

# COLORADO-NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

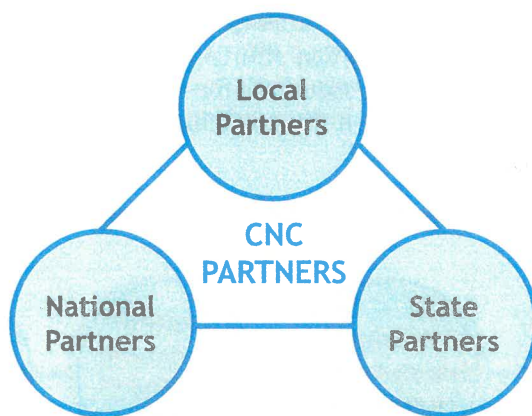
## COLORADO-NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Colorado-National Collaborative (CNC) is a partnership of local, state and national scientists and public health professionals working with health and social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses, academic organizations and Colorado residents to identify, promote and implement comprehensive state- and community-based strategies for suicide prevention in Colorado.

Colorado's suicide rate, 20.9 per 100,000 in 2017<sup>1</sup>, is among the highest in the nation.<sup>2</sup> Solutions to complex public health problems, like suicide, are often most successful when government, businesses, health services, nonprofit organizations and individual citizens coordinate their efforts. This way, partners can channel their resources to the same goals, avoid duplicating efforts, and enhance each other's work to produce lasting change.

### NATIONAL PARTNERS

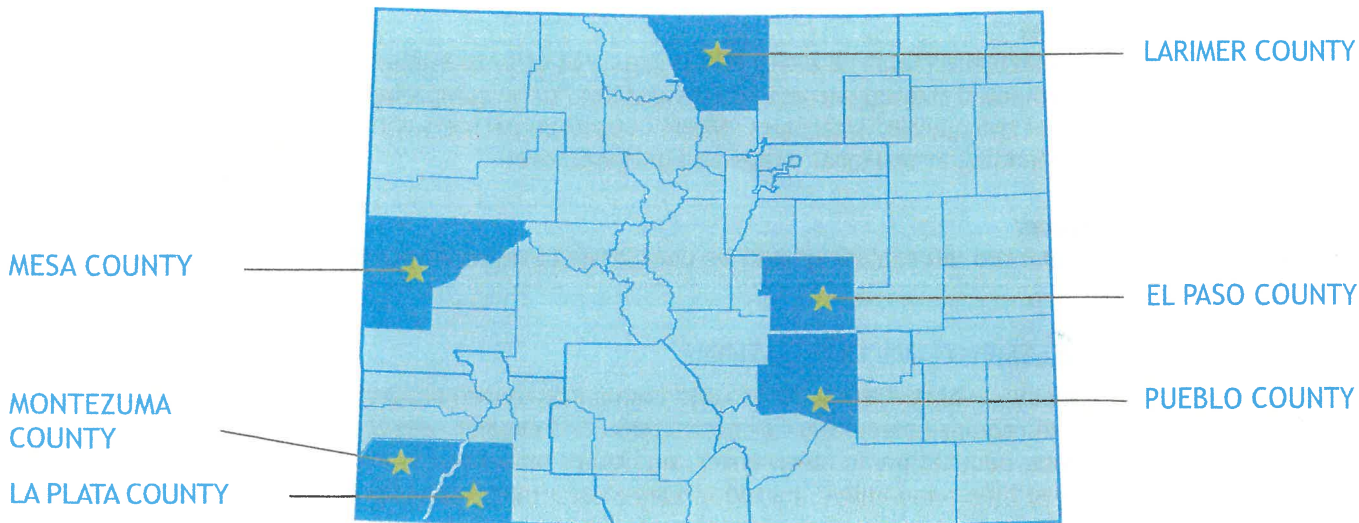
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention
- National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Education Development Center



### STATE PARTNERS

- Office of Suicide Prevention, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado's Suicide Prevention Commission
- Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Governor's Office
- Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
- Colorado School of Public Health
- University of Colorado Depression Center
- University of Colorado Hospital and School of Medicine

### LOCAL PARTNERS



<sup>1</sup> Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WISQARS Online Database

Information on Colorado's Suicide Prevention Efforts and resources can be found at [www.coosp.org](http://www.coosp.org).



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

## GOALS AND TASKS

In alignment with the Colorado Plan for Suicide Prevention, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, ***the goal of the CNC is to create a comprehensive suicide prevention model to reduce suicide statewide by 20 percent by 2024.***

The CNC defines a comprehensive model for suicide prevention as a public health approach that is data driven and prioritizes promising programs, practices and policies for populations and settings across all age groups to include individuals, families, communities and systems.

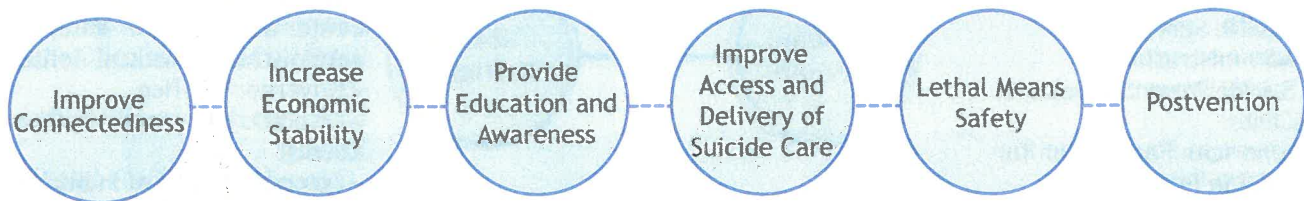
The process of assessing Colorado's needs and activities, creating a comprehensive approach to prevention, building county- and state-level capacity to implement chosen strategies, and sustaining and replicating the CNC process includes:

### Assessment:

- Colorado counties with high numbers and rates of suicide were identified including demographic information (e.g., age, gender, county of residence, method, occupation) and other circumstances surrounding suicide deaths. Colorado's Department of Public Health and the Environment's data dashboard can be found [here](#).
- Six counties (Montezuma, La Plata, Pueblo, El Paso, Mesa, and Larimer) have joined the CNC partnership, and include both rural and urban communities that cover approximately 24 percent of the total population of Colorado.
- In 2018, Over 100 agencies participated in a CNC Environmental Scan conducted for each of the 6 participating counties to learn more about their existing prevention efforts among community based organizations.
- Existing data, environmental scan results and resource information identify gaps in what we know about suicide and existing suicide prevention efforts in the participating counties.

### Planned Strategies:

- National, state and local county partners have identified six community strategy components that will make up the CNC strategy bundle:



- Next steps include efforts to facilitate and strengthen coordinated and comprehensive suicide prevention action plans across communities that align with the CNC bundle and with the priorities of the Colorado Suicide Prevention Plan.

### Capacity and Implementation

- CNC local partners have identified local capacity-building as a priority to implement and evaluate a comprehensive and coordinated strategy across all six counties. To be comprehensive, initiatives must be resourced among all six of the planned strategies. Ideally, resource partners will include government, foundation, and private funding at the local, state and national level.

### Replication and Sustainability

- As strategies are implemented, an evaluation will be conducted to demonstrate the approach is effective and can be replicated.

## LEARNING, QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The CNC will also systematically evaluate the methods and community-based processes that support quality improvement efforts. This will require assessment of partnership and capacity development, acquired skills and learning, community readiness, education and awareness, and other local community teams and coalition-led efforts that demonstrate saved lives and allow Colorado to serve as a model for other states.

### CONTACT:

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