

Pediatric Mental Health Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT:

Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide

Understanding suicide risk factors is critical for timely, effective intervention. By recognizing the complex interplay of mental health, social, and environmental influences, providers can better identify at-risk patients and connect them to support. This knowledge empowers you to act early, address root causes, and provide life-saving care, strengthening your role as a trusted ally in prevention.

ICAAP Mental Health Resources

- [Risk & Protective Factors](#)
- [Pediatric Mental Health Resources & Guidance](#)
- [On-Demand Pediatric Mental Health Webinars](#)
- [Youth Suicide Prevention Resources](#)

Universal Mental Health Screening in Illinois Schools

On Thursday, July 31st, Governor JB Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1560 alongside the bill sponsors, State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders and Chief Officer for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Dr. Dana Weiner. This bill mandates that students in public schools in grades 3–12 be offered a mental health screening. Illinois is now the first U.S. state to implement such universal screening.

According to the Governor's office [press release](#): Under current Illinois law, screening every student in every grade enrolled each year is not required, and therefore district oversights and limited screening resources make it difficult to identify and address mental health issues that cause barriers to learning. As part of an ongoing initiative to implement universal mental health screening in Illinois schools by the 2027-28 school year, SB1560 consists of two major legislative changes.

1. The bill requires all school districts to offer mental health screenings to students enrolled in grades 3 through 12, at least once a year, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.
2. The bill requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to provide resource materials for schools to implement universal mental health screenings, including model policies and guidance by Sept 1, 2026.

The State will further support this initiative by providing public schools with free access to screening tools and associated technology.

A link to the reports that support the development of this bill are available here: <https://www.isbe.net/landscapescan>



Governor JB Pritzker



Earn CME & Develop Your Skills

AAP Pediatric Mental Health Education Center (PMHEC) Common Factors ECHO

The American Academy of Pediatrics Pediatric Health Education Center is recruiting pediatricians and other pediatric clinicians to join the **ECHO: Caring for Patients with Mental Health Concerns—Engaging Families and Addressing Common Factors in Primary Care Settings**.

This 3-month ECHO program will provide training and case-based learning. It will focus on the common factors approach within the primary care setting, incorporating relational health principles into practice, and navigating behavioral challenges.

[Apply Now](#)



ICAAP Annual Education Conference

📍 Northern Illinois University - Naperville Campus

WED **October 15, 2025** 3:00 to 6:00pm

- Pre-Conference on Orthopedic and Sports Medicine

THUR **October 16, 2025** 8:00am to 4:00pm

- **H. Garry Gardner Memorial Keynote on Social Media**
Jenny Radesky, MD
- **Afternoon Keynote on AAP Advocacy**
Mark Del Monte, JD | AAP CEO & Executive Vice President
- **Business Awards Lunch**

Ideal for:

- › ICAAP Members
- › Pediatric Specialists
- › Family Physicians
- › Pediatricians
- › Pediatric Nurses
- › Clinicians Working with Children
- › Pediatric Residents
- › Pediatric Dentists

[Register Today!](#)



Resources



IDHS Preserves LGBTQIA+ Youth Support on 988 Lifeline Amid Federal Cuts

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Illinois is available 24/7 in either English or Spanish by calling or texting **988**.

The 988 Lifeline does not require callers or texters to share any identifying information. Information that is shared is not stored.

[View Full Press Release](#)

Stay Ahead with the Latest Evidence

Expert Insights for Child & Family Well-Being

Looking for research you can use in practice? Sign up for ChapInSight Alerts from Chapin Hall for monthly updates on new evidence and trends impacting children, families, and communities. Each issue delivers actionable insights to inform policy, guide care, and strengthen advocacy.

[Sign Up Today](#)

SAMHSA's 2025 Suicide Prevention Awareness Toolkit

September is [Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#). This month serves to remember those lost, bring awareness to millions living with suicidal thoughts and support communities affected by suicide. SAMHSA has put together a [2025 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month toolkit](#) to bring awareness and educate on social media and beyond.

This toolkit includes:

- [Key Messages and Weekly Themes](#) to help you create impactful content for various audiences.
- [Social Media Shareables](#)—engaging posts, graphics, and animations you can share on your social media platforms.
- [Digital Stickers](#), [Digital Frames](#), and [Email Signatures](#) to show your commitment to suicide prevention.
- [Virtual Backgrounds](#) to personalize and brand your online meetings.
- [Hashtags](#), such as #SuicidePrevention, #SPM25, and #YouAreNotAlone to highlight Suicide Prevention Awareness Month on social media.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Our youth suicide prevention resources include: data, screening tools, warning factors and how to engage in prevention with patients: illinoisap.org/suicide-prevention



Stay tuned for social media to share!



[Check SAMHSA for materials](#)



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illinoisap.org

