

DPI Suicide Prevention Efforts

- Laws related to suicide, DPI and schools
- Brief Background on the problem
- DPI Free Gate Keeper training
- DPI Free curriculum
- DPI Peer-to-Peer Grant program
- Resources



Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Law

Educate students

- 118.01 (Educational Goals): ... schools must address suicide prevention with students. Specifically: conditions that cause and signs of suicidal thinking, the relationship between suicide and the use of alcohol and other drugs, and services available in local communities.

Health curriculum

- PI-8.01(2)(j)1: ... requires suicide prevention instruction take place in the health curriculum. DPI encourages classroom collaboration between health educators and pupil services on this topic.

Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Law

DPI requirements

- 115.365 (Assistance to schools for suicide prevention): ... gives direction to DPI—we must train school staff to intervene in youth suicide. It also establishes a clear role for schools in screening for suicidal thinking (detection of signs...), crisis response (proper action...), and referrals to outside agencies and even law enforcement if the student is in crisis. Finally, it requires DPI to make a model annual notice for schools to inform staff about youth suicide prevention resources and directs districts to use DPI's model or make their own annual notice.

Civil liability exemption

- 118.295 (Suicide intervention) ... Any school board, private school, county children with disabilities education board or cooperative educational service agency, and any officer, employee or volunteer thereof, who in good faith attempts to prevent suicide by a pupil is immune from civil liability for his or her acts or omissions in respect to the suicide or attempted suicide.

Comparison of Deaths in Youth

Manner of Death	From 2000-2017 (17 years) Deaths among Youth age 5-19
Unintentional/accidents	2,508
Suicide	896 *65 in 2017
Cancer	482
Homicide/Assault	474
Congenital Malformations	226
Heart Disease	125
Chronic Low. Resp. Disease	63

Suicide: 896

CDC – WSQARS Fatal Injury Data (age 5-19) 2000-2017
(accessed 8/2019)

Suicide Context: US vs. WI



In the U.S (rate = 4.8/100K)

- Suicide is #2 cause ages 5 - 19
- 3,013 deaths in 2017
- Alaska has highest rate in U.S.
- New Jersey has the lowest
- Suffocation is highest lethal means



In Wisconsin (rate = 5.9/100K)

- Suicide is #2 cause ages 5 - 19
- 65 deaths in 2017 (64 in 2016)
- 22nd highest rate in the U.S.
- Better than IA, MN, MI
- Worse than IL & US rate
- Suffocation is highest lethal means**

DPI Free Gate Keeper Training

- Based on Signs of Suicide Acknowledge, Care, Tell model
- Online
- 20 minutes in length
- Great for August preservice educator training
- https://media.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/av/suicide-prevention/story_html5.html

A.C.T.

- A is for “Acknowledge” signs and symptoms, don’t minimize their feelings
- C is for showing “Care and Concern” for the person who is at-risk
- T is for “Talk to or Tell” someone who knows how to respond in your school or community

DPI Classroom Curriculum Based on SOS

- SOS (Signs of Suicide) is the source of ACT
 - DPI Curriculum uses SOS video as a lesson
- Strong evidence base
- Materials for students, parents & staff
- Screening forms for parents and student
- Enough materials for 300 students, \$495
- Each CESA has at least one MS & one HS kit
- Moving to online services with first-time and annual fee

<http://mindwise.wpengine.com/what-we-offer/suicide-prevention-programs/>

DPI Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Grants

- Peer-to-peer training ensures that the people students are most likely to turn to in troubling times, their friends and classmates, have the knowledge and tools needed to recognize warning signs of suicide and depression, and be able to help their friends.
- Any tribal, private, or public school at which pupils attend high school grades are eligible for this grant, and recipients of a grant under this program may use the grant funds to support an existing peer-to-peer suicide prevention program, or to implement a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. Grantees are highly encouraged to implement an evidenced based program (such as Hope Squad or Sources of Strength).
- Grants are for up to \$1,000 per school.
- Additional ESSER/CARES Act funding may be available for schools that are awarded these primary grants.

Peer to Peer Support Options: Hope Squad

- Hope Squad: <https://hopesquad.com/training/>
 - Is a school-based peer support program that empowers selected students to take action to improve the school environment.
 - Elementary, middle and HS components.
 - Is based on research which indicates that most youth who are suicidal talk with peers about their concerns rather than with adults, yet as few as 25 percent of peer confidants tell an adult.
 - Partners with QPR for warning signs and responsive actions.
 - Year two training teaches resiliency skills.



Peer to Peer Support Options: Sources of Strength

- Sources of Strength: <https://sourcesofstrength.org/>
 - Middle and High School universal prevention and peer gatekeeper training.
 - Relationship based (students-caring adults) with an emphasis on changing norms.
 - \$5,000 cost



Other Potential P2P Grant Funded Programs

- Signs of Suicide <https://www.mindwise.org/what-we-offer/suicide-prevention-programs/>
- Teen Mental Health First Aid <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/teens/>
- REDgen <https://www.redgen.org/>
- Gay Straight Alliances <https://gsanetwork.org/>, <https://gsafewi.org/>

Suicide Prevention Resources

- DPI Suicide Prevention website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/youth-suicide-prevention>
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center website: <http://www.sprc.org/>
- Prevent Suicide Wisconsin website: <http://www.preventsuicidewi.org/>
- National Center for the Prevention of Youth Suicide <http://www.suicidology.org/NCPYS>

Trevor Helpline: 866.4.U.TREVOR

- The Trevor Project is a national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.
- The Trevor Project operates an AAS-accredited, nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for LGBTQ youth. The website also has a one-page fact sheet, a sample suicide prevention policy, and a webinar.

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>