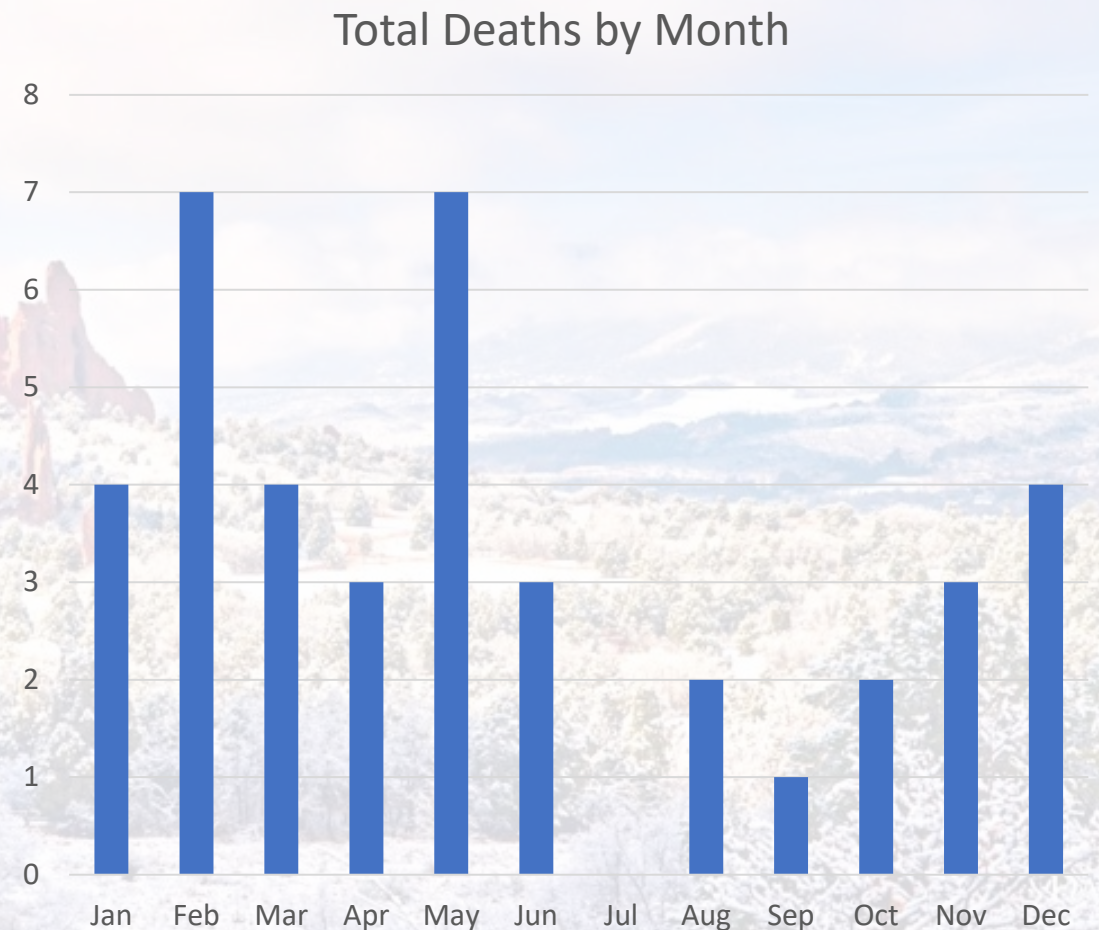


El Paso County, CO Teen Suicide Epidemic

- Beginning in February of 2015 - April of 2017
 - 27-month period
 - 40 Teens completed suicide
 - 2015: 14
 - 2016: 15
 - 2017: 13
 - Highest concentration:
 - 11 over 3.5 months, 2017
- A Community in Crisis
 - Local and national media
 - Parents, schools, community leaders



IN THE MAGAZINE **U.S.**

TEEN SUICIDE IS CONTAGIOUS, AND THE PROBLEM MAY BE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

BY **MAX KUTNER** ON 10/19/16 AT 8:10 AM

Teen suicide capital: El Paso County's 'heart-wrenching' problem tops in the state

By: **Debbie Kelley** (/author/Debbie+Kelley) • November 20, 2016 •
Updated: November 23, 2016 at 10:40 am

Teen suicide: Starting the conversation

Written By Ira Cronin **CONNECT**

Teen suicide is a public health emergency; how parents can talk with their teens



Colorado Springs Teen Suicides Stun Schools, Worry Parents

THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKGROUP JOURNEY



EXPLORATION (2015-2016)

The Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) identified the need for a coordinated community response to youth suicide prevention, which led to:

- » Seeking and securing State Innovation Model (SIM) funding and hiring the **Teen Suicide Prevention Planner**
- » Convening and facilitating **community meetings** to discuss coordination of services/ youth suicide prevention
- » Meeting with stakeholders to gauge interest in collaboration
- » Convening and facilitating exploratory meetings with multisector leaders
- » Facilitating community brainstorming and collaborative discussions



FORMATION (2016-2018)

Began regularly convening the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup

Networking and education opportunities for Workgroup members

Began **needs assessment and gap analysis process**, which included:

- » Process mapping
- » Identification of needs and gaps
- » Identification of opportunities for improvement

Streamlined needs, gaps and prioritized intervention strategies through a lean process

Developed and proposed a **Community Action Plan**

Divided Workgroup into sub-groups to address identified gaps/needs and formulate action plans:

- » Data & Research
- » Internal Communication (inter-agency)
- » Community Communication and Education
- » Parent Education/Training
- » School Education/Training
- » Youth Support/Education/Training
- » Faith-Based Community



OPERATION (starting 2018)

Development and upkeep of **Youth Suicide Prevention Dashboard**

Updates to the Youth Suicide Prevention Community **Action Plan**

Quarterly reports from sub-groups

Education opportunities for Workgroup members



DEVELOP NEW GOALS

GOALS ACHIEVED



Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup Early Accomplishments

The Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup was created to convene community partners to take collective action in support of youth mental health and suicide prevention. The Workgroup has grown to involve more than 80 community partners in identifying community needs and assets, improving community networking and partnerships, and developing an action plan for comprehensive community-driven strategies to prevent youth suicide.



Youth Suicide Prevention Working Group Accomplishments

- Convened partners and facilitated a space for thoughtful networking and collaboration which is integral to building a comprehensive community-driven solution to youth suicide prevention.
- Partnered with Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention to engage youth in the topic of suicide prevention through Teen Think Tanks. One hundred and fifty youth provided input on topics such as causes of stress, social media, bullying, and barriers to help-seeking behavior.
- Advocated for additional resources to conduct focus groups with community members to gather input around youth suicide and strategies for prevention in El Paso County. The funding for this effort was provided by the Colorado Office of the Attorney General and supported the Community Conversations to Inform Youth Suicide Prevention project in El Paso, La Plata, Mesa, and Pueblo counties in Colorado.
- Trained local public information officers and news media professionals on safe and ethical messaging related to suicide.
- Connected local agencies with funding and training to implement evidence-based suicide prevention programs such as Sources of Strength, Mental Health First Aid, Collaborative Assessment & Management of Suicidality (CAMS), and more.
- Collaborated with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office to secure funding for a countywide co-responder model. When this model is implemented, co-responders, or behavioral health clinicians, will ride with law enforcement officers when they respond to calls where mental health expertise is needed.