

# 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 of multi-sector stakeholders that 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

From 2015 – 2020, El Paso County recorded more total deaths by suicide than other counties in Colorado.

In El Paso County, veterans, older adults, youth, LGBTQIA2+ individuals, and middle-aged men are at significant risk for deaths by suicide.

## 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

- Promote and disseminate resources and tools that support people in their workplaces by promoting mental health, providing help-seeking strategies for employees, and implementing screening/referral protocols and tools.
- Implement suicide prevention trainings for businesses, schools, organizations, military installations, and faith-based groups.
- Safely store firearms and promote safe firearm storage to prevent deaths by suicide. Firearms are the most lethal and the most accessed tool for death by suicide.
- Support policies at school, work, and in the community that help protect LGBTQIA2+ people from discrimination.

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, please contact the Colorado Crisis Services at 1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255 or visit Lighthouse Acute Services, a 24/7/365 crisis walk-in center at 115 S. Parkside Dr., Colorado Springs.



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