

2024 State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment Overview

Background

In spring 2024, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC), in partnership with Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc. (SSRE), conducted the fourth annual State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (SNA) to document and analyze the suicide prevention needs, challenges, strengths, infrastructure, and capacity of U.S. states and territories.¹ The assessment was sent to 54 U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Fifty-three of these states participated (98%), providing a wealth of information on the status of suicide prevention in the United States. Respondents from each state were encouraged to consult with their colleagues on survey responses. Only one survey response was submitted per state. For a full summary of national results, as well as more information about the SNA, please visit sprc.org/sna.

National Progress in Developing Effective Suicide Prevention Infrastructure

SNA respondents answered a series of quantitative and qualitative questions related to state challenges, strengths, needs, and progress in achieving the six essential elements outlined in SPRC's [Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure](#) (Infrastructure Recommendations). Nationally, U.S. states have a 74% progress rate across all six essential elements. The full SPRC [2024 State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment Aggregate Technical Report](#) contains additional details on the scoring method and national progress for each element.

Essential Element	Essential Element Summary	SNA Score
Authorize	Provide centralized leadership to coordinate efforts among groups and partners	76%
Lead	Dedicate resources and funding to develop a skilled and knowledgeable suicide prevention workforce	76%
Partner	Involve multiple partners from public and private sectors to increase effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts	68%
Examine	Use data to evaluate and continuously improve suicide prevention efforts	61%
Build	Implement a multi-faceted approach to suicide prevention and provide resources to sustain efforts	81%
Guide	Plan and evaluate guidance for suicide prevention efforts and allocate resources to support guidance	75%
Total Combined Score		74%

¹ The term "state" is used in this document as a short-hand reference to states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

Based on the 2024 SNA results, SPRC recommends states and territories focus on the following three priority areas to strengthen suicide prevention efforts in the U.S.

Priority Area 1: Formalize and strengthen partnerships between public and private sector entities within states and territories to ensure suicide prevention goals and efforts are aligned.

Priority Area 2: Increase state and territorial capacity to gather quality suicide-related data and evaluate prevention efforts.

Priority Area 3: Build and strengthen state and territorial capacity to assess and support local-level suicide prevention efforts.

In selecting the 2024 national priority areas, SPRC looked for opportunities to reduce gaps between best practices and current practices and focused on identifying areas that could help address state suicide prevention infrastructure challenges. We considered criteria that included the priority area's capacity to affect an identified challenge, national readiness to address the priority area, the priority area's alignment with the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*, and the potential impact of bringing additional focus to the priority area.

SPRC also created calls to action outlining specific steps states can take to address each priority area. For a list of these calls to action and more information about each priority area, please see the [2024 SNA National Priority Areas Report and Calls to Action](#). To learn more about the 2024 SNA results or to access the *2024 SNA Aggregate Technical Report* and other SNA resources, please visit sprc.org/sna.

To learn more about SPRC's Infrastructure Recommendations, please visit sprc.org/state-infrastructure.