. Other activities include poster contests, poetry slams, student assemblies, parades, creating PSAs, lunch and learns and a variety of incentives for participants.

The ASH team was able to add two additional health districts to the SUSI program and prepare for the fall 2017 school year. Local schools submitted applications to one of the five health districts in March 2017. Seven health districts (Coastal, Cobb, Northwest, DeKalb, East Metro, South, and West Central) will partner with 15 schools to implement SUSI. Including the upcoming 2017 Fall semester, SVPP will have successfully implemented SUSI in 32 schools throughout Georgia.

## Other Programs

### *Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program*

The Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) youth development coordinators worked successfully with our youth to develop and strengthen their leadership and life skills through 32 activities.

A few of these include:

- Positive Social Norm messages
- Safe Sober Prom Campaign - #WhatIDidInstead
- STIs and Safer Sex
- Dating Violence Awareness
- Project One80 - a mental health initiative designed to encourage: 1) personal development, 2) life skills development, 3) positive behavior change, 4) building trusting relationships, 5) support system evaluation and 6) character development
- "Reality U" - financial literacy education

AHYD is diligent in identifying capacity building opportunities for the district staff as well as the communities they serve.

During the current year AHYD provided 23 professional training and technical assistance opportunities. A highlight from the opportunities offered include:

- Adolescent and Young Adult Centered Training "Clinical Best Practices" workshop.
- "How to Address Child Abuse"- The event was well attended with over 400 Head Start professionals from 13 counties.
- Gwinnett Rockdale Newton Health District sponsored three workshops. 1) Partnership Against Domestic Violence, "The 4<sup>th</sup> R"- The 4<sup>th</sup> R is an interactive classroom curriculum for ninth-grade students, that aims to reduce youth dating violence by addressing youth violence, bullying, unsafe sexual behavior and substance abuse; 2) Five Ways to a Healthy Lifestyle Workshops aimed at 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students; 3) A "Healthy Relationship" seminar; approximately 700 students participated in the three workshops.
- FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) for health educators, youth workers, teachers, and after school workers at the North Central Health District.
- Technical assistance to public middle/high school to implement evidence based sex education curricula as a standard practice in classes.

During the current year AHYD conducted 39 public awareness and community education events. Some of those include:

- HPV education at a Mother-Daughter HPV Dinner
- February National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (200 participants)
- "Teen Dating Violence Community Awareness" event (100 participants)
- A Teen Maze (250 participants)

Youth in areas with high rates of teen pregnancy, HIV/STDs and school dropout were strategically targeted to receive evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. The programs included: "Reducing the Risk," "Making A Difference," and "Making Proud Choices." Over 400 youth from targeted counties participated in the programs.