



## Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics 2010 Mental Health Fact Sheet

### A national problem

- 1 in 5 children in the US suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder
- Only 20% to 25% of affected children receive treatment
- Major depressive disorder is estimated to occur in 2.8% of children younger than 13 years of age and in 5.6% of adolescents aged 13 to 18 years.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death in those aged 15-24 years
- Suicide is the sixth leading cause of death in those aged 5-14 years
- According to the AAP Task Force on Mental Health  
“No other illnesses damage so many children so seriously. On the other hand early identification and treatment of children with mental health problems has the potential to reduce the burden of mental illness and its many consequences.”

### Background

The MIAAP Mental Health committee is committed to the promotion of mental health in children and adolescents and to the education of pediatric providers in assessment and treatment of mental health disorders. The committee provides information to MIAAP members about the scope of mental health problems in Michigan, opportunities for continuing education, and is a forum for policy advocacy at the state level. Members will review current AAP recommendations on mental health, promote the use of screening tools for in-office assessment, support implementation of treatment and establish collaborative relationships with other public and private mental health entities. Our goal is to assist pediatric providers in evaluating children’s mental health and to advocate for providers’ role in mental health at the state level. Projects would include linking providers to local resources, advocating for reimbursement and supporting state legislation on issues impacting mental health care.

### MIAAP’s Position

The MIAAP supports the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry position statement about mental health: With the appropriate training and collaborative relationships, primary care clinicians can and should deliver mental health services to children and adolescents in the primary care setting. This setting is ideal for initiating services to children with emerging developmental and behavioral problems and common mental health disorders such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety disorders, and substance abuse. (Pediatrics Vol. 123, Number 4, April 2009)

### Action: What can members do?

- **Screen teens at every well-child visit. Ask- Has there been a time in the last month when you have had serious thoughts about ending your life? [www.teenscreen.org](http://www.teenscreen.org)**
- **Advocate for mental health funding for suicide prevention in the state budget. Contact your legislators at [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org) and click on the House or Senate to find your elected official.**

### Resources for childhood mental health

- MIAAP annual meeting September to include mental health topic
- TeenScreen@ [www.teenscreen.org](http://www.teenscreen.org) for in office screening tools
- Bright Futures in Practice: Mental Health Vol.2. Tool Kit.  
[Http://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/professionals/bridges/ces\\_dc.pdf](http://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/professionals/bridges/ces_dc.pdf)

**Join the committee! Please contact the MIAAP Office at 517.484.3013, or email at [info@miaap.org](mailto:info@miaap.org)!**

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