

Preventing Youth Suicide: Engaging with Community and School Settings

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth and young adults ages 10-24.

Pediatric health clinicians have opportunities to engage in youth suicide prevention initiatives in their schools and communities. Cross-sectoral partnerships are critical to supporting equitable access to care and promoting mental health.

For specific strategies to engage in suicide prevention in your community, visit the [Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention](#).








Engaging in Suicide Prevention Outside the Clinical Setting

Pediatric health clinicians have expertise in child and adolescent development and understand the unique ways that mental health is impacted at various stages of growth. This expertise can be extended beyond the clinic by engaging in cross-sector involvement in the community.

Team-based or collaborative care models involving medical providers, schools, and community partners are a crucial and necessary component of supporting pediatric health. Understanding the resources and care systems at play in local school districts, universities, and community organizations can help pediatric health clinicians to better support their patients in all places that they live, learn, work, and play. Cross-sectoral partnerships can form a safety net for youth at risk of suicide.

Building Community Partnerships

There are many organizations and individuals that can serve as key partners and natural champions in supporting youth mental health and addressing suicide prevention in your community:

Schools, Colleges, and Universities	Community, Faith, or Parent Organizations	Sporting, Scouts, or Youth Groups	Medical Professionals or Groups	Juvenile Justice System	Child Welfare System	Lawmakers or Policy Organizations
						

Click here to access the [Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention](#), which provides tips and strategies for engaging with these partners.

When building new partnerships, consider these 5 steps for success:

Identify Key Partners	Understand the Landscape	Find Shared Goals	Consider Strengths	Define Success
Many partners play a role in suicide prevention. Consider: schools, clubs, scouting/sports organizations, religious institutions, mental health organizations	Before launching a new partnership, understand the scope of youth suicide risk in your community, and identify the individuals/groups already working in this space. Seek input from key stakeholders, including youth and individuals with lived experience	Identify shared priorities for suicide prevention: for example, increasing identification of youth at risk, or improving supports for mental health	Consider operational differences and individual strengths, and identify ways to leverage individual strengths to work toward shared goals	Agree upon metrics for success, and track progress toward these metrics over time

Suicide Prevention Programs and Resources

Partnering with organizations that have expertise in suicide prevention can be very beneficial to building youth suicide prevention efforts in your community. For a list of mental health and suicide prevention resources for general audiences or targeted populations, visit the [Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention](#).