

suicide prevention coalition of saratoga county

NEED

Saratoga County identified that middle-aged men (45 to 60 years old) experienced a 43% increase in suicide from 1997 to 2014. The age-adjusted suicide death rate per 100,000 is higher in Saratoga County (13.0) than both the NYS average (8.0) and the NYS Prevention Agenda Objective of (5.9). To address these concerns, Saratoga County Public Health Services (SCPHS), in partnership with Saratoga County Mental Health and Addiction Services, implemented the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Saratoga County (SPCSC).

ACTIVITIES

The SPCSC has formed two subcommittees; one focused on prevention education, for providing the community with opportunities for suicide prevention training, and the the second group focused on postvention education.

To raise community awareness about the SPCSC, the group created marketing materials including a brochure, flyer, and community resource list. Materials are circulated through stakeholder agency distribution both on-site and online and at health fairs and community events. Additional coalition outreach activities include the development and distribution of coffee sleeves displaying coalition information, the Suicide National Lifeline number, and the message “You Matter to Me.”

The SPCSC will also be hosting the Parents Open Forum to have a conversation about the Netflix Series *13 Reasons Why*, and to discuss issues teens face. The event will be held Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 6:30 to 8PM at Saratoga Springs Public Library, Dutcher Community Room.

OUTCOMES

2,000 coffee sleeves have been distributed to eight different local coffee shops throughout Saratoga County and several partner agencies. The SPCSC also had a 10-minute TV Spot on a local station to talk about the coalition and provide prevention education.

LESSONS LEARNED

There is a lack of evaluative techniques to assess how the community and stakeholder groups are using suicide prevention trainings. SCPHS can implement a short-term outcome measure, such as a survey distributed at the end of trainings to collect the number of participants who report they will use the training.



MISSION

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Saratoga County is a consortium of partners dedicated to preventing suicide in our community by:

- Increasing awareness
- Providing trainings on suicide prevention
- Connecting families, communities and individuals to resources
- Providing postvention response teams

SUCCESSSES

A strength of having a trained SPCSC postvention team is building community capacity for multi-agency response in the event of a suicide.

CHALLENGES

Expanding the utilization of resources by community partners.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The HCDI planner assisted the coalition by designing the coffee sleeve and helped with distribution.

