



## **THE NATIONAL ACTION ALLIANCE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION RESPONDS TO NEW CDC ARTICLE** **[Suicide by Occupation – 17 States, 2012<sup>i</sup>](#)**

A statement prepared by The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention  
Contact: Liliya Melnyk, [lmelnyk@edc.org](mailto:lmelnyk@edc.org), National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

Washington, D.C. (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016)—The data in the new CDC article reviews suicide rates by occupation and found that the highest suicide rates were among persons working in farming, fishing, and forestry (84.5 per 100,000); construction and extraction (53.5); and installation, maintenance, and repair (47.9). The report also describes disparities by sex. Among females the highest suicide rates were among persons working in the protective services occupations (e.g. law enforcement offices and firefighters) (14.1 per 100,000). Among males the highest suicide rates were among persons in the occupations of farming, fishing and forestry (90.5 per 100,000). These data are the result of an analysis of suicide by occupation group in a review of data from 17 states participating in the CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). The value of this data is that it illustrates the need for building partnerships to address suicide among occupations with high suicide.

These data underscore the need for increased attention to suicide prevention in the work settings on par with the workplace’s increased attention to other public health issues like smoking cessation and physical activity. A comprehensive approach to suicide prevention in the work settings has the potential to reduce the number of suicide among working adults. The CDC data remind us that while more is being done now than ever before to prevent suicides in the United States, greater efforts must occur in a variety of settings, including the work settings.

The [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention<sup>ii</sup>](#) (Action Alliance) is the public-private partnership focused on advancing national suicide prevention efforts. The Action Alliance’s [Workplace Task Force<sup>iii</sup>](#) is working diligently with national partners, including the construction industry and law enforcement/first responder community, as part of a national effort to integrate suicide prevention into workplaces across the nation, and seeks to build new partnerships to save lives.

Below are resources supporting these efforts include:

- [The Comprehensive Blueprint for Workplace Suicide Prevention<sup>iv</sup>](#) – A roadmap for implementing a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health promotion within a work setting.
- Construction specific resources:
  - [A Construction Industry Blueprint: Suicide Prevention in the Workplace<sup>v</sup>](#) – Tailored guidance to prevent suicide prevention in the construction industry.
  - [Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention<sup>vi</sup>](#)- An new alliance with the goal of providing and disseminating information and resources for suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

- [Construction Working Minds: A Program of the Carson J. Spencer Foundation](#)<sup>vii</sup>- A program to increase industry awareness, provide resources, and create a network.
- [Construction + Suicide Prevention: Why is This an Industry Imperative? by Sally Spencer-Thomas & Cal Beyer](#)<sup>viii</sup> – A recent article making the case for addressing suicide in the industry.
- Law enforcement resources:
  - [Breaking the Silence: Suicide Prevention in Law Enforcement](#)<sup>ix</sup>- A report describing efforts in suicide prevention and mental health promotion for law enforcement officers.
  - [Breaking the Silence: Suicide Prevention in Law Enforcement](#)<sup>x</sup>- Video highlighting occupational suicide prevention efforts in law enforcement. An accompanying [facilitation guide](#)<sup>xi</sup> is available.
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)<sup>xii</sup> (800-273-TALK, or 8255)- Resource offering 24/7 access to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center.

This CDC report provides a renewed call to action to address suicide in our nation’s workplaces recognizing that for every one person who tragically dies by suicide in the U.S., there are approximately 278 people who have experienced serious thoughts about killing themselves, and nearly 60 who have survived a suicide attempt, the overwhelming majority of whom will go on to live out their lives. These untold stories of hope and recovery are the stories of suicide prevention, stories which are informing the Action Alliance’s efforts to prevent more suicides every day.

#### Media Partners:

Research shows that the media may influence suicide rates by the way they report on suicide. Evidence suggests that when the media tells stories of people positively coping in suicidal moments, more suicides can be prevented. We urge all members of the media working on these stories to refer to the [Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#)<sup>xiii</sup> for best practices for safely and accurately reporting on suicide. For stories of persons with lived experience of suicidality and finding hope, refer to [www.lifelineforattemptsurvivors.org](http://www.lifelineforattemptsurvivors.org)<sup>xiv</sup>.

#### Other resources for suicide prevention information for working-age adults:

- [American Association of Suicidology](#)<sup>xv</sup>
- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)<sup>xvi</sup>
- [Carson J Spencer Foundation](#)<sup>xvii</sup>
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)<sup>xviii</sup>
- [Suicide Awareness and Voices of Education \(SAVE\)](#)<sup>xix</sup>
- [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)<sup>xx</sup>

#### ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACTION ALLIANCE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION:

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention is the public-private partnership working to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and make suicide prevention a national priority. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years. Contact Liliya Melnyk, [lmelnyk@edc.org](mailto:lmelnyk@edc.org)

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6525a1.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/workplace>

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- iv <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/comprehensive-blueprint-workplace-suicide-prevention-1>
- v <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/resources/construction-industry-blueprint-suicide-prevention-workplace>
- vi <http://www.cfma.org/news/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4570>
- vii <http://www.constructionworkingminds.org/>
- viii <http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-cfma/files/production/public/ConstSuicPrev10Ques.pdf>
- ix <http://www.iacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/Suicide Project/Officer Suicide Report.pdf>
- x <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-mDvJIU9RI&feature=youtu.be>
- xi <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/sites/actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/files/LEGuide.pdf>
- xii <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- xiii <http://reportingonsuicide.org/>
- xiv <http://lifelineforattemptsurvivors.org/>
- xv <http://www.suicidology.org/>
- xvi <http://afsp.org/>
- xvii <http://www.carsonspencer.org/>
- xviii <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- xix <http://www.save.org/>
- xx <http://www.sprc.org/>