

Arizona Health Improvement Plan

Suicide

In 2015, 1,233 Arizonans died by suicide, making it the 8th leading cause of death in the state. As noted in the *2017 End to Suicide in Arizona State Plan*, “suicide is not just a behavioral health concern. It may be linked to depression and other mental illnesses, but the majority of those who have a behavioral health illness do not commit suicide. Suicide touches every family and community in Arizona, regardless of diagnoses, zip codes, ethnicities, or faith.”

The Arizona Health Improvement Plan (AzHIP) incorporates the recently developed [2017 End to Suicide in Arizona State Plan](#) as the strategies and objectives for the suicide priority section of the AzHIP. The [2017 End to Suicide in Arizona State Plan](#) was based on the national zero suicide model and submitted to the Arizona Coalition for Suicide Prevention and other community partners for final review. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition serve as lead partners in the implementation of the plan. The plan includes specific actions for 2017, and will be updated on a yearly basis.

GOALS:

1. Reduce the number of suicides in Arizona to zero through coordinated prevention activities
2. Develop broad-base support for the Zero Suicide model
3. Reduce stigma related to suicide
4. Promote responsible media reporting of suicide
5. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means of suicide among those with identified suicide risk
6. Provide training to schools, community, clinical, and behavioral health service providers on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors
7. Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services
8. Promote suicide prevention best practices among Arizona’s largest health care providers for patients and staff
9. Provide care and support to individuals affected by suicide deaths or suicide attempts and implement community best practice-based post-vention strategies to help prevent further suicides
10. Increase the timeliness and usefulness of national, state, tribal, and local surveillance systems relevant to suicide prevention and improve the ability to collect, analyze, and use this information for action
11. Improve timeliness of data collection and analysis regarding suicide deaths
12. Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of suicide prevention interventions and systems, and synthesize and disseminate findings
13. Coordinate statewide calendar of suicide prevention activities, fostering a collaborative community of support

Target: Reduce suicide in Arizona by 10% annually.