

Utilizing Primary Care to Prevent Suicide in Gillette, WY



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Hypothesis

Efforts to educate Gillette's primary care providers on the recognition and intervention of suicidality can help to reduce the high suicide rate in the community across all at-risk demographics.



Gillette, Wyoming: Energy Capital of the Nation

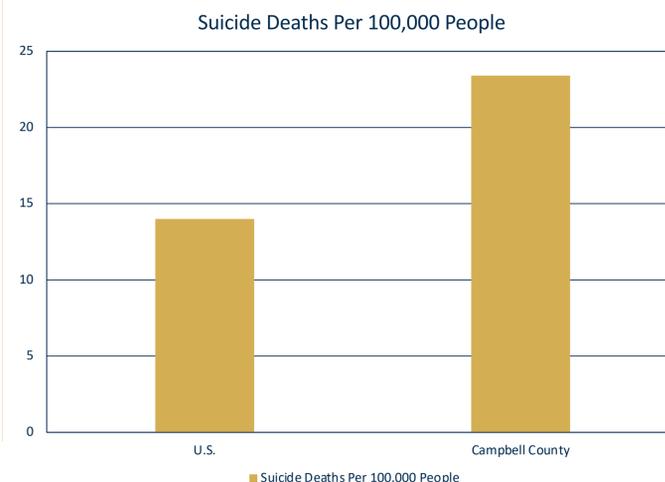
Background

- Gillette Population: 32,513
- Often unstable economy centered around coal extraction and energy production.
- Suicide rate 67% higher than the national average.
- Too few specialized mental healthcare providers.

Community Profile Assets

- Largest hospital in the region with a 24-hour crisis line.
- Erin Clikeman, a psychiatrically trained Physician's Assistant
- One of the region's only specialized mental healthcare providers.
- Offers sliding-scale billing to increase accessibility.
- Works to prevent suicide by treating underlying mental health conditions via counseling and medication.

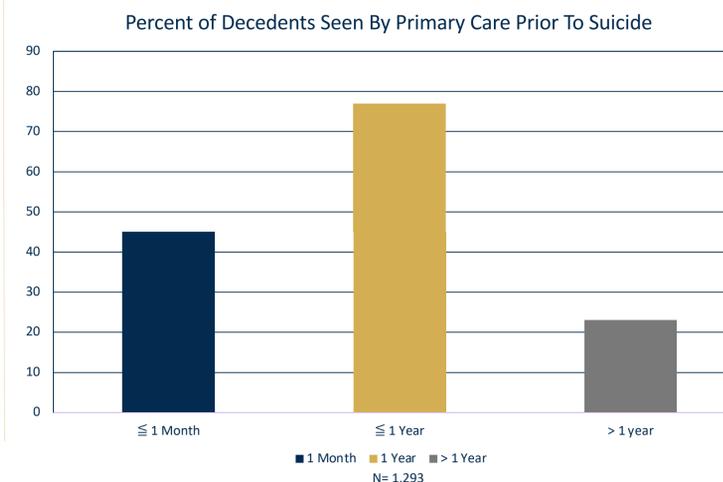
Suicide Rates: Campbell County vs U.S.



Literature Review

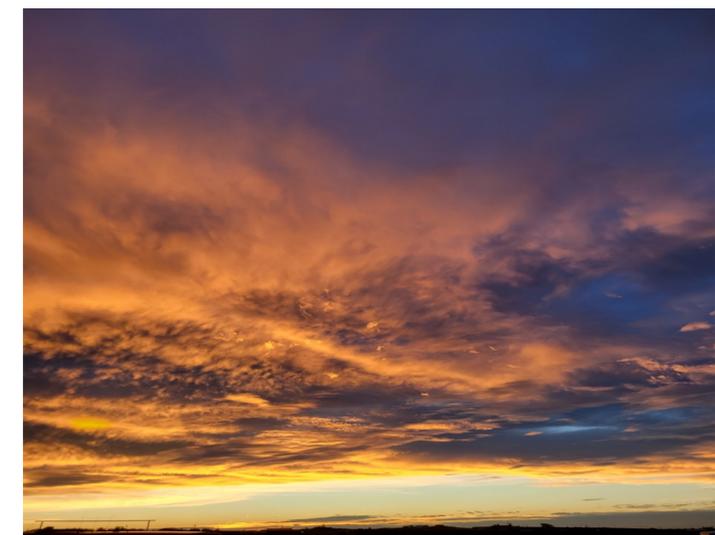
- Educating Primary Care Providers on suicidality recognition and intervention is most applicable to the community.
- 45% of suicide decedents are seen by primary care within a month of suicide.
- Most certified trainings take 4-6 hours to complete and involve lectures, and role-playing.
- Trainings are associated with increased provider competency in managing depression and suicidality.
- Teaches providers how to use approved screening questionnaires.
- Two providers in Gillette have already been certified to provide this training but have not yet been directed to begin.

Primary Care: A Space to Intervene



Conclusions

- Given the shortage of specialized mental healthcare providers, improving the suicide recognition/prevention competency of primary care providers could have a profound effect on suicide rates in the community.
- One challenge to implementing PCP training is the fact that PCPs tend to be very busy at baseline and may find additional training difficult to schedule. As such, local government and public health could work to provide adequate incentives to motivate PCPs to pursue training.



Sunrise over Gillette, Wyoming