

OHA Comprehensive Suicide Prevention

September 15, 2022 - September 14, 2027 (CDC Grant #1 NU50CE002599-01-00)

Evaluation Description

The PSU Regional Research Institute for Human Services (RRI) has been asked to conduct a process and outcome evaluation of the Oregon Health Authority's Oregon Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) Initiative. Funding for the initiative and this evaluation is provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The overall project goal is to plan and implement a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention (defined as preventing suicide risk in the first place, supporting people at increased risk of suicide, prevent re-attempts, and supporting loss survivors). RRI will lead the rigorous evaluation of the overall approach and individual activities, create a feedback system for continuous quality improvement and sustained impact, and communicate the results of the evaluation to stakeholders.

Grant deliverables include creating a strategic action plan for comprehensive statewide suicide prevention; creating a coordinated multi-sectorial partnership plan for suicide prevention; using data to select vulnerable populations and understand suicide circumstances; creating an inventory of existing suicide prevention programs and identify gaps and opportunities; selecting and implementing strategies from the CDC Suicide Technical Package; developing, implementing and evaluating a stakeholder communication and dissemination plan; and evaluating all activities.

Specific strategies include:

1. Identify & support people at risk & reduce access to lethal means by (1) partnering with firearm & assisted living spaces to provide gatekeeper training & promote safe storage among older adults & their caregivers, (2) creating protective environments by supporting evidence-based depression management (PEARSL) and promoting the use of ERPOs, and (3) promoting connectedness through culturally sensitive community engagement activities.
2. Strengthen access & delivery of suicide care by training rural primary & behavioral health providers in OR CALM and through creating protective environments by providing culturally sensitive rural firearm safety CE/CME trainings for providers.
3. Create protective environments through community-based policies to reduce excessive alcohol use through (1) enhancing partnerships & infrastructure to increase price of alcohol and reduce outlet density, (2) describe the impact of alcohol and suicide in Oregon, and (3) disseminate data to raise awareness of impact of alcohol upon suicide.

The PSU RRI will track progress toward implementing these goals and assess the impact of the Initiative through surveys, focus groups, and individual interviews with key informants and/or other stakeholders; by convening monthly evaluation meetings and coordinating ongoing evaluation activities across evaluation partners (PSU, University of Oregon (UO), and OHA); and by monitoring short, medium, and long-term outcomes defined in the grant proposal.

For more information, please contact: *Principal Investigator:* **Karen Cellarius**, PSU Regional Research Institute for Human Services at 503-725-4112 or cellark@pdx.edu. Or *Project Director:* **Laura Chisholm**, Oregon Health Authority, at 503-841-4842 or laura.f.chisholm@dhsosha.state.or.us