

# The Zero Suicide Initiative in Health Care

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



***SAMHSA***  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

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A black and white photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a grey background. One hand is in the upper right, and the other is in the lower left. The hands are positioned as if they are about to clasp or are in a gesture of support. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the skin texture and the shape of the hands.

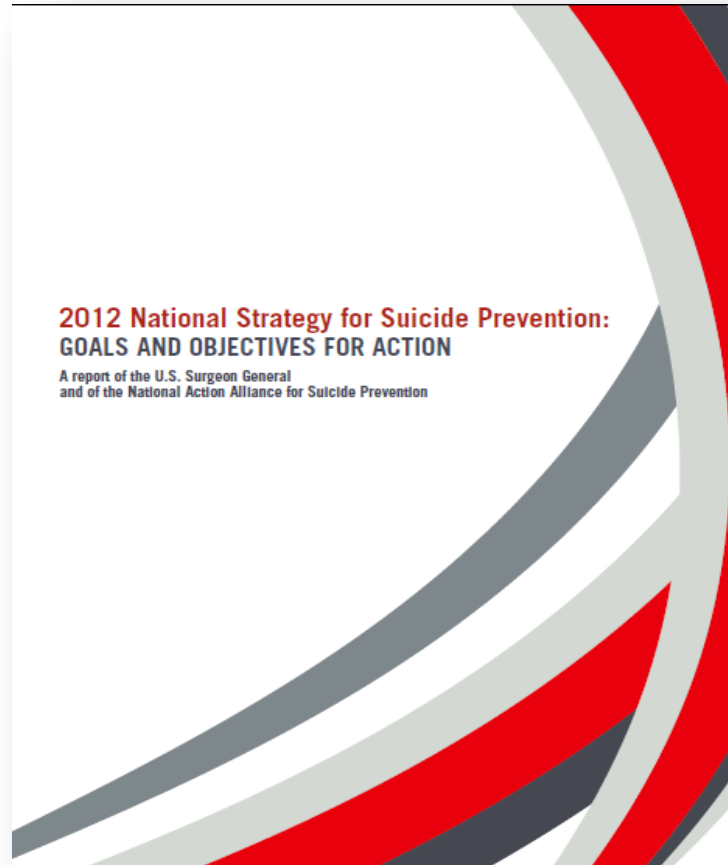
# Preventing suicide

A global imperative



**World Health  
Organization**

# National Strategy for Suicide Prevention



# NSSP Goals 8 and 9

- Goal 8- Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services
- Goal 9- Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at risk for suicidal behaviors.



## The Zero Suicide Movement

# Zero Suicide...

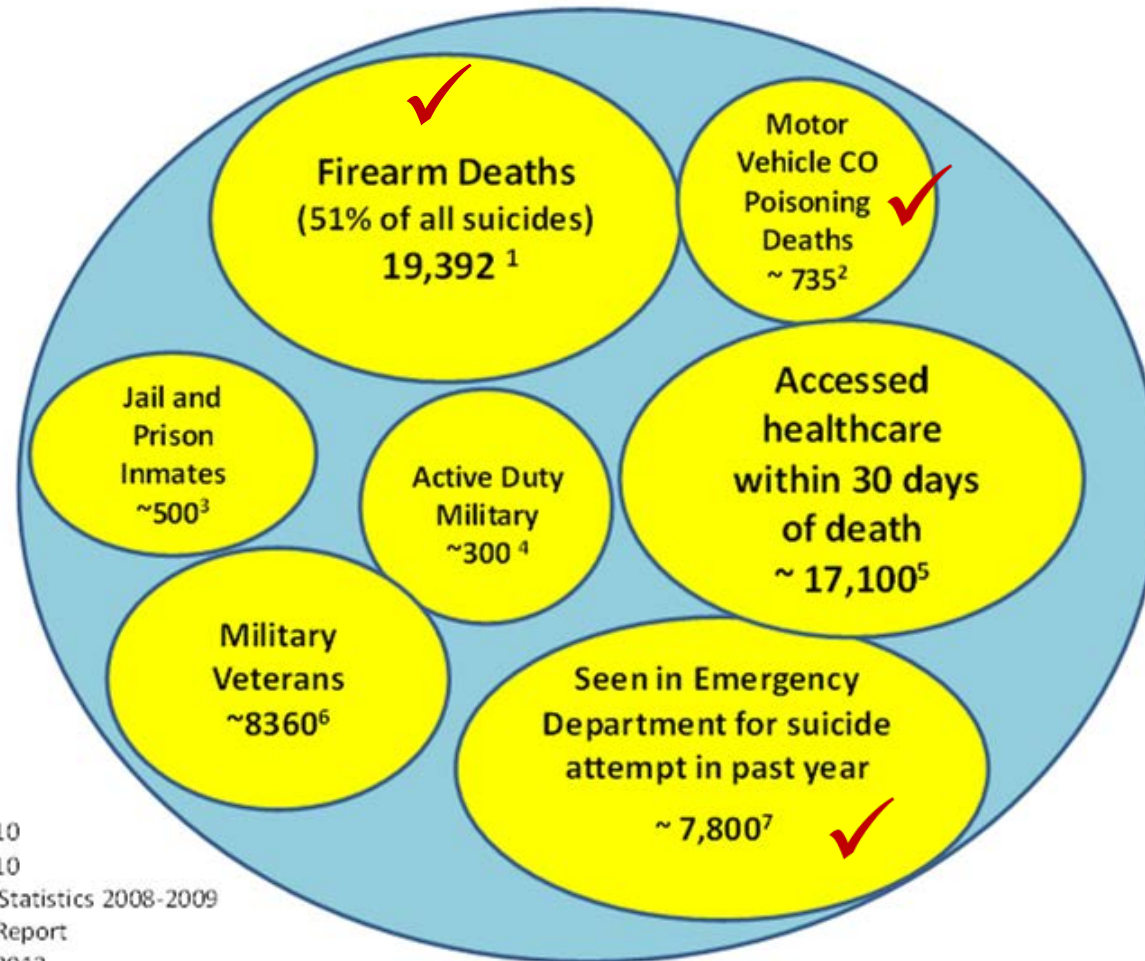
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- Makes suicide prevention a core responsibility of health care.
- Applies new knowledge and proven tools for suicide care.
- Supports efforts to humanize crisis and acute care.
- Is a systematic approach in health systems, not “the heroic efforts of crisis staff and individual clinicians.”
- Is embedded in the Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP).



# Deconstructing Suicide Deaths in the U.S.

✓ = Already Modeled



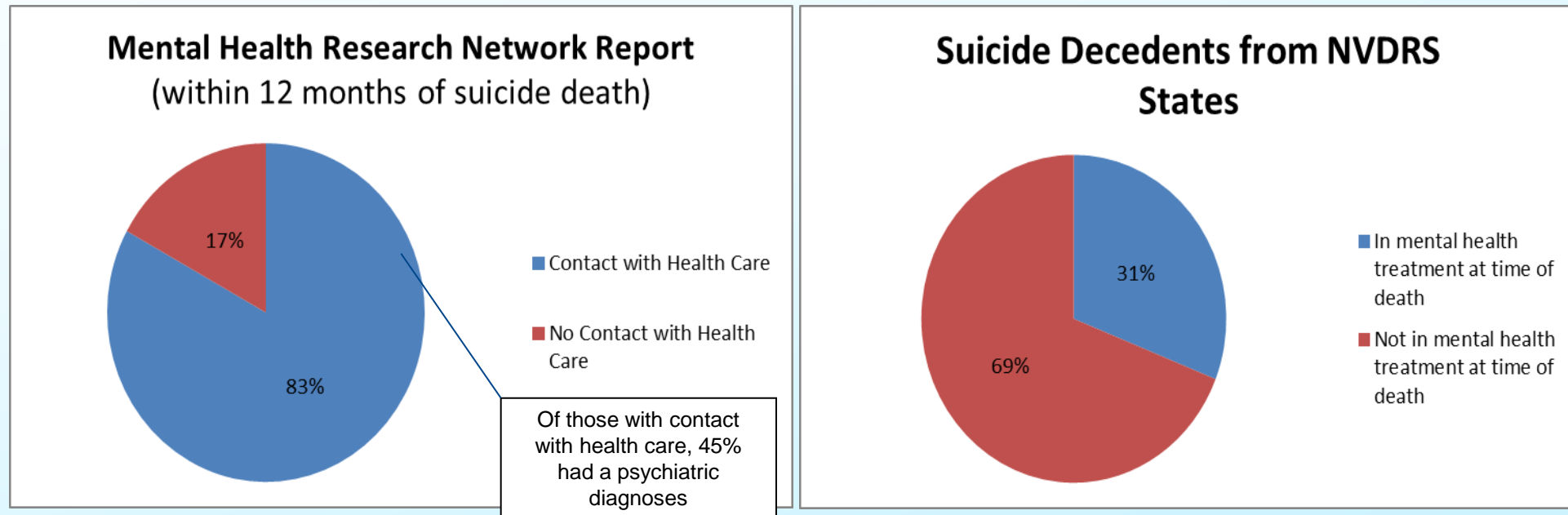
## Data Sources:

1. CDC WISQARS 2010
2. CDC WONDER 2010
3. Bureau of Justice Statistics 2008-2009
4. DoDSER CY 2011 Report
5. Trofimovich et al 2012
6. Department of Veterans Affairs 2012
7. CDC WISQARS 2010 & Owens et al, 2002



# You can't fix what you can't measure....

Perhaps a third of all suicide decedents accessed care prior to death, but few U.S. health care systems track suicide outcomes.



Ahmedani BK et al (2014). Health care contacts in the year before suicide death. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, online Feb 25. DOI: 10.1007/s11606-014-2767-3.

Karch, DL, Logan, J, McDaniel, D, Parks, S, Patel, N, & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2012). Surveillance for violent deaths—national violent death reporting system, 16 states, 2009. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Surveillance Summaries* (Washington, DC: 2002), 61(6), 1-43.



# Defining the Problem: Health Care Needs to Improve Suicide Safety

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- 45% of people who died by suicide had contact with **primary care** providers in the month before death. Among older adults, it's 78%.
- 25% of men and 50% of women who die by suicide had recent mental health contact (NVDRS)
- South Carolina: 10% of people who died by suicide were seen in an **emergency department** in the two months before death.

# Defining the Problem: Behavioral Health Care Needs to Improve Suicide Safety

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- **Ohio:** Between 2007-2011, 20.2% of people who died from suicide were seen in the public behavioral health system within 2 years of death.
- **New York:** In 2012 there were 226 suicide deaths among consumers of public mental health services, accounting for 13% of all suicide deaths in the state.
- **Vermont:** In 2013, 20.4% of the people who died from suicide had at least one service from state-funded mental health or substance abuse treatment agencies within 1 year of death.

# The Elements of Zero Suicide in a Health Care Organization



Continuous  
Quality  
Improvement

Create a leadership-driven,  
safety-oriented culture

## Pathway to Care

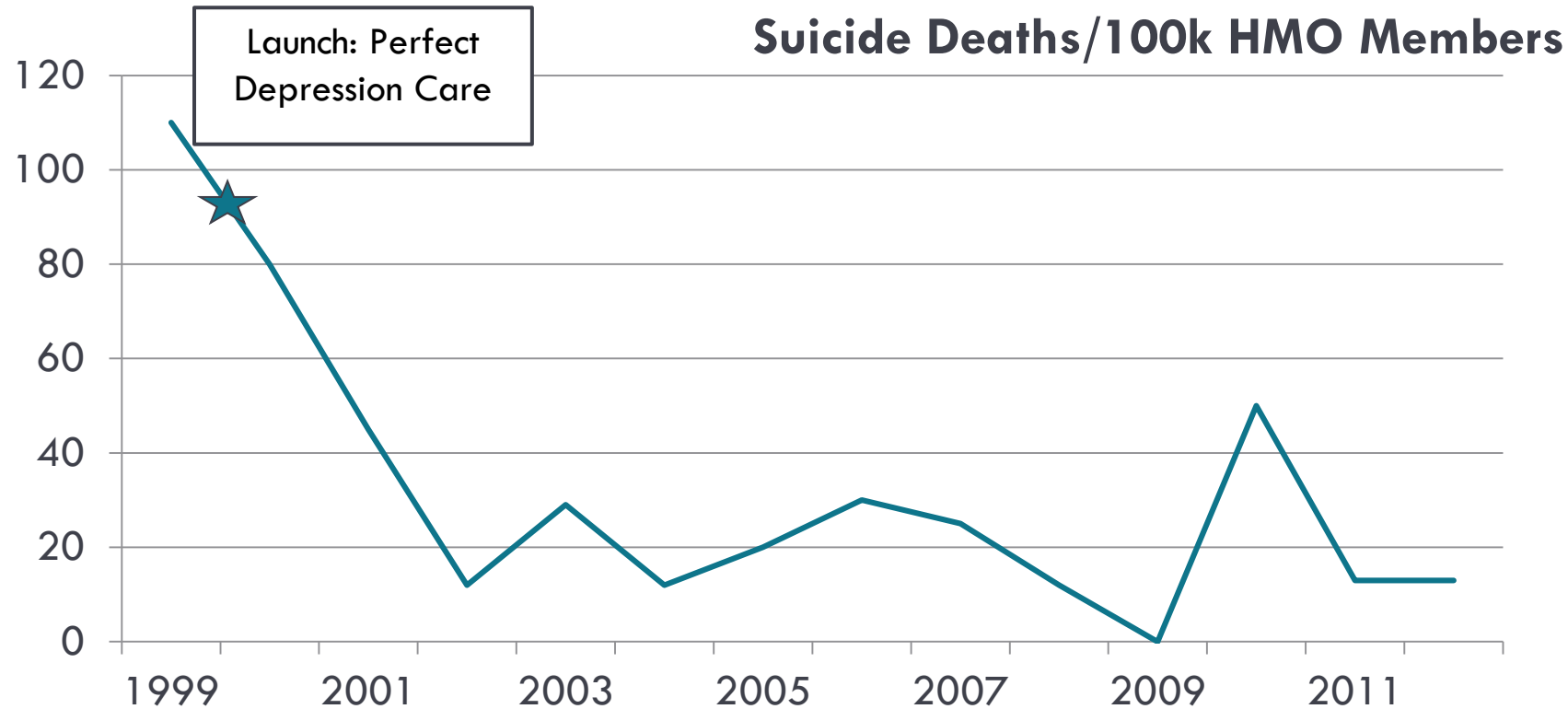
- Identify and assess risk
  - Screen
  - Assess
- Evidence-based care
  - Safety Plan
  - Restrict Lethal Means
  - Treat Suicidality and MI
- Continuous support as needed

Electronic Health Record

Develop a competent, confident,  
and caring workforce

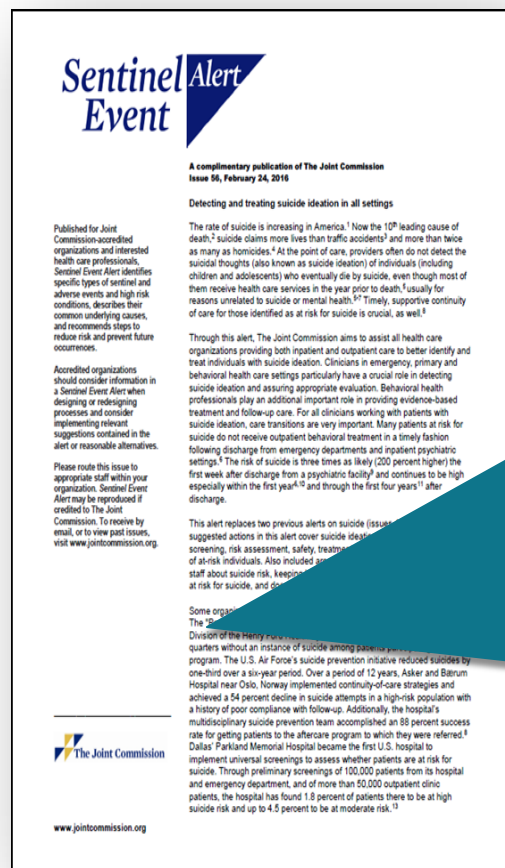
# A System-Wide Approach Saved Lives: Henry Ford Health System

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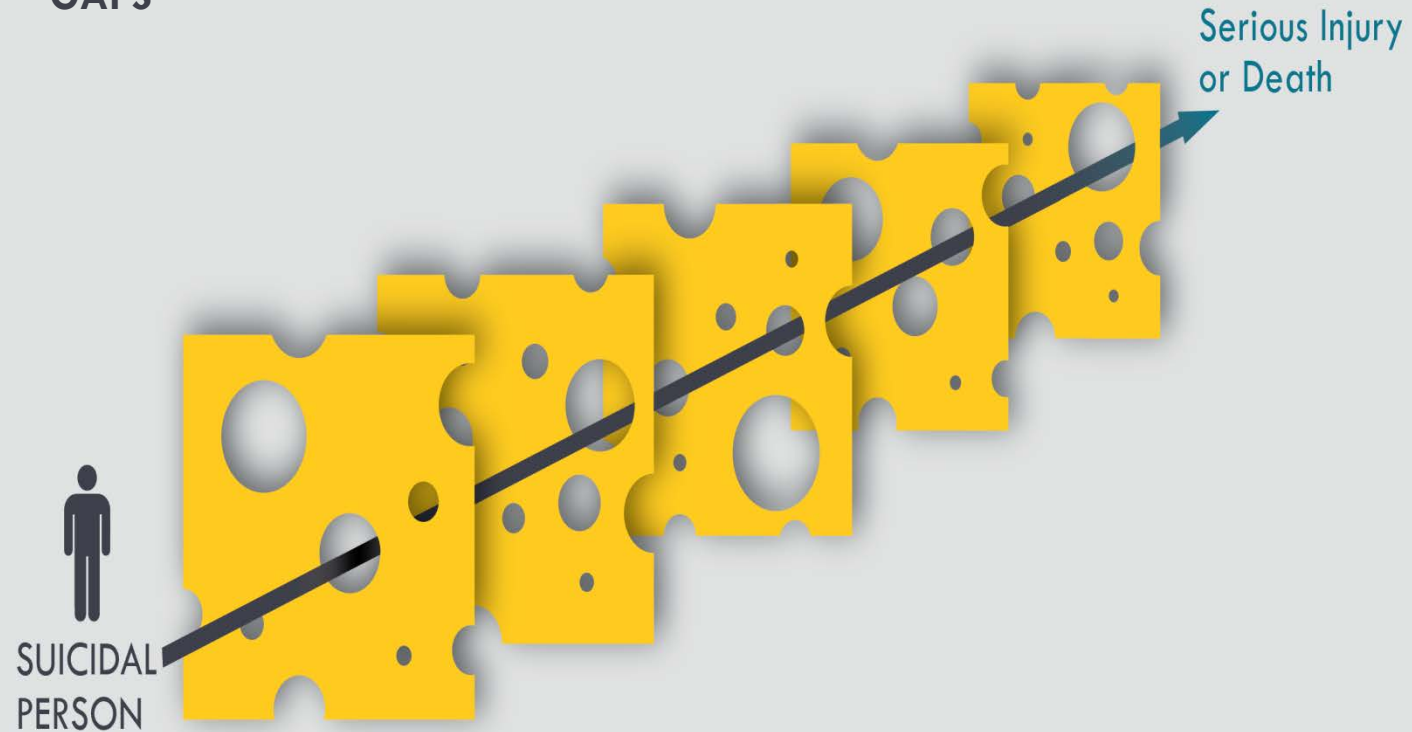
# Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert 56: *Detecting and Treating Suicide Ideation in All Settings*

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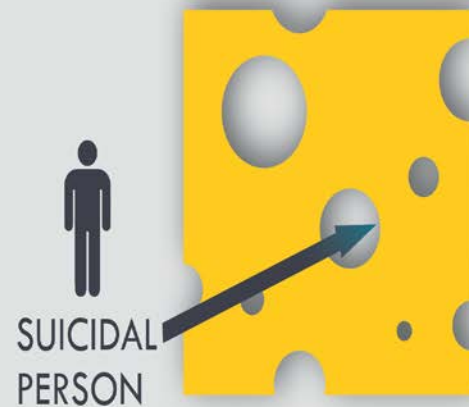
**“The suggested actions in this alert cover suicide ideation detection, as well as the screening, risk assessment, safety, treatment, discharge, and follow-up care of at-risk individuals. Also included are suggested actions for educating all staff about suicide risk, keeping health care environments safe for individuals at risk for suicide, and documenting their care.”**

**WITHOUT IMPROVED SUICIDE CARE, PEOPLE SLIP THROUGH  
GAPS**



Adapted from James Reason's "Swiss Cheese" Model Of Accidents

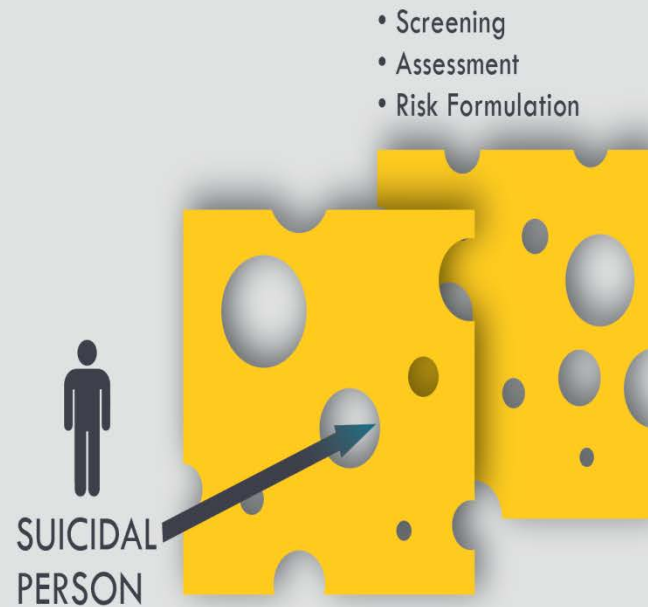
## THE TOOLS OF ZERO SUICIDE FILL THE GAPS



Adapted from James Reason's "Swiss Cheese" Model Of Accidents

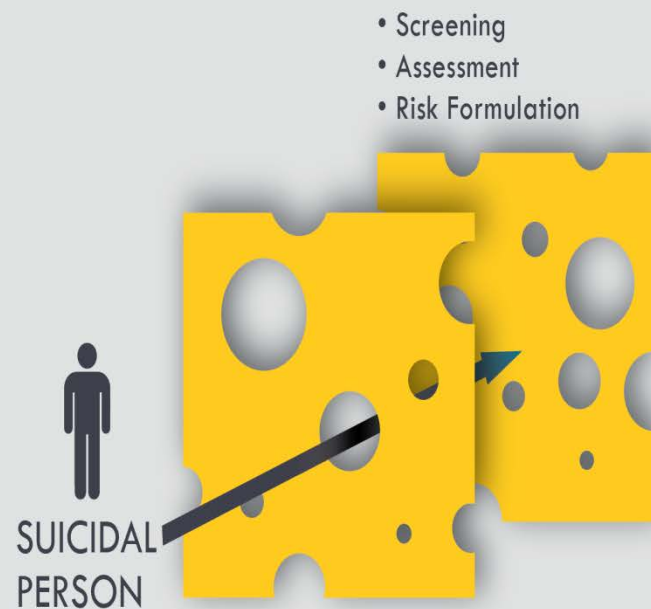


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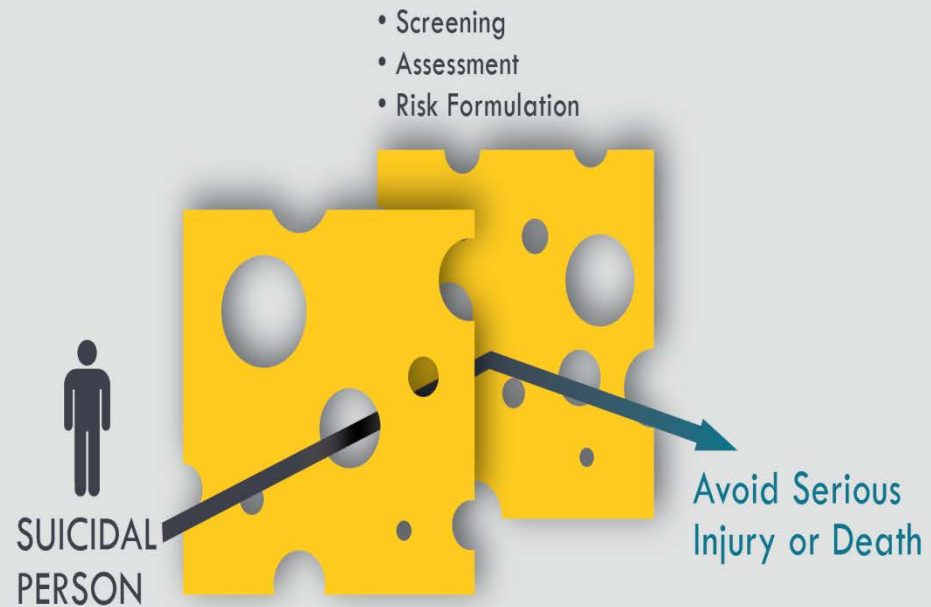
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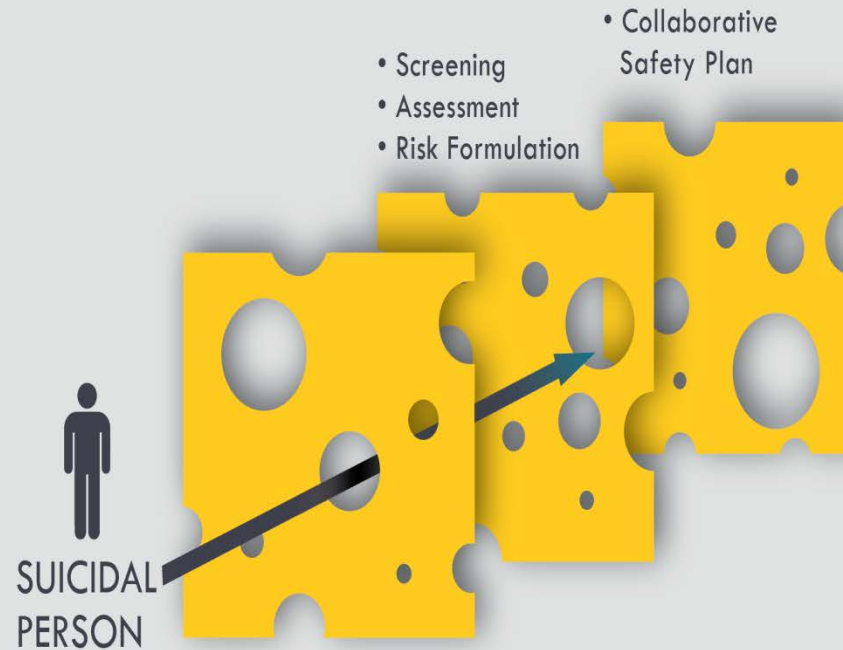
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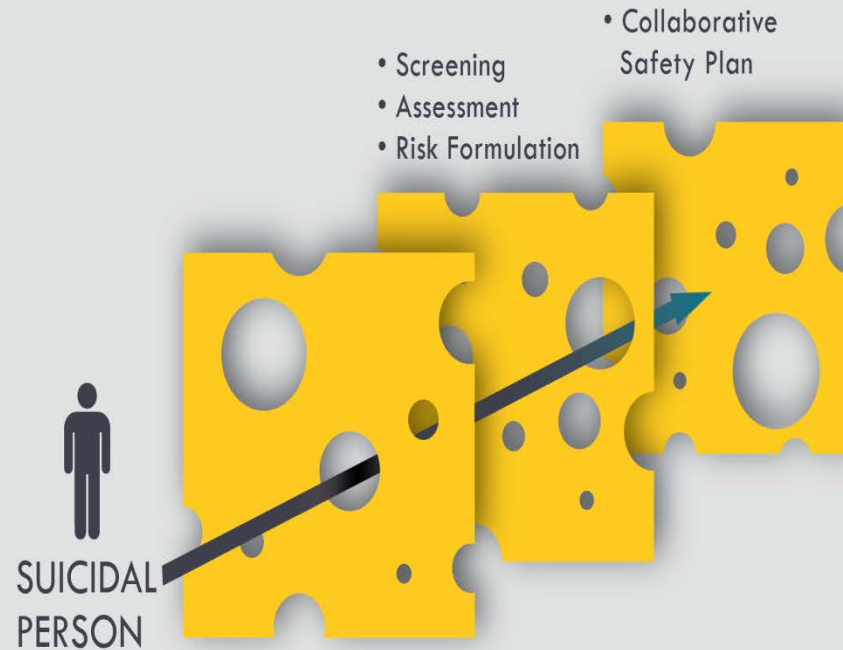
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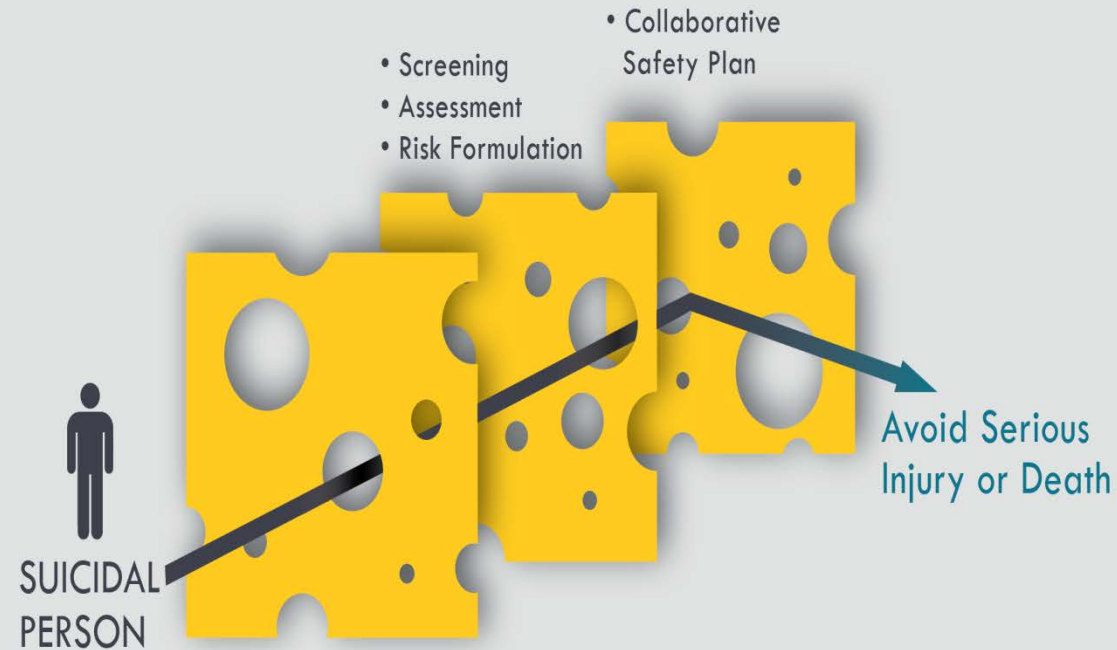
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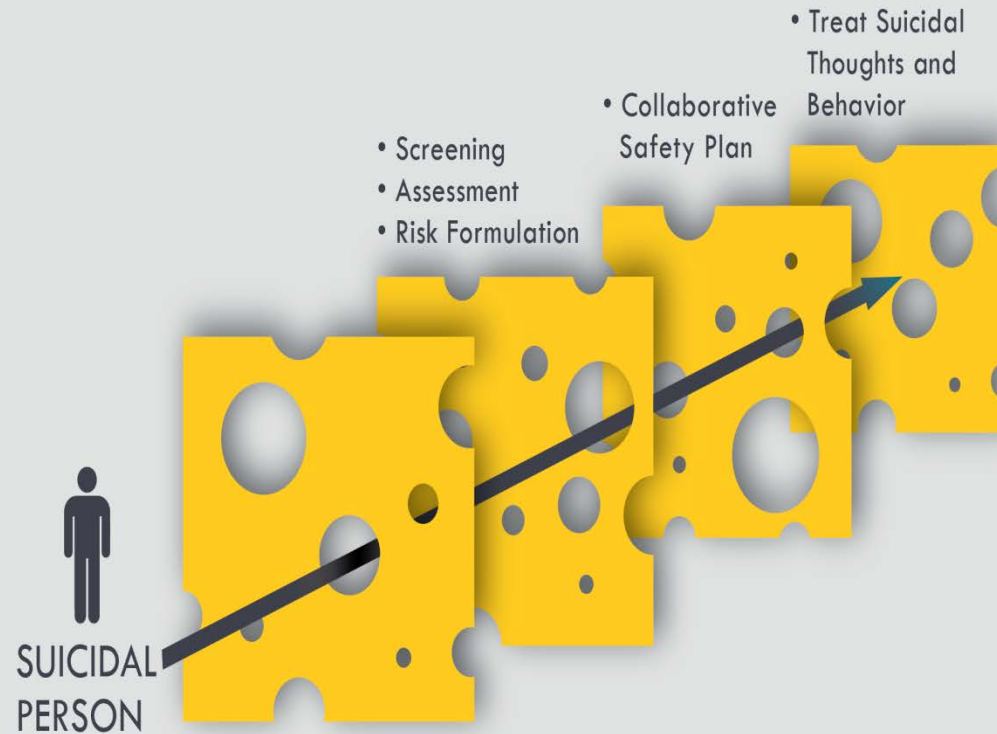
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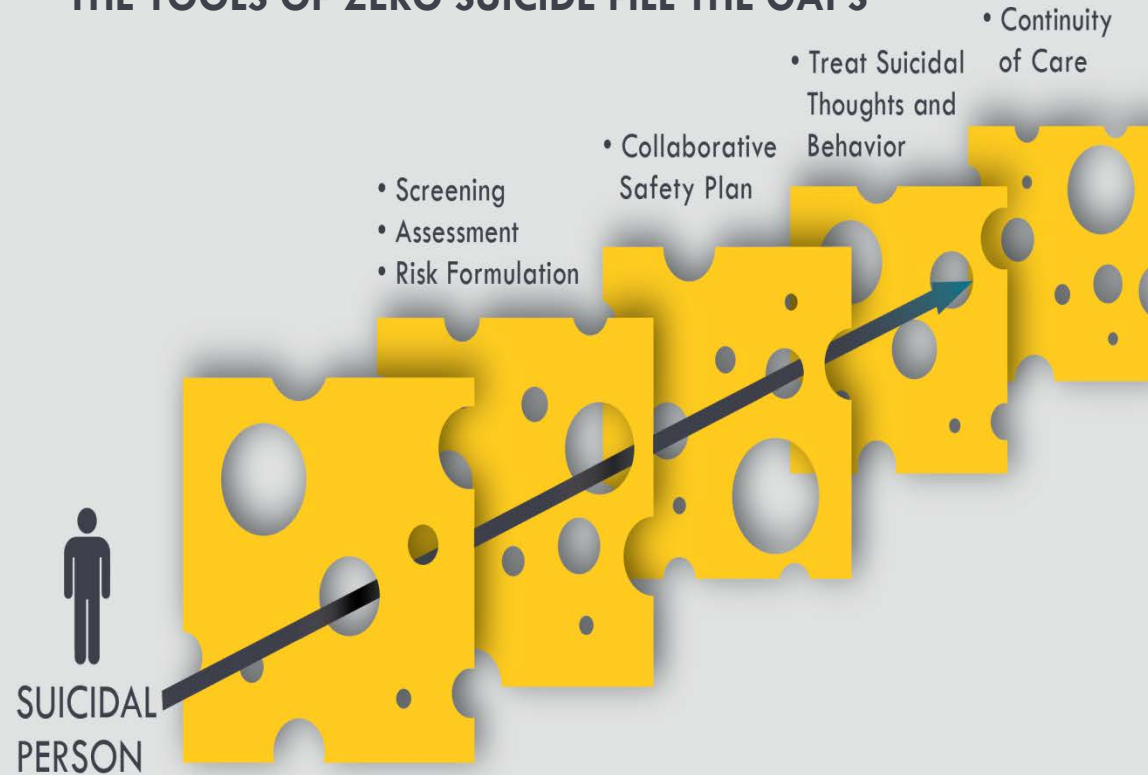
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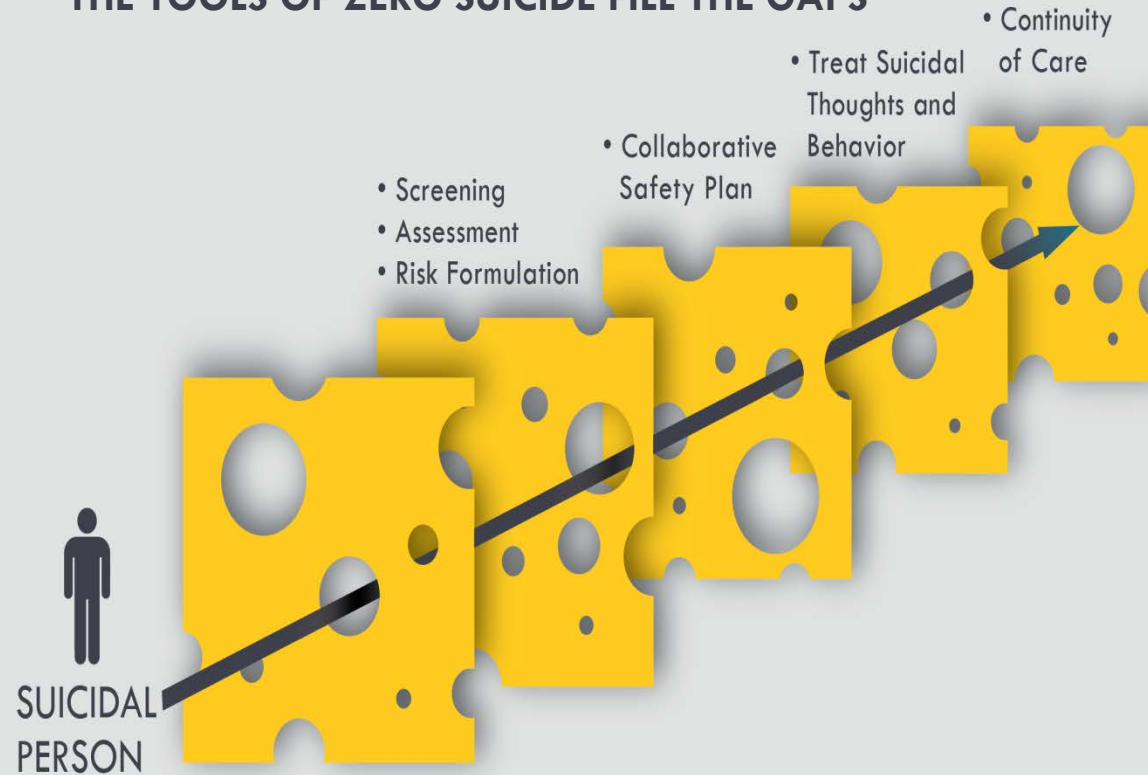


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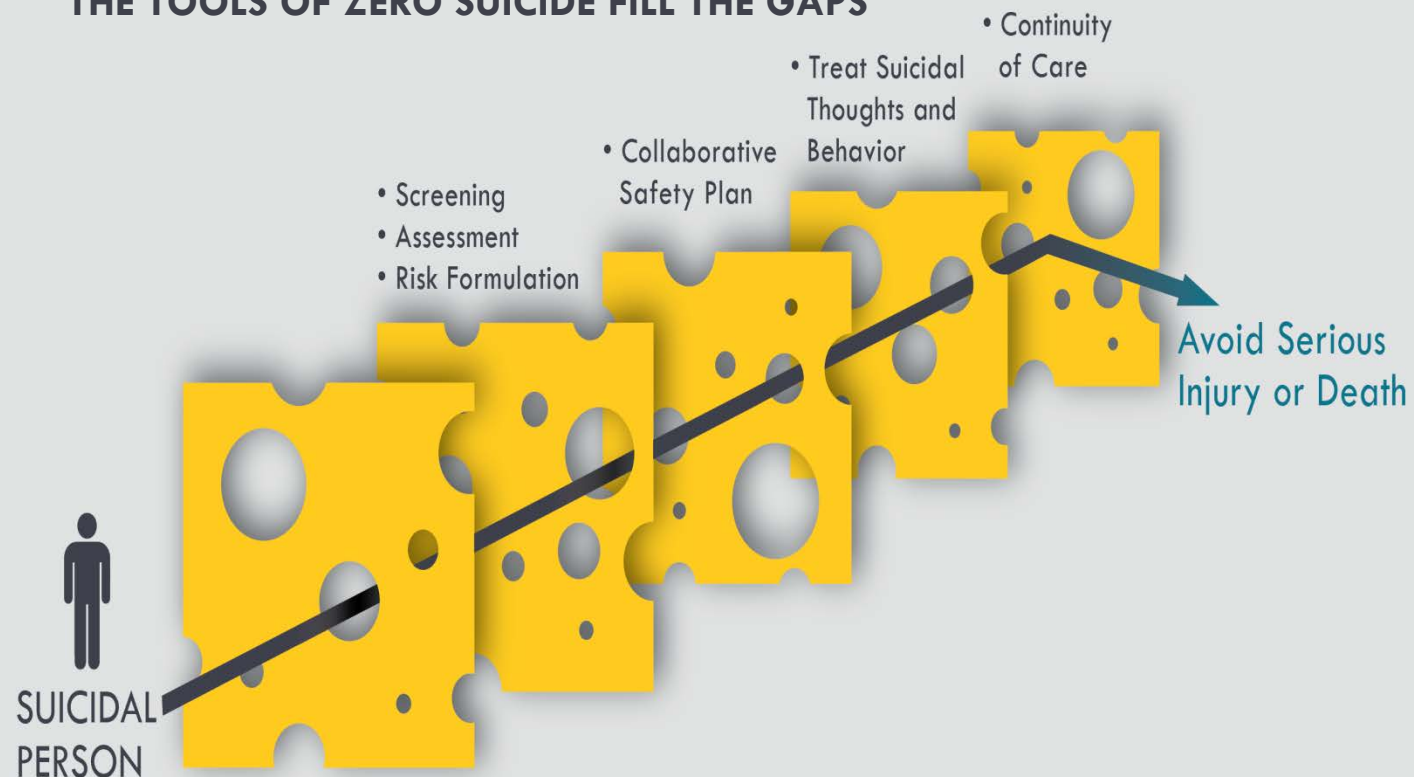
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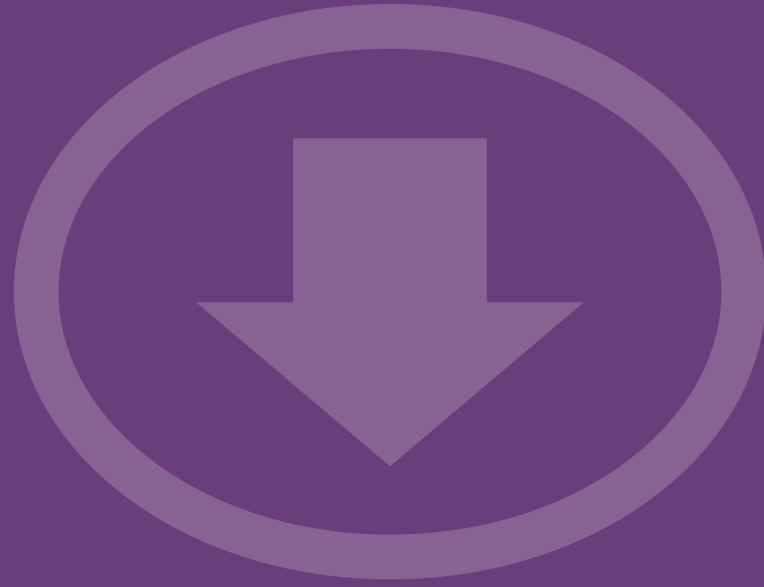


Adapted from James Reason's "Swiss Cheese" Model Of Accidents

## THE TOOLS OF ZERO SUICIDE FILL THE GAPS



Adapted from James Reason's "Swiss Cheese" Model Of Accidents



# IDENTIFY

LEAD

TRAIN

IDENTIFY

ENGAGE

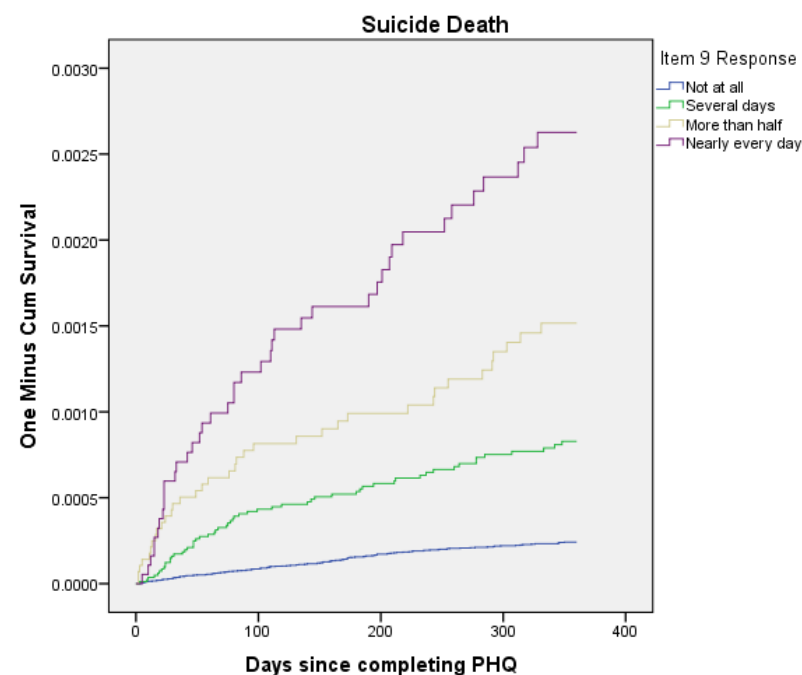
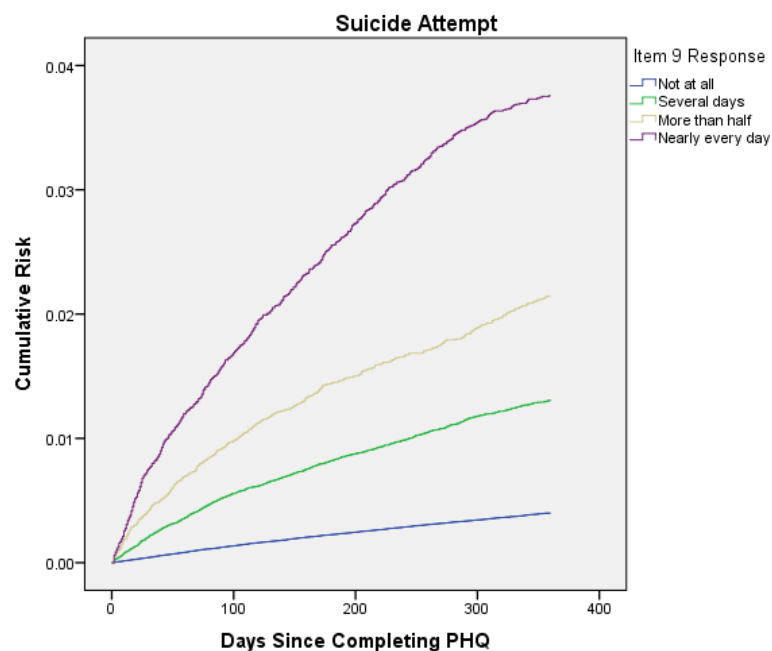
TREAT

TRANSITION

IMPROVE

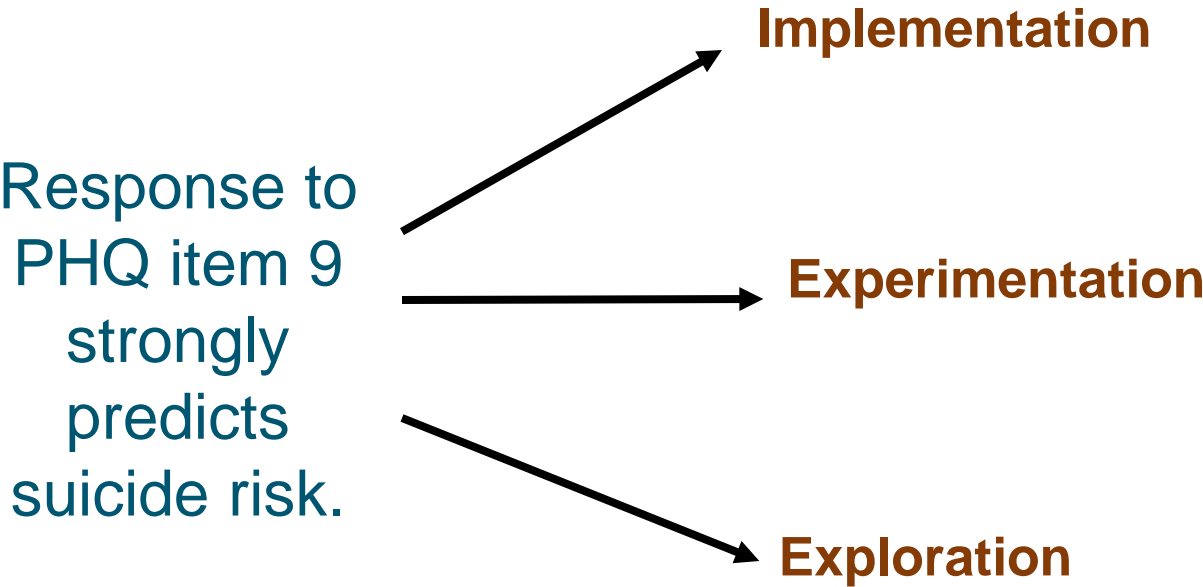


# Risk following completion of PHQ9 (sample size = 1.2 million)





# And that answer leads to...



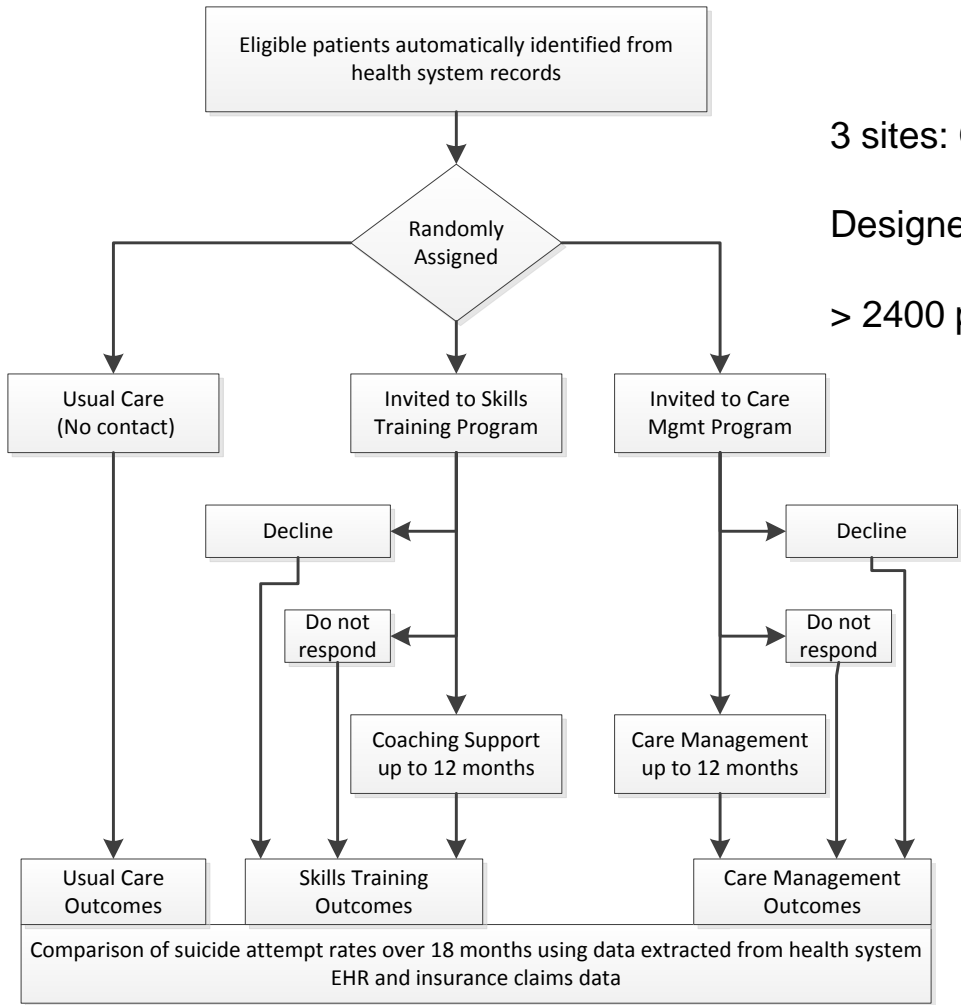


## **Implementation: Standard work for suicide risk assessment and safety planning in mental health clinics**

- Abbreviated version of Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale
- Training for all mental health clinicians
- EHR prompts for standard work
- Defined care pathway for high risk patients
  - Safety plan recorded in EHR and noted on problem list
  - Acute care pathway
- Continuous monitoring of:
  - Adherence to standard work
  - Suicide attempt and suicide death rates



# Experimentation: Pragmatic trial of population-based outreach programs



3 sites: Group Health, HealthPartners, KP Colorado

Designed in collaboration with delivery system leaders

> 2400 participants enrolled (approx. 100/week)





## **Exploration: Suicide attempt following negative response to PHQ item 9**

- Of people who attempt suicide within 30 days of completing PHQ, 25% respond “Not at all” to item 9.
- Two very different explanations:
  - Sudden onset of suicidal ideation – “It just came over me.”
  - Concealed suicidal ideation – “I didn’t want you to stop me.”
- Exploration at 2 levels:
  - Large-scale data mining to identify hidden signals in health records
  - Small-scale interviews of people who survive unexpected attempts


# Resource: Using the C-SSRS




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Assessment of Suicidal Risk Using C-SSRS Exit

Menu

## Suicide Risk Identification and Triage Using the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale



   Center for Practice Innovations™  
of Columbia Psychiatry  
New York State Psychiatric Institute  
Building best practices with you.

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Forms Text Version Resources Play Replay Audio Page 1 of 25 Next

Access at: [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)

# ALL Behaviors Are Prevalent and Predictive

*Each behavior is  
EQUALLY  
PREDICTIVE  
to an attempt*

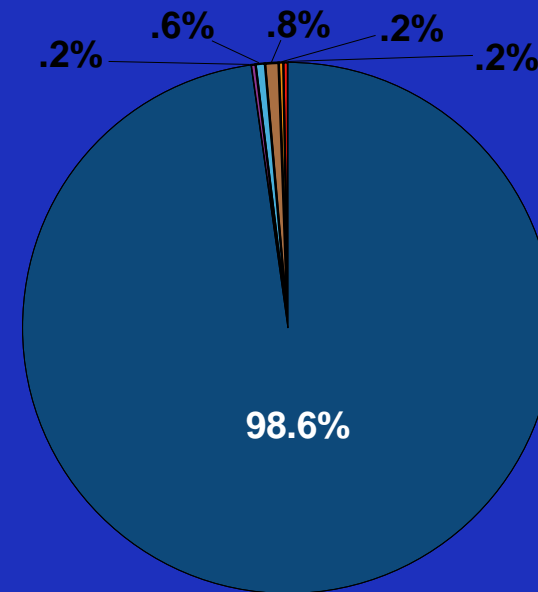
*Multiple behaviors = greater risk*

\*Only 1.7% had any worrisome answer

\*Only .9% with ~50,000 administrations

No Behavior: 28,303  
Actual Attempt: 70  
Interrupted Attempt: 178  
Aborted Attempt: 223  
Preparatory Behavior: 71

n = 28,699 administrations



472 Interrupted, Aborted and Preparatory (87%)  
vs. 70 Actual Attempts (13%)

# Reducing Suicide

## Utah:

- Reversed an alarming increasing trend
- Part of Medicaid Improvement Plan
- In their legislative suicide prevention report they state "we are committed to becoming a Zero Suicide System of Care"

## Centerstone:

- Nation's largest provider of community-based behavioral healthcare
- Tennessee saw a 64% reduction in suicides in the first 10 months of using the C-SSRS.

## The Marines:

- Helped lead to a 22% reduction in suicides in 2014
- Top-down rollout at 14 Marine Bases and training for all support staff
- Lowest suicide rate of any branch of the armed forces





# Decreased Unnecessary Intervention & Getting Care to Those Who Need It

## ■ ■ ■ SUICIDE SCREENING *in a General Hospital Setting: Initial Results*

Presented by: Debra Haas Stawarski, RN, MS, Director, Nursing Research

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, West Reading, Pennsylvania

### PURPOSE

A major barrier to effective suicide screening in the acute care hospital setting has been lack of a brief, valid, reliable, and universally acceptable tool that addresses ideation and behavior, and provides clear operational definitions of both. An abbreviated version of the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) screen was developed as part of a hospital suicide screening protocol. This study evaluated the psychometric properties of the abbreviated C-SSRS screen, protocol performance, and impact on selected outcome indicators.

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Johnson Behavioral Systems Model was used as the framework for the study. Johnson's model addresses the integration of patient behavior for prevention of illness and injury, as well as influences on behavior of both patient and caregiver.

### RESEARCH TEAM

- Debra Stawarski, RN, MS, Director of Nursing Research, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Ulatina Millsaps, PhD, Research and Continuing Education Coordinator, Department of Psychiatry, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Andres J. Pomariega, PhD, Chair of Psychiatry, Cooper University Hospital, Camden, NJ
- Kelly Posner, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Center for Suicide Risk Assessment, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
- Barbara Romig, RN, MSN, Director of Education/Professional Development, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Robert Riza, BSN, RN-BC, Clinical Practice Educator, Inpatient Psychiatry, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Heather Chase, BS, Former Research Assistant, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Mary Jo Gendrusick, BS, Systems Analyst, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center



### METHODS

#### Descriptive Study Design

- Instrument ratings
- Inter-rater reliability

#### Naturalistic Setting

- >500-bed community hospital
- Eastern Pennsylvania

#### Convenience Sample: Adult Inpatients

- Admitted January – June 2010

### INSTRUMENT: ABBREVIATED C-SSRS

- C-SSRS: gold standard for suicide assessment
- Brief, valid, reliable tool desired for routine screening
- Abbreviated C-SSRS (2009)
- Triage algorithm for The Reading Hospital and Medical Center response to C-SSRS levels developed by Posner, Pomariega, Millsaps (2009)

### CAREGIVER EDUCATION

- DVD Training on C-SSRS Tool
- Introduction to abbreviated C-SSRS Tool
- Caregiver reflection on attitudes toward suicide assessment
- Vignette training

### CLINICAL SUICIDE SCREENING PROTOCOL

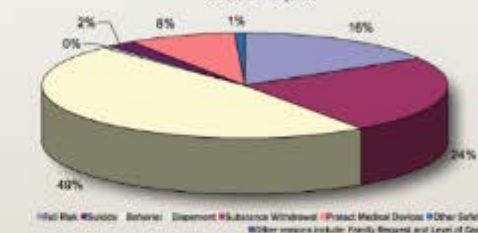
- Screening C-SSRS incorporated into admission assessment for all medical-surgical patients
- Automated risk stratification
- Prevention protocol triggered for identified risk
- Safety interventions implemented specific for risk levels 1 - 5

### NURSE INTER-RATER RELIABILITY

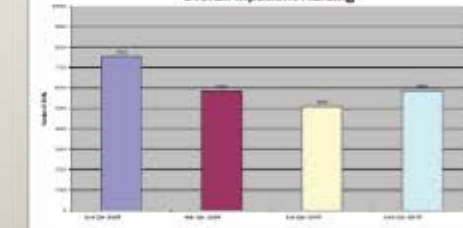
	Intra-rater Reliability Broken Down by Experience				
	Consensus		Absolute Agreement		Cohen's Kappa
	No. Patients	Single Measure	Average Measure	Single Measure	
Experience	10	0.943	0.904	0.933	0.903
Experience 0 to 10 years	636	0.950	0.936	0.947	0.936
Experience 11 years and above	233	0.919	0.896	0.917	0.906
Experience 0 to 10 years	362	0.975	0.959	0.972	0.959
Experience 11 years and above	218	0.943	0.907	0.943	0.907

### PATIENT SAFETY MONITOR UTILIZATION

Utilization Reason, 2nd Quarter 2010  
Overall Hospital



Patient Safety Monitor Utilization for Suicides  
Overall Inpatient Nursing



### IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

The abbreviated C-SSRS has been successfully incorporated into a clinical suicide screening protocol that is a component of assessment for all patients admitted to the acute care hospital setting, regardless of psychiatric history. This practice, implemented in early 2010, complies with Joint Commission recommendations published in a November 2010 Sentinel Event Alert.



The Reading Hospital and Medical Center  
www.readinghospital.org

COLUMBIA  
GHTHOUSE  
PROJECT

IFY RISK. PREVENT SUICIDE.

# Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation Triage

## RESOURCES

- Download this card and additional resources at [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org) or at [www.stopasuicide.org](http://www.stopasuicide.org)
- Resource for implementing The Joint Commission 2007 Patient Safety Goals on Suicide [www.sprc.org/library/jcsafetygoals.pdf](http://www.sprc.org/library/jcsafetygoals.pdf)
- SAFE-T drew upon the American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidelines for the Assessment and Treatment of Patients with Suicidal Behaviors [www.psych.org/psych\\_pract/treatg/pg/SuicidalBehavior\\_05-15-06.pdf](http://www.psych.org/psych_pract/treatg/pg/SuicidalBehavior_05-15-06.pdf)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Originally conceived by Douglas Jacobs, MD, and developed as a collaboration between Screening for Mental Health, Inc. and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.
- This material is based upon work supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) under Grant No. 1U79SM57392. Any opinions/findings/conclusions/recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAMHSA.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
1.800.273.TALK (8255)**

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[www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)



[www.mentalhealthscreening.org](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org)

## SAFE-T

### Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation and Triage

**1**

#### IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS

Note those that can be modified to reduce risk

**2**

#### IDENTIFY PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Note those that can be enhanced

**3**

#### CONDUCT SUICIDE INQUIRY

Suicidal thoughts, plans behavior and intent

**4**

#### DETERMINE RISK LEVEL/INTERVENTION

Determine risk. Choose appropriate intervention to address and reduce risk

**5**

#### DOCUMENT

Assessment of risk, rationale, intervention and follow-up

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
1.800.273.TALK (8255)**

# Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation Triage

*Suicide assessments should be conducted at first contact, with any subsequent suicidal behavior, increased ideation, or pertinent clinical change; for inpatients, prior to increasing privileges and at discharge.*

## 1. RISK FACTORS

- ✓ Current/past psychiatric diagnoses: especially mood disorders, psychotic disorders, alcohol/substance abuse, Cluster B personality disorders. Co-morbidity and recent onset of illness increase risk
- ✓ Key symptoms: anhedonia, impulsivity, hopelessness, anxiety/panic, global insomnia, command hallucinations
- ✓ Suicidal behavior: history of prior suicide attempts, aborted suicide attempts or self-injurious behavior
- ✓ Family history: of suicide, attempts or Axis 1 psychiatric diagnoses requiring hospitalization
- ✓ Precipitants/stressors: triggering events leading to humiliation, shame or despair (i.e., loss of relationship, financial or health status—real or anticipated). Ongoing medical illness (esp. CNS disorders, pain). History of abuse or neglect. Intoxication
- ✓ Access to firearms

## 2. PROTECTIVE FACTORS *Protective factors, even if present, may not counteract significant acute risk*

- ✓ Internal: ability to cope with stress, religious beliefs, frustration tolerance, absence of psychosis
- ✓ External: responsibility to children or beloved pets, positive therapeutic relationships, social supports

## 3. SUICIDE INQUIRY *Specific questioning about thoughts, plans, behaviors, intent*

- ✓ Ideation: frequency, intensity, duration—in last 48 hours, past month and worst ever
- ✓ Plan: timing, location, lethality, availability, preparatory acts
- ✓ Behaviors: past attempts, aborted attempts, rehearsals (tying noose, loading gun), vs. non-suicidal self-injurious actions
- ✓ Intent: extent to which the patient (1) expects to carry out the plan and (2) believes the plan/act to be lethal vs. self-injurious; Explore ambivalence: reasons to die vs. reasons to live
- \* *Homicide Inquiry: when indicated, esp. postpartum, and in character disordered or paranoid males dealing with loss or humiliation. Inquire in four areas listed above.*

## 4. RISK LEVEL/INTERVENTION

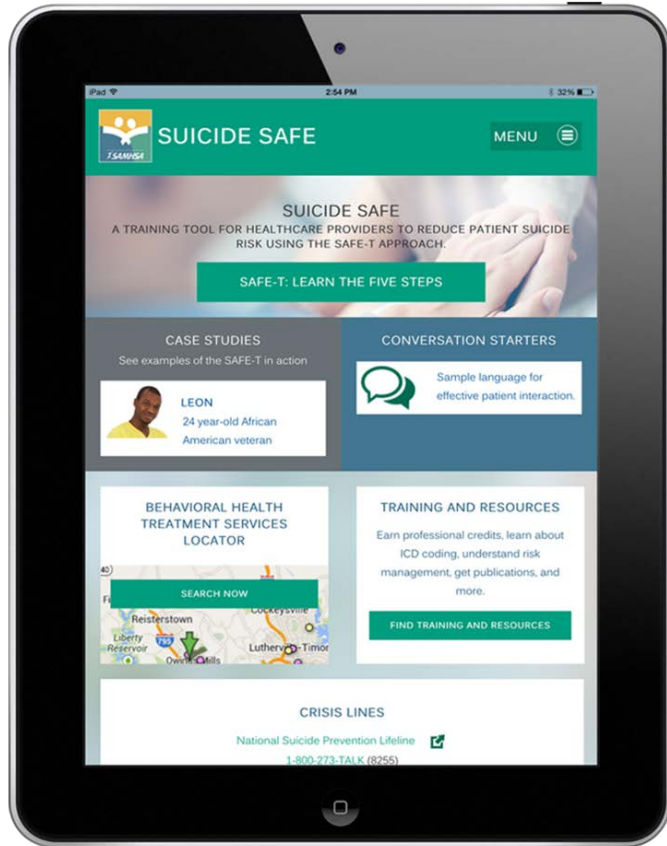
- ✓ Assessment of risk level is based on clinical judgment, after completing steps 1-3
- ✓ Reassess as patient or environmental circumstances change

RISK LEVEL	RISK / PROTECTIVE FACTOR	SUICIDALITY	POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS
High	Psychiatric diagnoses with severe symptoms, or acute precipitating event; protective factors not relevant	Potentially lethal suicide attempt or persistent ideation with strong intent or suicide rehearsal	Admission generally indicated unless a significant change reduces risk. Suicide precautions
Moderate	Multiple risk factors, few protective factors	Suicidal ideation with plan, but no intent or behavior	Admission may be necessary depending on risk factors. Develop crisis plan. Give emergency/crisis numbers
Low	Modifiable risk factors, strong protective factors	Thoughts of death, no plan, intent or behavior	Outpatient referral, symptom reduction. Give emergency/crisis numbers

(This chart is intended to represent a range of risk levels and interventions, not actual determinations.)

## 5. DOCUMENT: Risk level and rationale; treatment plan to address/reduce current risk (i.e., medication, setting, E.C.T., contact with significant others, consultation); firearm instructions, if relevant; follow up plan

# Suicide Prevention App for Health Care Providers



Free for Apple® and Android™  
mobile devices

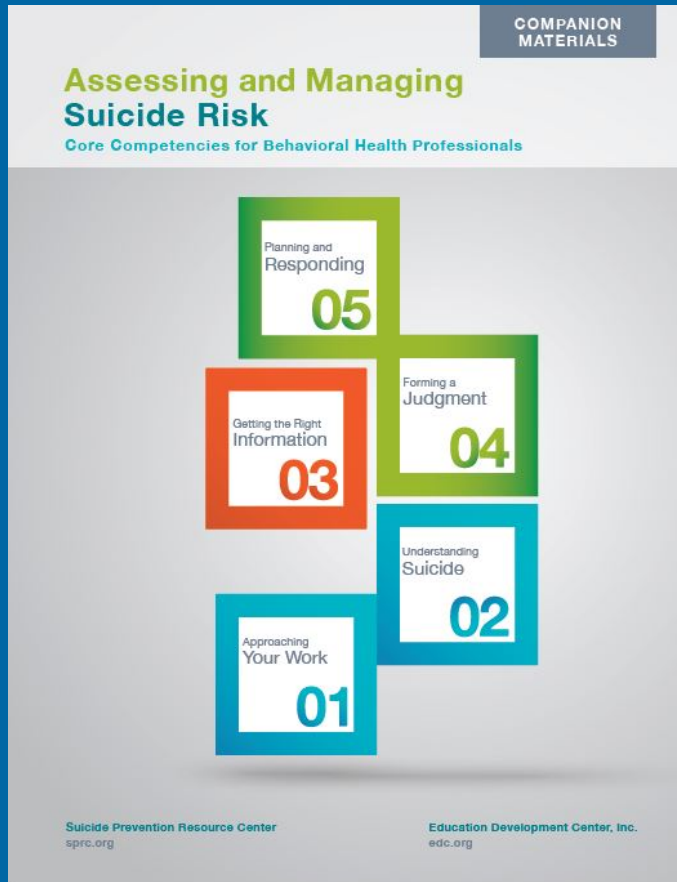
## Suicide Safe Helps Providers:

- Integrate suicide prevention strategies into practice and address suicide risk
- Learn how to use the SAFE-T approach
- Explore interactive sample case studies
- Quickly access and share information and resources
- Browse conversation starters
- Locate treatment options

Learn more at [bit.ly/suicide\\_safe](https://bit.ly/suicide_safe).



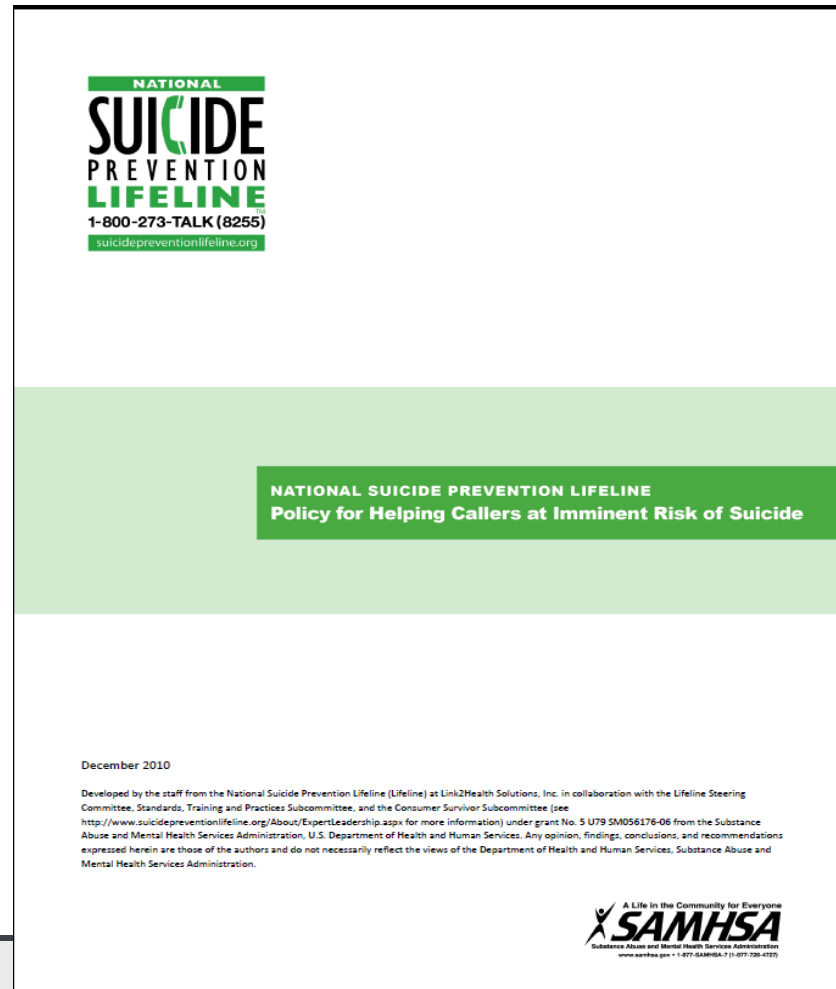
# Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk



<http://www.sprc.org/training-events/amsr>

# Lifeline's Imminent Risk Policy (2011)

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# Helper Interventions with Imminent Risk Callers (N= 491)

TYPE OF INTERVENTION	SPECIFIC INTERVENTION	N	%
<b>Active Engagement (Collaborative)</b>	<b>Person at Imminent Risk Agreed to.....</b>		
<b>Less Invasive</b>	Take action on his/her own behalf to immediately reduce risk (e.g., collaborate on safety plan; not incl. self-transport)	214	43.6%
	Receive follow-up from center	142	28.9%
	Involve a 3rd party to keep him/her safe (not for transport)	125	25.5%
	Get rid of means	65	13.2%
	Be evaluated by a mobile crisis/outreach team	22	4.5%
	Transport him/herself to a hospital or walk-in clinic	21	4.3%
	Have center contact the VA	20	4.1%
	Be transported to the hospital by a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party	15	3.1%
	<b>Any less invasive Active Engagement</b>	334	68.0%
<b>More Invasive</b>	Have center send emergency services (police, sheriff, EMS)	94	19.1%
	<b>Any Active Engagement</b>	375	<b>76.4%</b>
<b>Active Rescue (Non-collaborative)</b>	<b>Without Consent of Person at Imminent Risk, Helper.....</b>		
<b>Less Invasive</b>	Involved a 3rd party (not for transport)	8	1.6%
	Sent a mobile crisis/outreach team	5	1.0%
	Contacted the VA	4	0.8%
	Involved a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party for transport to hospital	1	0.2%
	<b>Any less invasive Active Rescue</b>	18	3.7%
<b>More Invasive</b>	Sent emergency services (police, sheriff, EMS)	121	24.6%
	<b>Any Active Rescue</b>	136	<b>27.7%</b>
<b>Imminent Risk Reduced Enough so Rescue was Not Needed</b>		192	<b>39.1%</b>



# ENGAGE

LEAD

TRAIN

IDENTIFY

ENGAGE

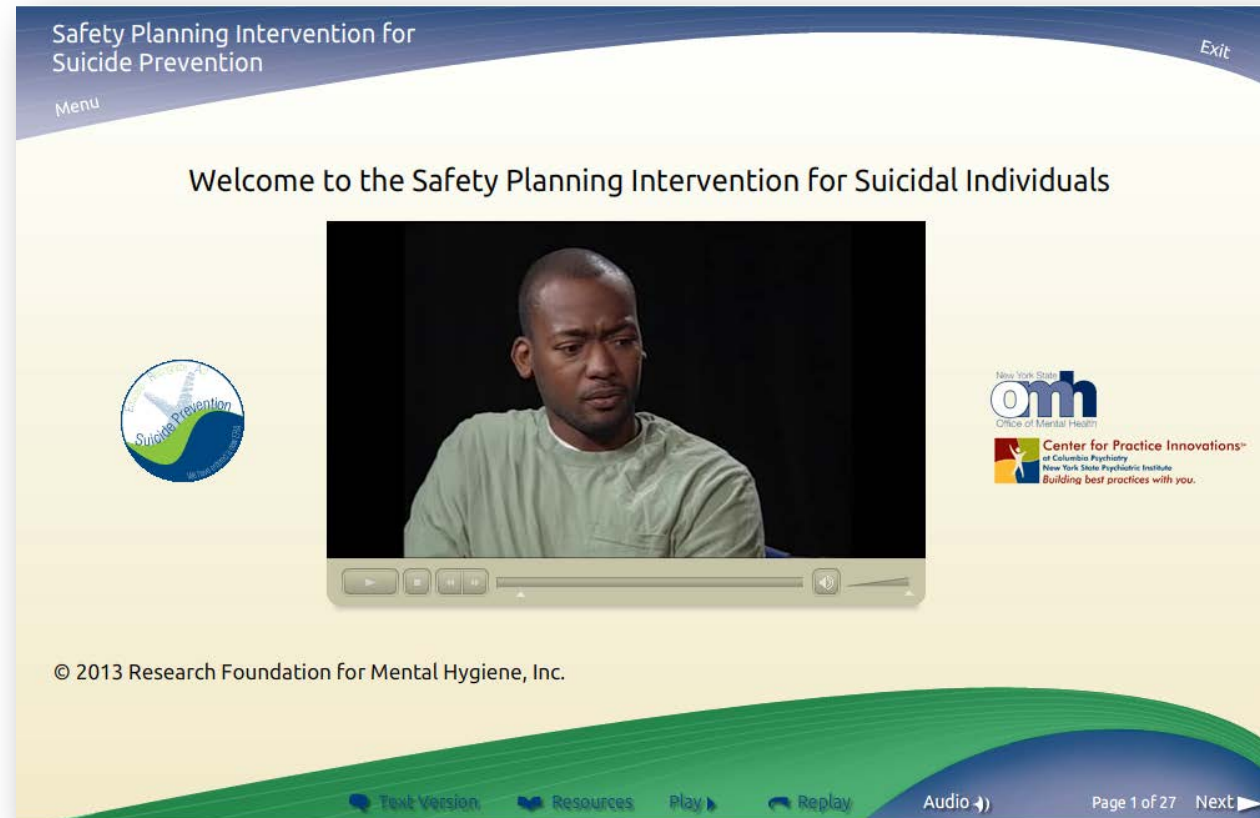
TREAT

TRANSITION

IMPROVE

# Resource: Safety Planning Intervention

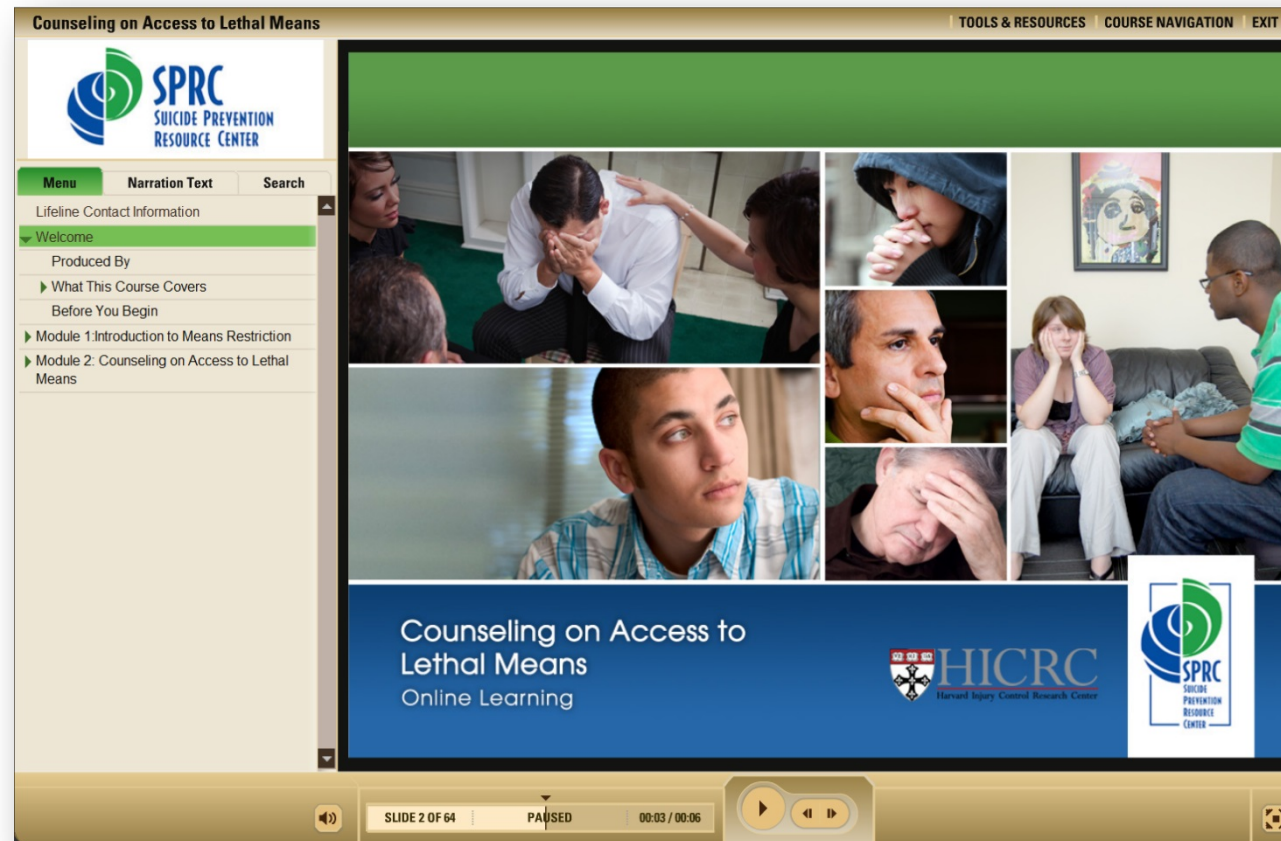
45



Access at: [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)

# Resource: Counseling on Access to Lethal Means

46



Access at: [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)

# Engage Families and those with Lived Experience

- Those with lived experience with suicidal crises need to have a voice in the system of care and in their treatment.
- Peer workforce
- Family members need support .
- Involving family in review of suicide deaths.



# TREAT

LEAD

TRAIN

IDENTIFY

ENGAGE

TREAT

TRANSITION

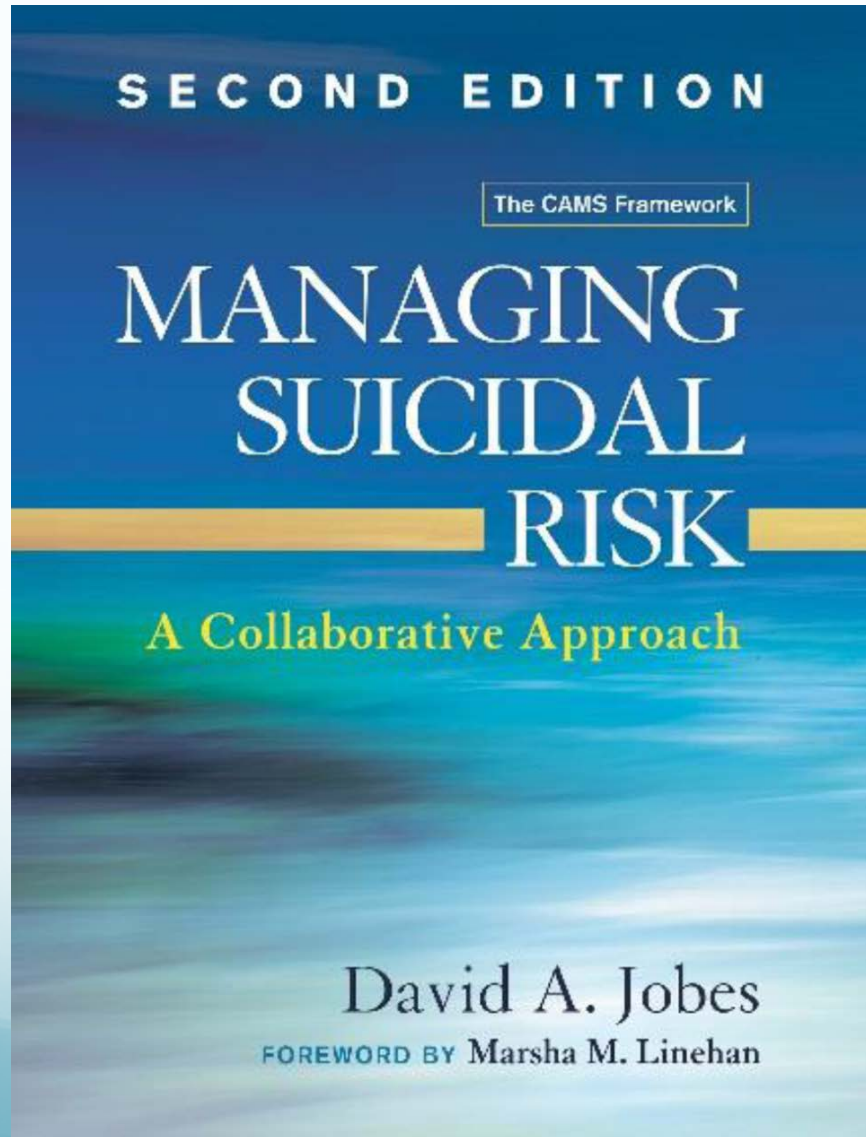
IMPROVE



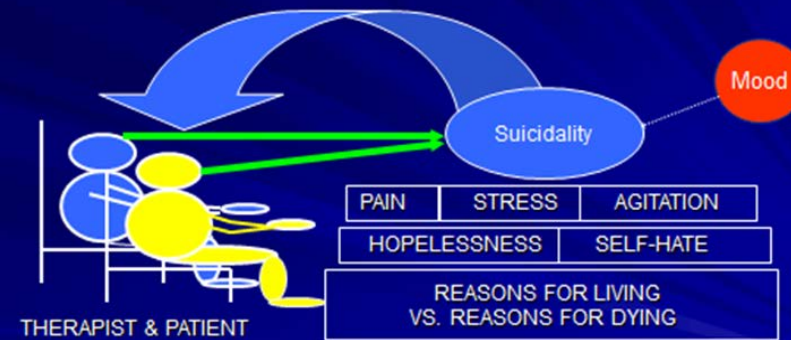
# Treat Suicidality Directly

- Both treating suicidality directly as well as treating underlying conditions is crucial.
- There are now multiple RCT's showing reductions in suicidal behavior . All focus directly on suicidality.
- DBT, CBT (civilian and military), CAMS, ASSIP
- CBT for insomnia can reduce suicidal ideation

# Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS)



The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) identifies and targets Suicide as the primary focus of assessment and intervention...



CAMS assessment uses the Suicide Status Form (SSF) as a means of deconstructing the "functional" utility of suicidality; CAMS as an intervention emphasizes a problem-focused intensive outpatient approach that is suicide-specific and "co-authored" with the patient...

**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Initial Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A (Patient):**

Rate each item according to how you feel right now.

1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind, not stress, not physical pain)

Low pain: 1 2 3 4 5 High pain

2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed)

Low stress: 1 2 3 4 5 High stress

3) RATE AGITATION (innermost agency, feeling that you need to take action, not irritation, not annoyance)

Low agitation: 1 2 3 4 5 High agitation

4) RATE HOPELESSNESS (your expectation that things will not get better no matter what you do)

Low hopelessness: 1 2 3 4 5 High hopelessness

5) RATE SELF-HATE (your general feeling of thinking poorly of yourself, having no self-respect, having no self-worth)

Low self-hate: 1 2 3 4 5 High self-hate

6) RATE OVERALL RISK OF SUICIDE

Extremely low risk (will not kill self) 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely high risk (will kill self)

What have you learned from your clinical care that could help you if you became suicidal in the future?

What have you learned from your clinical care that could help you if you became suicidal in the future?

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**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Initial Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B (Clinician):**

Y/N Suicide ideation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ per day \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ seconds \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ hours

Y/N Suicide plan

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to means: Y/N

Y/N Suicide preparation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Suicide rehearsal

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N History of suicidal behavior

• Single attempts \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiple attempts \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Impulsivity

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship abuse

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Significant loss

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Problems in others

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Health/physical problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Sleep problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Legal/financial issues

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Shame

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C (Clinician):**

**TREATMENT PLAN (Refer to Sections A & B)**

Problem #	Problem Description	Goals and Objectives	Interventions	Duration
1	Self-Harm Potential	Safety and Stability	Stabilization Plan Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	
2				
3				

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient understands and concurs with treatment plan?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient at treatment danger of suicide (hospitalization indicated)?

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Copyright David A. Jones, Ph.D., All Rights Reserved

**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) STABILIZATION PLAN**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A (Patient):**

Rate each item according to how you feel right now.

1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind, not stress, not physical pain)

Low pain: 1 2 3 4 5 High pain

2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed)

Low stress: 1 2 3 4 5 High stress

3) RATE AGITATION (innermost agency, feeling that you need to take action, not irritation, not annoyance)

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**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) STABILIZATION PLAN**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B (Clinician):**

Y/N Suicide ideation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ per day \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ seconds \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ hours

Y/N Suicide plan

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to means: Y/N

Y/N Suicide preparation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Suicide rehearsal

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N History of suicidal behavior

• Single attempts \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiple attempts \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Impulsivity

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship abuse

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Significant loss

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Problems in others

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Health/physical problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Sleep problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Legal/financial issues

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Shame

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C (Clinician):**

**TREATMENT PLAN (Refer to Sections A & B)**

Problem #	Problem Description	Goals and Objectives	Interventions	Duration
1	Self-Harm Potential	Safety and Stability	Stabilization Plan Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	
2				
3				

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient understands and concurs with treatment plan?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient at treatment danger of suicide (hospitalization indicated)?

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# First session of CAMS—SSF Assessment, Stabilization Planning, Driver-Specific Treatment Planning, and HIPAA Documentation

**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Tracking/Update Interim Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A (Patient):**

Rate each item according to how you feel right now.

1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind, not stress, not physical pain)

Low pain: 1 2 3 4 5 High pain

2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed)

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**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Tracking/Update Interim Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B (Clinician):**

Y/N Suicide ideation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ per day \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ seconds \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ hours

Y/N Suicide plan

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to means: Y/N

Y/N Suicide preparation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Suicide rehearsal

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N History of suicidal behavior

• Single attempts \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiple attempts \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Problems in others

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Health/physical problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Sleep problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Legal/financial issues

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Shame

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C (Clinician):**

**TREATMENT PLAN (Refer to Sections A & B)**

Problem #	Problem Description	Goals and Objectives	Interventions	Duration
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3				

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient understands and concurs with treatment plan?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient at treatment danger of suicide (hospitalization indicated)?

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Outcome/Disposition Final Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A (Patient):**

Rate each item according to how you feel right now.

1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind, not stress, not physical pain)

Low pain: 1 2 3 4 5 High pain

2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed)

Low stress: 1 2 3 4 5 High stress

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**CAMS Suicide Status Form (SSF-IV-R) Outcome/Disposition Final Session**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B (Clinician):**

Y/N Suicide ideation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ per day \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ seconds \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ hours

Y/N Suicide plan

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to means: Y/N

Y/N Suicide preparation

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Suicide rehearsal

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N History of suicidal behavior

• Single attempts \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiple attempts \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Impulsivity

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship abuse

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Significant loss

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Relationship problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Problems in others

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Health/physical problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Sleep problems

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Legal/financial issues

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Y/N Shame

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C (Clinician):**

**TREATMENT PLAN (Refer to Sections A & B)**

Problem #	Problem Description	Goals and Objectives	Interventions	Duration
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YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient at treatment danger of suicide (hospitalization indicated)?

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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CAMS Interim Tracking Sessions

CAMS Outcome/Disposition Session

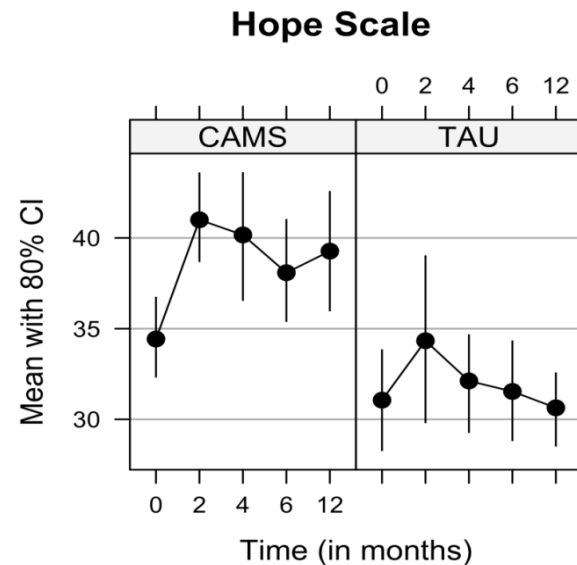
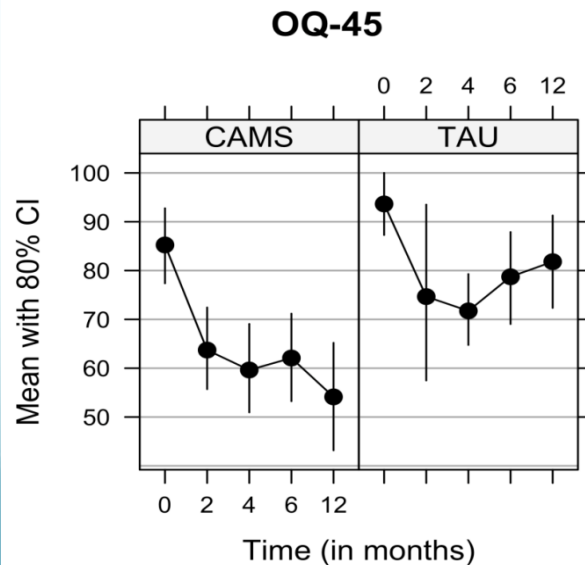
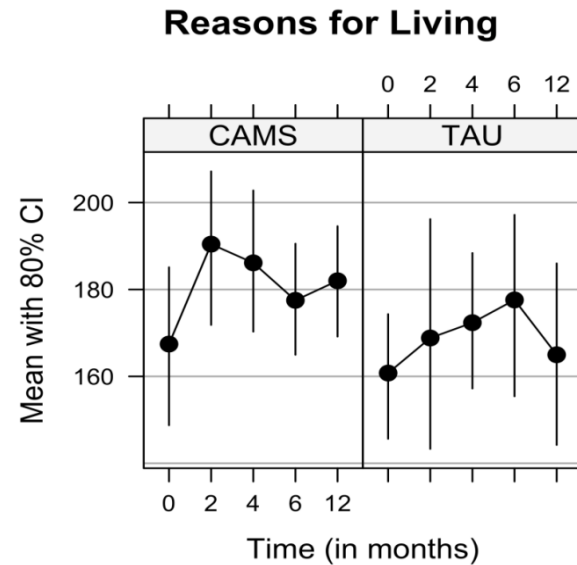
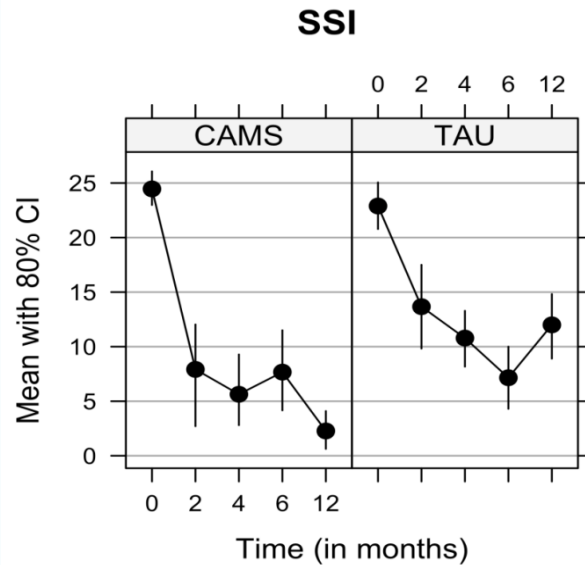
# Randomized Controlled Trials of CAMS

Principal Investigator	Setting & Population	Design & Method	Sample Size	Status Update
Comtois (Jobes)	Harborview/Seattle CMH patients	CAMS vs. TAU Next-day appts.	32	→ 2011 published article
Andreasson (Nordentoft)	Danish Centers CMH patients	DBT vs. CAMS superiority trial	108	→ 2016 published article
Jobes (Comtois et al)	★ Ft. Stewart, GA US Army Soldiers	CAMS vs. E-CAU	148	Manuscripts in preparation
Fosse	→ Norwegian Centers CMH patients	CAMS vs. TAU	100	ITT underway on-going
Pistorello (Jobes)	→ Univ. Nevada (Reno) College Students	SMART Design TAU/CAMS/DBT	60	Data analyses underway
Comtois (Jobes)	→ Harborview/Seattle CMH Patients	CAMS vs. TAU Post-Hospital D/C	200	Pilot phase underway

Note: There are seven published correlational and open trials supporting CAMS



# CAMS RCT (Comtois et al., 2011)



**CAMS had significantly higher patient satisfaction ratings and better clinical retention...**

## Research Article

### COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SUICIDALITY (CAMS): FEASIBILITY TRIAL FOR NEXT-DAY APPOINTMENT SERVICES

Katherine Anne Comtois, Ph.D., M.P.H.,<sup>1\*</sup> David A. Joles, Ph.D.,<sup>2</sup> Stephen S. O'Connor, Ph.D.,<sup>1</sup> David C. Adkins, Ph.D.,<sup>3</sup> Karin Janis, R.A.,<sup>1</sup> Chloe E. Chessen, R.A.,<sup>2</sup> Sara J. Landles, Ph.D.,<sup>1,3</sup> Anna Holm, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> and Christine Yuodelis-Flores, M.D.<sup>1</sup>

**Background:** Despite the ubiquity of suicidality in behavioral health settings, empirically supported interventions for suicidality are surprisingly rare. Given the importance of resolving suicidality and therapists' anxieties about treating suicidal patients, there is a clear need for innovative services and clinical approaches. The purpose of the current study was an attempt to address some of these needs by examining the feasibility and use of a new intervention called the "Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality" (CAMS) within a "Next-Day Appointment" (NDA) outpatient treatment setting. **Methods:** As part of a larger feasibility study,  $n = 32$  suicidal patients were randomly assigned to CAMS care versus Enhanced Care as Usual (E-CAU) in an outpatient crisis intervention setting attached to a safety net hospital. Intent to treat suicidal patients were seen and assessed before, during, and after treatment (with follow-up assessments conducted at 2, 4, 6, and 12 months). **Results:** The feasibility of using CAMS in the NDA setting was clear; both groups appeared to initially benefit from their respective treatments in terms of decreased suicidal ideation and overall symptom distress. Although patients rated both treatments favorably, the CAMS group had significantly higher satisfaction and better treatment retention than E-CAU. At 12 months post-treatment, CAMS patients showed significantly better and sustained reductions in suicidal ideation, overall symptom distress, and increased hope in comparison to E-CAU patients. **Conclusions:** CAMS was both feasible in this NDA setting and effective in treating suicidal ideation, distress, and hopelessness (particularly at 12 months follow-up). *Depression and Anxiety* 26:963–972, 2011. © 2011 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

**Key words:** suicide; attempted suicide; psychotherapy; risk assessment; crisis intervention; feasibility studies; clinical trial

## INTRODUCTION

More than 33,000 suicides occurred in the United States in 2006—91 suicides per day or one suicide every 16 min.<sup>1,2</sup> Death by suicide is part of a much larger problem; millions of Americans have suicidal thoughts and hundreds of thousands make suicide attempts each year.<sup>3</sup> In 2008, 2.3 million people made

The authors disclose the following financial relationships within the past 3 years: Contract grant sponsor: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

\*Correspondence to: Katherine Anne Comtois, Harborview Medical Center Box 355901, 325 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104. E-mail: comtois@u.wa.edu

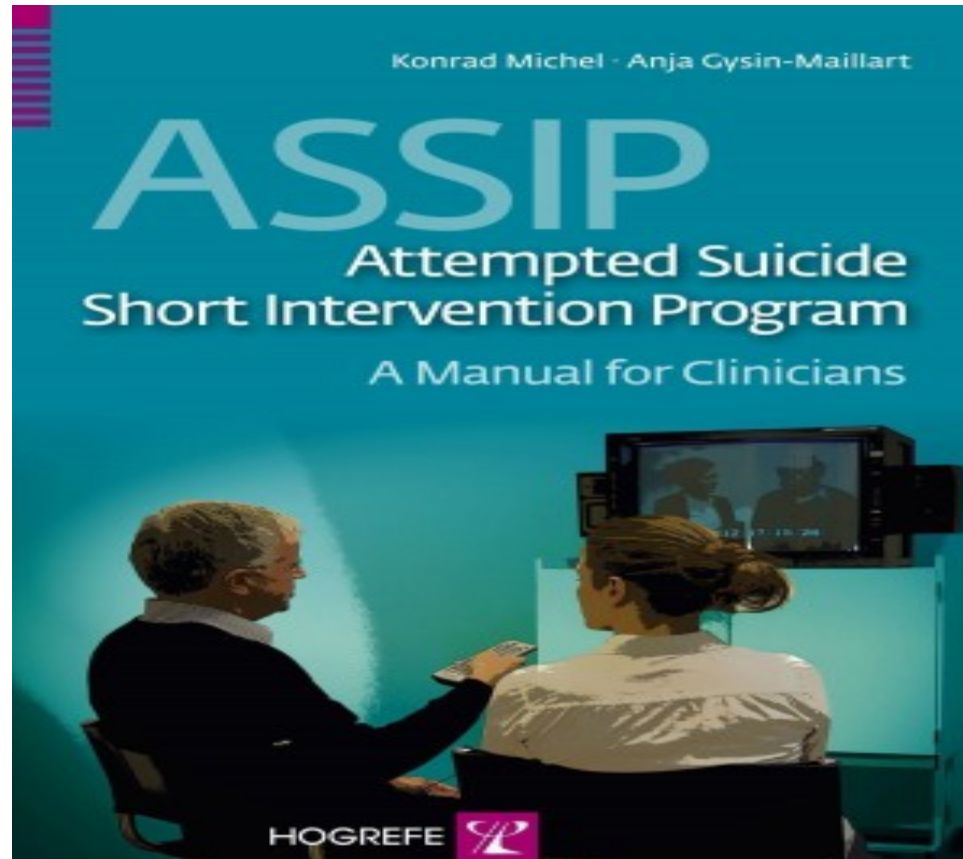
Study conducted at Harborview Medical Center, 325 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

Received for publication 20 May 2011; Revised 25 July 2011; Accepted 28 July 2011

DOI: 10.1002/da.20955  
Published online 21 September 2011 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com).

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# Attempted Suicide Short Intervention Program





# TRANSITION

LEAD TRAIN IDENTIFY ENGAGE TREAT TRANSITION IMPROVE

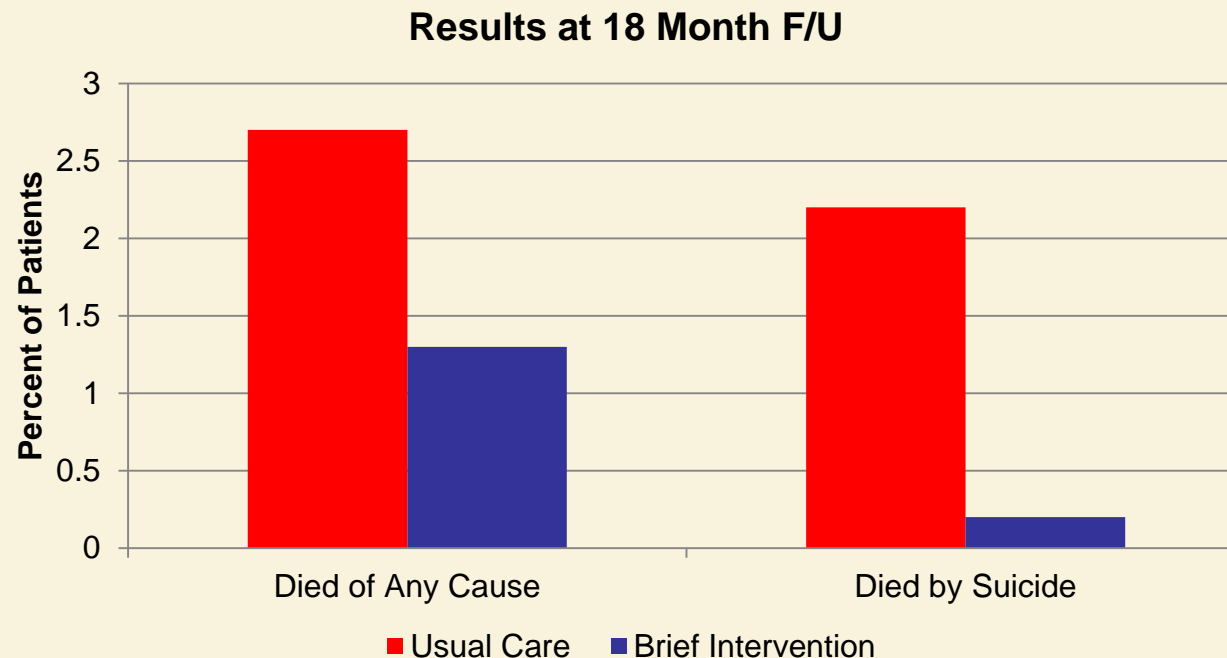
# Improving Care Transitions

- There are lethal gaps in many systems.
- Period after IPU and ED discharge is one of high risk, particularly the first 30 days.
- Rates of follow up care are poor.
- Intervention during this time has been shown to save lives and reduce suicidal behavior.



# EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT F/U

- **Fleischmann et al (2008)**
  - *Randomized controlled trial; 1867 Suicide attempt survivors from five countries (all outside US)*
  - *Brief (1 hour) intervention as close to attempt as possible*
  - *9 F/u contacts (phone calls or visits) over 18 months*



# Resource: Structured Follow-up and Monitoring

58



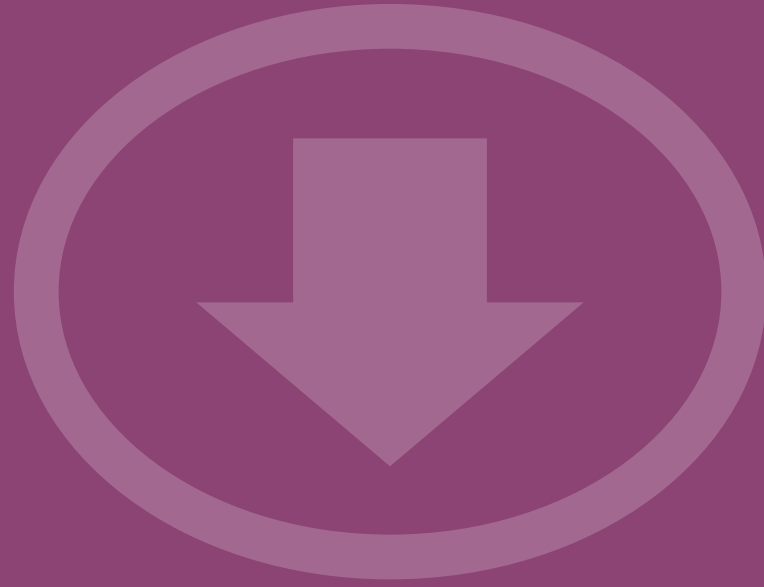
Access at: [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)

## Clients' Perceptions of Care: Cohort II (preliminary)

**“To what extent did the follow-up call(s) stop you from killing yourself?”**

	<u>Callers</u> (n= 283)	<u>Hosp. Clients</u> (n= 70)	<u>Total</u> (n= 353)
• A lot	60.8%	51.4%	58.9 %
• A little	22.6%	14.3%	21.0 %
• Not at all	16.6%	32.9%	19.8 %
• It made things	0.0%	1.4%	0.3

(17 callers, 2 hosp. clients had missing data)



# IMPROVE

LEAD

TRAIN

IDENTIFY

ENGAGE

TREAT

TRANSITION

IMPROVE

# Mortality After Recent Suicide Attempts

- SAMHSA NSDUH data
- Significant post non-fatal attempt suicide mortality-3.2 %
- Higher among men then women
- 45 and older with less then a high school education - 16%
- 40.6% had any outpatient mental health treatment, 15.8% had 1-4 visits,

# National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- Joint Commission recommends giving those with suicidal ideation the Lifeline number -1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Link to Veterans Crisis Line
- 160+ local crisis centers
- Local Lifeline crisis centers are a vital partner for suicide prevention-talk to them, support them, partner with them

Thank you.

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

**Richard McKeon, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
**Branch Chief, Suicide Prevention, SAMHSA**  
**240-276-1873**  
**[Richard.mckeon@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Richard.mckeon@samhsa.hhs.gov)**

**[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)**