

Senate Interim Study: Youth Suicide in Oklahoma (IS-2021-66)

Oklahoma Child Death Review Board
September 14, 2021



**OKLAHOMA
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board is to reduce the number of preventable deaths through a multidisciplinary approach to case review. Through case review, the Child Death Review Board *collects statistical data and system failure information* to develop recommendations to improve policies, procedures, and practices within and between the agencies that protect and serve the children of Oklahoma.

Review Process

- Death certificate
 - Report of Investigation from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
 - Law Enforcement scene investigation report
 - Child Welfare history
-
- Collect data via specific question in the Case Reporting System, National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention

Data to be Collected

Child have a history of:

- Running away
- Viewing, posting, or interacting on social media
- Death of peer, friend, or family member, including date and mechanism (e.g., was it also a suicide)
- Mental health diagnosis(es)
- Suicide attempts
- Non-suicidal self harm (e.g., cutting, burning self)
- Life stressors (social/economic, school, relationships – family and social)

Recommendation

Suicide

Identifying prevention needs to reduce suicides has been difficult for the Child Death Review Board. This is due to investigative reports on suicide deaths lacking information such as a family history of suicide, previous attempts, mental health history, and use of behavioral health medications. It is often difficult to ascertain if the child even left a suicide note.

The Board recommends investigations conducted by law enforcement include the details previously listed in order to assist with the identification of suicide prevention needs. Additionally, suicide investigation policies and procedures need to include notification of the death to Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Child Welfare division.

Contact Information:

Lisa.Rhoades@occy.ok.gov

405-568-7451