



# OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

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## **SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Department of Children and Families  
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

January 16, 2020

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

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## I. Introduction

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) within the Department of Children and Families (Department) is the state's legislatively designated mental health authority.<sup>i</sup> An integral part of the Office of SAMH is Florida's Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention (SOSP). Suicide is a leading cause of death nationally that significantly impacts families, schools, and communities. In 2018, **3,552** lives were lost to suicide in Florida. There is no single path that will lead to suicide. Rather, throughout life, a combination of factors, such as a serious mental illness, alcohol abuse, a painful loss, exposure to violence, or social isolation may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors.<sup>ii</sup>

Florida's suicide prevention efforts are coordinated through the SOSP, which is legislatively required to develop a network of community-based programs to improve suicide prevention initiatives, prepare and implement the statewide suicide prevention plan, increase public awareness concerning topics relating to suicide prevention, and coordinate education and training curricula in suicide prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons at risk of suicide within available resources.<sup>iii</sup>

The SOSP collaborates with the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) to prepare the statewide suicide prevention plan (Plan) and this annual report (Report). The SPCC consists of 27 voting members and one nonvoting member, representing law enforcement, mental health practitioners, suicide prevention experts, schools, family members, and state agencies. Department regional SAMH staff and managing entities attend meetings and participate in planning as nonvoting guests.

The SOSP hosts a webpage on the Department's website to educate the public on suicide prevention. It includes information about risk and protective factors as well as suicide prevention information specific to military families and veterans, teen and young adults, loss survivors, attempt survivors, and professionals. It also provides relevant resources on safe reporting, training, and the various ways to provide and seek help. The website includes a calendar of scheduled events that pertain to suicide prevention in Florida, the statewide suicide prevention plan, each year's report, as well as information about the SPCC, including membership, meeting times, and locations. The webpage can be accessed at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/prevention/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>

This Report addresses Florida's suicide prevention efforts and goal updates relative to the 2016-2020 Florida Suicide Prevention Plan. It also provides an overview of 2017 national suicide statistics and 2018 Florida suicide statistics.

## II. State Highlights

In coordination with other state agencies and community partners, the Department is working to reduce deaths by suicide in the state. Under the guidance of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, the leadership of Florida has taken a special interest in improving the mental health of Floridians and increasing the state's suicide prevention efforts. The First Lady established a campaign called "Hope for Healing Florida" with a website that provides suicide prevention and mental health information to individuals seeking help for behavioral health issues. In September 2019, the First Lady attended a special meeting of the SPCC that included leaders from many state agencies to discuss the impact of suicide on their respective populations and how to better collaborate on future suicide prevention activities. The focus of the meeting was the development of an interagency action plan that focuses on suicide prevention. Each state agency committed to contributing and working toward their own suicide prevention goals and reporting outcomes to the SOSP for inclusion in the Annual Report.

The First Lady has also been appointed to chair the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet). The Cabinet has decided to address teen suicide as a primary focus. In Florida, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in children ages 5-14 and third for ages 15-24. The Cabinet is working in collaboration with the SOSP to better understand the issues and identify possible strategies for Cabinet members to work toward.

The Florida Legislature has also taken an active interest in suicide prevention. The SOSP has responded to requests for information about suicide death data, availability of prevention care and intervention throughout the state, and possible approaches the state could take to reduce suicides. In September 2019, the SOSP had the opportunity to present suicide death data and participate in a panel discussion before the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

Leadership at the Department have taken a bold approach to organizing resources to be directed to one primary goal. This year Department Secretary Chad Poppell introduced a new strategic approach called the *4 Disciplines of Execution* also known as *4DX*. The Department's priority is to reduce the number of families in crisis. The Department will reach this goal by increasing pre-crisis contacts and reducing re-entry into crisis-based services such as admission to a crisis stabilization unit, inpatient psychiatric hospital, or detoxification unit. One strategy to work towards this goal is to increase prevention efforts, such as suicide prevention.

The result of this increased attention has led to increased participation amongst stakeholders. This year the SOSP received more responses to requests to complete the Suicide Prevention Activities form than in years past.

The Department is also leading efforts to ensure that service members, veterans, and their families can easily access behavioral health services and supports. Many service members demonstrate psychological distress resulting from the demands of military life and combat. They face critical issues such as trauma, suicide, homelessness, and criminal justice involvement.<sup>iv</sup> Suicide prevention efforts specific to service members, veterans, and their families is a special focus of the SOSP. Florida has the third largest veteran population in the nation, behind California and Texas. In 2017, over 1,525,400 veterans resided in Florida.



According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), exposure to traumatic events such as combat that causes losses and fears; injuries associated with combat; repeated deployment and relocation; and military sexual violence contribute to an increased need for behavioral health services in this population. The National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) identified four types of PTSD including war, terrorism, violence and abuse, and disaster that can affect veterans and their families.

Not all veterans qualify to receive behavioral health services through the Veteran's Administration (VA) and veterans may choose to access services through the community rather than the VA. According to the latest statistics available from the United States Census Bureau, 16% of veterans in Florida are uninsured.<sup>v</sup> The Peer Support Workgroup is a committee of the SOSP that is working towards veteran related issues. This year the workgroup added a training section to the Department's website and a link to PsychArmor Institute and used meetings as a platform for a statewide advisory committee to guide the focus of the Florida Veterans Support Line.

### **III. Suicide Data**

To better understand this complex public health problem and improve suicide prevention efforts, the SOSP and the SPCC continually review suicide data. One of the newest and most comprehensive data sources is the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). It is the only state-based reporting system that collects and categorizes data on violent deaths from state and local medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement, toxicology reports, and vital statistics records into an anonymous database. The NVDRS covers all types of violent deaths, including homicides and suicides, in all settings, and for all age groups. The NVDRS may include data on mental health problems, recent problems with employment, finances, or relationships, physical health problems, and information about circumstances of death. Participation in the NVDRS allows Florida the

ability to design and implement suicide prevention and intervention efforts based on these data.

The Department of Health is a participant in NVDRS through the name Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS). Three main data sources are used to provide a clearly defined synopsis of circumstances surrounding death, including suicide. Death certificate data from vital statistics is uploaded in the main database; cases through June 2019 have been imported. Data from FLVDRS is being collected and will enhance the data available for Florida in the future.

### III.A. National Data

National suicide data for 2017, which is the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is summarized below:

- The total number of deaths in the U.S. due to suicide was 47,173.<sup>vi</sup>
- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in the U.S.
- There was about one death every 11 minutes.<sup>vii</sup>
- There were 10.6 million adults that seriously thought about suicide.
- There were 3.2 million individuals who made a plan to die by suicide.
- There were 1.4 million individuals who attempted suicide.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey for 2017 showed the following results for high school students nationwide:<sup>viii</sup>

- 17.2% of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before they took the survey.
  - 22.1% prevalence for female students
  - 11.9% prevalence for male students
- 13.6% of high school students had made a plan on ways they would attempt suicide during the 12 months before they took the survey.
  - 17.1% prevalence for female students
  - 9.7% prevalence for male students
- 7.4% of high school students attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months before they took the survey.
  - 9.3% prevalence for female students
  - 5.1% prevalence for male students

Table 1 shows the 2017 national suicide deaths per age group. Notably, suicide was the second leading cause of death for individuals within the 5-14, 15-24, and 25-34 age groups, and the fourth leading cause of death for individuals within the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups. The 45-54 age group had the highest rate of suicide.

| Table 1: National Suicide Deaths in 2017  |                |                                   |                        |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Age Group   | Suicide Deaths | Crude Rate per 100,000 Population | Cause of Death Ranking |
| 5-14  | 522            | 1.27                              | 2                      |
| 15-24   | 6,252          | 14.46                             | 2                      |
| 25-34   | 7,948          | 17.53                             | 2                      |
| 35-44   | 7,335          | 17.94                             | 4                      |
| 45-54   | 8,561          | 20.20                             | 4                      |
| 55-64   | 7,982          | 19.01                             | 8                      |
| 65+   | 8,568          | 16.85                             | -                      |
| Unknown   | 5              | -                                 | -                      |
| Source: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS (NCHS), NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM <sup>x</sup> |                |                                   |                        |

### III.B. Florida Data

Due to the differing time frames, we will not compare the Florida data to the national data. The most current data available for Florida that relates to suicide, as reported in the *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2018)*,<sup>x</sup> is summarized below:

- The total number of deaths by suicide in 2018 was 3,552, which is an increase from 3,187 in 2017.
- Suicide was the eighth leading cause of death in Florida.
- The crude suicide rate per 100,000 population was 16.9. This is an increase from 2017 (15.5).

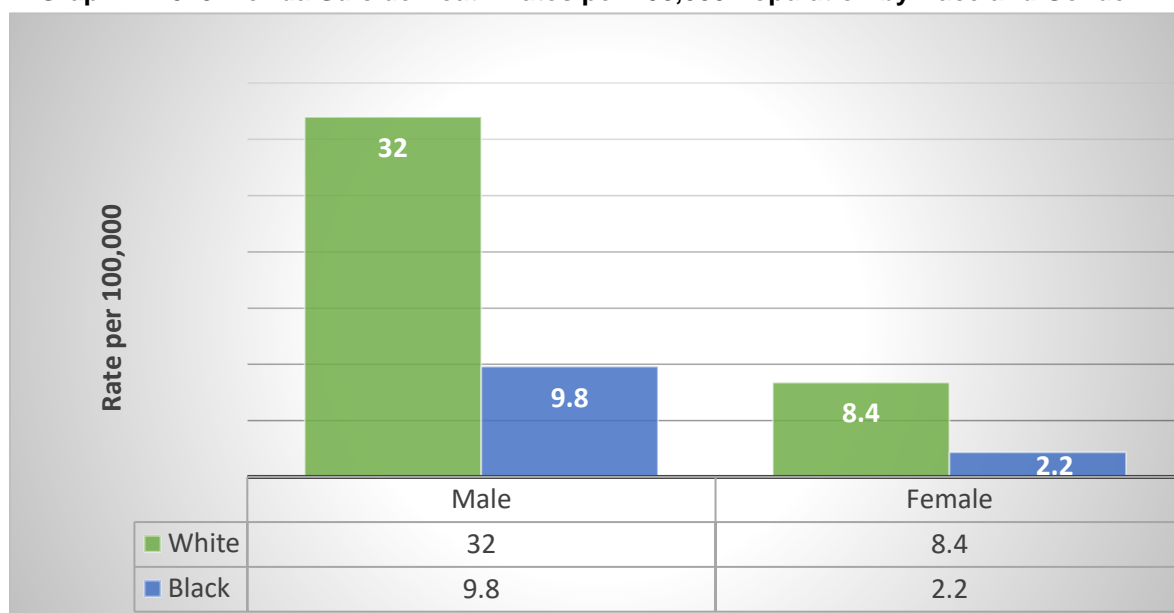
The Crisis Text Line is a free support available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for those in crisis. Individuals can text 741741 from anywhere in the United States to text with a trained counselor. According to a review of the first 100 million text messages, the Crisis Text Line<sup>xi</sup> found that Florida ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among states for individuals who texted the line experiencing anxiety and stress and Floridians feel the loneliest on Sunday and Monday nights.

Table 2 shows the numbers of Florida suicide deaths per age group. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals within the 25-34 age group. Although the death rate by unintentional injury is four times higher than deaths by suicide for this age range, suicide remains the second leading cause of death followed by homicide, cancer, and heart disease. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for individuals within the 15-24 age group and the fourth leading cause of death for individuals within the 5-14, 35-44, and 45-54 age groups.

| Table 2: Florida Suicide Deaths in 2018  |                |                                   |                        |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Age Group  | Suicide Deaths | Crude Rate per 100,000 Population | Cause of Death Ranking |
| 5-14   | 21             | 0.9                               | 4                      |
| 15-24  | 296            | 12.0                              | 3                      |
| 25-34  | 427            | 15.6                              | 2                      |
| 35-44  | 504            | 20.0                              | 4                      |
| 45-54  | 603            | 21.8                              | 4                      |
| 55-64  | 737            | 26.4                              | 8                      |
| 65-74  | 473            | 20.3                              | 12                     |
| 75-84  | 338            | 25.8                              | 15                     |
| 85+  | 153            | 27.7                              | 18                     |
| Total  | 3552           | 16.9                              | 8                      |
| Data Source: TABLE D-11: RESIDENT DEATHS FOR SELECTED CAUSES, BY AGE GROUPS, BY COUNTY, FLORIDA, 2017: <i>Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2018)</i> <sup>xii</sup> |                |                                   |                        |

Graph 1 shows that suicide rates for white and black males were higher than the rates for white and black females. The suicide rate for white males was the highest, while the rate for black females was the lowest. Latinx (Latinx is the term used for Latinos and Latinas) data by gender is unavailable, but the suicide rate for this population was 8.9.

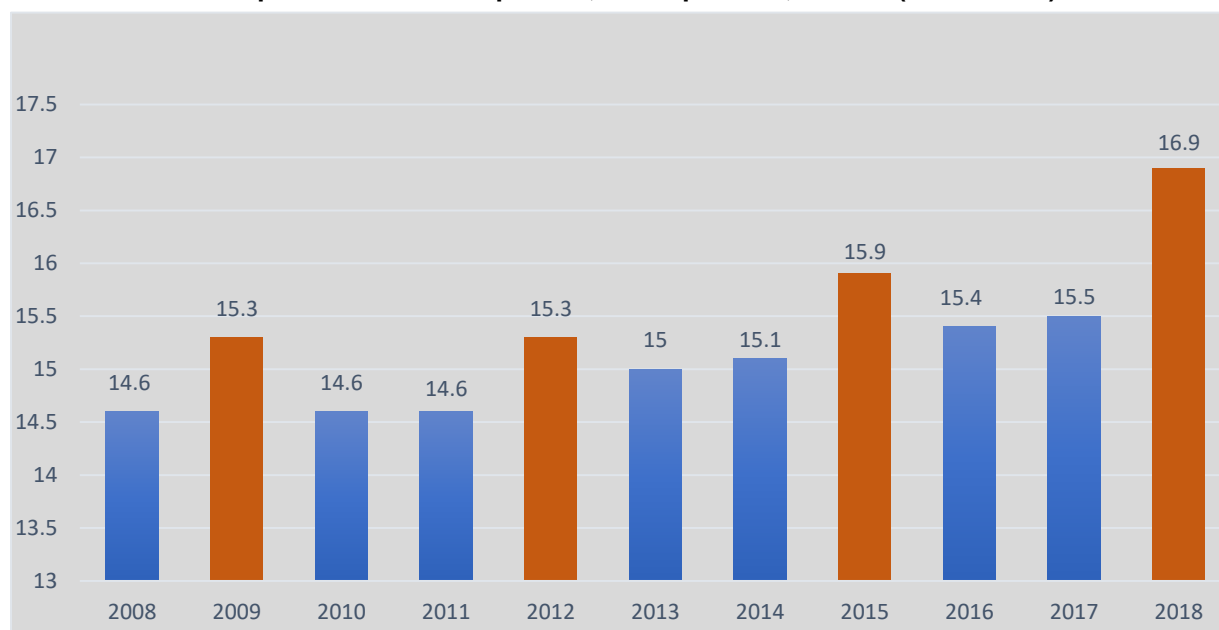
**Graph 1: 2018 Florida Suicide Death Rates per 100,000 Population by Race and Gender<sup>xiii</sup>**





Graph 2 shows an increase in the suicide rate from 2008 to 2018. A three-year cycle begins in 2009 with the rate remaining the same for 2010 and 2011 and then increasing in 2012. This three-year trend continues until 2018. The 2018 suicide death rate was the highest at 16.9 while the lowest was in 2008, 2010, and 2011.

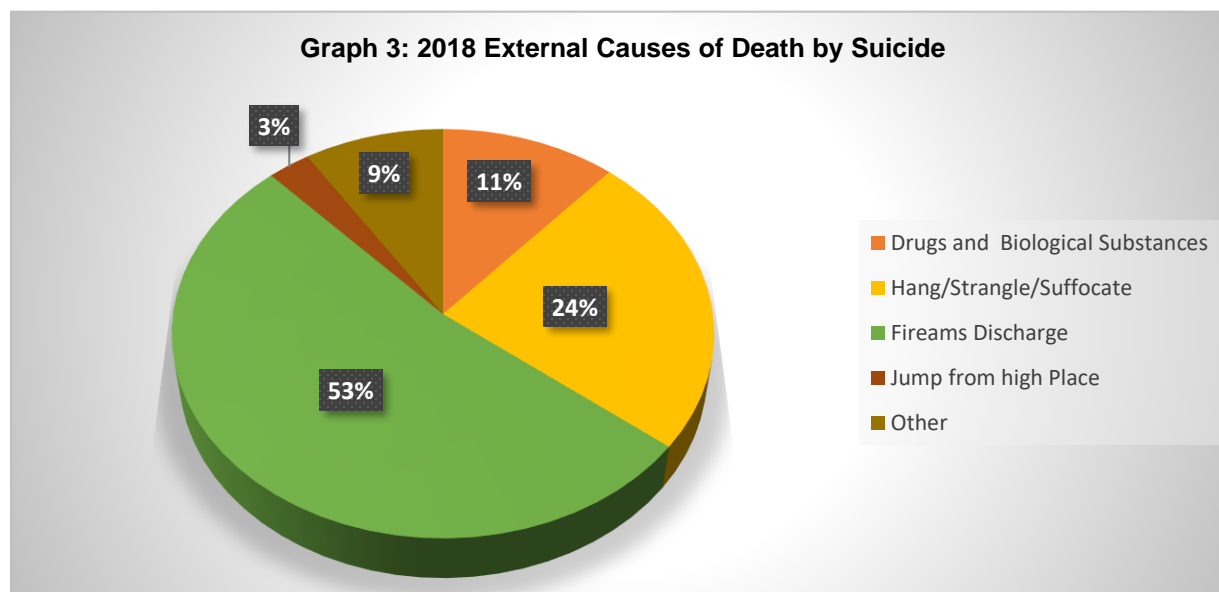
**Graph 2: Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population, Florida (2008 - 2018)**



Data Sources: CHART D-13: RESIDENT SUICIDE DEATHS AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY RACE AND GENDER, FLORIDA, CENSUS YEARS 1970-2000 AND 2008-2018: FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2018)

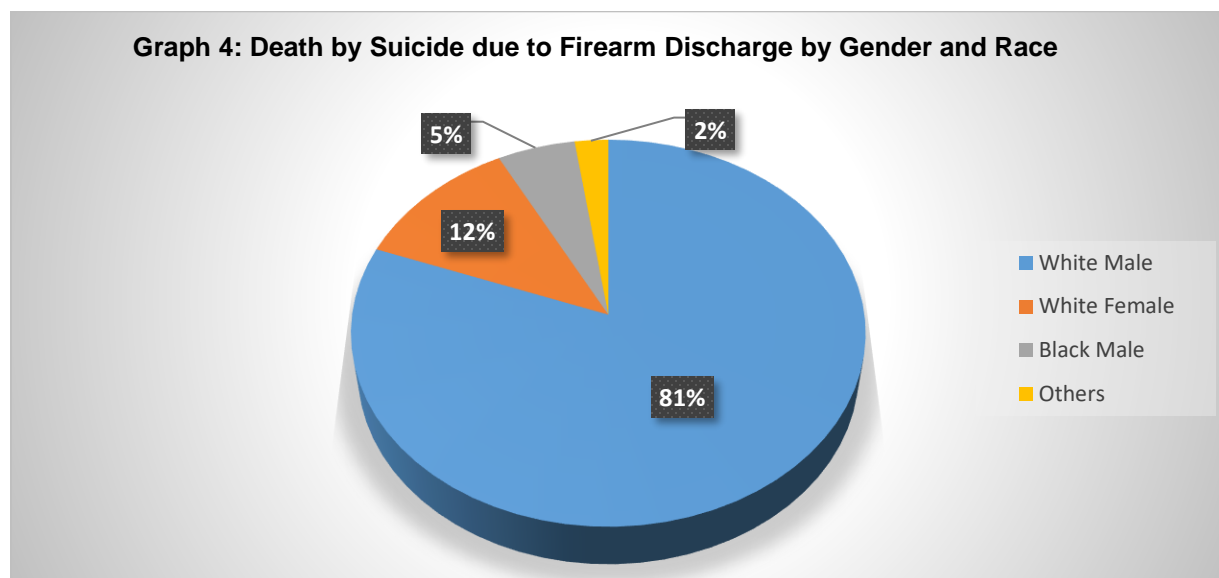
Graph 3 shows that of the Floridians that died by suicide, more than 53% were due to firearm discharges, followed by hanging/strangling/suffocation at 24%.

**Graph 3: 2018 External Causes of Death by Suicide**



Data Sources: TABLE D-10 (Cont.): RESIDENT DEATHS FOR 358 CAUSE GROUPS, BY AGE GROUP, FLORIDA: *FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2018)*<sup>xiv</sup>

Graph 4 shows that of the deaths by suicide from firearm discharge, 81% were white males while 12% were white females.



Data Sources: TABLE D-10 (Cont.): RESIDENT DEATHS FOR 358 CAUSE GROUPS, BY AGE GROUP, FLORIDA: *FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2018)*<sup>xv</sup>

## IV. Statewide Suicide Prevention Goals

In 2001, the U.S. Surgeon General issued the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (National Strategy) to launch an organized effort to prevent suicide across the nation. Updated in 2012, the revised National Strategy represented a new approach to enlisting all states in the effort to prevent suicide. Florida's plan has adopted the national strategic direction.

### IV.A. Florida's 2016-2020 Suicide Prevention Plan

The Florida Suicide Prevention Plan is a collaboration between the SPCC and the SOSP. Section 14.20195(a), F.S., requires the SPCC to advise the SOSP "regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a preventable problem."

The purpose of the Plan is to guide statewide efforts to decrease suicide-related deaths through a framework of goals and objectives that coordinate suicide prevention activities at the state and local levels. The Plan can be viewed on the Department's SOSP website.

Table 3 outlines the 2016-2020 Florida Suicide Prevention Plan's strategic directions, goals, and objectives.

**Table 3: 2016-2020 State Plan for Suicide Prevention**

| Strategic Direction   | Goal  | Objective(s)  | 2019 Updates   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families, and Communities</b> | 1. Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.   | 1.1 Integrate suicide prevention into the values, culture, leadership, and workplace of a broad range of organizations, programs, and schools with a role to support suicide prevention activities.<br>1.2 Establish effective, sustainable, and collaborative suicide prevention programming at the state, tribal, and local levels. | 1.1 Twenty-eight (28) organizations integrated and coordinated suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.<br><br>1.2 The Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project and the Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention project were implemented at the local level.   |
|   | 2. Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.                                | 2.1 Reduce prejudice, stigma, and discrimination associated with suicidal behaviors and mental and substance use disorders.   | 2.1 About 43,984 individuals were exposed to suicide prevention knowledge which included information on reducing stigma, prejudice, and discrimination.  |
| <b>Clinical and Community Preventive Services</b>                   | 3. Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors.                                       | 3.1 Encourage community-based settings to implement effective evidence-based programs and provide education to promote wellness.<br>3.2 Intervene to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviors in populations with suicide risk.   | 3.1 Twenty-three (23) organizations implemented and monitored effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors.<br>3.2 About 4,083 individuals were screened for suicide risk. The Department of Education created a list of suicide risk assessment instruments and provided guidelines for schools to become Suicide Prevention Certified Schools.  |
|   | 4. Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers.   | 4.1 Update and modify suicide prevention trainings to meet the provider's specific needs and roles.   | 4.1 About 101 trainings were held. Some trainings were modified to meet the provider's specific needs while others were implemented with complete fidelity.  |
| <b>Treatment and Support Services</b>                               | 5. Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.  | 5.1 Promote timely access to assessment, intervention, and effective care for individuals with heightened risks for suicide.<br>5.2 Establish linkages between providers of mental health and substance abuse services and primary care and community-based programs, including peer support programs.                                | 5.1 About 18 organizations worked on promoting suicide prevention for individuals at high risk for suicide. The Department of Health, SPCC, and SOSP began focusing on high risk populations.<br>5.2 The Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project and the Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention project established linkages. The Peer Support Workgroup focused on peer support for service members, veterans, and their families. |
|   | 6. Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors. | 6.1 Adopt, disseminate, and implement guidelines for the assessment of suicide risk among persons receiving care in all settings.<br>6.2 Adopt, disseminate, and implement guidelines for clinical practice and continuity of care for providers who treat persons with suicide risks.  | 6.1 and 6.2 Twenty organizations worked on promoting and implementing effective practices for assessing and treating individuals at high risk.   |
| <b>Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation</b>                       | 7. Increase the usefulness of national and state-level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention efforts.  | 7.1 Identify available data to guide suicide prevention efforts.  | 7.1 The SPCC identified NVDRS as an important tool to capture data to guide suicide prevention efforts. The Department of Health began piloting the Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS).   |

To learn more about statewide suicide prevention activities, the SOSOP asked stakeholders to complete a survey to capture all suicide prevention related efforts from January 2019 through June 2019. This information was analyzed and is presented in Table 4.

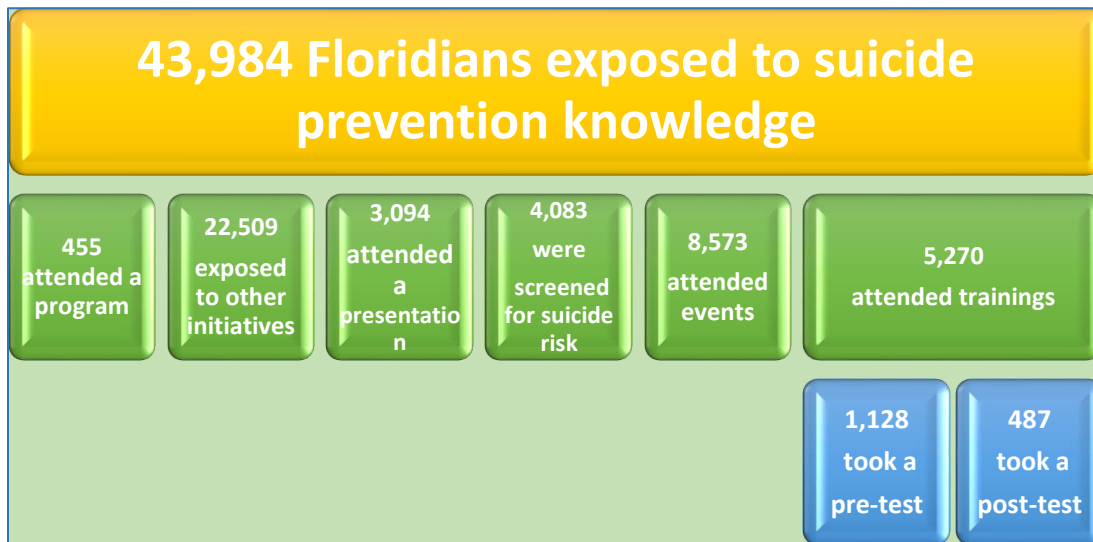
#### **IV.B. Increasing Public Knowledge of Suicide Prevention**

Increasing public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promoting wellness and recovery is a priority in Florida's prevention efforts. Hosting informational tables at events, holding events that focus on suicide prevention, or facilitating presentations on the topic are methods for increasing public awareness of suicide prevention.

From January to June 2019, 34,176 individuals were exposed to general information about suicide prevention through attendance at presentations, events, and other initiatives. This is an increase from 14,160 individuals who were exposed to a suicide prevention activity in 2018. In total, 43,984 individuals were exposed to suicide prevention from January to June 2019. Examples of exposure to general suicide prevention information include attending events such as Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol or Empowering Communities to Save Lives, integrating Jason Foundation resources or Ending the Silence curriculum into schools, and providing Question Persuade Refer Gate Keeper or Mental Health First Aid training. Exposure to suicide prevention information usually took place in a nonprofit community and faith-based organization followed by organizations categorized as health care systems, insurers, and clinicians.

Graph 5 shows that 5,270 individuals increased their knowledge on ways to help someone who is suicidal, the risk and protective factors, as well as ways to prevent deaths by suicide. This is an increase from 3,450 in 2018.

Graph 5: Exposure to Suicide Prevention Knowledge



#### IV.C. The 2021-2023 Suicide Prevention Action Plan

To guide the next three-year phase of suicide prevention efforts in Florida, a 2021-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan is in development. The First Lady and the Department's Secretary spearheaded efforts to garner support from other state agencies to take a more active role in suicide prevention efforts. The Action Plan will include goals from each state agency member of the SPCC. The outcomes in relation to those goals will be reported to the SOSP and included in the next Report.

To support these activities, the SPCC formed a committee co-chaired by the Department of Health (DOH) which meets weekly to review proposed goals and action items for the new Action Plan. The committee selected SAMSHA's *Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Strategic Planning Approach for Suicide Prevention* to use as a framework. Diagram 1 shows the steps the committee is following to develop the Action Plan.

Diagram 1: Strategic Planning Approach to Suicide Prevention



#### V. Grants

There are four major federal grants operating in Florida to assist with suicide prevention efforts. The SOSP partners with several of these grants and the SPCC members

administer others. Grants are an important source of funding for suicide prevention activities. Their efforts and activities completed to date are highlighted below.

### **V.A. National Violent Death Reporting System**

In September 2018, the DOH began participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Emergency Department Surveillance of Nonfatal Suicide-Related Outcomes grant. The grant is up for renewal in 2022. The DOH provides an update about the status of FLVDRS at every SPCC meeting. A SPCC workgroup will create the messaging protocols for dissemination of FLVDRS data through objectives conducted under the State Health Improvement Plan, coordinated by DOH. Activities of the grant completed to date include:

- Establishing a partnership with the University of South Florida and the University of Florida;
- Selecting 13 counties to pilot FLVDRS;
- Beginning data collection; and
- Identifying organizations and members to join the advisory committee.

### **V.B. Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (FINS) Project**

The FINS Project is a partnership between the SOSOP, the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF), and Florida Hospital. Using a mentorship model, FINS adopted and integrated the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The project ensures that health and behavioral health settings as well as adult-serving systems are prepared to identify, engage, and treat at-risk adults by using culturally competent, evidence based/best-practice suicide prevention, treatment, safety planning, and care coordination services.

The FINS project implemented a Zero Suicide initiative using a system wide approach to improve outcomes and close gaps at the AdventHealth Kissimmee (AHK) pilot site. The initiative views the death by suicide of an individual under a health or behavioral health system as preventable. Major grant activities completed to date for year one and year two are summarized below:

- Expanded the Zero Suicide initiative, trainings, and Care Coordination program to AdventHealth Orlando (AHO) Emergency Department
- Conducted 56 *Question Persuade Refer* (QPR) trainings to over 770 participants
- Developed a screening tool to be embedded into AHK and AHO's electronic medical record system

- Developed 13 partnerships with a wide-range of community organizations
- Conducted 11 *Safety Planning – A LINC to Life* trainings to 113 participants
- Conducted 12 *LINC- Care Coordination* trainings to 189 participants
- Trained 63 mental health professionals in *Question Persuade Refer Treat* (QPR-T)
- Conducted a 40-hour *Dialectical Behavioral Treatment* training to 29 mental health community partner staff
- Two UCF Master of Social Work Student interns worked at AHK and AHO to assist with *LINC Care Coordination* activities

### **V.C. Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC) Project**

Funding ended in September 2019 for the FL LINC Project, a Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program, but the grant is currently operating through a no cost extension. FL LINC is a partnership between the SOSF, Florida Behavioral Health Association, UCF, USF, and three managing entities. Beginning in 2015, innovative strategies were developed to enhance services reaching at-risk priority populations. Grant activities have targeted the central, southeast, and northeast regions of the state. The goal of the grant is to increase the number of agencies, organizations, schools, and groups working together to implement suicide-prevention initiatives, in addition to improving care coordination services to at-risk youth ages 10-24. Major grant activities completed from January 2019 to June 2019 are summarized below:

- Conducted 54 QPR trainings to 930 individuals
- Conducted QPR-T training to 37 professionals
- Conducted 6 *LINC Training and Care Coordination* trainings to 81 individuals
- Conducted 12 *Family Trainings for Suicide Prevention* to 198 individuals
- Distributed 4,387 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline materials and 2,000 USF Family Guides at events, meetings, and trainings

### **V.D. Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE)**

The Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) Project AWARE focused on building and expanding the capacity of state and local educational agencies to address mental health issues among school-aged youth. The Project AWARE grant ended on September 30, 2019. In the last year of the grant, FDOE collaborated with SEDNET to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) trainings in schools. The YMHFA trainings focus on how to detect and respond to behavioral health issues in youth and connect youth and families with appropriate services and supports when needed. The collaborative efforts resulted in the following outputs during the 2018-2019 school year:

- 705 certified YMHFA instructors



- 16,013 youth certified in YMHFA

## **VI. Council Recommendations**

The SPCC makes four recommendations to decrease deaths by suicide in Florida and to mobilize resources toward achieving goals outlined in Florida's Suicide Prevention Plan. The four recommendations are presented below.

### **VI.A. Expand Efforts for Veterans and Their Families**

Expand on current U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Florida Departments/Agencies, and community partnerships. An example of current collaboration efforts is the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay 2-1-1 Crisis Line and the Commissioner's Challenge in Hillsborough County. Currently various stakeholders maintain service provider resource databases, but they are neither connected, cross-referenced, nor updated with any frequency. The expansion of existing partnerships with stakeholders performing similar services within communities would provide more options to assist underserved veterans and their families by improving coordination, providing greater access to resources, and reducing redundancy in services provided. This educational outreach would eliminate existing silos and stimulate collaboration and sharing of information.

Accomplishing this objective requires stakeholder education and a willingness from these stakeholders to collaborate and share existing resources, coupled with a centralized database to link resources. The cost, if any, would be the cost to link databases or create a single-comprehensive database. Two database directories are under development: Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's 2-1-1 resource directory and the Department's Florida Network of Care. This objective also requires education for stakeholders on veterans benefit eligibility, specifically that regardless of discharge/separation status from military service, all veterans may receive social and mental health services from Veterans Affairs and community-based service programs. At end-state, the collaboration would significantly reduce service providers that work in silos, and veterans would have access to more benefits and services.

### **VI.B. Focus on Suicide Prevention at the Local Level**

The SPCC recommends that the Department be funded to add capacity to the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention with 7 positions for regional suicide prevention specialists. The purpose is to increase suicide prevention efforts at the local level. For example, stakeholder responses to the two-year implementation assessment of the 2016-2020 Florida Suicide Prevention Plan showed that support is needed from a full-time prevention specialist to focus local efforts on the implementation of the suicide prevention plan. Additional responsibilities of regional suicide prevention specialists are to develop and



implement local suicide prevention action plans and further efforts to implement suicide prevention models such as Zero Suicide. It is recommended that the regional suicide prevention specialist be a certified Mental Health First Aid trainer and a gatekeeper trainer.

#### **VI.C. Add Florida Violent Death Reporting System to Statute**

The Florida Violent Death Reporting System will soon begin collecting data from thirteen (13) counties: Miami-Dade, Duval, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Nassau, Hamilton, Clay, and Columbia. A contract is in place with the University of South Florida for medical and law enforcement report abstraction, outreach to law enforcement entities, and technical assistance with reviewing and analyzing FLVDRS data. The SPCC recommends that FLVDRS be statutorily mandated and funded beyond the life of the grant award. An example of a state that included NVDRS into its statutory language is Ohio ([see Chapter 3701.01, Section 3701.93, Ohio violent death reporting system](#)).

#### **VI.D. Expand Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices**

Fund the Department to implement evidence-based practices that focus on suicide prevention and intervention. The Department would create a grant program to fund evidence-based suicide prevention programs in schools and communities and Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Suicide Prevention (CBT-SP). CBT-SP is an evidence-based therapeutic approach to prevent re-attempts of suicide. It uses a risk-reduction, relapse prevention approach that includes an analysis of risk factors and stressors (e.g., relationship problems, school or work-related difficulties) leading up to and following the suicide attempt; safety plan development; skill building; and psychoeducation. CBT-SP utilizes family skill modules focused on family support and communication patterns as well as improving the family's problem-solving skills.

## APPENDIX 1

### JANUARY – JUNE 2019 SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES BY GOAL

#### Goal 1: Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings

| Date   | Event   | # Individuals |
|--|---|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b>                                      |   |               |
| 1/9, 2/6 & 4/3   | CDAC Behavioral Healthcare attended the Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting  | 58            |
| Yearly   | DISC Village, Inc. integrated Jason Foundation suicide prevention resources into school programs  | 1000          |
| 3/21   | The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, SOSF, and SPCC coordinated <i>Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol</i>   | 56            |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>                                      |   |               |
| 4/21   | Alachua County Crisis Center presented at the <i>Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women Conference</i>   | 100           |
| 1/22   | Flagler Hospital partnered with Stewart Marchman Act's Zero Suicide initiative as a referral source   | 4             |
| Ongoing  | Mental Health Resource Center identified and removed ligature risks throughout inpatient facilities and implemented mitigation strategies to include suicide risk identification and levels of monitoring | -             |
| 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23 & 5/28                                | SMA Healthcare held Zero Suicide Leadership meetings  | 96            |
| <b>Central Region</b>  |   |               |
| 4/28   | Central Florida Cares Health System attended the 2019 <i>NAMI Walk</i>  | 0             |
| Monthly  | Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Central Region attended the Broward Mental Health Planning Committee monthly meetings                                     | 20            |
| 6/14 & 6/19  | Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition distributed <i>Hernando Cares Behavioral Resource Guide</i> and the <i>Veteran Toolkit</i> at two events  | 312           |
| 1/22, 4/15 & 4/23  | The Centers, Inc. met with local representatives to increase awareness of suicide and the need for funding  | 15            |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>                                       |   |               |
| 3/31, 6/6, 6/18, & 6/25                                      | Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs held four (4) <i>Forward March Veteran Issues Forums</i>  | 317           |
| 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13 & 6/10                           | Suncoast Center, Inc. attended six (6) meetings regarding the Pinellas Behavioral Health System of Care Workgroup Zero Suicide Collective Impact Initiative   | 172           |
| 5/16   | Suncoast Center, Inc. collaborated with St Petersburg College with the <i>Garret Lee Smith Campus Grant</i>   | -             |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>                                      |   |               |
| 2/25   | Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Inc. met with the guidance Department to discuss suicide prevention   | 12            |
| <b>Southern Region</b>                                       |   |               |
| 2/21   | Community Health of South Florida, Inc. held Family <i>Literacy Night</i>   | 27            |
| 2/2, 2/15, 3/5, 3/7, 3/8, 6/29, 4/19, 4/24, 4/29, 5/7 & 5/22 | Monroe County Coalition disseminated the <i>Suicide Prevention Brochure</i> at 10 different events  | 4,184         |

**Goal 2: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery**

| Date                    | Event  | # Individuals |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b> |  |               |
| 1/31                    | Capital Regional Medical Center and DISC village, Inc. co-hosted <i>The Jason Foundation Suicide Prevention Awareness</i> event  | 500           |
| 3/19 & 3/20             | SOSP attended and presented at the <i>Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention</i> Conference  | -             |
| 1/1                     | SOSP wrote the <i>Suicide Prevention Day</i> proclamation  | -             |
| Monthly                 | The Department of Children and Families' suicide prevention website had 7, 309 hits from January 1, 2019 to June 11, 2019. SOSP updated the website and added a training section                       | 7,309         |
| 3/14                    | The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition held a <i>Foster Parent and Caseworker Suicide Prevention</i> training  | 15            |
| 1/31 & 3/20             | The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition held a table display at <i>The Jason Foundation Suicide Prevention Awareness</i> event and at The Big Bend Hospice <i>Lighting the Darkness</i> event         | 75            |
| 3/25                    | The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition presented to the Florida Parent Teacher Association   | 150           |
| <b>Northeast Region</b> |  |               |
| 1/30, 3/21, 4/13 & 4/16 | Alachua County Crisis Center participated at the <i>Student Wellness Day</i> , served as a panelist to discuss group counseling, showed the film <i>Not Alone</i> , and presented <i>Youth Suicide</i> | 180           |
| 4/18 & 5/9              | Cathedral Foundation, Inc. and Urban Jax organized two meetings that discussed <i>Psychoeducation on Prevention</i> and <i>Suicide Risk in Older Adults</i>  | 22            |
| Various dates           | Children's Home Society of Florida provided eight (8) trainings regarding Mobile Response Teams and Suicide Prevention   | 165           |
| 1/22 & 2/4              | Children's Home Society of Florida provided wellness trainings to staff and to the school board  | 35            |
| 6/12                    | Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. provided <i>Moving Up</i> , a school-based program   | 203           |
| 5/23                    | SMA Healthcare and the House Next Door attended <i>The Flagler County Suicide Prevention Town Hall</i> meeting   | 35            |
| Various dates           | SMA Healthcare provided various <i>Question, Persuade &amp; Refer</i> (QPR) trainings  | 218           |
| As scheduled            | Volunteers of America conducted suicide assessments during prescreening and completed <i>The BECK Depression Scale</i> during admissions   | 55            |
| <b>Central Region</b>   |  |               |
| As scheduled            | Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care conducted 12 <i>Family Trainings for Suicide Prevention</i>   | 198           |
| As scheduled            | Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care conducted 6 <i>LINC Training and Care Coordination</i> trainings  | 81            |
| Ongoing                 | Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care distributed National Suicide Prevention Lifeline materials and <i>USF Family Guides</i> at various events, meetings, and trainings.                           | 6,387         |
| 3/8                     | Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition provided a <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for adults  | 12            |

**Goal 2: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery**

| <b>Date</b>                           | <b>Event</b>   | <b># Individuals</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1/28, 2/15 & 2/27                     | The Centers, Inc. attended 4 meetings with different organizations including: The Mobile Response Team, The Health Department, and a local hospital system   | 32                   |
| 1/31                                  | The Centers, Inc. held an annual community training  | 55                   |
| 2/5                                   | The Centers, Inc. was interviewed by a newspaper   | 4                    |
| 3/15                                  | Van Gogh's Palette provided one QPR training   | 6                    |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>                |  |                      |
| 5/18                                  | Suncoast Center, Inc. served as a panelist on <i>Faith-based Organization, Mental Health and Veterans and Families Suicide Prevention/Postvention Forum</i>  | -                    |
| 5/18                                  | The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition held a table display at the <i>Faith-based Organization, Mental Health and Veterans and Families Suicide Prevention/Postvention Forum</i>   | -                    |
| 2/13                                  | The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition presented at Bayside Community Church   | 20                   |
| 5/18                                  | Veterans Counseling Veterans held the <i>Faith-based Organization, Mental Health and Veterans and Families Suicide Prevention/Postvention Forum</i>  | 135                  |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>               |  |                      |
| 1/18, 1/25, 2/21, 3/6, 3/15, 5/6, 6/5 | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast attended the Action Alliance on Mental Health meeting, the VA and community Suicide Prevention Task Force meetings, WPB VA Mental Health Summit Committee meeting, West Palm Beach Mental Health Coalition meeting, and <i>Get Your Green On for Mental Health Awareness Month</i> meeting | 116                  |
| 3/25, 3/28 & 6/6                      | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast discussed the suicide death of a Sandy Hook individual at WPTV TV 5 and CBS TV 12. Also discussed resiliency of crisis workers and suicide prevention with WPTV TV 5.  | -                    |
| 2/1                                   | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast distributed the 211 Awareness Month Proclamations  | 500                  |
| 1/22, 1/30 & 1/31                     | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast held a training at St. Lucie County Sheriff Department   | 37                   |
| 2/27 & 5/18                           | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast held an informational table at <i>Boca Raton Chabad- Mental Health Through My Eyes</i> event and at <i>the Family Mental Health &amp; Wellness Festival</i>  | 215                  |
| 1/29, 3/25, 4/15 & 5/2                | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast presented at the following locations: Palm Beach State College Mental Health Forum, Palm Beach State College Diversity & Mental Health Event, Boca Raton Community Alliance for Mental Health, and Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations                                      | 330                  |
| 2/18 & 6/7                            | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast worked with Palm Beach State College Counseling Center's Collaborative Project and attended the Student Mental Health Summit held by the Palm Beach School District  | 245                  |
| 1/21                                  | Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Inc. presented <i>Teen Suicide Risk and Violent Behaviors</i> and <i>Stress Coping Strategies</i>  | 90                   |
| 3/2 & 5/2                             | Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Inc. provided information and resources during <i>Mental Health Awareness Month</i> and during <i>National School Counseling Week</i>  | 17                   |
| 4/29                                  | Hanley Foundation attended the Mind and Body Institute training on <i>Mindfulness</i>  | -                    |
| 1/19-6/30                             | Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health's Mobile Crisis presented and attended 15 different events  | 400                  |

**Goal 2: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery**

| Date                              | Event   | # Individuals |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 3/5 & 5/13                        | National Alliance on Mental Illness Palm Beach County held two <i>Ending the Silence</i> trainings  | 34            |
| 4/1                               | Tykes & Teens Inc. provided a Facebook live on the topic of <i>Suicide: Survivor's Guilt &amp; Contagion</i>                              | 330           |
| 3/4                               | Tykes & Teens Inc. reviewed statistics of at-risk individuals   | 80            |
| <b>Southern Region</b>            |   |               |
| 4/9                               | Guidance Care Center held a <i>Suicide Awareness Trivia</i> at a middle school  | 123           |
| 2/15                              | Guidance Care Center participated in the <i>Random Acts of Kindness Day</i> and <i>Be Above Bullying with Suicide Prevention</i>          | 1251          |
| 3/2                               | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. held a mental health awareness workshop at Florida International University North Campus | 27            |
| 4/3                               | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. participated in the <i>Suicide Awareness Talk</i> at Miami Dade College Wolfson          | 54            |
| 5/30                              | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. was a guest on the PBS Channel 2 with Baptist Hospital to discuss mental health          | -             |
| 1/8 & 5/30                        | Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department provided 2 suicide prevention trainings   | 11            |
| 4/29, 5/24, 5/30, 5/31, 6/3 & 6/4 | NAMI Miami-Dade County, Inc. provided <i>Ending the Silence</i> program in 3 high schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 elementary schools     | 191           |
| 5/4                               | Passageway held the <i>Annual Mental Health Fair and Family</i> event   | 150           |

**Goal 3: Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors**

| Date                                | Event   | # Individuals |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b>             |   |               |
| -                                   | None reported   | -             |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>             |   |               |
| 2/26                                | Alachua County Crisis Center attended <i>The Aging and Mental Health</i> event  | 904           |
| 1/1                                 | SMA Healthcare implemented Care Coordination for <i>Zero Suicide</i>  | -             |
| <b>Central Region</b>               |   |               |
| Ongoing                             | Aspire Health Partners Managed the FL LINC <i>Zero Suicide</i> Care Coordination Youth Program in Orange County and facilitated suicide prevention and life skills groups for individuals in Acute Care | 0             |
| 6/1                                 | Eckerd Connects E-Nini-Hassee provided the <i>Seeking Safety</i> training   | 26            |
| 5/1                                 | Eckerd Connects E-Nini-Hassee provided <i>Voices</i> , a youth curriculum   | 26            |
| Various days                        | Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care conducted 54 <i>Question Refer Persuade</i> (QPR) training   | 930           |
| Various days                        | Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care conducted <i>Question Refer Persuade and Treat</i> (QPR-T) training  | 37            |
| 6/18                                | Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition attended <i>Life Skills</i> training provided by BayCare  | 31            |
| 1/11, 5/1, 5/31, 5/28 & school year | Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition coordinated four (4) events and one (1) public service announcement regarding <i>You're Not Alone</i> program   | 2,292         |
| Daily                               | Van Gogh's Palette engaged members in accredited clubhouse community  | 88            |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>              |   |               |

**Goal 3: Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors**

| Date                            | Event   | # Individuals |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| -                               | None Reported   | -             |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>         |   |               |
| 1/1                             | Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. utilized <i>Seeking Safety</i> in all treatment programs to identify and reduce risk factors   | -             |
| 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/8, & 6/11 | New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee held 6 QPR trainings  | 69            |
| 2/22                            | New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee held one (1) QPRT training  | 3             |
| <b>Southern Region</b>          |   |               |
| 6/28                            | Community Action and Human Services Department provided <i>Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy</i> and <i>Dialectical Behavior Therapy</i> , <i>Seeking Safety</i> , <i>Mindfulness</i> as well as recreational activities | 132           |
| 3/31                            | Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center held a discussion on suicide prevention  | 75            |
| 4/4                             | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. held one (1) QPR training in Miami Dade College Wolfson  | 59            |
| Ongoing                         | Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department utilized the <i>GAIN-Q</i> assessment tool  | -             |

**Goal 4: Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers**

| Date                                     | Event   | # Individuals |
|--|---|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b>                  |   |               |
| 3/15 & 5/23                              | CDAC Behavioral Healthcare provided two (2) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for adults  | 35            |
| 4/3 & 5/3                                | CDAC Behavioral Healthcare provided two (2) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for youth   | 32            |
| Yearly                                   | DISC Village, Inc. added Jason Foundation <i>Suicide Awareness</i> online training sessions to all in-school staff annual training plans  | 34            |
| 2/18, 4/19, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/17 & 6/25 | Escambia County School District, Mental Health Services provided seven (7) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for youth  | 528           |
| 3/19 & 3/20                              | Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition coordinated the <i>Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention</i> conference   | 55            |
| 3/19                                     | Veterans Counseling Veterans presented at the <i>Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention</i> conference  | -             |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>                  |   |               |
| 4/18 & 4/27                              | Alachua Crisis Center presented at the University of Florida on <i>Working with Clients in Crisis and Trauma</i> and worked on collaborative care for suicidal youth  | 40            |
| 4/17 & 5/16                              | Daniel Memorial, Inc. provided suicide awareness training to teachers at the <i>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Conference</i> for Duval County Public Schools and attended the <i>National Foster Care Conference- Youth Depression and Suicide</i> training | 25            |
| 1/23                                     | Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems held the <i>Human Trafficking Summit</i> with a suicide workshop   | 118           |
| 5/23                                     | Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems presented at the <i>Rural and Faith-Based Substance Abuse Summit</i>   | 202           |



**Goal 4: Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Event</b>   | <b># Individuals</b> |
|--|--|----------------------|
| 5/16, 5/19, & various dates                              | Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems provided <i>QPR</i> training, <i>Compassion Fatigue</i> training, <i>High Fidelity Wraparound</i> training, <i>Wellness Recovery Action Plan</i> training, and <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for adults | 343                  |
| Ongoing  | Mental Health Resource Center provided suicide awareness training to new staff   | 100                  |
| Various dates  | Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. provided 33 <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings  | 542                  |
| 1/11, 1/19, 2/1, 3/2, 4/5, 4/19, 4/20, 4/29, 5/15 & 5/18 | Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare provided 10 <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings  | 163                  |
| <b>Central Region</b>                                    |  |                      |
| 1/29, 2/11, 3/22, 3/26 & 5/22                            | Central Florida Cares Health System held 5 <i>QPR</i> trainings  | 69                   |
| 1/30 & 6/30  | Eckerd Connects E-Nini-Hassee provided an instructor led suicide prevention training and a computer based-suicide prevention training  | 44                   |
| 1/31   | NAMI Hernando, Inc. provided <i>Ending the Silence</i> curriculum  | 60                   |
| 4/5 & 5/31   | NAMI Hernando, Inc. provided two (2) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings  | 39                   |
| 1/3  | The Centers, Inc. held a community education seminar   | 100                  |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>                                   |  |                      |
| 2/20, 4/25 & 5/13  | Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Florida Veterans Support Line provided three (3) <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i> (ASIST)  | 34                   |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>                                  |  |                      |
| 1/22   | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast held one (1) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for youth   | 35                   |
| 2/8 and 3/4  | 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast held two (2) presentations about suicide prevention  | 525                  |
| 6/26   | Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health provided seven (7) trainings on the <i>Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale</i> to direct staff   | 167                  |
| 5/1  | Mental Health America of Palm Beach County provided suicide prevention and intervention training to staff  | 5                    |
| <b>Southern Region</b>                                   |  |                      |
| 3/31   | Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center coordinated suicide prevention training for all direct care staff   | 42                   |
| 1/29, 2/12, 2/22, 3/12, 4/18, 4/24 & 5/31                | Guidance Care Center held seven (7) presentations to the following groups; Interfaith Ministry Council, Leadership Monroe, Depoo Hospital, School Services, and Sunrise Rotary   | 205                  |
| 1/18   | Jackson Behavioral Health Hospital coordinated the community suicide prevention awareness event titled <i>Empowering Communities to Save Lives</i>   | 107                  |
| 2/1  | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. attended the <i>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nickolas Children's Hospital Conference</i>   | 185                  |
| 5/20   | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. held a suicide assessment training at Borinquen Health Clinic   | 14                   |

**Goal 4: Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers**

| Date  | Event  | # Individuals |
|---|--|---------------|
| 5/3   | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. held one (1) <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i> (ASIST) training at Great Miami Jewish Federation  | 14            |
| 6/14  | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. held one (1) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> training for youth at Miami Dade College Wolfson  | 18            |
| 1/14, 1/25, 2/15, 2/25, 3/4, 3/15, 3/21, 3/29, 4/1, 4/2, 4/6, 4/22, 5/13, 5/17 & 6/18 | Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. provided fifteen (15) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings for adults in various agencies   | 313           |
| Various dates   | Psycho-social Rehabilitation Center, Inc. provided staff training on interventions for suicide risk, postvention for suicide loss survivors, community-based suicide prevention, suicide risk factors, screening and assessment, and suicide prevention training | 153           |
| 5/7, 5/9, 6/18 & 6/20   | Village South provided Four (4) <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings   | 55            |

**Goal 5: Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services**

| Date                      | Event   | # Individuals |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b>   |   |               |
| -                         | None reported   | -             |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>   |   |               |
| 4/8 & 4/17                | Alachua County Crisis Center was a panelist at the Counseling Career event and at the University of Florida Psychology Club Career  | 50            |
| 6/24                      | Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. completed safety planning with individuals  | 12            |
| 5/22                      | Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. provided Mental Health America's <i>4mind4body</i> training   | 13            |
| 5/16                      | Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. provided one (1) <i>QPR</i> training  | 22            |
| Ongoing on a weekly basis | Daysprings Village, Inc. promoted suicide prevention as a core component of health care services among individuals served by Phoenix & Sunrise  | 38            |
| 4/1                       | Flagler Hospital partnered with St. Johns Care Connect and Crisis Text line   | 2             |
| Yearly                    | Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems introduced Zero Suicide Organizational Assessments and program reviews of charts at service providers across the region to assist with strategic action plans to implement best practices in suicide care management | -             |
| 1/9                       | Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems supported LifeStream Behavioral's Intensive Care Coordination FL LINC pilot program that assists at-risk youth leaving a crisis unit   | 72            |
| Ongoing                   | Mental Health Resource Center completed a risk assessment with everyone that had clinical contact and provided the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to everyone seeking services  | 4,000         |
| 4/1                       | Quality Resource Center provided suicide prevention as part of the annual staff training  | 5             |
| 6/21                      | The House Next Door provided one (1) <i>Safety and Suicide</i> training   | -             |



**Goal 5: Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services**

| Date                    | Event  | # Individuals |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Central Region</b>   |  |               |
| 4/15                    | 211-Brevard Implemented FL LINC Zero Suicide Care Coordination Program and launched a texting platform   | 0             |
| 2/11                    | Operation PAR Medication Assisted Patient Services Hernando educated clinical staff on the Zero Suicide initiative   | 8             |
| 4/9                     | Operation PAR Medication Assisted Patient Services Hernando implemented the Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project                               | 24            |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>  |  |               |
| -                       | None reported  | -             |
| <b>Southeast Region</b> |  |               |
| 2/6                     | Henderson Behavioral Health began implementing the Zero Suicide initiative   | 15            |
| 4/14 & 5/29             | Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health hosted a QPR training and attended a QPR training hosted by FL LINC   | -             |
| <b>Southern Region</b>  |  |               |
| 4/6                     | Community Health of South Florida, Inc. held the Wheel of Wellness Health Fair   | 32            |
| Ongoing                 | Concept Health Systems provided suicide prevention training to staff   | 32            |
| Ongoing                 | Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center implemented crisis/safety planning for all individuals served   | -             |
| 5/14                    | Family & Children Faith Coalition attended a training titled <i>Responding to Youth Suicide</i> at the 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Behavioral Health Conference | 4             |
| FY 2018-2019            | Lower Keys Medical Group completed a suicide risk assessment with everyone they served   | -             |
| Daily                   | Psycho-social Rehabilitation Center, Inc. revised their suicide behavior questionnaire   | -             |

**Goal 6: Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors**

| Date                          | Event   | # Individuals |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b>       |   |               |
| -                             | None reported   | -             |
| <b>Northeast Region</b>       |   |               |
| 5/3                           | Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. attended <i>Suicide Awareness and Assessment Training for Clinicians</i> as well as <i>Addictions: Suicide and Substance Use Disorders</i>  | 230           |
| Ongoing                       | Daniel Memorial, Inc. used suicide screenings in outpatient and residential programs, administered depression/anxiety psychometric assessments, and provided psychiatric services   | -             |
| 1/31, 3/27, 3/29, 4/24 & 4/30 | Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. attended the following trainings and webinars; <i>American Association of Suicidology Annual Training</i> , <i>Clinical Management Training on Suicide Risk Assessment and Safety Planning Best Practices</i> , <i>Safety Planning Intervention for Suicidal Individuals</i> , <i>Counseling on Access to Lethal Means</i> , and <i>Locating and Understanding Data for Suicide Prevention</i> | 46            |
| Ongoing, January & March      | Metro Treatment of Florida, LP provided the following trainings: <i>Suicide Risk and Postvention for Suicide Behavior</i> , <i>Safety Planning Implementation</i> , <i>Crisis Interventions Policy</i> , and <i>Documentation Checklist/ Mini Mental Health Assessment</i>  | 210           |

**Goal 6: Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors**

| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Event</b>  | <b># Individuals</b> |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Ongoing                       | River Region Human Services, Inc. utilized the Baker Act process for individuals who expressed suicidal thoughts  | -                    |
| 6/11                          | Sulzbacher provided suicide prevention training to the Emergency Shelter staff  | 16                   |
| 4/19 & 4/30                   | Volunteers of America identified at-risk behaviors on two (2) individuals and created a suicide prevention plan   | 2                    |
| <b>Central Region</b>         |   |                      |
| 1/29, 2/11, 3/22, 3/26 & 5/22 | Central Florida Cares Health System held five (5) <i>QPR trainings</i>  | 69                   |
| 1/2                           | Community Counseling Center of Central Florida partnered with Seminole County Sheriff's Office to implement Mobile Crisis Services to youth in Seminole County  | -                    |
| 5/2                           | Operation PAR Medication Assisted Patient Services Hernando updated and discussed Safety Plans for substance use individuals  | 8                    |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>        |   |                      |
| 1/11                          | Suncoast Center, Inc. held a Zero Suicide meeting on behalf of the Pinellas Behavioral Health System of Care Workgroup that focused on clinical implementation support  | 28                   |
| Ongoing                       | Suncoast Center, Inc. implemented Zero Suicide which is an initiative that is being implemented in Five (5) Pinellas County agencies  | -                    |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>       |   |                      |
| 6/27                          | Counseling and Recovery Center, Inc. completed the <i>Zero Suicide Organizational Self-Study</i>  | 2                    |
| 1/7                           | Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. implemented suicide and depression screening tools in emergency receiving units  | 16                   |
| Various dates                 | Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health held eighteen (18) <i>Clinical Risk Assessment</i> trainings   | 60                   |
| 3/27 & 6/19                   | Sunset House reviewed its policies and procedures regarding suicide prevention  | 22                   |
| Ongoing                       | Wayside House trained the clinical team on <i>Suicide Ideation Assessment</i> (Onset of treatment and upon discharge/transfer)  | 10                   |
| <b>Southern Region</b>        |   |                      |
| 1/28                          | Center for Family and Child Enrichment held one (1) training to promote and implement effective clinical practices for assessing and treating individuals that are at-risk for suicide  | 18                   |
| 6/28                          | Community Action and Human Services Department provided education to individuals about medication management and the importance to follow-up with a psychiatrist; conducted psychiatric evaluations and psychological testing; assessed for suicide ideation; developed safety contracts; and distributed cards with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline | 132                  |
| FY 2018-2019                  | Lower Keys Medical Group provided information to staff about suicide prevention   | 40                   |
| 5/8 & 6/19                    | Village South provided two (2) <i>SafeTalk</i> trainings  | 65                   |

**Goal 7: Increase the usefulness of national and state level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention efforts**

| Date                    | Event  | # Individuals |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Northwest Region</b> |  |               |
| Daily                   | The Florida Department of Health and partners are working on the Florida Death Reporting System  | -             |
| <b>Northeast Region</b> |  |               |
| -                       | None reported  | -             |
| <b>Central Region</b>   |  |               |
| -                       | None reported  | -             |
| <b>Suncoast Region</b>  |  |               |
| Daily                   | Crisis Center of Tampa Bay handled 2,713 calls routed from the <i>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</i> between January 1, 2019 through June 12, 2019 | 3,142         |
| <b>Southeast Region</b> |  |               |
| -                       | None Reported  | -             |
| <b>Southern Region</b>  |  |               |
| -                       | None reported  | -             |

## APPENDIX 2

### COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DESIGNEES

#### Organization

1. Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
2. Florida Association of School Psychologists
3. Florida Sheriffs Association
4. Suicide Prevention Action Network USA\*
5. Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention
6. Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition
7. American Foundation of Suicide Prevention
8. Florida School Board Association
9. National Council for Suicide Prevention
10. State Chapter of AARP
11. Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
12. Florida Behavioral Health Association (FCCMH)
13. Florida Counseling Association
14. NAMI Florida
15. Department of Elder Affairs
16. Department of Health
  
17. Department of Education
18. Agency for Health Care Administration
19. Department of Juvenile Justice
20. Department of Corrections
21. Department of Law Enforcement
22. Department of Veterans Affairs
23. Department of Children and Families
24. Department of Economic Opportunity
25. Governor's appointee
26. Governor's appointee
27. Governor's appointee
28. Governor's appointee

#### Member/Designee

Dr. Sofia Castro (nonvoting Chair)  
 Dr. Gene Cash  
 Matt Dunagan  
 N/A  
 Jackie Rosen  
 Jane Bennett  
 Tara Sullivan  
 Karen Brill (Designee)  
 Dr. Dan Reidenberg  
 Larry Dixon  
 Melanie Brown-Woofter  
 Melanie Brown-Woofter  
 Dr. Carly Paro  
 Cindy Foster  
 Gretta Jones (Designee)  
 Shay Chapman (Designee)/Rhonda Jackson  
 Dr. David Wheeler (Designee)  
 Jack Plagge (Designee)  
 Dr. Tracy Shelby (Designee)  
 Dr. Dean Aufderheide (Designee)  
 Seth Montgomery (Designee)  
 Alfred D. Carter (Designee)  
 Chad Poppell/ Rodney E. Moore  
 Traci Jones (Designee)  
 Open Seat  
 Open Seat  
 Open Seat  
 Open seat

\* This organization no longer exists.

#### Nonvoting Guests

1. **DCF** Northwest Region
2. DCF Northeast Region
3. DCF Central Region
4. DCF SunCoast Region
5. DCF Southeast Region
6. DCF Southern Region
7. Big Bend Community Based Care
8. Broward Behavioral Health Care
9. Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
10. Central Florida Cares Health System
11. Lutheran Services Florida
12. Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
13. South Florida Behavioral Health Network

NaKeisha Phillips  
 Paul Kellam  
 Michelle Ghousoub-Salgado  
 Melissa Worthen  
 Suzette Fleishmann  
 Karen Annunziato  
 Sophia Whaley  
 Elida Segrera  
 Larry Allen  
 Angela Gambino  
 Bryan Mingle  
 No designee  
 Lina Castellanos

## References

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- <sup>i</sup> Section 394.457(1), F.S.
- <sup>ii</sup> 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action: A Report of the U.S. Surgeon General and of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- <sup>iii</sup> Section 14.2019(2), F.S.
- <sup>iv</sup> See, <https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center>, site accessed November 25, 2019
- <sup>v</sup> See, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/FL,US/VET605217>, site accessed November 25, 2019.
- <sup>vi</sup> See, [https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/leading\\_causes\\_of\\_death\\_by\\_age\\_group\\_2017-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/leading_causes_of_death_by_age_group_2017-508.pdf), site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>vii</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/fastfact.html>, site accessed December 11, 2019.
- <sup>viii</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>, site accessed November 25, 2019.
- <sup>ix</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/index.html>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>x</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>xi</sup> See, <https://crisistrends.org/>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>xii</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>xiii</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>xiv</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed August 15, 2019.
- <sup>xv</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed August 15, 2019.