

But I'm not a clinician: Role of all social workers in suicide prevention

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESEARCH & TRAINING PROJECT
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MICHELLE SCOTT
"Time of Accelerated Change"
2026 Annual BPD Conference



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Professor and Director, SRF Suicide Prevention Research and Training Project, School of Social Work, Monmouth University. Evaluator of the Columbia Suicide Screen. Project Evaluator for New Jersey, New York, and Arkansas' Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Suicide Prevention State Initiatives and two campus GLS grants. Member NJ Child Fatality/Near Fatality Review Suicide Subcommittee.

Co-chair of the NASW Standards of Care for Suicide Taskforce

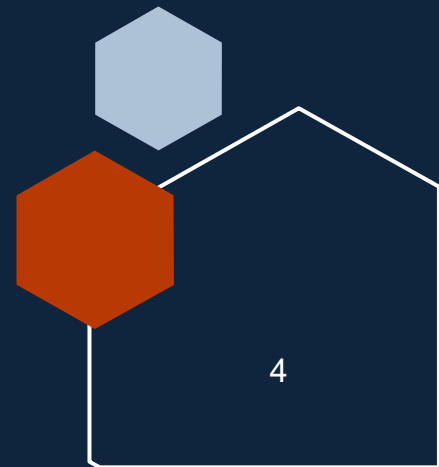


What We'll Cover



1. Identifying the Problem

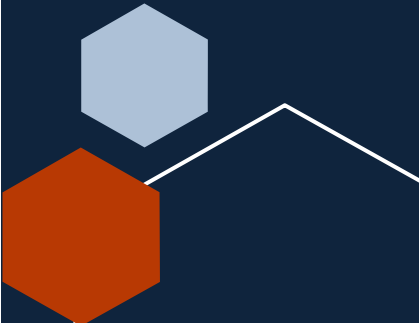
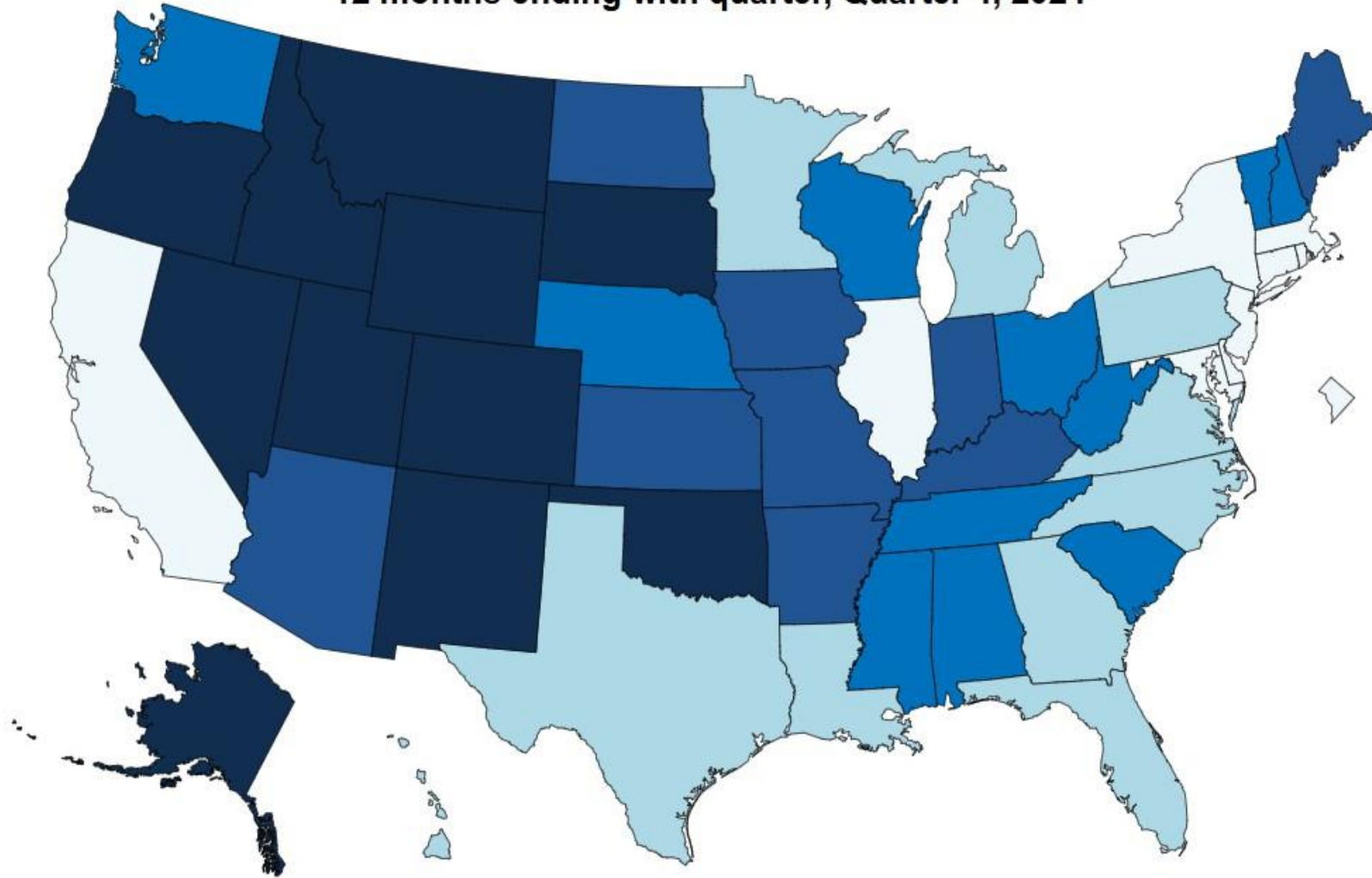
The scope of the problem



Age-adjusted death rates for Suicide 12 months ending with quarter, Quarter 4, 2024

2024

2023



The Scope of the Problem-Suicide Data

- 48,800 individuals died by suicide 13.7/100,000
 - 2024 provisional data
 - More than 1.5 million individuals made a suicide attempt.
- Effects all ages, genders and ethnicities
 - Older adults (over age of 75) highest rate
 - Second leading cause of death in individuals ages 10–34.
 - Males 50% population, 80% of deaths by suicide
 - Disproportionately effects:
 - Those identify as LGBTQIA+
 - Military/veterans
 - Involved in the criminal justice system
 - American Indians, Alaskan Natives or Black



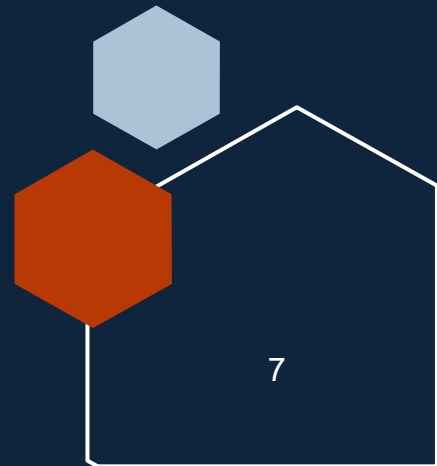
2. Relevance to BSW Social Workers

CLARIFYING

The scope of the problem

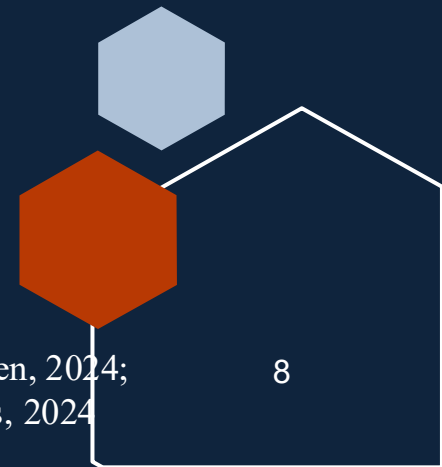
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Relevance to BSW social workers



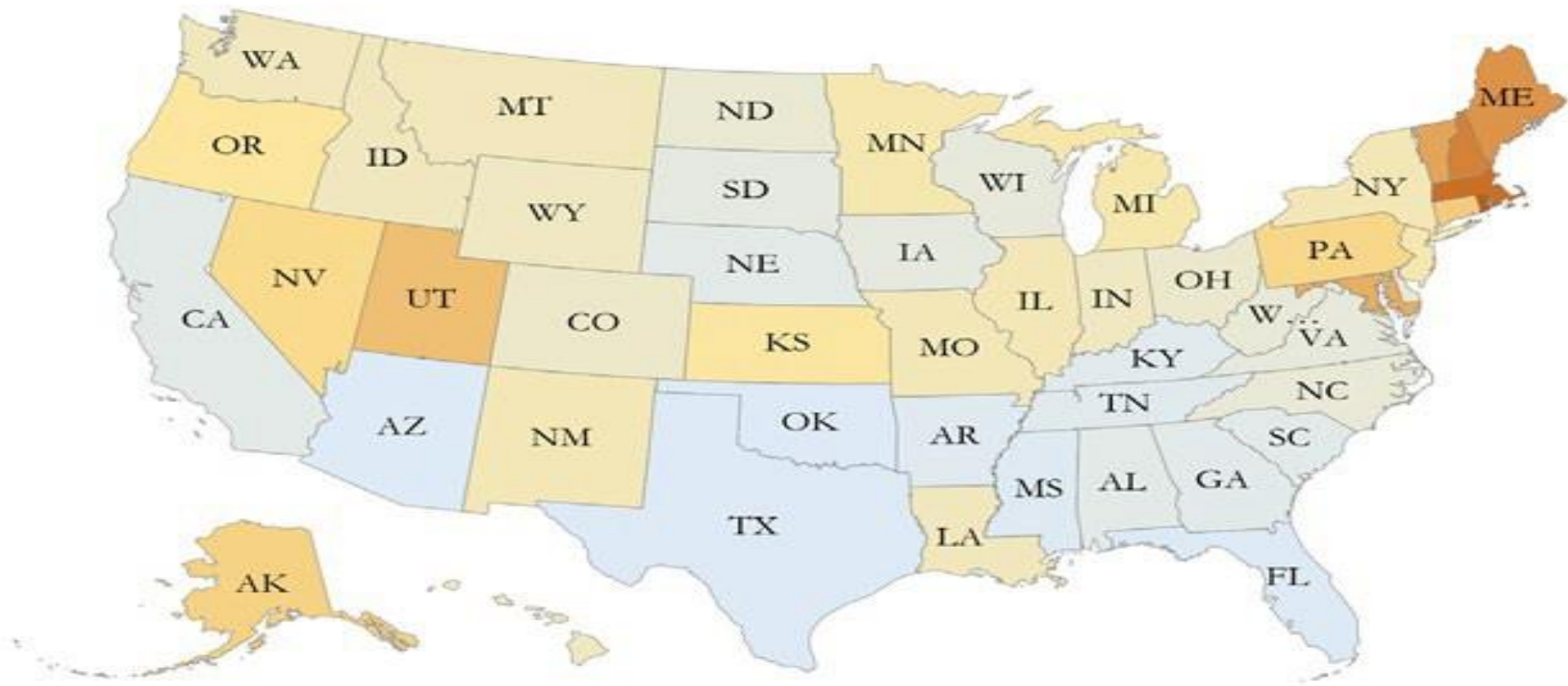
- Social workers provide majority of mental health services
 - 50-90% had client who is suicidal or made an attempt
 - About a third had a client die by suicide
- Social work students interacting with clients at risk for suicide or currently suicidal has increased from 40% to 70.6% in the past 10 years
 - 11.5% of MSW students lost a client to suicide while in placement

Ok but I'm not a clinician....

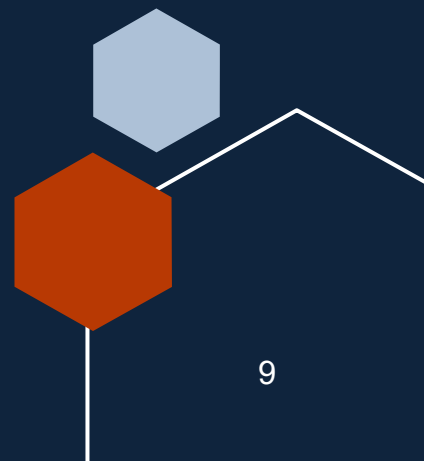


Number of Licensed Clinical Social Workers per 1,000 People

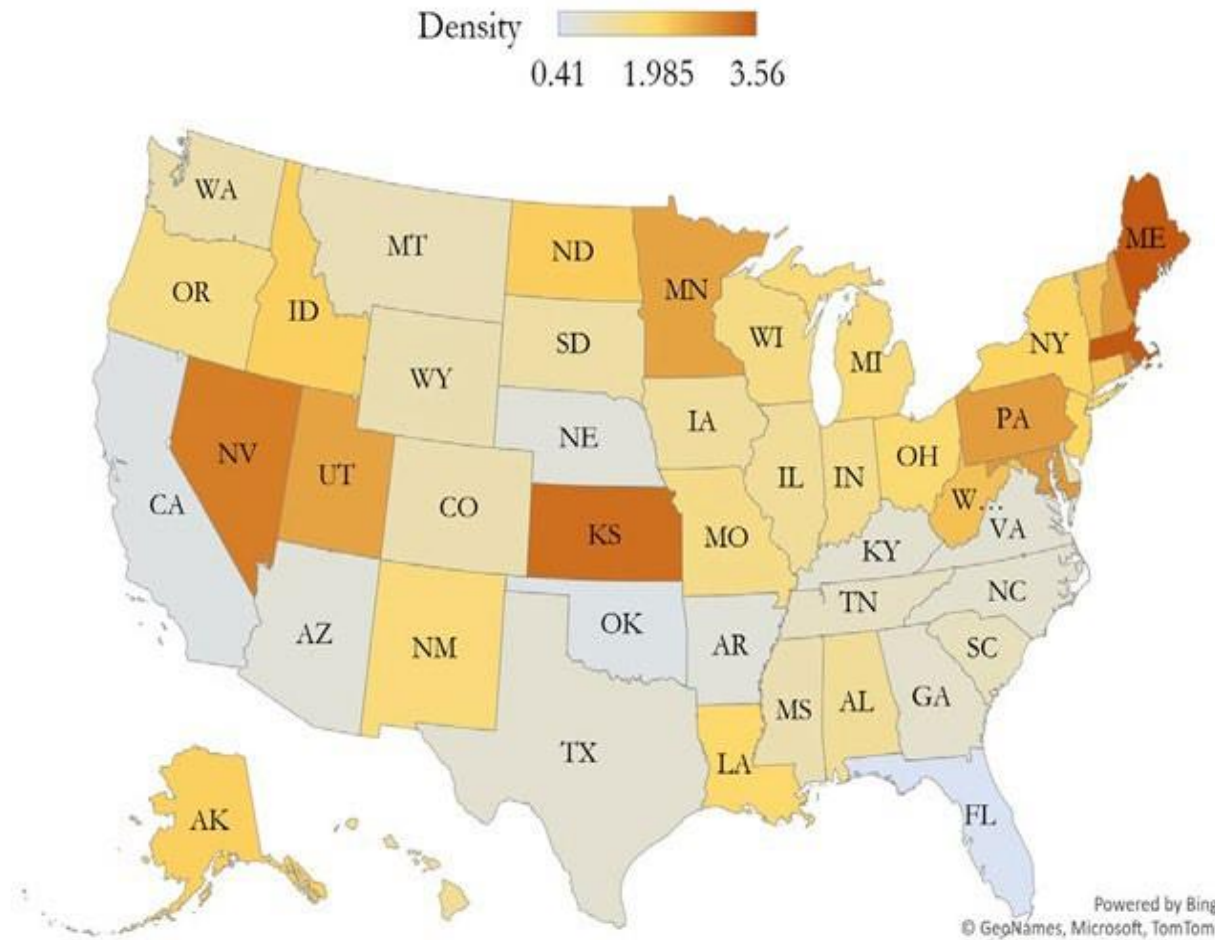
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Number of Licensed Social Workers per 1,000 People

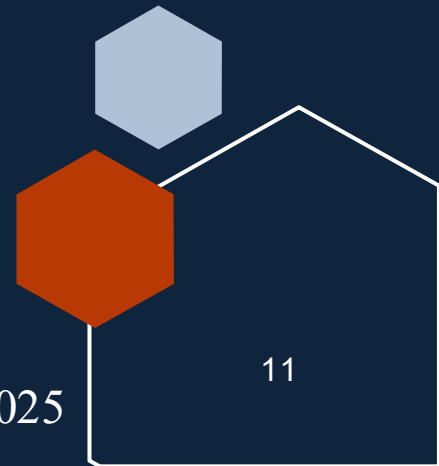


29.43% of BSW's providing behavioral/mental health services



But I'm not a clinician...

- 70% of jobs with children, families and schools only require BSW
- 54% of suicide decedents in 27 states did not have a known mental health condition
 - Life stressors
 - Lack social support
 - Specific personality traits such as impulsivity
 - Adverse childhood events
 - Physical disorders with increased pain
 - Military personnel
 - Developmental or genetic conditions
 - Social determinants of Health:
 - employment, financial and housing loss or insecurity



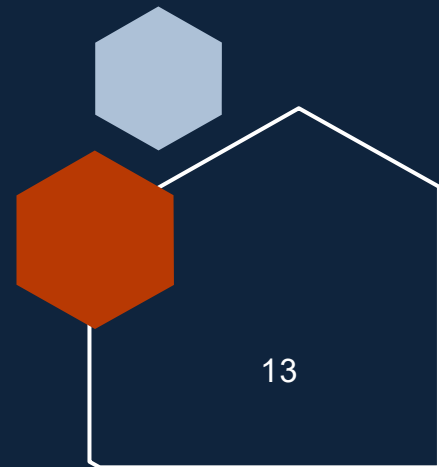
A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of several hexagons. There is a large solid orange hexagon in the center. To its top right is a smaller solid light blue hexagon. To its bottom right is a smaller solid orange hexagon. To its bottom left is a smaller white hexagon with a white outline. To its left is another smaller white hexagon with a white outline, partially overlapping the large orange hexagon.

**Can we agree BSW
graduates work with
individuals like this?**

Are they prepared to meet
this challenge?

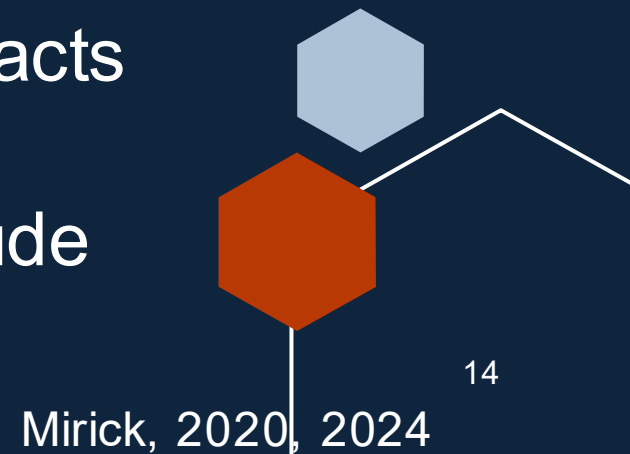
Social Workers Receive Limited Education in Suicide-Related Content

- **What is suicide-related content**
 - Prevention
 - Intervention
 - Postvention
- **Limited to None in Social Work Undergraduate (and graduate)**
 - More likely provide education now compared to 2012
 - Most (61%) education during practicum
 - If any, may be suicide risk assessment



Readiness of BSW Faculty/Instructors (n = 135)

- Students receive 6.6 hours of suicide-related content
- Optimistically – 70%+
 - risk and protective factors
 - Warning Signs
 - Asking about suicide
- Places to improve:
 - 72% not enough taught
 - Almost 20% still teach “no harm”/“no suicide” contracts
 - 23.4% do not teach “means safety”
 - But... 62% teach safety plans (which should include means safety)



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**If 61% report
practicum is place of
learning...**

**Are BSW supervisors
ready?**

Demographics of BSW Supervisors (n=228)

		BSW Supervisors (n = 228)
Female		84.1%
White		74.1%
Hispanic/Latino		10.5%
Black/African American		9.2%
Asian, Am. Ind/A. Native, N. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander		4.8%
Middle Eastern/N. African		1.4%
Mean age	41.1 (SD= 10.5)	
less than 30 yo		3.1%
30 -50 yo		56.9%
51-70 yo		38.5%
over 70		1.5%

Setting of BSW Supervision (n = 228)

States Represented		37
Time as supervisor	less than 5	15.8%
	5-10	36.4%
	11-20	19.7%
	more than 20	9.3
Community Based Setting		46.1%
Urban/City		49.3%
Main service supervise:		
Case management/care coord.		42.6%
Direct clinical practice/therapy		
Individuals		30.2%

Exposure to Suicide

BSW SUPERVISORS

BSW STUDENTS

Likelihood work with:

• At-risk for suicide	91.5%	79.5%
• Client with ideation	95.9%	83.2%
• Client who made attempt	85.8%	69.5%
• Actual Suicide death	30.1%	6.4%
• More than 1x	46.0%	33.3%
• Personal Exposure	45.2%	

What BSW Supervisors Actually Do in Practice

(adapted Roush, 2018; Mirick, 2024)

Suicide Risk Assessment, adjust tx	76.0%
Continue to See	80.3%
Collaborative Safety Plan	77.3%
Counsel Means Safety, include family	77.3%
Provide Crisis line resources	85.1%
Permission to Talk to others	39.2%
Refer Immediately to Inpatient	20.1%
Refer to Psychiatrist for Evaluation	23.4%
Refer Immediately to Emergency Department	14.9%
Obtain No Harm/No Suicide Contract	24.7%
Refer to Non-Psych. Physician Medical Eval.	17.6%

What BSW Supervisors tell Supervisees to Actually Do in Practice

Suicide Risk Assessment, adjust tx	83.9%
Continue to See	77.5%
Collaborative Safety Plan	82.0%
Means Safety, include family	82.7%
Provide Crisis line resources	88.3%
Permission to Talk to others	51.8%
Refer Immediately to Inpatient	19.3%
Refer to Psychiatrist for Evaluation	33.6%
Refer Immediately to Emergency Department	23.6%
Obtain No Harm/No Suicide Contract	40.4%
Refer to Non-Psych. Physician Medical Eval.	27.0%

3. Drafting Standards (NASW Taskforce)



Meet NASW Task Force Members

Cochair: Michelle Ann-Rish Scott, PhD, MSW

Cochair: Maureen M. Underwood, LCSW



Jodi J. Frey, PhD, LCSW-C, CEAP

Stephanie Asare Nti, LCSW-C

Cortney E. Yarholar, LMSW

Jonathan B. Singer, PhD, LCSW

Sean Joe, PhD, MSW

Carolina Velez-Grau, PhD, LCSW

Ashby Dodge, LCSW

Jessyca Vandercoy, LCSW



Meet Task Force Consultants

Skip Simpson

Richard McKeon

Members of 988 (Gillian
Murphy, Shye Lewis)

Highlights of Task Force Discussions

- Address social determinants of risk
- Stay true to Social Work Values: rapport, engagement and empathic bridge
- Important to include support system in assessment
- Incorporate cultural sensitivity to suicide rates
- Reframe barriers as opportunities
 - Understanding native sovereignty in collaborative practice
- Delineate standards in generalist v. clinical settings
 - Establish minimum standards for **ALL SOCIAL WORKERS**
 - Consider training standards for 988
 - Use Consultation and Supervision

CRITICAL ISSUE:

**Difference Between
Standards of Care &
Practice Guidelines**



STANDARDS OF CARE

- **MANDATORY**
- Minimal requirements of expected knowledge & service
- Legally binding
- Considered to be enforceable in malpractice liability
- Encourages the implementation of best practice strategies

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- **FLEXIBLE**
- Provide recommendations on how to implement standards through the provision of optimal care based on latest research and evidence base
- Can vary by setting, geographical region, and profession and are less likely to be adopted consistently
- Goal is encouragement of identification & utilization of evidence-informed strategies

3. Drafting Standards



Other NASW Standards of Care

WHAT WE LEARNED:

- **Start with ethics and values**
- **Be clear, precise, practical and articulate clear goals**
- **Define the meanings of key words**
- **Provide interpretation for each standard**
- **List relevant references and provide additional resources to learn more!**

AVOID suicide impulse, suicide gesture, successful attempt, committed suicide, completed suicide

Say Instead:

Died by suicide

Made suicide attempt

Person who made an attempt/has thoughts of suicide

**LET'S REVIEW THE
CURRENT
LANGUAGE OF
SUICIDE**

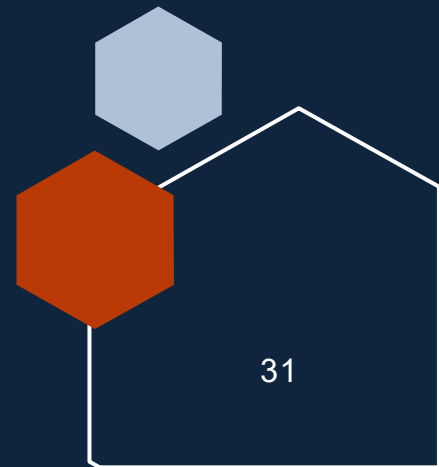
**Addressing what we
learned about social
workers reluctance/
fear to address
suicide risk**



Be YOU! Be a Social Worker!

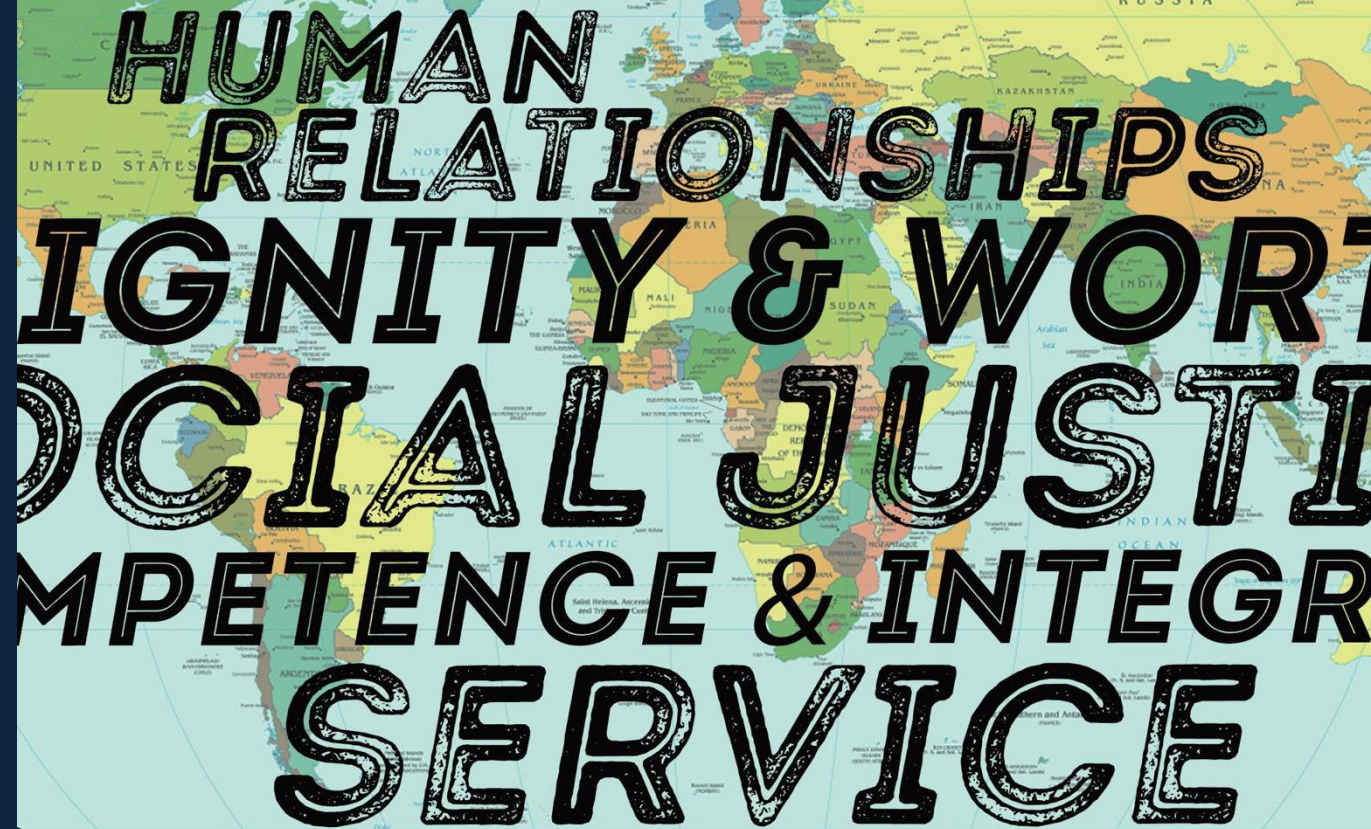
Define suicide in a way that activates
already learned social work knowledge

- Initial approaches aid in rapport building; have a conversation
- Reframing the question about suicide may help bypass stigma/fear/panic
- Suicide reflects deficit in problem solving skills (Shneidman, 1960-70's)
- Crisis states predict challenges to problem solving
- Key crisis intervention strategies can provide support, control, and structure (Underwood et al, 2018)



Incorporating Social Work Principles

- 6 core values
- Empathy
- Person-in-Environment
- Follow-up



**HUMAN
RELATIONSHIPS
DIGNITY & WORTH
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMPETENCE & INTEGRITY
SERVICE**

Suicide Through the Lens of the Six Core Values of Social Work

SERVICE	SOCIAL JUSTICE	DIGNITY AND WORTH OF PERSON	IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS	INTEGRITY	COMPETENCE
<p>Self awareness of attitudes and values essential to objective response to suicide crisis (Rudd et al, 2008)</p>	<p>Micro and Macro-systems reforms related to suicide prevention, intervention & postvention (Bryan, 2021)</p>	<p>Socially responsible self-determination balancing needs of client's and broader societal interests – Perceived Burdensomeness, (Silva et al., 2015)</p>	<p>Relationships as vehicle for change; risk/protective factors, support systems, safety planning, follow up & consultation/supervision</p>	<p>Honest and Transparency, Developing knowledge and skill set to effectively intervene; documentation to verify action</p>	<p>Enhancing skills & knowledge related to suicide (i.e., suicide prevention, screening, assessment, intervention, & postvention)</p>

IMPORTANCE OF PERSON- IN-ENVIRONMENT

- Recognizes social determinants of health
- Includes identification & engagement of support system
- Incorporates case management in using community resources

Maslow's
Hierarchy of
Need (1943)



Waiting for Release for Public Comment



nasw

National Association of Social Worker

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Recommended Standards of Care (2018)

INITIAL SCREENING

FORMAL ASSESSMENT, AS INDICATED

DEVELOPMENT OF COLLABORATIVE SAFETY PLAN

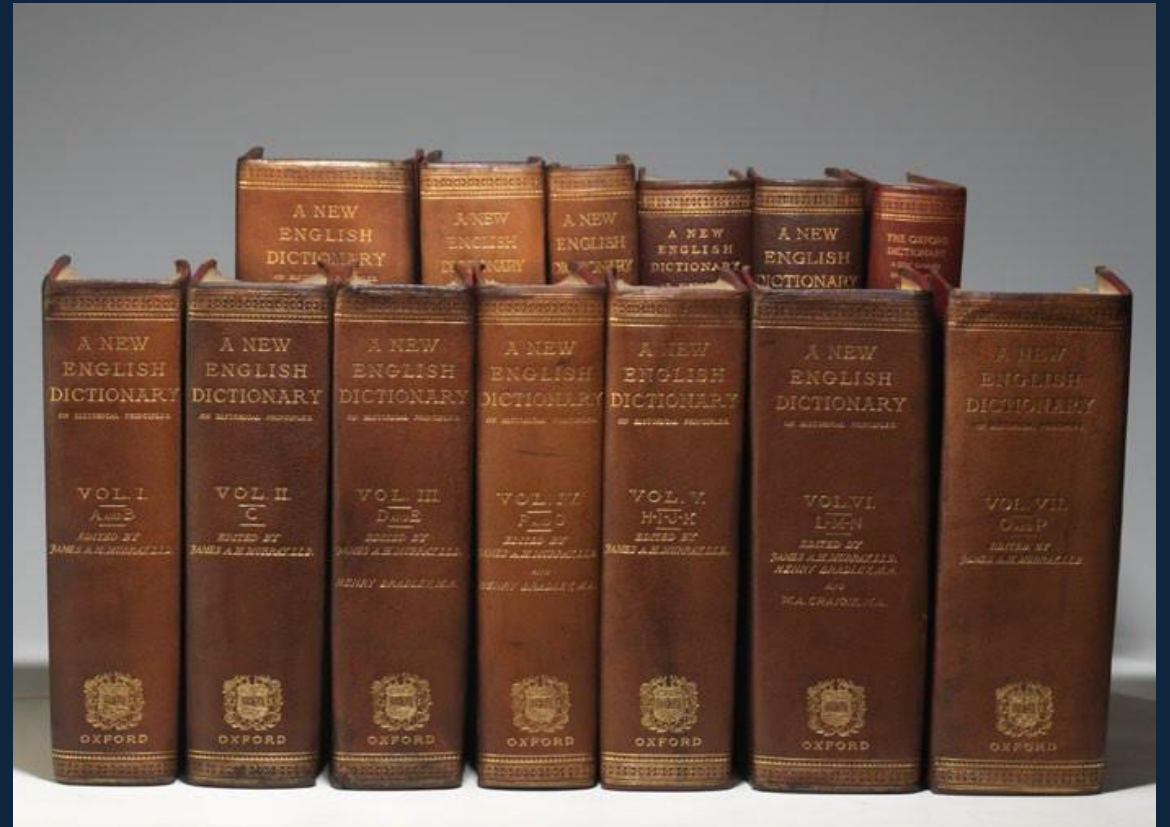
COUNSELING ABOUT ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS

DOCUMENTATION

FOLLOW-UP

Screening v. Assessment: What's the Difference?

- **Screening:** Used to identify someone at risk for or who is currently suicidal. May be done orally or by pencil and paper. May include an evaluated/standardized instrument. Is completed within minutes to determine if there is a risk for suicide.
- **Assessment:** A more comprehensive evaluation done by a clinician to confirm suspected suicide risk, examines risk and protective factors, may estimate the immediate danger to the patient. Should be used to decide on a course of treatment.



Sample Screening Instruments Supports Documentation!

- **Asking Suicide Questions (ASQ) with Brief Suicide Safety Assessment**
 - <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/research-conducted-at-nimh/asq-toolkit-materials>
- **Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) with SafeT**
 - <https://cssrs.columbia.edu/documents/safe-t-c-ssrs/>

Training opportunities: www.preventsuicidenj.org

Missing Risk and Protective Factors

SAFE-T Protocol with C-SSRS (Columbia Risk and Protective Factors) - Recent

Step 1: Identify Risk Factors

C-SSRS Suicidal Ideation Severity (If question 2 is "no" you may skip 3, 4 and 5)	Month
1) Wish to be dead <i>Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?</i>	
2) Current suicidal thoughts <i>Have you actually had any thoughts of killing yourself?</i>	
3) Suicidal thoughts w/ Method (w/no specific Plan or Intent or act) <i>Have you been thinking about how you might do this?</i>	
4) Suicidal Intent without Specific Plan <i>Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?</i>	
5) Intent with Plan <i>Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?</i>	
C-SSRS Suicidal Behavior: "Have you ever done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life?"	Lifetime
Examples: Collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump; or actually took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, etc. If "YES" Was it within the past 3 months?	
	Past 3 Months

<p>Activating Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recent losses or other significant negative event(s) (legal, financial, relationship, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Pending incarceration or homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Current or pending isolation or feeling alone <p>Treatment History:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Previous psychiatric diagnosis and treatments <input type="checkbox"/> Hopeless or dissatisfied with treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Non-compliant with treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Not receiving treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 	<p>Clinical Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hopelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Major depressive episode <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed affect episode (e.g. Bipolar) <input type="checkbox"/> Command Hallucinations to hurt self <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic physical pain or other acute medical problem (e.g. CNS disorders) <input type="checkbox"/> Highly impulsive behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse or dependence <input type="checkbox"/> Agitation or severe anxiety <input type="checkbox"/> Perceived burden on family or others <input type="checkbox"/> Homicidal Ideation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive behavior towards others <input type="checkbox"/> Refuses or feels unable to agree to safety plan <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse (lifetime) <input type="checkbox"/> Family history of suicide
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to lethal methods: Ask <u>specifically</u> about presence or absence of a firearm in the home or ease of accessing	

Step 2: Identify Protective Factors (Protective factors may not counteract significant acute suicide risk factors)

<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of death or dying due to pain and suffering <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies reasons for living <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 	<p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Belief that suicide is immoral; high spirituality <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility to family or others; living with family <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive social network of family or friends <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged in work or school
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Add The SafeT for Comprehensive Assessment

Activating Events:

- Recent losses or other significant negative event(s) (legal, financial, relationship, etc.)
- Pending incarceration or homelessness
- Current or pending isolation or feeling alone

Treatment History:

- Previous psychiatric diagnosis and treatments
- Hopeless or dissatisfied with treatment
- Non-compliant with treatment
- Not receiving treatment
- Insomnia

Other:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Clinical Status:

- Hopelessness
- Major depressive episode
- Mixed affect episode (e.g. Bipolar)
- Command Hallucinations to hurt self
- Chronic physical pain or other acute medical problem (e.g. CNS disorders)
- Highly impulsive behavior
- Substance abuse or dependence
- Agitation or severe anxiety
- Perceived burden on family or others
- Homicidal Ideation
 - Aggressive behavior towards others
- Refuses or feels unable to agree to safety plan
- Sexual abuse (lifetime)
- Family history of suicide

- Access to lethal methods:** Ask specifically about presence or absence of a firearm in the home or ease of accessing

Step 2: Identify Protective Factors (Protective factors may not counteract significant acute suicide risk factors)

Internal:

- Fear of death or dying due to pain and suffering
- Identifies reasons for living
- _____
- _____

External:

- Belief that suicide is immoral; high spirituality
- Responsibility to family or others; living with family
- Supportive social network of family or friends
- Engaged in work or school

Step 3: Specific questioning about Thoughts, Plans, and Suicidal Intent – (see Step 1 for Ideation Severity and Behavior – skip if questions 1-5 are all no)

C-SSRS Suicidal Ideation Intensity (with respect to the most severe ideation 1-5 identified above)

Month

Frequency

How many times have you had these thoughts?

- (1) Less than once a week (2) Once a week (3) 2-5 times in week (4) Daily or almost daily (5) Many times each day

Duration

When you have the thoughts how long do they last?

- (1) Fleeting - few seconds or minutes (2) Less than 1 hour/some of the time (3) 1-4 hours/a lot of time (4) 4-8 hours/most of day (5) More than 8 hours/persistent or continuous

Controllability

Could/can you stop thinking about killing yourself or wanting to die if you want to?

- (1) Easily able to control thoughts (2) Can control thoughts with little difficulty (3) Can control thoughts with some difficulty (4) Can control thoughts with a lot of difficulty (5) Unable to control thoughts (0) Does not attempt to control thoughts

Deterrents

Are there things - anyone or anything (e.g., family, religion, pain of death) - that stopped you from wanting to die or acting on thoughts of suicide?

- (1) Deterrents definitely stopped you from attempting suicide (2) Deterrents probably stopped you (3) Uncertain that deterrents stopped you (4) Deterrents most likely did not stop you (5) Deterrents definitely did not stop you (0) Does not apply

Reasons for Ideation

What sort of reasons did you have for thinking about wanting to die or killing yourself? Was it to end the pain or stop the way you were feeling (in other words you couldn't go on living with this pain or how you were feeling) or was it to get attention, revenge or a reaction from others? Or both?

- (1) Completely to get attention, revenge or a reaction from others (2) Mostly to get attention, revenge or a reaction from others (3) Equally to get attention, revenge or a reaction from others and to end/stop the pain (4) Mostly to end or stop the pain (you couldn't go on living with the pain or how you were feeling) (5) Completely to end or stop the pain (you couldn't go on living with the pain or how you were feeling) (0) Does not apply

Total Score



Suicide Risk Screening Tool

Ask Suicide-Screening Questions

Ask the patient:

1. In the past few weeks, have you wished you were dead? Yes No
2. In the past few weeks, have you felt that you or your family would be better off if you were dead? Yes No
3. In the past week, have you been having thoughts about killing yourself? Yes No
4. Have you ever tried to kill yourself? Yes No
If yes, when was the most recent attempt? _____ Within last 12 months Over 1 year ago

If patient answers **Yes** to any of Questions #1 through #4, ask the following acuity question:

5. Are you having thoughts of killing yourself right now? Yes No
If yes, describe briefly: _____

No to all Questions #1–#4

Negative screen

No intervention is necessary at this time.
NOTE: Clinical judgment can always override a negative screen.

Yes to any of Questions #1–#4 and...

Yes to Question #5

Acute positive screen (imminent/acute risk identified)

- Patient requires a **STAT/urgent safety/full mental health evaluation. Patient cannot leave until evaluated for safety.**
- Keep patient in sight. Remove dangerous objects from room (if possible).
- Alert clinician responsible for patient's care.

No to Question #5

Non-acute positive screen (potential risk identified)

- Patient needs a **brief suicide safety assessment to determine if a full mental health evaluation is needed (and when).**
EXCEPTIONS: When positive screen is solely due to Yes on Question #4 (i.e., lifetime suicide attempt), then a brief suicide safety assessment may not be necessary if:
For adults: most recent attempt is >1 year ago
For youth/young adults (e.g. under age 25): most recent attempt is >1 year ago AND a documented brief suicide safety assessment has been conducted since that attempt
- Non-acute positive status does NOT require 1-to-1 observation while patient is awaiting further assessment (unless there are other safety concerns).
- If adult patient, or parent/guardian of youth patient, refuses the brief suicide safety assessment, document the refusal. **Patient can be permitted to leave, unless there are other safety concerns.** Follow-up call is recommended.
- Alert clinician responsible for patient's care.

If the patient refuses to answer the screening questions:

- For youth, refusal is considered a **non-acute positive screen.**
- For adults, refusal is NOT considered a positive screen. No intervention is necessary at this time unless there are other safety concerns. Document the refusal.



**What is the difference
between a “no
harm/suicide” contract
and Safety Planning?**

Patient Safety Plan Template

Step 1: Warning signs (thoughts, images, mood, situation, behavior) that a crisis may be developing:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 2: Internal coping strategies – Things I can do to take my mind off my problems without contacting another person (relaxation technique, physical activity):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: People and social settings that provide distraction:

1. Name _____ Phone _____
2. Name _____ Phone _____
3. Place _____
4. Place _____

Step 4: People whom I can ask for help:

1. Name _____ Phone _____
2. Name _____ Phone _____
3. Name _____ Phone _____

Step 5: Professionals or agencies I can contact during a crisis:

1. Clinician Name _____ Phone _____
Clinician Pager or Emergency Contact # _____
2. Clinician Name _____ Phone _____
Clinician Pager or Emergency Contact # _____
3. Local Urgent Care Services _____
Urgent Care Services Address _____
Urgent Care Services Phone _____
4. Suicide Prevention Lifeline Phone: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Step 6: Making the environment safe:

1. _____
2. _____

Safety Plan Template ©2008 Barbara Stanley and Gregory K. Brown. is reprinted with the express permission of the authors. No portion of the Safety Plan Template may be reproduced without their express permission. Completing and submitting the form on this web page http://www.suicidesafetyplan.com/Page_8.html constitutes permission to use the template.

The one thing that is most important to me and worth living for is:

Safety Plan Template: Barbara Stanley and Gregory K. Brown

<https://sprc.org/resources-programs/patient-safety-plan-template>



Should include:

- Actions & decisions
- Measures/Scores
- Client's word
- Support and crisis support planning
- Options considered and rejected
- Actions and referrals for unmet needs
- Consultation/Collaterals (i.e. parents)

Documentation Domains

**What Supervisors teach and
what wish students knew before
coming to placement**

What core standards are taught in BSW practicum

	Never	Ask	ALL	Client
Statistics/epidemiology	5.8	12.9	52.5	23.0
MH as Risk Factors	3.6	5.8	67.9	18.2
SDH as Risk Factors	4.4	5.8	59.1	27.0
Protective Factor	5.8	4.4	65.0	20.4
Asking about Thoughts/Beh.*	4.3	5.1	67.4	18.8
Standardized Screen/Risk Assess.*	10.9	7.2	60.1	17.4
Safety Planning*	6.5	4.3	62.3	22.5
Access to Lethal Means*	9.5	6.6	50.4	29.2
No Harm Contracts	26.1	6.5	33.3	31.2
Documentation*	9.4	4.3	56.5	26.8
Malpractice/Liability	20.4	10.9	38.7	23.4
Follow-up*	8.1	4.4	57.0	25.2
Resources	2.2	5.1	76.6	12.4
Standards of Care*	10.9	5.8	54.0	25.5

8 Things BSW Supervisors Wish Students Knew

Theme

Representative Quote

Lack of foundational suicide-related knowledge/training

“None of my BSW students have had training related to suicide.”

Need for early integration of suicide content before practicum

“All of the information discussed in this survey SHOULD be taught prior to field placement.”

Comfort & confidence when discussing suicide

“Many students are afraid to ask clients about suicidality.”

Lack of applied skills (i.e., assessment & safety planning)

“They often don’t know what specific warning signs to look for beyond the obvious ones.”

8 Things BSW Supervisors Wish Students Knew

Theme

Representative Quote

Emotional preparedness, managing reactions, and using supervision

“Managing their initial panic when a client discloses suicidal thoughts.”

Cultural competence: awareness of cultural & contextual factors

“Familiarity with cultural considerations and stigma surrounding suicide.”

Experiential learning (i.e., need role play & simulation)

“More role playing scenarios to support students.”

Call for Curriculum Reform & Systemic Integration

95.1% of BSW Supervisors and 95% of MSW Supervisors

“Agree” or “Strongly agree” that suicide prevention, intervention and postvention education should be required by CSWE

“This needs to be talked about earlier and more training given in schools.”

“Social work is focusing on so much of redundancy on other things and forgetting about suicide.”

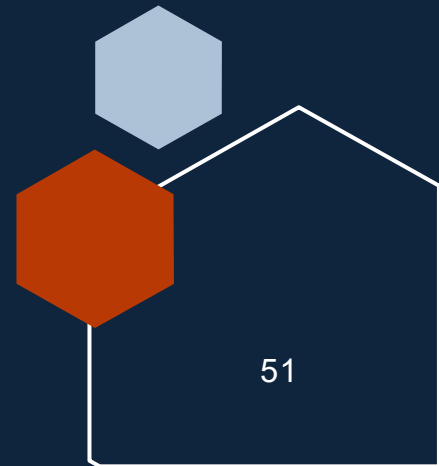
“Suicide education should be improved, increased, and constantly updated.”

“We should NOT be shying away from this issue—it is something we should be comfortable addressing.”

“Curriculum/standard addition to BSW/MSW curriculum.”

4. BSW Curriculum Ideas

- Risk and Protective Factors (including social determinants of health)
- Reframe suicide as a crisis (What's going on in your life right now that is making you think you want to die?)
- How to ask about suicide
 - Screening tools (free training: CSSRS/ASQ)
 - Use rapport and interviewing skills and empathetic bridge
- Assessment for planning and referral process – not prediction
- Safety planning (Stanley-Brown tool)
- Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (free training)
- DOCUMENTATION! DOCUMENTATION! DOCUMENTATION!
- Follow-up (Caring Contacts)



Resources for Additional Information/Training

- American Association of Suicidology
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
- National Institute of Mental Health. Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) Toolkit.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Suicide Prevention.
- Columbia Lighthouse Project.
- National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.
- National Institute of Mental Health. Suicide Prevention.
- Workplace Suicide Prevention. National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- Stanley-Brown Safety Plan <https://suicidesafetyplan.com/>
- Suicide Awareness Voices of Education.
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center.
- The Trevor Project—Suicide Prevention for LGBTQ+ Young People.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention



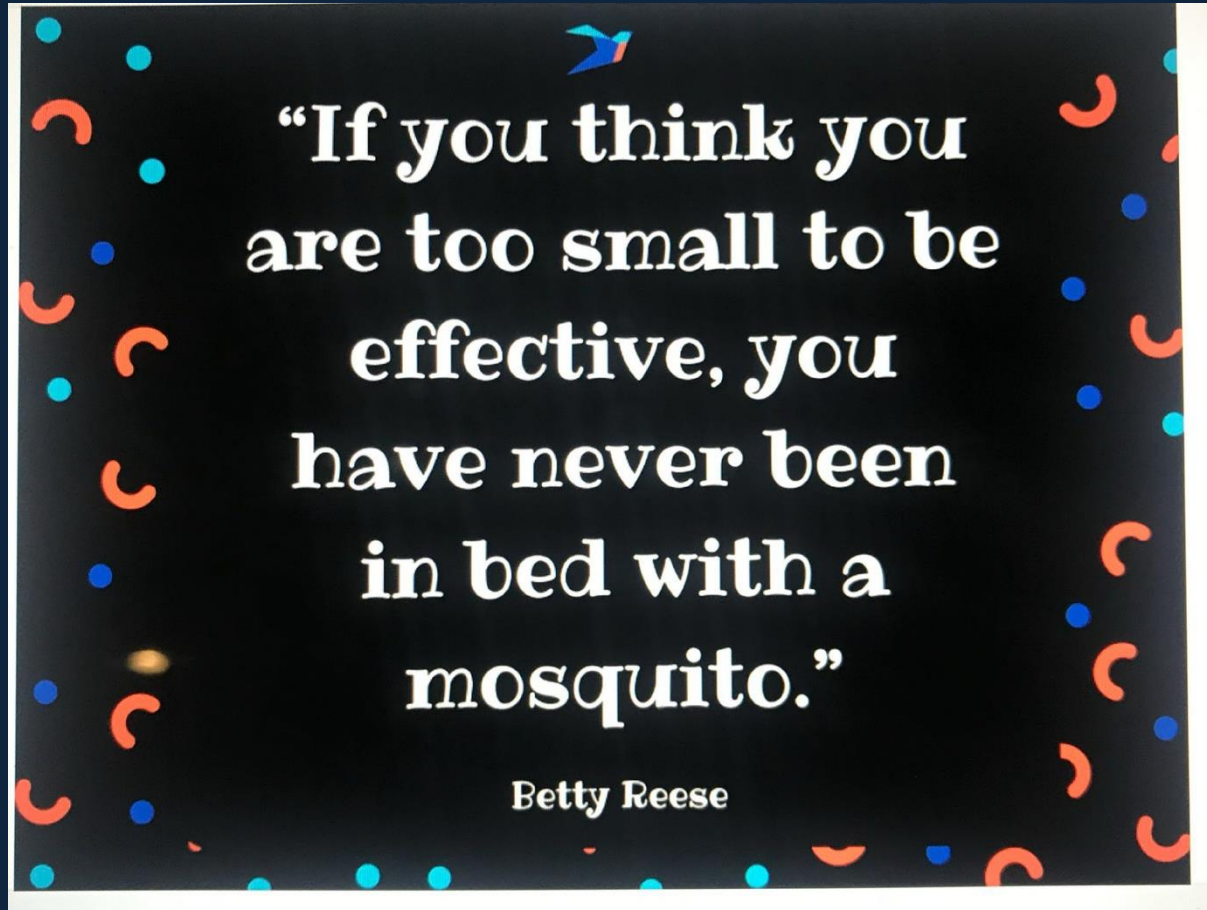


5. Soliciting Input

You Tell Us

- Your questions, comments
- What you see as strengths & limitations
- Suggestions on how to improve

YOU ARE ALL IMPORTANT!!



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FEEDBACK SURVEY



TRAINING INTEREST

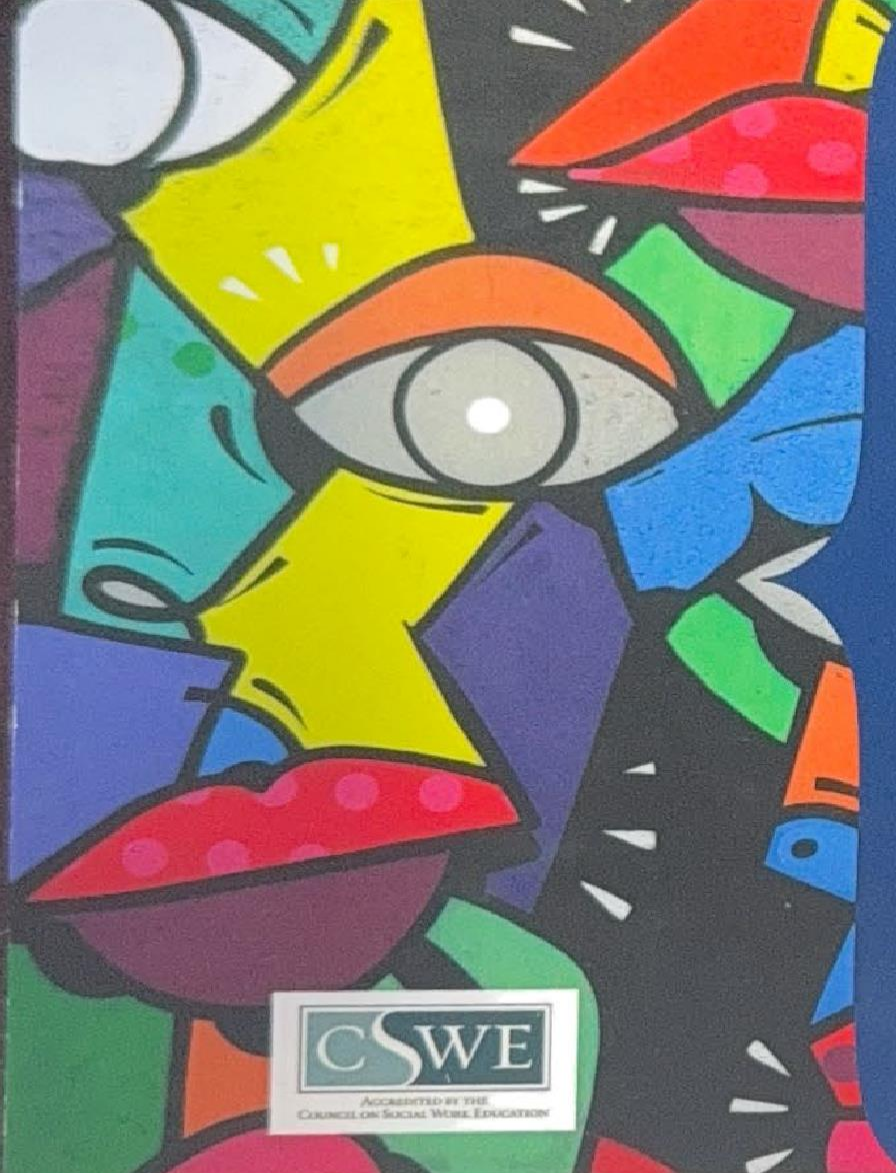


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