

# Implementing Sources of Strength Suicide Prevention Program in Gillette, WY

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## Purpose

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

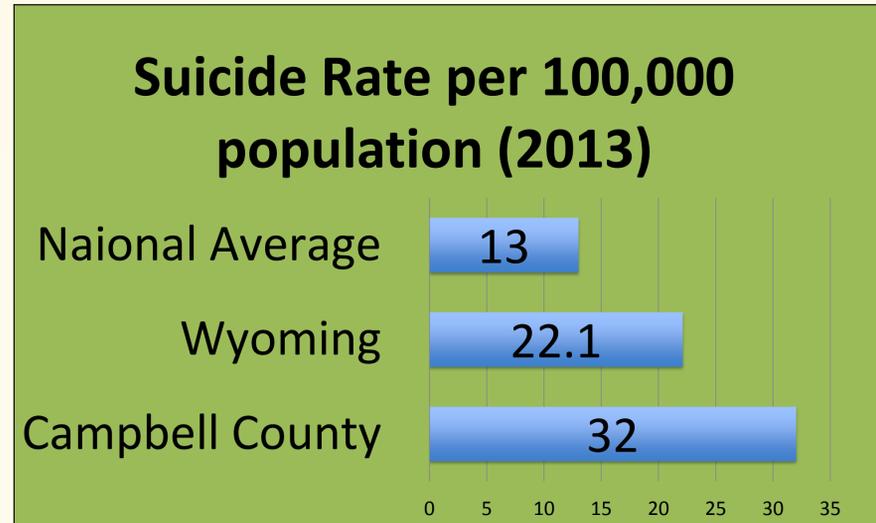


Gillette during a summer thunderstorm.

Photo by: Daniel Brenner

## 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.



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.

# SOURCES OF STRENGTH

