



ZERO SUICIDE IN HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

What is it?

Zero Suicide is a commitment to suicide prevention in health and behavioral health care systems as well as a specific set of tools and strategies. It is both a concept and a practice. Its core proposition is that suicide deaths for people under care are preventable and that the bold goal of zero suicides among persons receiving care is an aspirational challenge that health systems should accept.

Why is it important?

If we are successful in raising the awareness of health care organizations that they have an essential role to play in suicide prevention, that they already have many of the skills they need, and that there are tools available to help them, then this effort might be the single most important thing we can do to achieve the goal of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention to save 20,000 lives in five years.

What are the challenges to implementation?

- Health care providers may not realize some of their patients are suicidal.
- Health care providers may not accept their role in suicide prevention.
- Health care providers may not be familiar with or make use of the full array of tools available to provide suicide safer care.
- Suicide prevention professionals may not appreciate the role health care providers can play.

How can we overcome those challenges?

- Visit www.zerosuicide.com to learn more about suicide safer care.
- Sign up to receive updates on Zero Suicide when you visit www.zerosuicide.com.
- Advocate for suicide safer care in your mental health center or health plan or primary care practice by encouraging use of the [Organizational Self-Assessment for Suicide Safer Care/Zero Suicide](#).
- Join the Zero Suicide Learning Collaborative, which is coordinated by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, if you are a health care provider.

“Suicide safer care is important, it’s possible, and it’s necessary.”

Michael Hogan,
PhD, Hogan
Health Solutions
LLC