

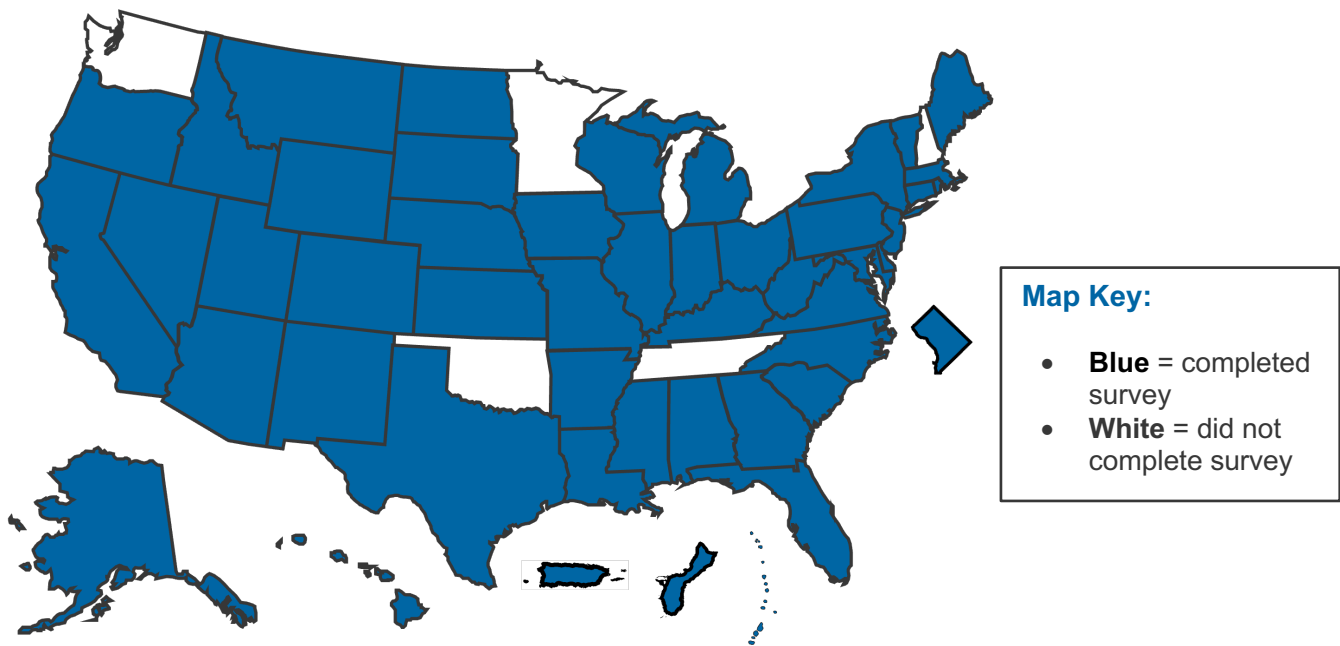
2023 State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment Overview

BACKGROUND

In 2021, suicide accounted for 48,183 deaths in the United States; suicide was the ninth leading cause of death among those ages 10-64. After a slight decrease in 2019, the overall U.S. suicide death rate increased approximately 36% between 2000 and 2021.¹

In spring 2023, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC), in partnership with Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc. (SSRE), conducted the third annual State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (SNA) to assess the suicide prevention needs, challenges, strengths, infrastructure, and capacity of U.S. states and territories. The assessment was sent to 54 U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Forty-nine of these states and territories responded (91%), providing a wealth of information on the status of suicide prevention in the United States. Respondents from each state or territory were encouraged to consult with their colleagues on survey responses and only one survey response was submitted per state or territory. For a full summary of national results, as well as more information about the SNA, please visit sprc.org/sna.

2023 SNA Participation Map



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, May 8). *Facts About Suicide*. <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/index.html>

NATIONAL PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION

SPRC's [Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure](#) (Infrastructure Recommendations) lists six essential elements for building effective and sustainable suicide prevention infrastructure in states and territories: Authorize, Lead, Partner, Examine, Build, and Guide. SNA respondents answered a series of quantitative and qualitative questions related to their challenges, strengths, needs, and progress in achieving these six essential elements. Nationally, U.S. states and territories have a 71% progress rate across all six essential elements. The full SPRC [2023 State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment technical report](#) contains additional details on the scoring method and national progress for each element.

Infrastructure Element	2023 SNA Score
Authorize	72%
Lead	71%
Partner	64%
Examine	57%
Build	80%
Guide	71%
Total Combined Score	71%

Based on the 2023 SNA results, SPRC recommends states and territories focus on the following three priority areas to strengthen suicide prevention efforts in the United States.

Priority Area 1: Strengthen representation of diverse and underserved populations in suicide prevention efforts.

For more information about Priority Area 1 please visit:

https://sprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023SNA_Priority-Area-1.pdf

Priority Area 2: Build state and territorial capacity to address underlying conditions associated with suicide risk factors.

For more information about Priority Area 2 please visit:

https://sprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023SNA_Priority-Area-2.pdf

Priority Area 3: Strengthen state and territorial capacity for evaluating suicide prevention efforts.

For more information about Priority Area 3 please visit:

https://sprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023SNA_Priority-Area-3.pdf

To learn more about the 2023 SNA results or to access the full national report and other SNA resources, please visit sprc.org/sna.

To learn more about SPRC's *Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure*, please visit <https://sprc.org/state-infrastructure>.