



Learning Together, Protecting Tomorrows



In the September 2025 edition:

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Visit our **new** website!

Greetings from the Staff

Dear Colleagues,

September is my favorite month of the year. It ushers in a season of change, from the crisp air and vibrant foliage to the collective enthusiasm for the comforts of fall. It is a time when nature shifts from hot summer days to cooler fall temperatures, inviting us to enjoy the beauty of changing leaves, indulge in pumpkin spice traditions, football season, and prepare for sweater weather.



Beyond these seasonal joys, September holds a profound significance as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. As a mother of four, the spouse of a Veteran, and friend to people who serve or have served in the military, my dedication to suicide prevention is deeply rooted in personal experiences, which includes supporting family members and friends. My understanding of suicide and its complexities did not originate from expertise; instead, it began with concern for loved ones. My knowledge has grown through collaboration with communities, ongoing education in injury prevention, and my career journey. These experiences have equipped me with the skills and perspective to recognize the multifaceted nature of suicide prevention.

One of the most important lessons I have learned is that change—like the turning of the seasons—can be welcomed by some and deeply challenging for others. Recognizing when someone is struggling and ensuring they are connected to appropriate resources is vital in our collective efforts to prevent suicide. Fatality review programs are essential to identifying gaps and needs within communities to address suicide and connect families to resources.

Let us use this month as an opportunity to foster awareness, open conversation, and compassion within our communities.

Happy Fall Y'all,
Dawn Porter
Senior Project Coordinator

If you or someone you know is experiencing thoughts of suicide or a crisis, help is available via the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988.

Upcoming Events



Fall Office Hours with the National Center

We are excited to continue offering Office Hours for the rest of 2025!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are moving Office Hours to Microsoft

Teams. **Registration is required for each individual session.** The first part of each Office Hours meeting will highlight a specific topic. The remaining time will be reserved for open discussion.

- **September 16, 2025** - [Power in Partnership: Tips and Tools for Engaging Partners in the Review Process](#)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST
- **October 21, 2025** - [Handling Conflicting Data](#)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST
- **November 18, 2025** - [Facilitating Difficult Conversations](#)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST
- **December 16, 2025** - [Interactive Meetings: Designing Live Icebreaker Dashboards](#)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

Please email info@ncfrp.org if you have any questions or ideas for future topics.

Kudos Corner

Missouri FIMR Hosts Statewide Training



Missouri is in the process of developing a statewide FIMR network, including regional teams that will cover all areas of the state. In addition to monthly statewide technical assistance calls for Missouri's FIMR partners, FIMR team members met in Jefferson City in August to share ideas, continue to learn, and develop supportive relationships with FIMR professionals across the state.

Congratulations to Missouri state coordinator Angela Talbott and training attendees on this incredible progress!

Michigan CDR Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Michigan CDR program is celebrating 30 years of fatality review in the state. An average of 500 child deaths are reviewed within Michigan each year. A timeline of accomplishments, beginning in 1995, is [available to read on their website](#).

Michigan's CDR team and the National Center have a longstanding partnership, as both programs are housed within the Michigan Public Health Institute. Kudos to the Michigan CDR team and Senior Program Advisor Heidi Hilliard on this amazing milestone!

Data Matters

Priority Variables in the Pediatric NFR-CRS

The National Center, in consultation with FIMR and CDR programs, have identified priority variables in the Pediatric NFR-CRS. Priority variables can be used to monitor data quality at the local, state, and national levels. State and local Pediatric NFR-CRS users can generate their own data quality summary on the priority variables on demand by using Standardized Report 33. The national summaries for CDR and FIMR will continue to be generated and posted annually on our website each fall. The latest CDR summary includes [deaths](#) in 2023, while the FIMR summaries show [deaths](#) and [stillbirths](#) in 2023. Please contact the National Center if you have any questions on how to read the summary and its potential use.

CDC Launches Mental Health Data Channel



1 in 3 U.S. high school students reported their mental health was not good most of the time or always during the past 30 days, according to 2023 data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

The CDC's Behavioral Health Coordinating Unit has launched a new [Mental Health Data Channel](#). This first-of-its-kind platform consolidates mental health data across CDC's national and state sources into a user-friendly platform, providing clear visualizations, explanations of trends, and resources aimed at improving mental health. Data on both youth and adults is available.

Resources for Prevention

Information Gathering Assessment: Suicide Mortality Review Committees

The National Center is excited to announce the development of the first U.S. national database for Suicide Mortality Review Committees (SMRCs). To further support local, state, and tribal SMRCs, we are launching an Information Gathering Assessment designed to deepen our understanding of their activities and to identify areas for technical assistance and training.

We kindly ask for your help in sharing the assessment link with your local, state, or tribal SMRCs. If you receive this request through multiple channels, we appreciate your patience as we strive to expand our outreach and collect vital

information to better support SMRCs nationwide.

Assessment link: <https://redcap.link/x4efx0tn>

New Resource from the CDC Addresses Youth Substance Use and Mental Health



The back-to-school season is a great time to engage with youth about mental health and substance use to promote their well-being throughout the academic year. To support these conversations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched *Free Mind*, a new national campaign that provides youth ages 12-17 and their parents and caregivers with resources and information about substance use, mental health, and the connection between the two.

[Check out the *Free Mind* webpage to learn more.](#)

Poisoning Prevention Video Resources

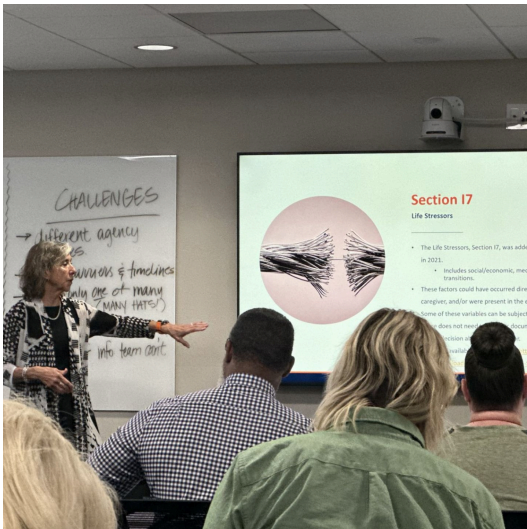
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has developed new prevention videos as part of their Poison Help campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to equip parents, caregivers, and health care professionals with resources they need to prevent and address injury or harm caused by poisoning. Click on the links below to view the newest videos from HRSA.

- [Who to Call for Poison Help?](#) (English) / [¿A quién llamar en caso de envenenamiento?](#) (Spanish)
- [Make the call when the moment counts](#) (English) / [Haga la llamada. Cada segundo cuenta](#) (Spanish)
- [Some Viral Trends Can Cause Harm](#) (English) / [Algunas tendencias virales pueden causar daño](#) (Spanish)

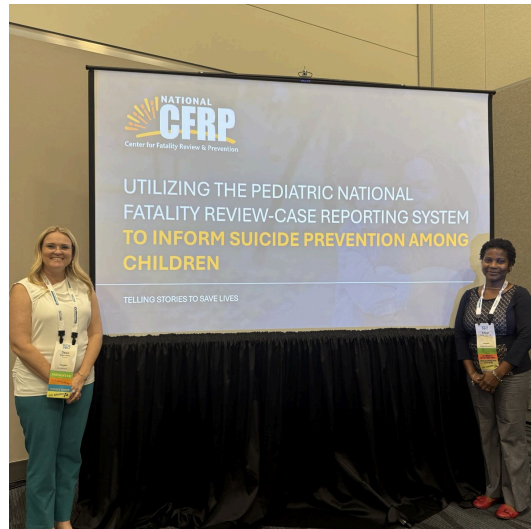
Staff Out & About

The summer months have kept our team moving! A few highlights for us from the summer:

- Gabby Hillers was nominated and accepted into the inaugural Global Drowning Prevention Leadership Institute. She attended two weeks of in-person courses at Johns Hopkins University.
- Edege Vales and Jess Perfette gave Colorado CDR teams a presentation titled 'Psychological Safety and Overcoming Barriers.'
- Heather Dykstra and Abby Collier presented at the Suicide Mortality Review Summit to discuss the Adult NFR-CRS.



Patti Schnitzer presenting at the Nevada CDR training for state coordinators and team members.



Dawn Porter and Edege Vales presented at NACCHO 360 conference in Anaheim, California.

In addition to a busy season of presentations and trainings, the National Center has celebrated multiple milestones, including staff work anniversaries, development of a [new website](#), and opportunities to support suicide mortality

review efforts, with a specific focus on military service members, veterans, and their families.

The National Center is available to support you and your work during the fall and beyond, whether in the form of technical assistance, connecting you to a resource, or sharing guidance for data collection. We look forward to working alongside you.

To provide feedback on our new website, please email lsawyer@mphi.org with questions or comments.

If you have a training need, the National Center will be happy to connect with you to find a creative solution and provide technical assistance or training to your program. Reach out to us at info@ncfrp.org!



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