

School-Based Crisis Intervention Teams: A Multidisciplinary Response for Children and Adolescents

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What is School Based CIT?

On August 15, 2022, the school-based initiative went live in a partnership with El Paso Independent School district. where our CIT specialists co-respond to the mental health crisis calls and assist with de-escalation and evaluations of students at the schools to ensure that students and families are being offered services in the community. We are now currently serving 3 school districts in El Paso County.

Collaborations

School-Based CIT is made up of 6 CIT specialists, 1 Lead therapist and a licensed program manager.

7 Available Units

07:00 AM to 07:00 PM

5 days a week



Criteria for School-Based CIT Response

Emergent Calls

Request/Dispatch a Police Officer and a School Based CIT Unit to Location

Suicidal Ideations: (thinking, verbalizing, written, behaviors, gestures)

Homicidal Ideations: (thinking, verbalizing, written, behaviors, gestures)

Self-Injury: cutting, burning, head banging, self-mutilation

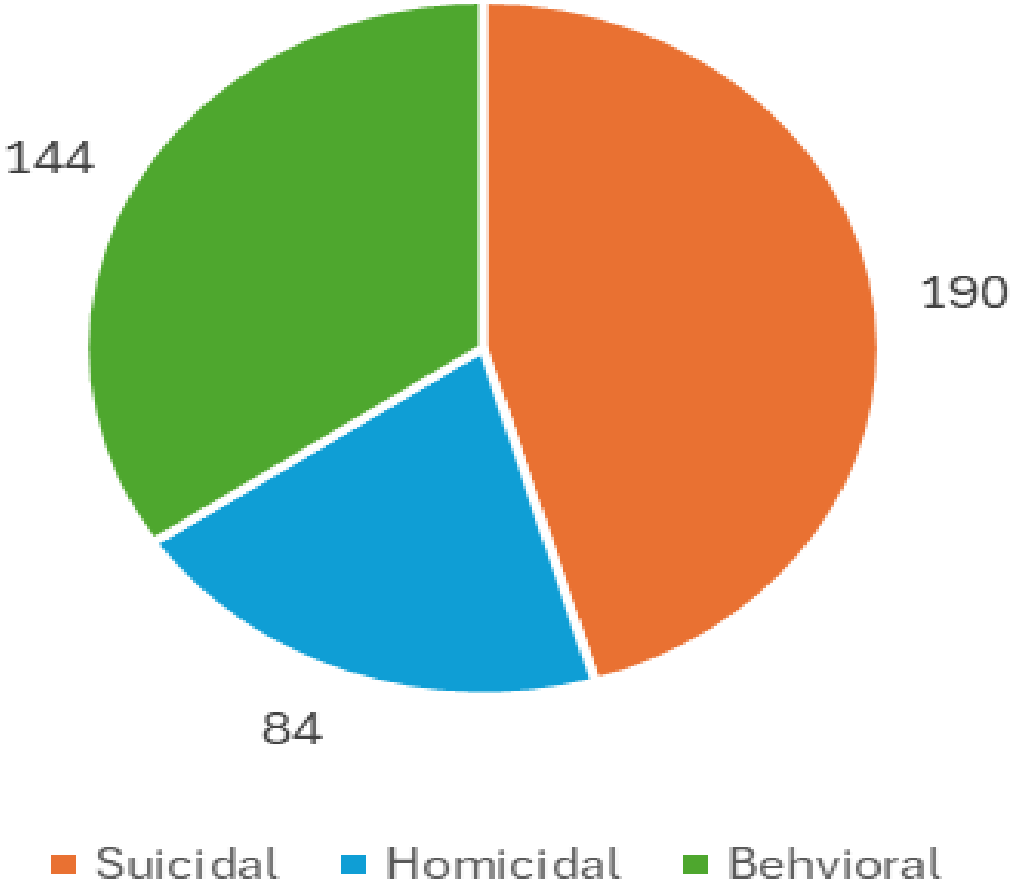
Psychosis: paranoia, hallucinations, delusions, confused thinking, erratic behavior, loss of contact reality, absurd/Illogical thinking.

Emotionally Distressed: Severely distressed where the individual needs immediate de-escalation.

If criteria is met, school administration or school counselors generate a police call (emergency call) and request CIT assistance.

School Based CIT Call Types

Call Type



September 2023- May
2024
423 Calls

- 45% Suicidal
- 34% Behavioral
- 20% Homicidal

What is CIS/IDD

Crisis Intervention Services for Intellectual Developmental Disabilities/ (CIS/IDD)

CIS is a team of experts who respond to crisis situations for individuals who are suspected of or diagnosed with Intellectual or Developmental disorders whom my need immediate intervention.

- Specialists provide immediate response to individuals diagnosed with IDD/ASD who need immediate crisis services such as community and/or hospital placement.
- Add clients to CIS/IDD specialist caseload if multiple crises occur to monitor.
- Triage cases within a hospital placement with psychiatrists, medical professionals, and paraprofessionals for assistance with appropriate treatment and placement planning.
- CIS/IDD specialist can evaluate and identify service gaps and strengthen the system that is involved with the individual. Provides trainings for dually diagnosed IDD/ASD consumers, to community law enforcement, community providers, families, and community partners.

CIT/CIS Multidisciplinary Approach

Once SB CIT specialist arrives on scene with officer and deem client is suspected of having the diagnosis of IDD/ASD, the CIT specialist will dispatch the CIS specialist to the scene.

Specialists will work together to de-escalate if needed, triage, assess and recommend appropriate disposition (outcome) for client.

Together they educate client, parent/guardian, families, school administration on the resources available to client and community

Provide client with further follow up if needed

CIT/CIS Collaborative Approach

CIS/IDD specialists actively collaborate with CIT specialists to ensure specialists have appropriate knowledge and awareness of client needs and assist in determining appropriate level of care.

All specialists are trained in procedures/ protocols that ensure client , specialist and officer safety.

SB CIT specialists receive annual training on IDD/ASD populations to include tools and techniques on how to de-escalate.

CIS/IDD personnel provide training for CIT officers upon request to better assist clients in crisis situations.



Case Study

SB CIT was requested to assist on a disturbance call for an 8-year-old male at an Elementary School after he damaged a TV cart during an outburst due to his teacher telling him "no" to his request to utilize the ipad. Client denied having homicidal and suicidal ideation, plan, or intent or auditory/visual hallucinations. Client is diagnosed with ODD and ADHD, and is in the process of being tested for Autism with the school Diagnostician. Client is seeing a therapist and was recently at an psychiatric facility due to experiencing a crisis during spring break. He is prone to emotional meltdowns where he loses temper, destroys property, and becomes physically violent, as evidenced by the client lunging himself at others and kicking and scratching anybody who comes close to him.

School Based CIT requested CIS/IDD to assist with this client and linked client to more appropriate services.



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Intervention Differences with CIT/CIS



1. Allow additional time for exchange of information.



2. Communication levels will vary with ID Levels or nonverbal clients.



3. Some may have delays in responding to questions.



4. Involve caregivers who know the client best will help figure out their wants, needs, feelings and symptoms—with communication focusing on the client.



5. Moving clients to a quieter place to facilitate better communication if the area is very busy or loud, triggering.

Intervention Differences with CIT/CIS



1. Use simple vocabulary.



2. Ask one simple question at a time.



3. Create and talk with short sentences.



4. Wait for answer before asking another question.



5. Confirm with the individual on what they are saying to ensure correct understanding.



6. Remember that persons with IDD think concretely.



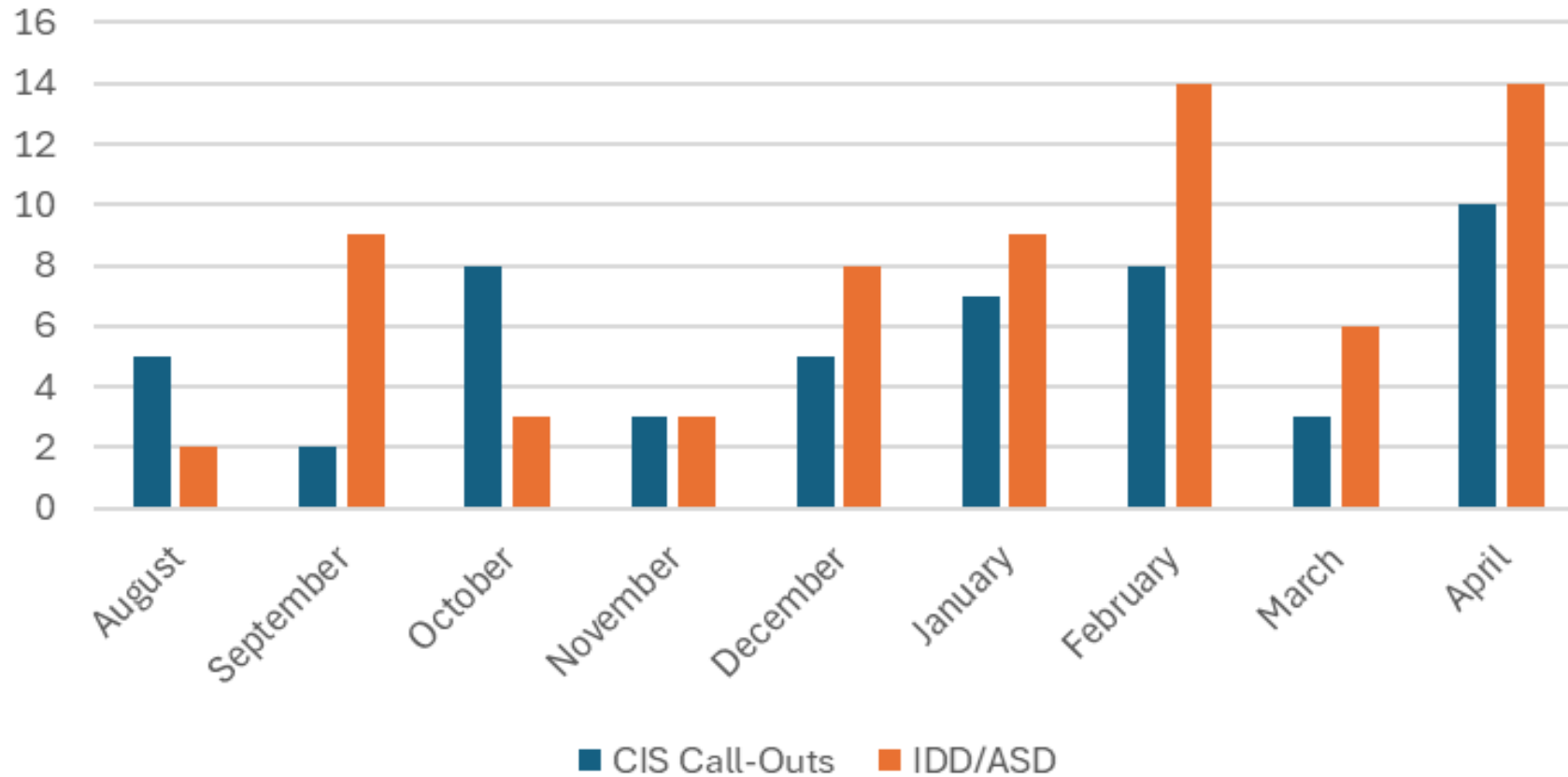
7. Avoid leading questions such as “yes” or “no” questions



8. Avoid “Why” questions (abstract thinking).

IDD/ASD Clients with CIS Dispatch

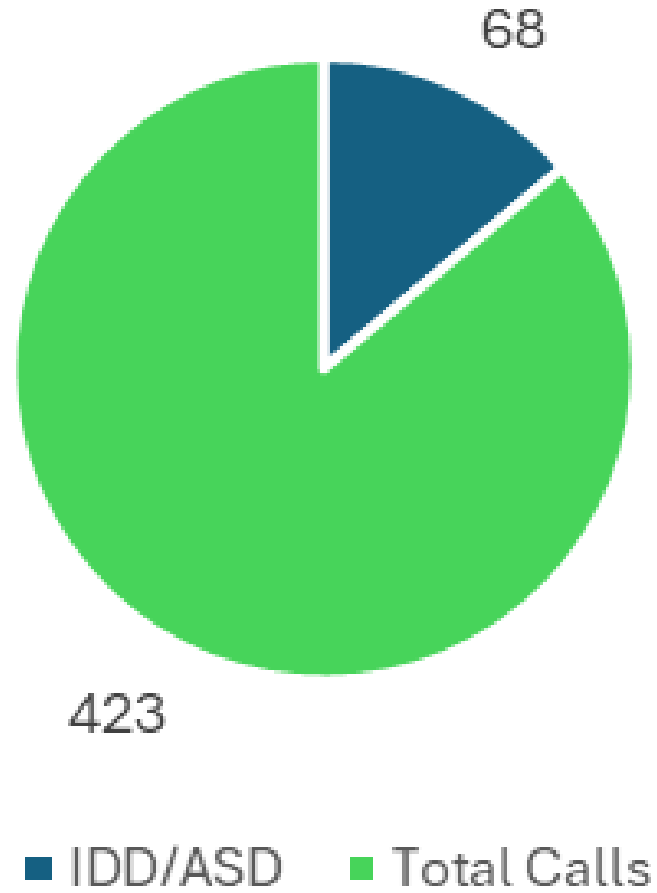
2024 School-Year



423 School-Based CIT callouts.

- *16% of clients had a Dx of IDD/ASD*
- *12% of required CIS response*

School-Based CIT: IDD & ASD





Thank you

QUESTIONS