



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



NEWS

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Experts and Stakeholders Gather to Address Suicide Prevention in Colorado—A Critical Public Health Problem

DENVER-- In an effort to continue statewide and national efforts to impact the high suicide rate in Colorado, the Bridging the Divide: Suicide Awareness and Prevention Summit will be held Monday, May 19 through Thursday, May 22, at Regis University in Denver.

Jarrod Hindman, manager of the Office of Suicide Prevention which is based at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said, “The mission of this exciting and innovative conference is to bridge the gap among disciplines and resources to create a united front of stakeholders addressing this critical public health problem.”

Hindman said Colorado currently has the sixth highest suicide rate in the country, and more Coloradans die each year by suicide than in motor vehicle crashes or by homicide.

“Bridging the Divide will bring together the best minds and most passionate advocates for suicide prevention. Anyone interested in suicide prevention will gain knowledge and skills to implement meaningful suicide prevention activities in their community, while adding to the national dialogue and progress of a significant public health issue.”

To register or to find more information about the conference, including how to submit an abstract for presentation or to nominate a leader in suicide prevention for an award, Hindman referred individuals to either the conference Web site at

<http://www.suicidepreventionsummit.com/index.html>, or to the Office of Suicide Prevention at 303.692.2539.

Hindman said keynote speakers will include renowned suicide prevention experts such as Dr. Thomas Joiner, author of “Why People Die by Suicide;” Dr. Paul Quinnett, founder of Question Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program; Dr. Peter Gutierrez, president of the American Association of Suicidology and Denver resident; and Dr. Silvia Cannelto, researcher on gender and suicide at Colorado State University.

Conference coordinators include Regis University, the Carson J. Spencer Foundation, the Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado.

Ten years after the Governor’s Suicide Prevention Advisory Commission released the *State of Colorado Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan*, Colorado has taken great strides in advancing suicide prevention efforts throughout Colorado. From the creation of the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in 2000, to Colorado foundations and local, grassroots agencies taking on the task of reducing the number of suicide deaths in Colorado, to Colorado suicide prevention efforts being recognized and modeled nationally, great progress has been made.

“Suicide prevention is everyone’s business. There is hope and help, and it is always ok to ask for help,” said Hindman.

If you or someone you know is suicidal, please call the 24-hour suicide prevention lifeline at 1.800.273.8255.