

Gather Data for Your Campus

Before determining the suicide prevention goals for your campus, gather data related to your student population from surveys, focus groups, or campus records. Taking the time to collect and analyze relevant data can help ensure that your goals align with the needs of your student body.

Below is a list of relevant data you may want to collect. For a fact sheet about accessing data on suicidal behavior among college students, go to <http://go.edc.org/accessingcampusdata>.

Source of Data	Relevant Data
Survey about mental health among your students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of students who have had suicidal ideation and made a suicide attempt ✓ Number of students who have engaged in non-suicidal self-injury ✓ Prevalence of depression, anxiety, and other mental health illnesses ✓ Number of students who access counseling on campus and off campus ✓ Prevalence of alcohol and substance use ✓ Students' beliefs about accessing mental health care ✓ Students' knowledge of campus mental health services ✓ Students' perceptions of barriers to help seeking ✓ Informal help-seeking networks students use when distressed ✓ Likelihood that students would intervene to help a friend ✓ Students' perceptions of campus climate towards mental health issues ✓ Students' perceptions of how mental health issues affect academic performance ✓ Demographic information, especially for sexual orientation
Campus police or dean of students office records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of students in crisis transported to a hospital ✓ Number of students transported to a hospital after a suicide attempt ✓ Number of students transported to a hospital for substance abuse issues
Student enrollment records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demographic information of students (race, gender, age) ✓ Number of first generation or veteran students
Counseling center records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of students treated at counseling center with a diagnosed mental illness ✓ Number of students in counseling who have attempted or died by suicide ✓ Average number of visits to the counseling center ✓ Number of unique clients to counseling center ✓ Demographic information about students seeking counseling ✓ Number of students on psychotropic medications
Campus health service records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Types of mental health screenings (i.e., depression and/or suicide) offered by health services and number of students who screen positive ✓ Number and demographics of students with diagnosed mental illness seen by health services

You can answer the following questions to get a clear picture of your students and the issues they face so that you can determine relevant suicide prevention goals.

What are your available sources of data, and what do these data indicate about your student population, their mental health issues, and suicide on your campus?

Source of Data

Relevant Data

Based on your data, which student population groups are most at risk of suicide?

Based on your data, what are the problem areas related to suicide at your institution?

Based on your campus data, determine your suicide prevention goal(s). Goals should focus on changing students' behaviors by decreasing the factors that put them at risk of suicide or increasing the factors that protect them from suicide. Choose from the list below or write your own goal(s).

- Increase the number of students who go to counseling, either on campus or off campus
- Increase the number of faculty, staff, and students trained to identify suicide warning signs
- Increase the number of faculty and staff who refer students to counseling
- Increase the number of students who feel comfortable asking a friend about his or her suicidal thoughts
- Increase the number of students who refer a friend to counseling
- Increase the number of students with healthy coping skills
- Reduce the number of students with untreated mental health concerns
- Reduce barriers to seeking counseling among specific population groups
- Decrease the number of students with mental health problems who don't seek treatment
- Improve data collection on suicide attempts and ideation (since not all attempts are known by campus staff)
- Improve student perceptions towards mental health (i.e., reduce stigma)
- Other: _____