



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Office of Children's Services and Prevention



ODMH Kids News:
Building Ohio's Future

Monthly E-Newsletter

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Youth Dying by **SUICIDE**

LET'S TALK ABOUT... the Impact on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT) Youth

According to Surgeon General Satcher's 2001 Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior:

"Sexual orientation is usually determined by adolescence, if not earlier (Bell et al, 1981), and there is no valid scientific evidence that sexual orientation can be changed (Haldeman, 1994; APA, 2000). Nonetheless, our culture often stigmatizes homosexual behavior, identity, and relationship (Herek, 1993). These anti-homosexual attitudes are associated with psychological distress for homosexual persons and may have a negative impact on mental health, including a greater incidence of depression and suicide, lower self-acceptance and a greater likelihood of hiding sexual orientation (Gonsiorek, 1982; Ross, 1985; Ross, 1990; Greene, 1997; Remafedi, 1998). Although the research is limited, transgendered persons are reported to experience similar problem."

Suicide is the third leading cause of adolescent mortality in the United States, accounting for 13 percent of deaths between ages 15 and 24. In 2000, more teenagers and young adults died of suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia and influenza, and chronic lung disease combined. According to studies by Fergusson, Garofalo, and Remafedi, gay, lesbian and bisexual youth are up to three to five times more likely to attempt suicide.

Statistics to Consider

- 33% - 42% of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth reported a suicide attempt in the past year.
- Surveys conducted on GLBT young people in Kentucky found that those reporting higher frequencies of verbal harassment in their school and community were more likely to have attempted suicide.
- 97% of students in public schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from peers.
- 36% of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth report hearing homophobic remarks from faculty or school staff.

- Two-thirds of guidance counselors harbor negative feelings toward gay and lesbian people, and less than 20% have received training on serving gay and lesbian students.
- Lesbian, bisexual and gay youth who self-identify but have not disclosed this information to others are more likely to commit suicide.
- 26% of gay adolescent males were forced to leave home as a result of their sexual identity.
- Lesbian, bisexual and gay youth have a 10% – 30% higher incidence of using tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Resources

APA Healthy Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students Project
www.apa.org/ed/hlgb/

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-Flag)
www.pflag.org

GLBTQ Youth Resources
www.youthresource.com
www.nyacyouth.org
www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

References

Surgeon General Satcher's 2001 Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior: July 2001. Found on the web August 24, 2003:
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/sexualhealth/call.htm>

National Vital Statistics Report, Vol.50, No. 16, September 16, 2002: Found on the web:
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/pdf/nvsr50_16t1.pdf .

Original article:
http://mhmr.chs.ky.gov/mh/files/suicide_facts01.doc
Kentucky Suicide Prevention Planning Group
Frankfort, KY 40621

Submitted by: Robin Gilbert

SAVE THE DATE * SAVE THE DATE**Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care**

Dr. Patti Chamberlain will present an overview of the MTFC model and discuss outcomes from randomized trials with children and adolescents referred from the juvenile justice, child welfare and mental health systems. Results and clinical implications from a recently completed study with girls will be highlighted. Finally, she will discuss "what it takes" to successfully implement MTFC in community agencies. MTFC is recognized on nearly all lists of Evidence Based Practices for youth and families.

This presentation should be of interest to Providers, Policy Makers, Administrators, Evaluators, and Program Planning staff.

Thursday, February 17th, 2005 9:30 AM to 3 PM, Beech Brook 3737 Lander Road, Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124, (216) 831-2255

CEUs for Counselors and Social Work will be available; box lunch for approximately \$10 (payable to the Stark County Community Mental Health Board at time of conference); Registration via www.cipohio.org is **REQUIRED!** Registration Deadline: **Monday, Feb. 14th**.

Sponsored by: the Center for Innovative Practices, Support from Beech Brook, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Stark County Community Mental Health Board, and the Alliance of Child Caring Service Providers.

Submitted by: Robin Gilbert

Ohio Alternative Education Challenge Grant**2005 Alternative Education Winter Summits**

February 22

Chillicothe at Union Scioto Local School

February 24

Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green Union

February 25

Miami University-Hamilton at Wilks Conference Center

February 28

Massillon at the R.G. Drage Career Center

Submitted by: Robin Gilbert

Dear Subscribers:

It has been indeed the Office of Children's Services and Prevention staffs' pleasure in serving you with the **ODMH Kids News: Building Ohio's Future** Monthly E-Newsletter. As we look into the future and embark on a new year, we look forward to continue our efforts in bring you information that is relevant to what you do and care about as it relates to mental health issues.

Our first newsletter hit cyberspace in November, 2001 with an introduction of ourselves to you with contact information for each staff member in order to be available to you. Many of you have taken us up on that extended hand and have contact us requesting a variety of information from who can I contact for...to where can I go for grant-funding information.

In that edition we shared Designing Interagency Service Delivery Prototypes from the Institute for Education Leadership, our Red Flags program for Middles Schools, Web sites, and upcoming events. In each edition we strive to communicate what we are doing here in central office as well as what others are doing across the state.

We just wanted to say thank you for your continued interest, contributions, and support of our newsletter. We all look forward to speaking, seeing, meeting, and collaborating with you in 2005.

Sincerely,

Marla **Jean**
Kay *Deb* *Elnora*
Sharon *Debra* *Robin* *Dora*

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Submitted by: Deborah M. Hatch, Editor