Implementing Sources of Strength
Suicide Prevention Program in Gillette, WY
Levi Hamilton • University of Washington School of Medicine • 2015 • RUOP iii-3

Purpose
The purpose of this community project is to address suicide in high school students of Gillette, Wyoming.

Background
• Gillette is located in Campbell County in Northeast Wyoming with a population of 31,797
• Wyoming had the highest suicide rate among all U.S. states in 2011 and 2012.
• In 2013, Campbell County had a suicide rate more than double the national average.
• The Campbell County School District has a need for a long-term suicide prevention program that encourages help seeking behavior in students.

Suicide Rate per 100,000 population (2013)

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<th>National Average</th>
<th>Wyoming</th>
<th>Campbell County</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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Data from American Association of Suicidology and the Wyoming Department of Health

Methods
• Through conversations with a public health nurse and faculty of the Campbell County Prevention Council (CCPC), suicide was recognized as a community health problem.
• Literature review and faculty of the CCPC identified Sources of Strength as an evidence-based suicide prevention program to be implemented in CCSD.

Results
• Conversations were held with the CCSD to discuss what suicide prevention measures were already in place, and barriers to implementing a program.
• A presentation of the program was given to the district superintendent and the director of student support services.

Discussion
• Sources of Strength is listed on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices
• Obstacles include buy-in of CCSD decision makers, adult volunteers, and student peer leaders.
• Next steps to implement the program are CCSD approval meetings and grant writing.