

PROJECT BRIEF



PROJECT NAME

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County (the Collaborative)

PURPOSE

The Collaborative is a county partner of the Colorado-National Collaborative (CNC). The CNC is a partnership between local, state and national scientists and public health professionals, health and social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses, academic organizations, and Colorado residents. Their role is to identify, promote and implement comprehensive state- and community-based strategies for preventing suicide. Solutions to complex public health problems, like suicide, are often most successful when these entities coordinate their efforts so that partners can channel their resources to the same goals, avoid duplicating efforts, and enhance each other's work to produce lasting change. The goal is to reduce suicide deaths in El Paso County by 20% by the year 2024.

DEFINING THE ISSUE

Over the last five years, El Paso County has averaged the highest suicide rate in the state.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP'S ROLE

To facilitate this coordinated effort, Community Health Partnership (CHP) acts as the "backbone" organization and takes the lead on areas that align directly with CHP's strategic plan:



Guide vision and strategy



Support aligned activities



Advance policy



Establish shared measurement practices



Build public will



Mobilize funding and act as fiscal agent

KEY MESSAGES

- Recognizing that suicide is a complex issue that cannot be solved through behavioral health or medical models alone, CHP became a backbone agency to create community infrastructure to create social change.
- Creating a community that is resilient to hardship requires a reduction in stigma around talking about behavioral health.
- Suicide prevention must be approached as a public health issue.

CALL TO ACTION

- Local community leadership's commitment to promoting and educating their organizations and citizens that suicide is an important public policy issue.
- Support the Collaborative's Action Plan.
- Community-wide dedication to evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions.
- Support evaluation efforts to see if current (and future) interventions are effective.



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