

Call 911: Suicidal individuals' help-seeking means as associated with their outcomes

PRESENTERS

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BACKGROUND

- Washington State Dept of Health reported 1507 suicides from April 2019-June 2020
- Law enforcement via 911 primary response source for acute suicidal crises
- Referral source and suicidal plans revealed to 911 may explain outcomes

AIMS

- Determine if help-seeking referral & means can predict outcome of a 911 suicide call
- Determine if there is any correlation between call rate and suicide rate

METHODS

- Classified 1071 911 calls using referral type, means, suicidal history, and outcomes from Washington State Police
 - Suicidal individual Referral type: Self-referral, social media post, contacted someone about intent, known associate observed harmful behavior or moods, or bystander observed dangerous behavior

RESULTS

- Multinomial Logistic Regression of calls using referral, means, & suicidal history to predict known outcomes w/ "monitored" category as reference level

DISCUSSION

- Bystander observations likely led to adverse outcomes (e.g., jumpers and public harm)
- Referral by an associate (vice self or public) provides more information & context, including the means which is shown to be significant factor in receiving intervention

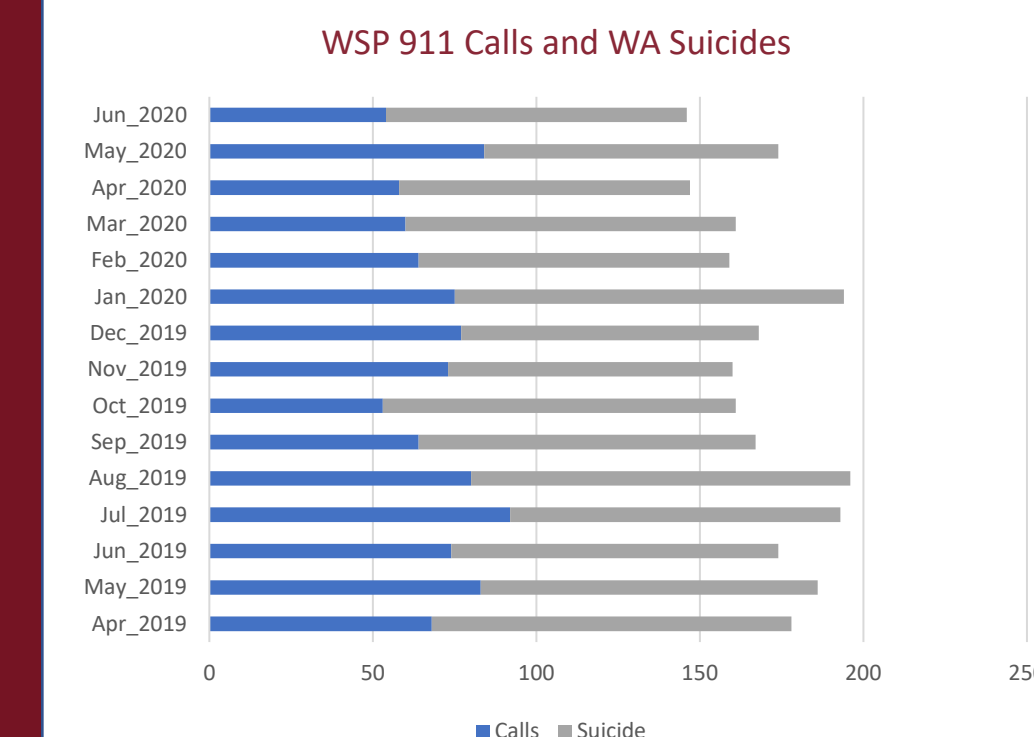
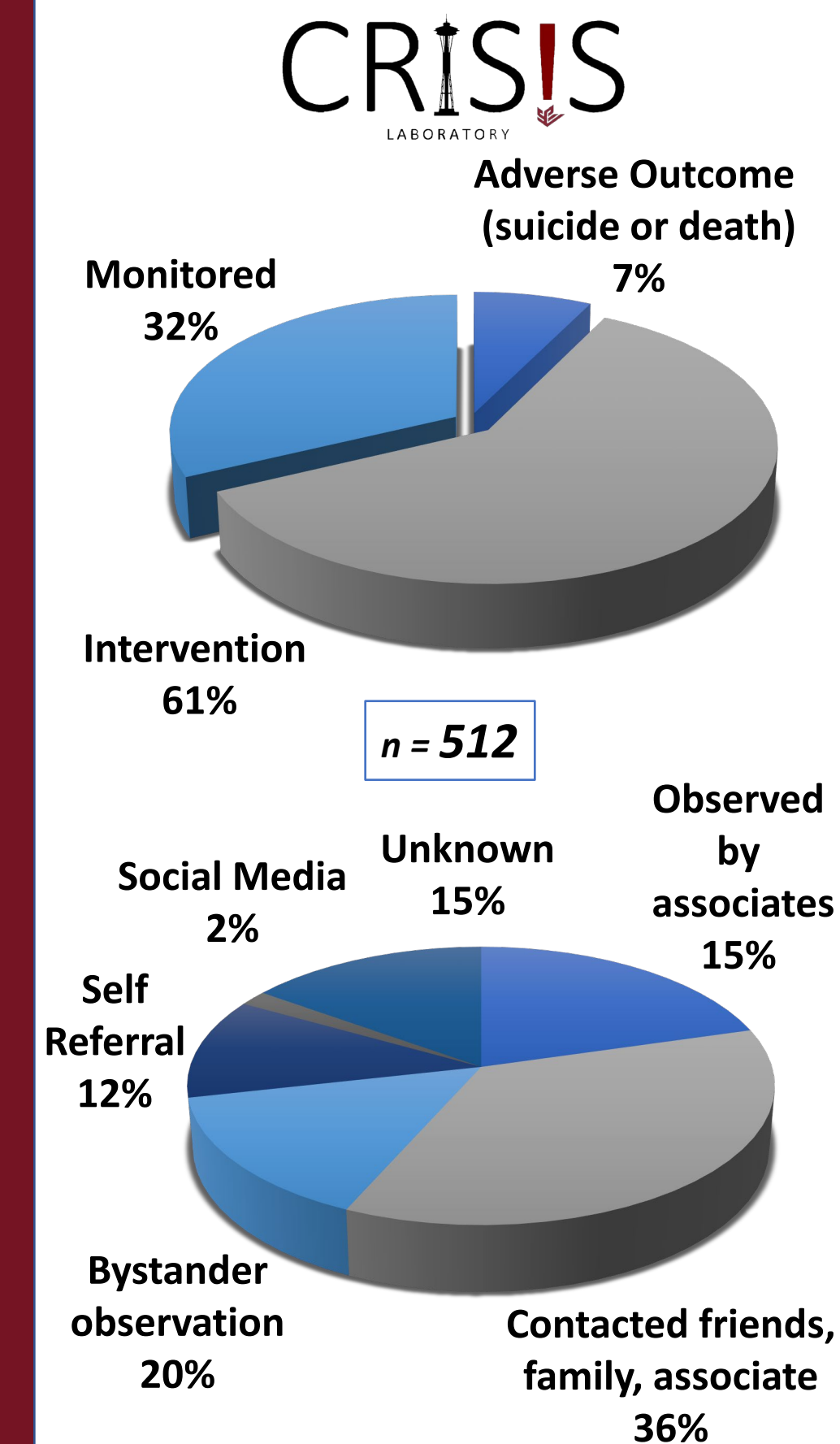
STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- Few sources record acute suicidal crises for research; more information is needed on emergency crises to relieve law enforcement of heavy burden and increase prevention efforts
- Greater validity needed via interrater reliability of calls

Suicidal individuals identifying suicidal means (vs. none) will more likely receive an intervention (vs. monitoring).

Family, friends, & associates calling 911 will more likely end with monitoring (vs. intervention).

Bystanders calling 911 will more likely end in suicide or death.



WSP jurisdiction extends throughout the Washington state. The WSP 911 public service answering point is only one of 162 responding to emergency calls, including mental health and suicide-related crisis calls.

$$r = 0.10, p = .70$$

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