

Policy Recommendations

Suicide Prevention Interim Study

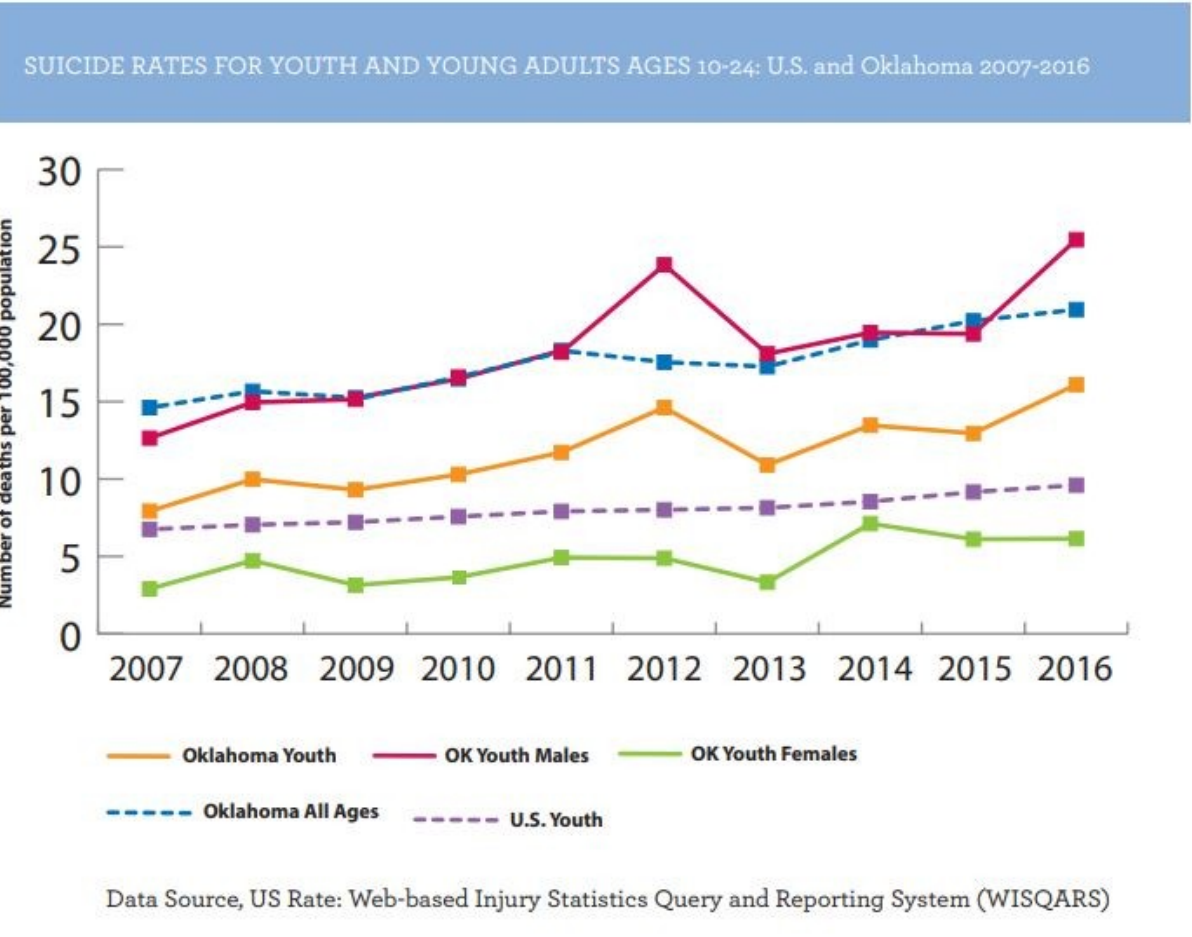
Joe Dorman, CEO - OICA



The Facts

Visits to the ER for suspected suicide attempts among young girls were **26% higher** during parts of 2020, and **50% higher** during parts of 2021 than they were in 2019.

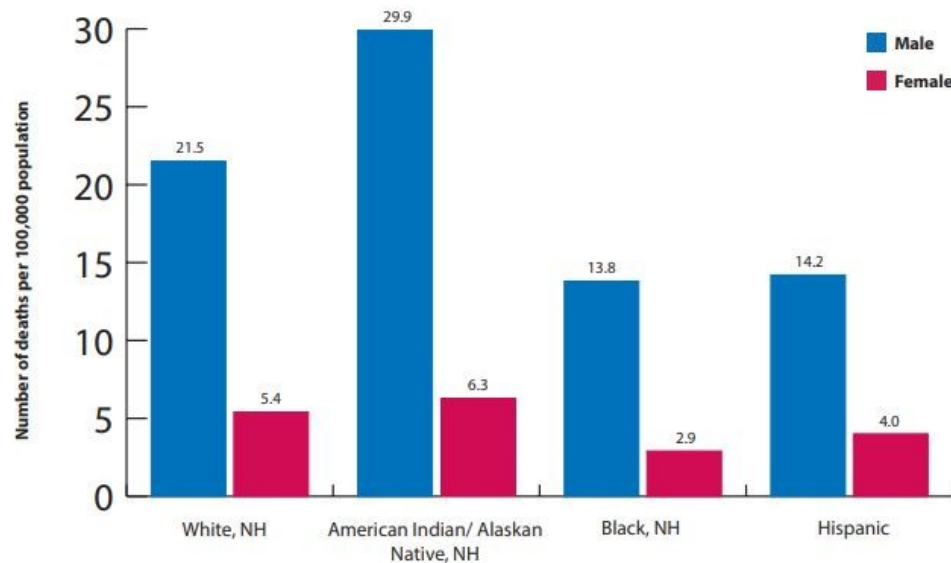
Every week, **two young Oklahomans** between the ages of 10 and 24 take their own lives.



It is appropriate we meet today; September is Suicide Prevention Month and last Friday, September 10, was Suicide Prevention Day, which OICA noted in our social media posts.

Issue Cuts Across All Demographics

GENDER, RACE, AND ETHNICITY SPECIFIC RATES OF SUICIDE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS AGES 10-24: OKLAHOMA 2012-2016



Data Source: Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System
NH=Non-Hispanic

- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death of Oklahomans ages 10-24.
- Oklahoma has the 16th-highest number of suicide deaths in the U.S.
- Native Americans have higher suicide rates than other demographic groups.

2021 Legislative Actions

- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services appropriated \$335 million for FY22.
- This **effective increase of \$17 million** generated by cost savings from Medicaid expansion will:
 - **Help build new crisis centers;**
 - **Additional assistance to law enforcement tasked with de-escalating mental health crises and transporting individuals;**
 - **\$7.5 million earmarked for mental health urgent care centers;**
 - **\$3 million for mobile crisis response teams;**
 - **\$2 million to alleviate law enforcement role in transports;**
 - **\$2 million for tech in law enforcement vehicles to**

2021 Legislative Actions

- 14 bills were considered to expand support – those include:
- **SB 674**, authored by Senator Greg McCortney (R-Ada) and Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) – telehealth
- **SB 89**, authored by Senator John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Representative Rhonda Baker (R-Yukon) – health education
- **HB 1568**, otherwise known as Maria’s Law, authored by Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) and Senator John Haste (R-Tulsa) – includes mental health education
- **HB 1773**, authored by Representative Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) and Senator Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) – multi-tiered systems of support
- <https://www.healthymindspolicy.org/2021-session-recap/>

Three General Recommendations

- **Funding prevention programs across the state.**
- **Work to raise awareness with collaborative partners and supporting their missions when possible.**
- **Encourage and support counseling services.**



Funding prevention programs across the state

- **Beginning this year, the state Department of Education must provide suicide prevention training to teachers and staff. OSDE Website offers helpful resources on ways to prevent suicide in schools and communities: <https://sde.ok.gov/suicide-prevention>**
- **Nonprofits also play a role: <https://heartlineoklahoma.org/what-we-do/suicide-prevention-outreach-and-education>.**
- **Maintain funding for OSDMHSS training and support for schools in evidence-based suicide prevention practices.**

Work to raise awareness with collaborative partners and supporting their missions when possible

- **The 26 Oklahoma tribally-supported programs:**
<https://www.ihs.gov/sasp/fundedprojects/oklahoma/>
- **Bureau of Indian Education programs:**
<https://www.bie.edu/topic-page/suicide-prevention>
- **The Suicide Prevention Resource Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center:**
<https://www.sprc.org/states/oklahoma>
- **The various nonprofits and local, regional, and statewide coalitions working on suicide prevention.**



Encourage and support counseling services

- **The Oklahoma Health Care Authority is allowing expanded use of telehealth beginning March 16, 2020, through the end of the declared public health emergency for services that can be safely provided via secure telehealth communication devices for all SoonerCare members.**
 - **OHCA will assess the status of the COVID-19 situation toward the end of the public health emergency to determine if the expansion should be continued.**
 - <https://www.ou.edu/cas/professional-counseling-program>
 - <https://wellness.okstate.edu/student-wellness/resources.html>
 - <https://www.calmwaters.org/>
 - <https://sunbeamfamilyservices.org/mentalhealth-2/>



OICA will provide support for any initiative it believes will reduce the incidence of youth suicide in the state

Questions?



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