Critical Crossroads: Pediatric Mental Health Care in the Emergency Department
A Care Pathway Resource Toolkit
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Agenda
- Background
- Critical Crossroads
  - EMSC
  - Partners and Collaborators
  - Methods
  - Overview of Toolkit
- Key Take-a-ways

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Mission: To improve health outcomes and address health disparities through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce, and innovative, high-value programs.
HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Mission: To improve the health and well-being of America’s mothers, children, and families.

HRSA Background

- Health Resource and Services Administration’s agency-wide effort in Mental Health
- Collaboration: HRSA MCHB and FORHP
- Purpose: Critical Crossroads: To improve emergency care for children in mental health crises.
- Product: Critical Crossroads Toolkit

Background/Need

- One in five youth experiences a mental disorder at some point during their lifetime.
- One in 10 youth will experience a serious emotional disorder (SED) that will significantly impact their ability to function at home, in school, or in the community.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for children 10-14 years old and adolescents 15-19 years old.
Background/Need

• ED child utilization for suicide attempts and ideation doubled between 2007 and 2015

• 2013 National Pediatric Readiness Assessment:
  • 47% of hospital EDs have a children’s mental health policy, only 25% in rural areas.
  • > 50% of hospital EDs have designated transfer guidelines, only 38% in rural areas.

• Many not receiving needed comprehensive treatment for pediatric mental health visits

• Often discharged without guided referrals for mental health specific follow-up care.

Collaboration: Rural Health

• Partnership
  • Across all contexts
  • Gaps in best practices in rural settings
  • Inclusion of case stories from hospitals throughout rural regions of US

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program
Formulation of Critical Crossroads Project

- Established to ensure cross-department collaboration to improve emergency care for children in mental health crises.
- A federal working group was formed.
- Expected outcomes:
  - Strengthened federal partnerships and stakeholder engagement to enhance alignment and coordination in efforts to improve emergency care for children in mental health crises.
  - The creation and dissemination of a tool to help improve the quality of emergency medical care for children and youth experiencing mental health crisis.

Partners: Federal Working Group

- [List of partners and their affiliations]

Partners: Expert Review Panel

- [List of panel members and their affiliations]
Methodology

• Targeted literature search (scholarly and gray literature) developed from inclusion criteria created by fed committee
• Environmental Scan
• Results limited to hospital setting
  • Known prehospital programs

Care Pathway

A care pathway is a tool that describes and sequences how health care professionals manage specific clinical presentations, facilitating the course of care for patients and increasing the quality of services delivered.

• Improve patient outcomes.
• Pathway Toolkit designed with existing research and resources to support the creation of customized care pathways based on local context.
• The Toolkit is not intended to dictate care.

The Product: Care Pathway Toolkit

Access full PDF at: www.hrsa.gov/critical-crossroads
Screening: Page 10

Resources to Support Pre-Post Screening Actions:
Page 19

- Crisis Support and Mobile Crisis Teams
- Team-Based Provider Approach
- Tele-Behavioral Health

Ongoing Assessment: Page 23
Case Stories: Rural Perspectives

- Emergency Department in the rural Pacific Northwest
- Emergency Department in rural New England
- Emergency Department in a Rural Midwestern State
- Emergency Department in a Regional Hospital in a Rural Midwestern State
- Emergency Department in a Regional Hospital in a Southwestern State
- Urgent Care Facility in Western State
- Emergency Department in a Rural Northwestern State

Key Take-Aways

- An unmet need
- Gaps in Research
- Disproportionate impact in rural, frontier, & native communities
- EMS in the broader continuum of care for children in mental health crises
Questions or Feedback?

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