



Community Readiness Assessment on Suicide Washington County, Utah 2019

METHODS AND BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Washington County REACH4HOPE Suicide-Prevention Coalition conducted the first Community Readiness Assessment in Washington County on suicide. The assessment used was developed by the Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research at Colorado State University, consisting of seven focus sections with a total of 40 questions, ranging from “Knowledge About the Issue,” and “Prevention Resources Available,” to “Community Knowledge and Understanding.”

The assessment helps communities identify where they are in readiness for suicide prevention, and which areas they should focus on. In 2019, the coalition conducted 10 telephone interviews (as prescribed by the Tri-Ethnic Center survey update instructions), with key leaders and members in Washington County. Using the assessment rubric and scoring sheets provided by Colorado State University, we calculated the communities’ stage of readiness for addressing suicide.

The assessment uses a rubric from 1-9, (1 being least ready for prevention services and 9 indicating most ready a community can be to receive prevention services). The major benefit of these assessments is to determine what strategies are best suited for a specific community in regards to prevention. The readiness score listed below will serve as a tool for updating our community strategic action plan. Surveys will be conducted every 2-3 years.

CURRENT READINESS LEVEL: - 3 VAGUE AWARENESS: At least *some* community members have heard of local efforts, but little else.

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE READINESS: Goal: Raise community awareness

- Present information at local community events and unrelated community groups.
- Post educational flyers, posters and billboards.
- Initiate our own events to present information regarding suicide. Events should include incentives for attendance.
- Publish editorials and articles in newspapers and other media regarding local conditions surrounding suicide.

EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES:

About how many community members would support expanding efforts in the community to address *suicide*? Would you say none, a few, some, many or most?

Respondent: “I think a few.”

If more How might they show this support? For example, by passively supporting or by being actively involved in developing the efforts?

Respondent: "A few. I think they would be actively involved in developing efforts."