



Rural & Underserved Health Research Center

Center Director Part of Expert Panel on Etiology of Suicide

Lexington, KY—March 6, 2018—Tyrone F. Borders, PhD, Director of the Rural & Underserved Health Research Center at The University of Kentucky, is participating in The Etiology of Suicide Expert Panel meeting taking place March 6 and 7 in Rockville, Maryland.

Richard McKeon PhD, MPH, Chief of the Suicide Prevention Branch at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), invited Dr. Borders and other thought leaders to participate in an expert panel to develop actionable suicide prevention approaches by understanding the etiology of suicide. The panel's goal is to better understand recent findings and develop suicide prevention efforts applicable to both the population that is currently being predominantly affected, as well as translatable to other demographics.

The panel discussion will center around a 2015 study by Dr. Anne Case and Sir Angus Deaton of Princeton University that documented an increase in death rates among middle-aged Americans, particularly males. It is believed that this change in mortality was unique to the United States and is largely accounted for by increased death rates from drug and alcohol poisoning, suicide, and chronic liver diseases. These findings, among others, are consistent with data from SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which includes data on the relationship between opioid death and suicide, substance use, unemployment, social isolation, foreclosures, and poverty. Additionally, Dr. Robert Bossarte of West Virginia University will speak on modeling the patterns of cumulative disadvantage to better identify targeted prevention efforts.

For more information about the Rural & Underserved Health Research Center, visit <https://ruhrc.uky.edu>