A large cross sector of individuals and entities across Fresno County came together to form the Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative, an effort lead by the Community Conversations around Mental Health group. The main goal of the collaborative is to reduce suicides in Fresno County.

increased hope & reduced suicide

Through mutual efforts, the coordination of unified communication, surveillance and epidemiology, data collection and analysis, multi-sector involvement and linkages will be established. This facilitates a better utilization of resources, funding, and in-kind contributions.

From. Figure 1. The Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative Integrated Value Chain and Suicide Prevention Resource Center's (SPRC) Strategic Planning model.
The Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative (the Collaborative) is a dynamic and diverse community stakeholder group that is working toward cohesive action to address suicidal behavior.

**work groups**

**DATA:** focused on working with local, state, & federal data collection methods for statistics, rates, and overall numbers regarding suicide in the Central Valley.

**SCHOOLS:** focused on efforts in the school districts and addressing the need for youth suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

**HEALTHCARE:** focused on making connections between clinical providers including hospitals, community health centers, emergency rooms, clinics, and other agencies to promote suicide prevention.

**JUSTICE:** focused on efforts in the Justice system including law enforcement, probation, and incarcerations.

**COMMUNICATION:** focused on conveying information to the public, the media, and other organization's in the Central Valley.

**LEARNING AND EDUCATION:** focused on organizing the public education and training opportunities in the Central Valley.

**terms to know**

**SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR** includes suicide attempts and all actions that a person takes based on thoughts of killing himself or herself.

**SUICIDE ATTEMPT** is when a person does something harmful to himself or herself with at least some intent to die as a result.

**SUICIDE** is when a suicide attempt ends in death.
Suicidal behavior develops because of a mix of biology, life events, and/or environment. In the Socio-Ecological Model there are interactions between individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and public policy factors that influence risk for suicidal behavior. In addition to communication and social marketing campaigns, programs intending to promote health and wellness or prevent suicidal risk from developing act by:

- Fostering connectedness
- Teaching life skills
- Increasing help-seeking

The goal of early intervention is to help someone with elevated risk of suicide to avoid having a suicidal crisis. The early intervention prevention programs, sometimes referred to as “early intervention,” focus on helping a person through a crisis in a way that prevents it from turning into a life-threatening situation.

The crisis system works to interrupt the parts of the Suicidal Crisis Path from when someone enters a suicidal crisis through postvention that takes place after a suicide death.
Implement a Zero Suicide in Healthcare initiative

Expand community partnerships in Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative

Develop a strategic and coordinated communications plan

Implement community training

Continue needs assessment and evaluation planning

Conduct outreach to specific populations
  * agriculture and farming
  * business sector
  * racial and cultural groups
  * colleges
  * faith-based organizations

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**fresno facts**

For each teen who dies by suicide in Fresno County, approximately 70 youth were treated in the emergency department following self-injury\(^1\), and more than 5,000 adolescents thought seriously about ending their lives but likely did not attempt suicide\(^2\).

Each year, over 10% of the households\(^3\) in Fresno have directly faced issues related to suicide.

Based on recent estimates, the total economic cost for suicide death and injury in Fresno County might be more than $140 million per year\(^4\).

A community survey conducted in Fresno County found that 79% of participants had personal or professional experience with suicide or suicide attempts.

**recommended next steps**

1. Implement a Zero Suicide in Healthcare initiative
2. Expand community partnerships in Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative
3. Develop a strategic and coordinated communications plan
4. Implement community training
5. Continue needs assessment and evaluation planning
6. Conduct outreach to specific populations
   * agriculture and farming
   * business sector
   * racial and cultural groups
   * colleges
   * faith-based organizations

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**the collaborative is supported by:**

- Alliant International University, Fresno
- American Ambulance
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- California Health and Wellness
- California State University, Fresno
- Caruthers Unified School District
- Central Unified School District
- Central Valley Concussion Consortium
- Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline
- Clovis Police Department
- Clovis Unified School District
- Clovis Veterans Memorial District
- Community Medical Centers
- Community Members
- Community Regional Medical Center
- Corizon Health
- County of Fresno, County Administrative Office
- County of Fresno, Department of Behavioral Health
- County of Fresno, Department of Public Health
- County of Fresno, Department of Social Services
- County of Fresno, District Attorney’s Office
- County of Fresno, Probation Department
- County of Fresno, Public Defender’s Office
- County of Fresno, Sheriff-Coroner’s Office
- Exodus Recovery
- Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District
- First 5 Fresno County
- Fowler Unified School District
- Fresno Christian Schools
- Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention
- Fresno County Behavioral Health Board
- Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- Fresno Housing Authority
- Fresno Pacific University
- Fresno Police Department
- Fresno Rescue Mission
- Fresno Unified School District
- Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network
- Golden Plains Unified School District
- Healthy Marriage Coalition
- Hinds Hospice
- Fresno Survivors of Suicide Loss
- Huron Police Department
- Kaiser Permanente
- Department of Psychiatry
- Kerman Unified School District
- Kings Canyon Unified School District
- Kings View Corporation
- Marjaree Mason Center
- Mendota Unified School District
- NAMI Fresno
- National University
- Fresno
- Parlier Unified School District
- Poverello House
- Riverdale Joint Unified School District
- Saint Agnes Medical Center
- Sanger Unified School District
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