



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** CISC - Suicide Prevention Gap Analysis Sub-Committee

**Date of Submission:** 12/8/2020

### Type of Action Requested:

Legislation     Administrative Rule or Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):

Child Health and Safety     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

### Summary of Recommendation:

Legislatively mandate training on screening for suicide risk and implementation of appropriate intervention practices in all pre-professional schooling programs, including social work, education, and all healthcare professions.

### Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

Competence in the assessment of suicidality has constantly been overlooked and dismissed by colleges, universities and clinical trainings.

American Association of Suicidology study identifies that competence in the assessment of suicidality is an essential clinical skill that has consistently been overlooked and dismissed by colleges, universities, clinical training sites and licensing bodies that prepare healthcare and social service professionals.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

American Association of Suicidology study identifies that competence in the assessment of suicidality is an essential clinical skill that has consistently been overlooked and dismissed by colleges, universities, clinical training sites and licensing bodies that prepare healthcare and social service professionals.

Indiana Youth Survey (2020)

2020 Indiana KIDS COUNT Data Book, Indiana Youth Institute

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

1 in 5 high school students in Indiana have contemplated suicide.

1 in 9 high school students in Indiana have made a suicide plan.

1 in 10 high school students in Indiana have attempted suicide.

Hoosier minority youth are 3x more likely to contemplate suicide when compared to national minority youth figures.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

There is no current response to the problem regarding lack of competence for suicidality screening in pre-professional programs.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

Legislative mandate to include evidence-based training for suicide screenings in post-secondary curriculum.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

This will ensure that more Hoosiers will be competent in providing evidence-based suicide screenings to Hoosiers in crisis.

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A – No current legislation exists.

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**

N/A