

Suicide Prevention

The Critical Role of Coroners

Collaboration of the Coroner's Office and
Public Health

Sarah Bassing-Sutton, Community Suicide Prevention Coordinator
N.E.W. Mental Health Connection



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How and Why the Suicide Investigation form came to be

Winnebago County CDRT Suicide Prevention Recommendation

Suicides leading cause of death in youth

Suicide data limited, incomplete and cumbersome to collect

Current professional data resources lag behind by years and may not adequately capture risk factors for specific populations.

Develop a standardized Suicide Report Form which can be used by Coroner to record information that would be relevant to identifying risk factors with ultimate goal of effective prevention efforts.



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Partners in Developing Form

- New Mental Health Connection Director
- Winnebago County Coroner
- Suicide Prevention: Community for Hope
- Suicide Prevention : Prevent Suicide Fox Cities
- Outagamie County Public Health Educator
- Calumet County Public Health
- Winnebago Co. Human Services Prevention Specialist
- CHAW Data person
- Law Enforcement
- Suicide Prevention Coordinator



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Supporters



Suicide Prevention Resource Center
About Suicide Effective Prevention Resources & Programs Training News & Highlights Organizations

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE 8 2 5 5
1 (800) 273 TALK

New from the Weekly Spark

Veterinarians Work to Prevent Suicide as Study Finds Increased Risk: "There Is Absolutely Nothing Weak about Asking for Help"
March 01, 2019

KANSAS: Task Force Recommends Adding State Coordinator for Youth Suicide Prevention
March 01, 2019

CALIFORNIA: California Chef Aims to Help Restaurant Workers Prevent Suicide
March 01, 2019

Prescription Opioid or Benzodiazepine Abuse and Suicidal Ideation in Older Adults
February 22, 2019

The Corps' Suicide Rate Is at a 10-Year High. This Is How the Marines Plan to Address It.

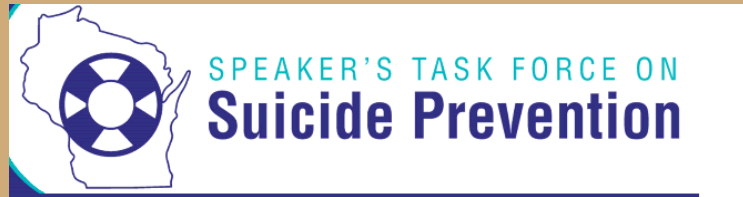
WISCONSIN: Suicide prevention group creates action plan
March 18, 2016

News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News
State: Wisconsin

The Northwestern.com

The Winnebago County Child Death Review Team recently released 11 recommendations for ways that Wisconsin communities can help prevent suicides. The overall goal is to identify and reduce risk factors and increase available support. The recommendations address key groups in the community including educators, community organizations, and others who work with youth; parents; youth; and the media. Recommendations include creating a standardized suicide report form to help identify risk factors, with the goal of developing effective prevention strategies; educating educators, parents, and youth about risk factors, how to address them, and available resources; and developing interventions and safe messaging for dealing with the aftermath of a suicide. The recommendations were discussed at a town hall meeting, which was one of 10 forums held across northeast and central Wisconsin in February and March. Input from these 10 town halls will be used to help develop a statewide call to action to be held in Madison on May 5.

Spark Extra! Learn about the use of state-level Child Death Review Teams as a source of information for suicide prevention efforts.



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Benefits of Death Investigation Form

“Prevention is only as good as the data which is only as good as the questions asked.”

- ❖ Guide investigators to ask relevant comprehensive questions in a sensitive manner.
- ❖ Provides a ready to use tool that is consistent and captures risk factors relevant for prevention
- ❖ Produces information that can be used to develop recommendations/strategies for a specific population.



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Value of Coroner/Medical Examiner in Public Health

- Could not do work without You!
- Information provides data for trends on health and safety issues to focus on
- Identifies risk factors for death prevention: ex. unsafe sleep, overdose, suicide prevention
- Valuable partner in prevention. Seen as authority to be trusted
- Keeps people safe and alive



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What does the form look like and how is it used

- Implementation of the form at the request of our coroner.
- Interviews can be done in any fashion, anywhere. (Over the phone, in person etc.)
- A casual conversations versus an interview.
- Families may or may not be receptive.
- Use your own judgement on time elapsed since event.



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Suicide Death Investigation Form

The purpose of the form is to collect information about contributing factors that lead to suicide. Nonidentifying data will be compiled and analyzed by a qualified team to develop robust prevention strategies that are relevant to specific populations. This form can also serve as a template for Suicide Death Review Teams.

Total of 5 pages
with
check boxes

DECEDENT INFORMATION	
Last name:	Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY):
First name:	Date of Death (MM/DD/YYYY):
Middle name:	Age at death:
Type of Residence:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care <input type="checkbox"/> Correctional facility <input type="checkbox"/> Apt. <input type="checkbox"/> Group Home <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> Own home/townhouse <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing home/assisted living <input type="checkbox"/> School Dorm <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment facility	
Recent/Pending Eviction: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Eviction/Loss of home:
Recent/Pending Foreclosure: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Last 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Last 2 weeks
Race:	<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native, Tribe if known: <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified
<input type="checkbox"/> Concerns with racial discrimination? <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, specify: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian, Tribe if known:	
Sexual Orientation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/> Transsexual



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* Sexual Orientation

* Gender Identity

* Relationship Status

<p>Sexual Orientation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual or straight <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay <input type="checkbox"/> Questioning</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown/Other</p>	<p>Sexual Orientation Struggle: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 12 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 2 weeks</p>															
<p>Gender identity:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cisgender male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cisgender female</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transgender/Transfeminine (male to female)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transgender/Transmasculine (female to male)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender non-conforming/non-binary</p>	<p>CISGENDER: identifies as their sex assigned at birth.</p> <p>TRANSGENDER: encompassing term of many gender identities of those who do not identify with their sex assigned at birth.</p> <p>GENDER NON-CONFORMING: umbrella term for all genders other than female/male or woman/man</p>															
<p>Gender Identity Struggle:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 12 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 2 weeks</p>	<p>Relationship status:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a Relationship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not in a Relationship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>															
<p>Intimate Partner Problems:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Last 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Argument</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Breakup</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>Intimate Partner Violence:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Last 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Last 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Type:</td> <td>Victim:</td> <td>Perpetrator:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Verbal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Physical</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Type:	Victim:	Perpetrator:	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														



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Sections:

* Relationship problems; intimate and familial

* Social Isolation

* Issues with friends

* Religious Affiliation and participation

* Education and School Concerns

* Harassment/ Bullying

* Employment information and Concerns

* Insurance and Financial concerns

* Military Status

* Chronic Medical conditions or life changing diagnosis

* TBI

* Mental Health diagnosis

* Last healthcare appointment

* Mental Health Medication and history of commitments

* ACES

* Addiction Issues

* Legal Involvement

* Primary Means of Injury

* Suicide Note

* Firearm information

* Signs prior to death



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Sections:

* Additional
Comments

* Person
Interviewed

* Form
Completed by

* Creators of
the form

Additional Comments:
Known crisis of any kind in last 2 weeks?

Person(s) Interviewed:

Form Completed by and date:

The form was compiled by a group dedicated to suicide and other death prevention. Please contact the lead for questions and comments. Improvements always welcome

Lead: Sarah Bassing-Sutton, N.E.W. Mental Health Connection; sarah@newmentalhealthconnection.org 920-420-4903
Teresa Paulus, RN, Winnebago County Health Dept. tpaulus@co.winnebago.wi.us 920-642-3479
John Wallschlaeger, Community Liaison Specialist, City of Menasha Police Department
Heidi Keating, MPH, Community Health Educator, Outagamie County Public Health
Kim Maki and Nick Keator, Deputy Coroners and Barry Busby, Coroner, Winnebago County
Amy Parry, MPH, Data Project Manager, Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Dan Hinton, Prevention Specialist, Winnebago County Human Services
Debbie Peters, Executive Director, Community for Hope of Winnebago County
Beth Clay, Executive Director, N.E.W. Mental Health Connection
Cindy Reffke, Chair, Prevent Suicide Fox Cities



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The Suicide Investigation Form

- Multiple revisions of the form over time
- Suicide investigation form compliments the standard death investigation
- Current form is 5 pages

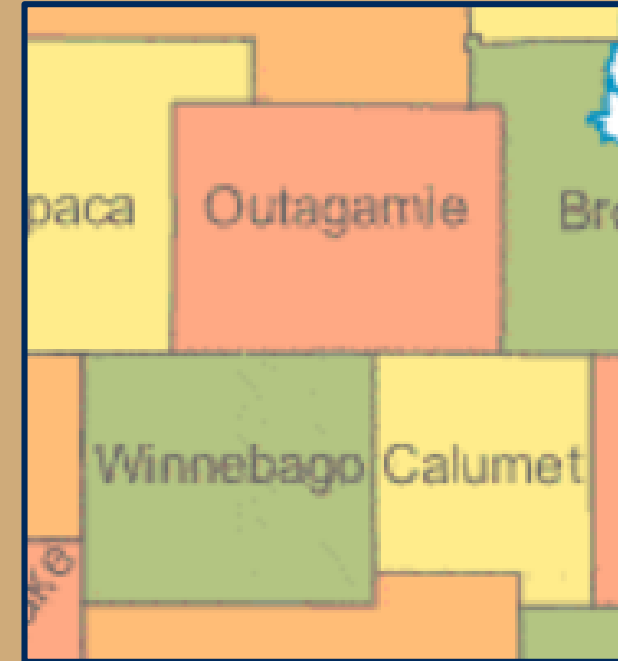


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Data and Community Prevention of Suicides

- Project Zero: Every 1 Matters
 - Adult Suicide Prevention
 - Data Collection via SI Form
 - ADRT
 - Tri-County effort
- Partners in Prevention



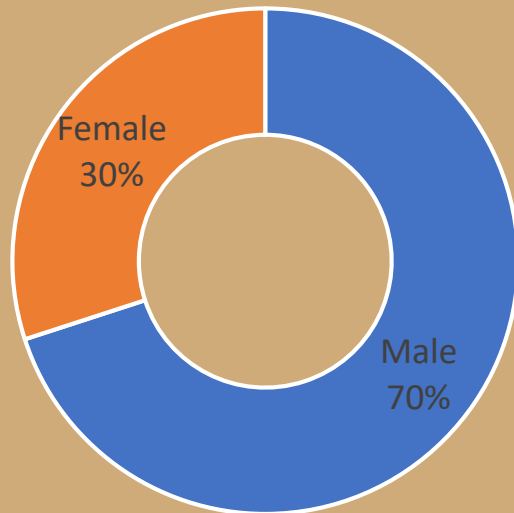
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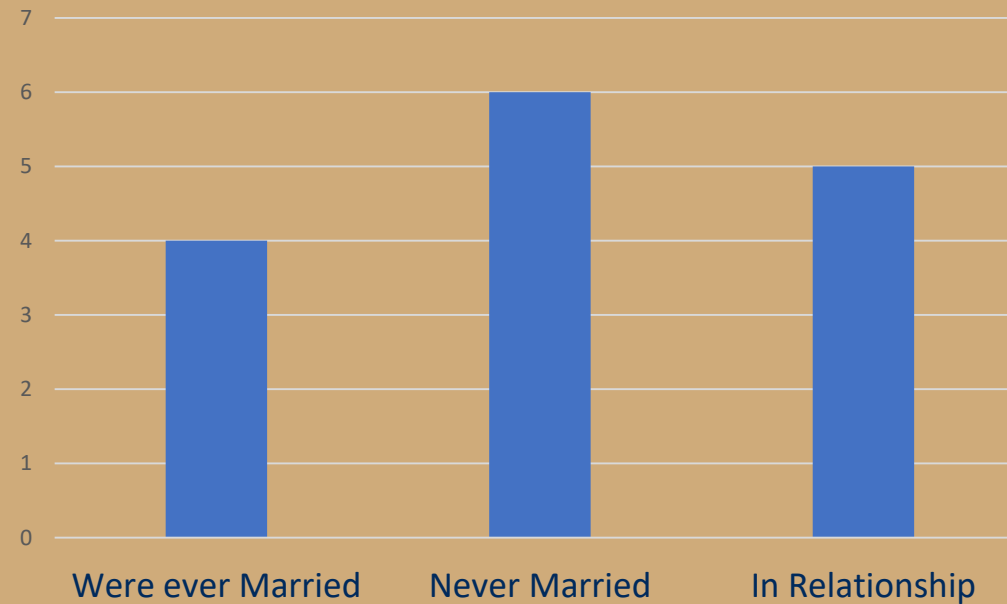
Suicide Investigation Form Piloted

- May 2017- May 2019: Information gathered on 10 Suicide Deaths

Gender of Decedents



Relationship Status at time of Death



- Average age: 33.8 yo
- Ethnicity: all White, non-Hispanic

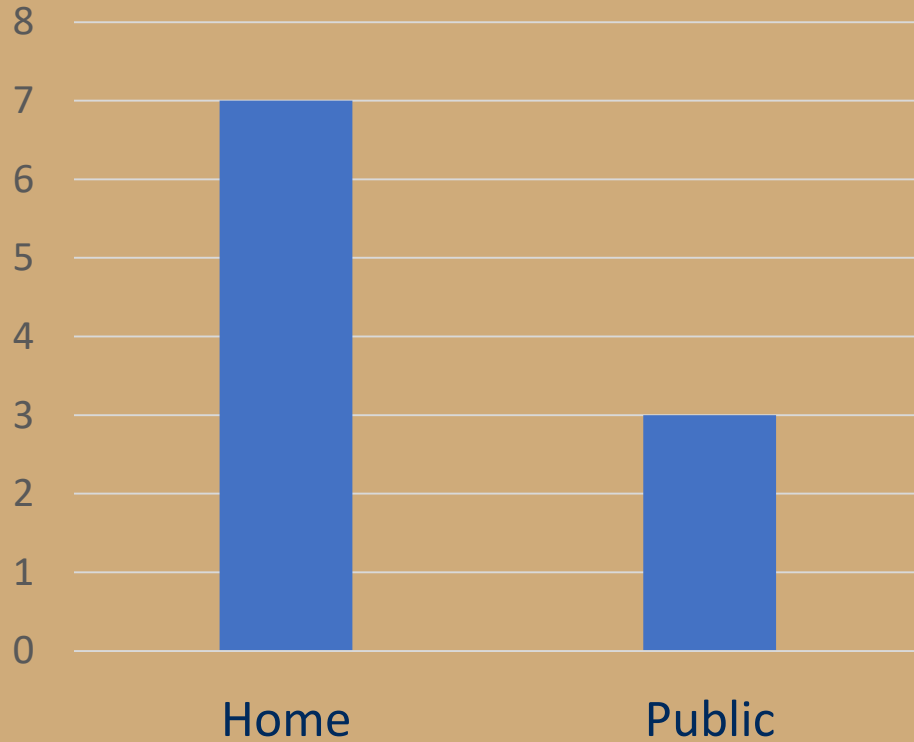


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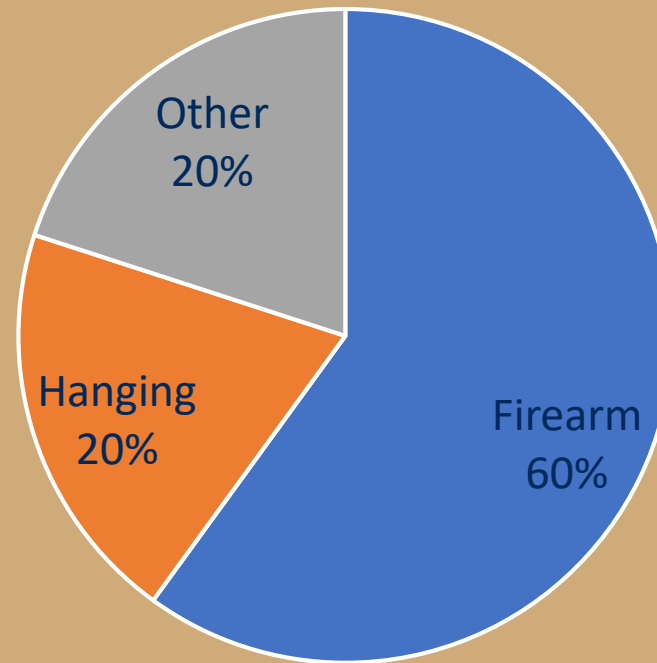
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Death Information

Location of Death



Mechanism of Injury



3 decedents left
Suicide notes

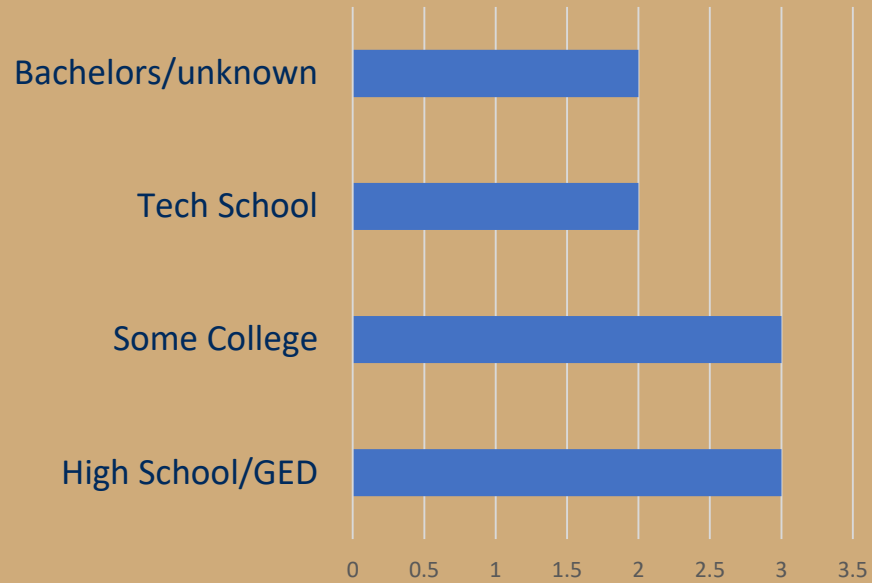


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Education and Employment

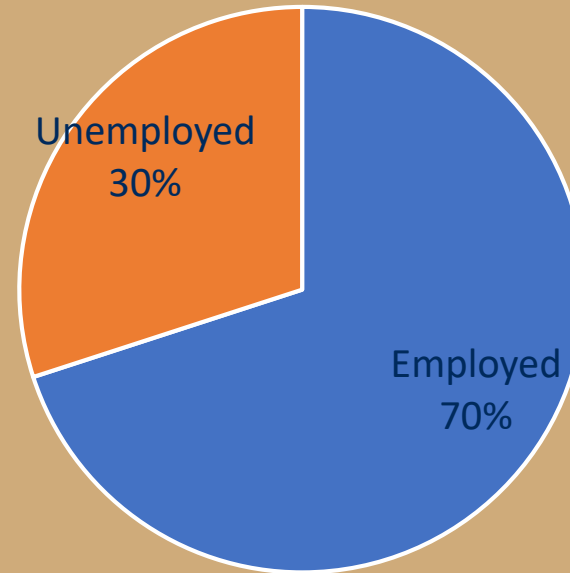
Education



Concerns:

Grades; pressure to success; Finances; not Graduating

Employment



Concerns:

Financial Strain

Industries:

Retail
Construction
Sales
Healthcare
Industrial

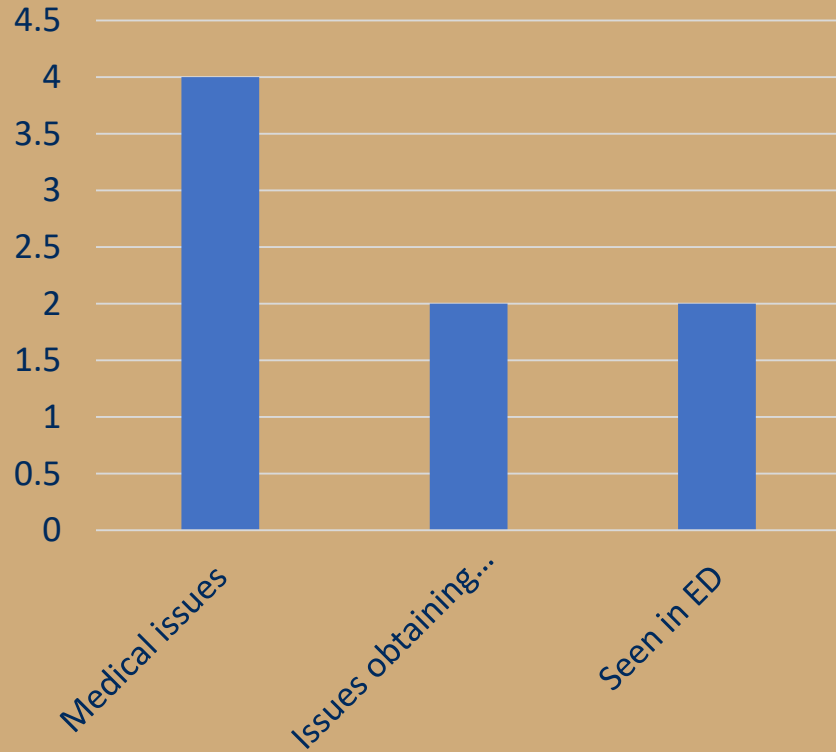


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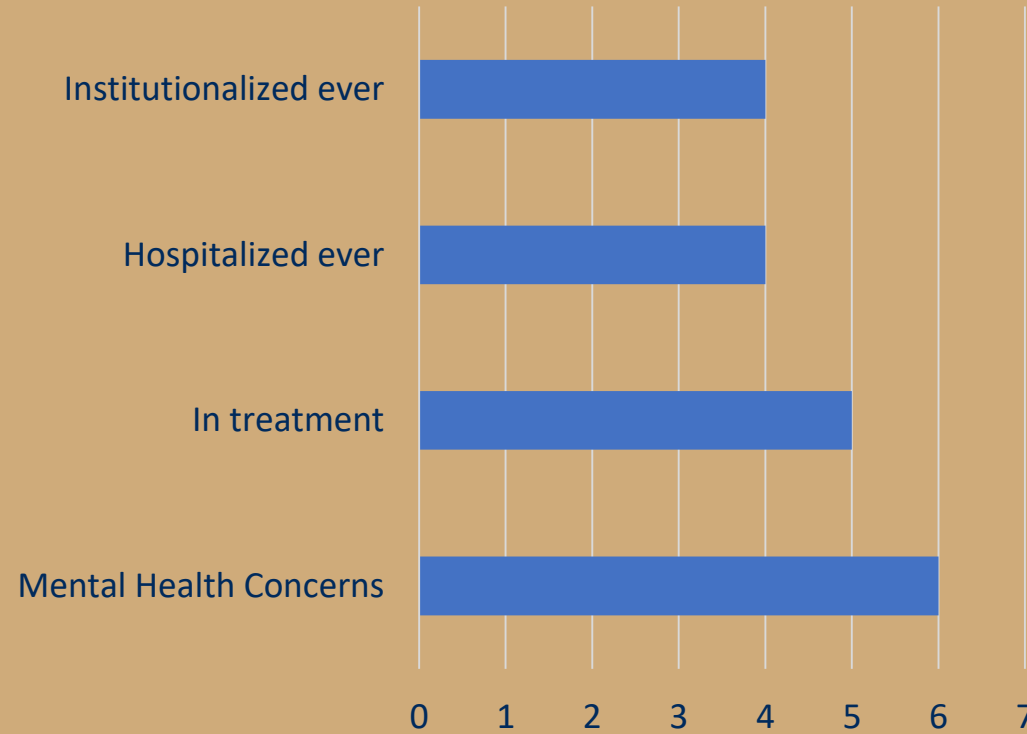
Decedents Health

Decedents Physical Health



Chronic pain; Cancer; Kidney Stones;
Blood pressure; Insomnia; Diabetes;
Allergies; Asthma; GERD

Decedents Mental Health



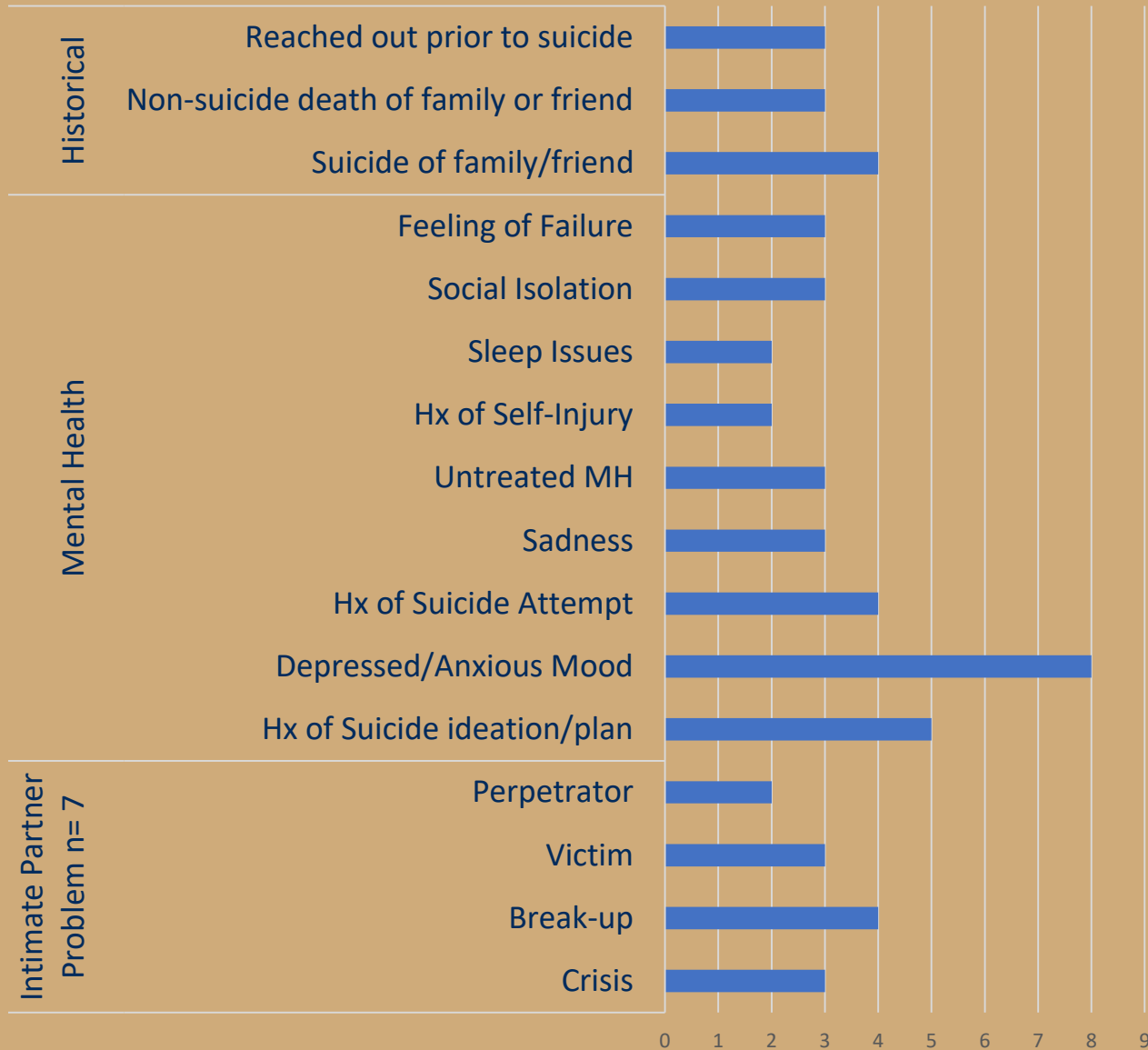
Bipolar; Depression; Anxiety; PTSD; Seasonal
Affective;



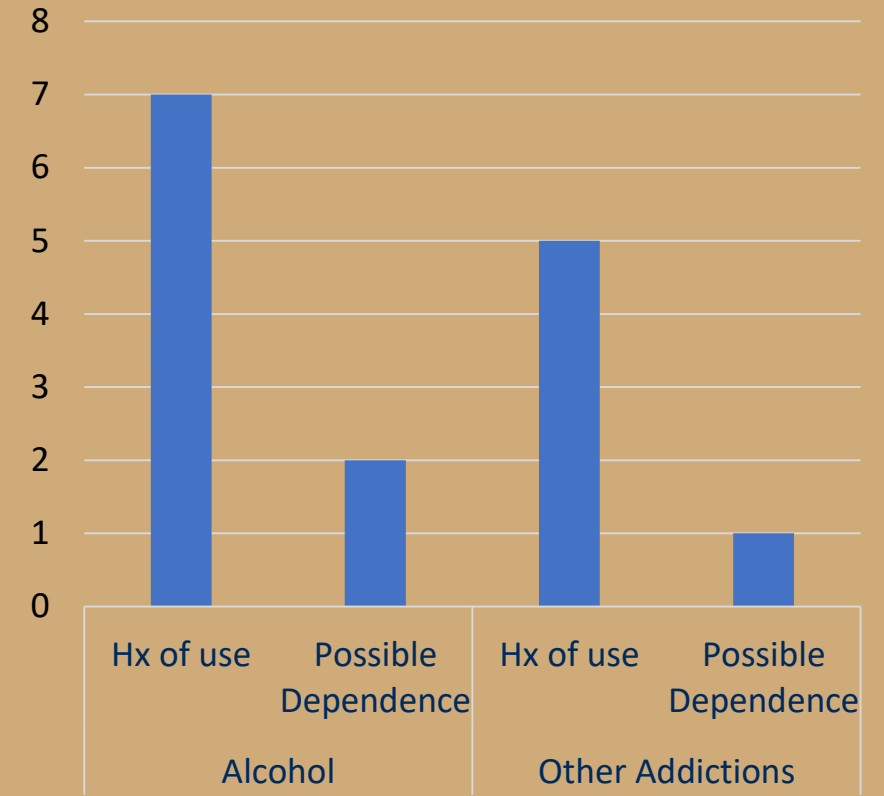
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Preceding Factors



AODA



6 decedents had alcohol and/or illicit substances in their system at the time of death
 3 decedents had anti-depressants and/or household products in their system



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How and Why do Coroner's offices make this happen

- By actively partnering in **prevention** *ideally* there will be fewer people dying...by suicide at least 😊
 - Data used to develop **interventions**
- Collaborating agencies-Public Health and/or local Suicide Prevention agencies can help with capacity for doing the work
- Utah and Colorado have standardized the use of a suicide investigation form
- Grants available to increase capacity



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THANK YOU!



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Questions?



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