

Orientation to the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide

HOPE, HELP AND HEALING



- ▶ Established by the Oregon Health Authority in 2016 to oversee statewide integration and coordination of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention activities.
- ▶ Members are appointed by OHA and include policy influencers, subject matter experts, youth, and people with lived experience with suicide.
- ▶ Focus: Implementing the 2016-2020 Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan.
- ▶ Passed into statute SB707 in 2019
- ▶ Staffed by the Oregon Association of Community Mental Health Programs

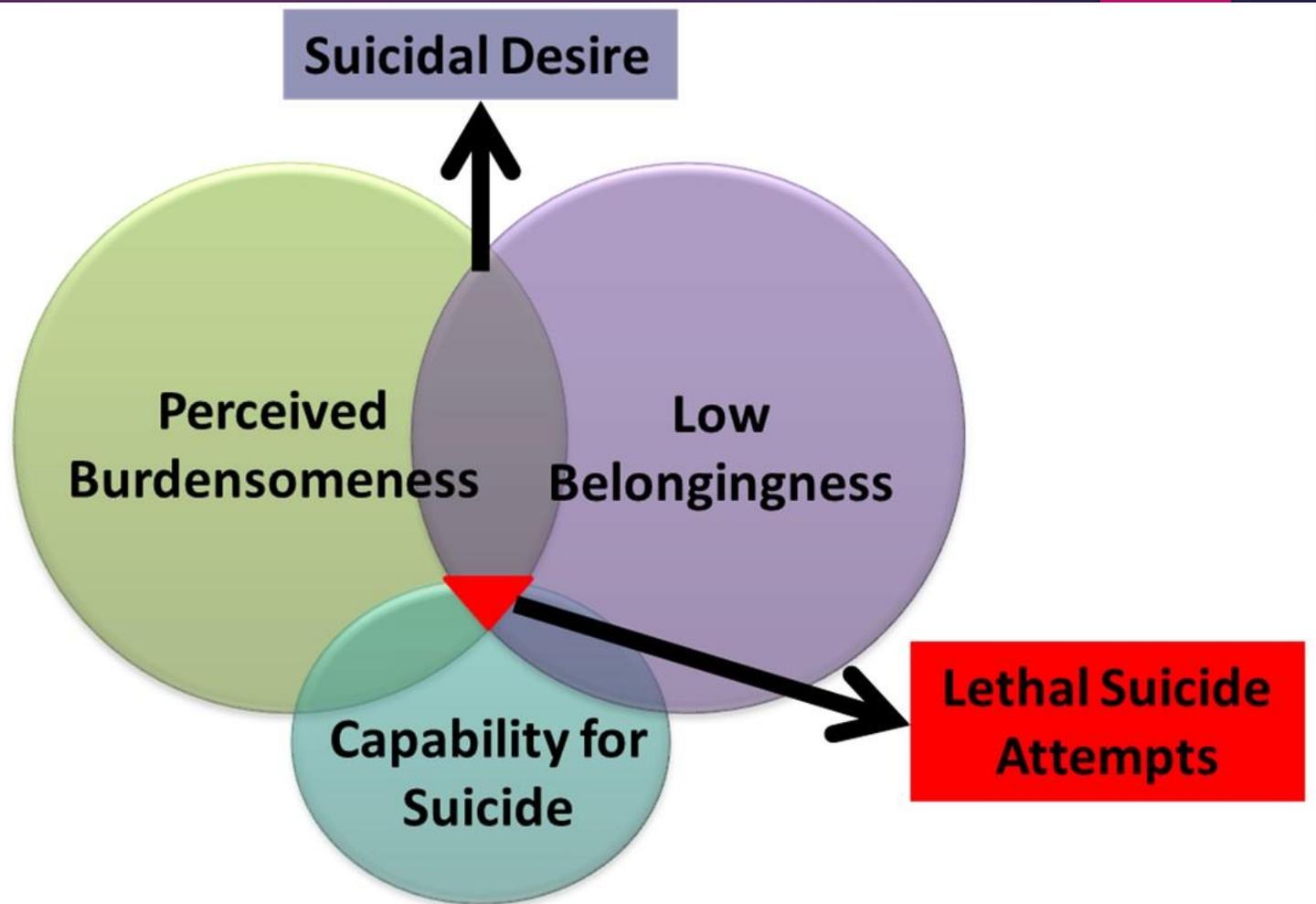


Oregon Youth Suicide Data

- ▶ 17th in the United States in 2017 (15th in 2016)
- ▶ More than 750 Oregon youth ages 10 to 24 years were hospitalized for self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide in 2017
- ▶ Females were far more likely to be hospitalized for suicide attempts than males.
- ▶ Final data reported 107 suicides occurred among Oregon youth aged 10 to 24 years. Most suicides occurred among males (80 percent), White (87 percent) and those aged 20 to 24 years (54 percent).
- ▶ Thirty-four of the deaths were among middle school and high school students

Interpersonal Psychological Theory of Suicide

- ▶ This figure illustrates the circles of Influence that affect suicide risk and must be addressed in suicide prevention activities.



**Youth Suicide
Intervention
Prevention Plan
2016 –2020**

Four Strategic Directions

- ▶ **Healthy and Empowered Communities**
- ▶ **Clinical and Community Preventive Services**
- ▶ **Treatment and Support Services**
- ▶ **Surveillance, Research and Evaluation**

FRAMING MESSAGES-SAFE MESSAGING

HOPE

Promoting a sense of **hope** and highlighting resilience.

HELP

Making it safe to ask for **help** and ensuring that the right **help** is available at the right time.

HEALING

- Engaging individuals and communities in the **healing** process after an attempt or suicide

Alliance Structure and Committees:

Standing Committees

- ▶ Executive
- ▶ Workforce Development
- ▶ Transitions of Care
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Outreach and Awareness

Note: Each Committee Has Specific Policy Priorities

Key Advisory and Work Groups

- ▶ LGBTQ+ Advisory
- ▶ Youth and Young Adult Engagement
- ▶ Attempt and Loss Survivors
- ▶ Lethal Means Access
- ▶ University of Oregon Suicide Prevention Lab - Community Academic Partnership with the Alliance

Alliance Oregon
to Prevent Suicide



Funded by
Oregon
Health
Authority

2019 Successes: Legislation Designed to Prevent Suicide

- ▶ Expanded funding for youth suicide prevention through the Oregon Health Authority to \$6 million
- ▶ Passed SB 52, Adi's Act, which requires all Oregon schools to have a suicide prevention plan
- ▶ Passed SB485/918, which are designed to increase collaboration between schools, local mental health authorities and others in a youth suicide postvention response and ensure the youth suicides are reported to OHA
- ▶ Passed SB707 which establishes the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide as a legislatively mandated advisory body to OHA

Connecting the Field

- ▶ Identified regional suicide prevention coalitions across the state
- ▶ Our hope is that each coalition becomes a “communication hub” for the Alliance and will share local highlights and challenges to help the Alliance have a meaningful understanding of local needs and opportunities. See www.oregonalliancetopreventsuicide.org

Alliance
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How to get involved with the Alliance

1

Attend quarterly meetings and sign up for the Alliance listserv

2

Volunteer for one of the committees or workgroups

3

Participate in policy advocacy – by testifying, working with legislators, providing feedback on Oregon Administrative Rules

Contact:

Annette Marcus

amarcus@aocmhp.org

Jennifer Fraga

jfraga@aocmhp.org

