

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County



Cassandra Walton

Executive Director, Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention Partnership

Co-Chair, The Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

cass@pikespeaksuicideprevention.org

Who is the Collaborative?

Local Coalitions and non-profits
Hospitals
Public Health Department
Schools/Districts
Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS
Family Resource Centers
Faith Community leaders
Veteran-serving organizations
Local government agencies
Businesses
And more!

NEEDED: More Elected Officials

Colorado National Collaborative

El Paso County is one of five counties in Colorado that was selected to be part of the CNC.

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/ Office of Suicide Prevention
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Education Development Center (Suicide Prevention Resource Center)
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

Messages to Our Community:

- **Hope and Connection**
- **Collaboration**
- **Ownership**
- **Inclusion**

PRIORITY

**Reduce Suicide Rate by
20% by 2024**

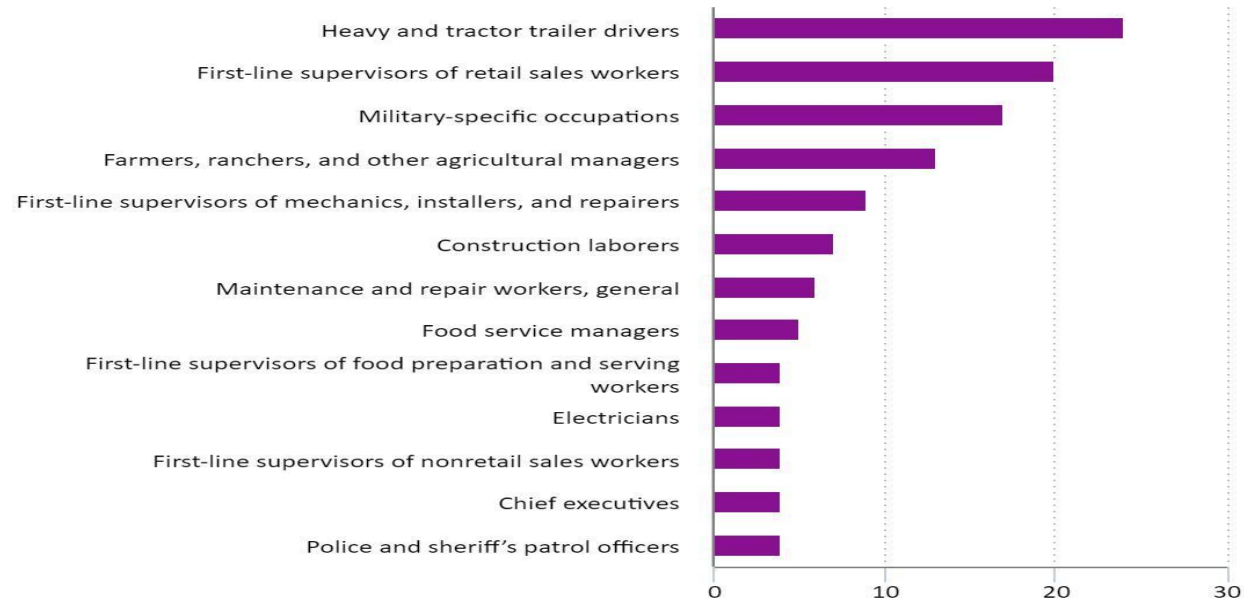
Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

Coroner's Report: Released June 2022

- **Of the 176 deaths by suicide, 114 (63%) involved firearms which is higher than the state average (54%) and national average (around 50%)**
- **Nearly a third of the suicides had a known active or prior military duty, a 10 percent increase from 2020**
- **The average age at death was 44, and 81 percent of completed suicides were male**
- **Suicides decreases slightly for the third year with 176 recorded in 2021**
- **Youth suicides decreased from fifteen in 2020 to four in 2021**

Suicide Prevention Is Everyone's Business

Workplace suicides in selected detailed occupations, 2019



Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Special Populations

Working-Age
Adults
(25-64)



Young Adults
(19-24)



Youth (0-18)



Older Adults 65+



Veterans



LGBTQIA+ &
BIPOC
Communities



Faith
Communities



High Risk
Industries



Suicide Prevention Pillars



CONNECTEDNESS



**ECONOMIC
STABILITY AND
SUPPORTS**



**EDUCATION
AND
AWARENESS**



**ACCESS
TO SAFER
SUICIDE CARE**



**LETHAL
MEANS
SAFETY**



POSTVENTION

1

2

3

4

5

6

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

Through grants from the **CDPHE Office of Suicide Prevention** and the **Colorado Springs Health Foundation** the Collaborative has:

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

- Developed Schools & Suicide Postvention Issue Brief
- Distributed Schools Issue Brief and Suicide Prevention & Postvention Toolkit
- Developed Employer Postvention Issue Brief
- Presented to the Southern Colorado Business Partnership
- Distributed Employer Issue Brief and Manager's Guide to Postvention

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

- Supported Veteran and Emergency Responder Trainings
- Promoted Safe Medication Disposal with Drug Take Back Events
- Distributed trigger locks, safe storage devices for firearms and medication to our partners
- Produced a firearm safe storage video with law enforcement, emergency responders and military
- Organized Community Workshops on Firearm Safe Storage and Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County

- Developed Safe Media Messaging Video, Toolkit and Pledge
- Provided Media Resources for Responsible Reporting
- Participated in equity training and incorporated it into activities
- Promoted Zero Suicide by Healthcare Partners
- Supported the Development of the Suicide Prevention Referral Program
- Supported ongoing efforts to develop LOSS Team
- Distributed Community Grants

Suicide Prevention Is Everyone's Business

What can I do as a City Councilmember?

Participate in Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Trainings

Host a Suicide Prevention Training in your district

Share an experience where you or someone you know struggled or needed help

THANK YOU!

Questions?