

Taking Care of Business: Promoting Mental Health to Mining Executives in Uinta County



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Hypothesis

Educating mining executives about the human and economic impact of unmanaged mental illness among miners while providing resources from the Uinta County Suicide Prevention Task Force will improve behavioral health outcomes.



Deliverables to Community

- Created a pamphlet with information on the state of mental health in Wyoming, mental health's epidemiology among miners, and mental health's economic impact
- Pamphlet includes evidence based actionable items and partnership opportunities with Uinta County Suicide Prevention Task Force to improve the behavioral health of miners
- Pamphlet will be used by Uinta County Suicide Prevention Taskforce as an aid to bring mining executives to the table about mental health issues



Literature Review

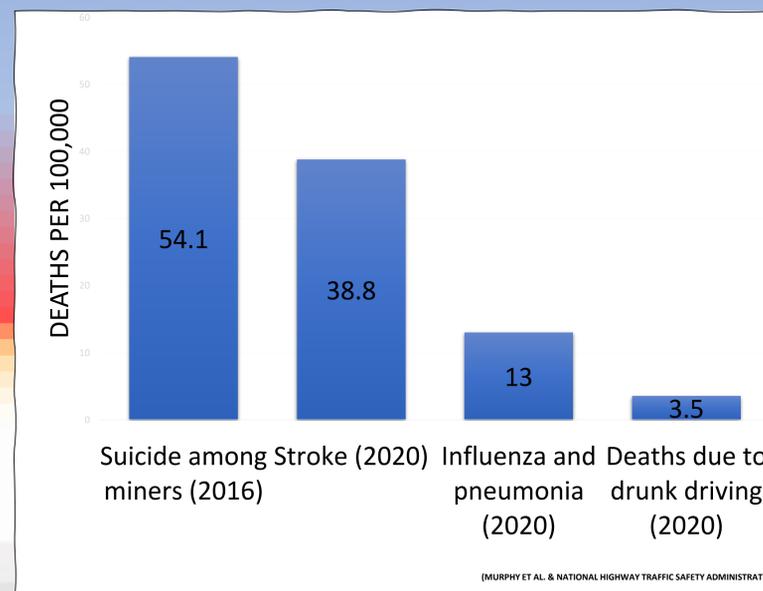
- Miners experience an elevated rate of drug dependence, heavy alcohol use, and suicide
- Promotion of help-seeking is a well researched suicide prevention practice, but only if resources exist
- Rural individuals may be less likely to initiate therapy, but are just as likely to continue therapy as their urban peers
- Contact with mental health professionals outside of the clinic has been shown to increase knowledge and change attitudes towards mental illness
- Workplace interventions have been shown to improve employee wellbeing and performance

Background

- Evanston demographics**
 - Population 11,747 in 2020
 - 90.5% White, 12.9% Hispanic or Latino, and 1% American Indian
 - 15.7% have a bachelor's degree compared to the national average of 32.9%
- Community interviews**
 - Patients and staff at High Country Behavioral Health consistently mentioned suicide prevention as an area of public health need
 - Uinta County Suicide Prevention Taskforce named as a potential partner
- Partnership with Uinta County Suicide Prevention Task Force**
 - Currently working to combat stigma and promote help-seeking for young men working in the energy/mining sector
 - Interested in project aimed at mining executive who recently learned that their employees are an at-risk population

Next Steps

- Share the pamphlet with mining executives in Uinta County and throughout the state
- Obtain commitments from executives to host posters, trainings, and community mental health professionals during the work-day



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