**National Suicide Prevention Week is September 5-12, 2021**

*A call to action to make suicide prevention a health & safety priority at work*

**WASHINGTON (September 1, 2021)** **—** Workplaces and professional associations everywhere are developing strategies and programs in suicide prevention that move beyond just awareness and take steps toward change. This year the global theme for World Suicide Prevention Day is “create hope through action.” To this end, work communities are becoming increasingly ready to become vocal, visible and visionary and are ready to take the pledge to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. To date, over 775 organizations and leaders have taken the pledge to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. More information can be found at [WorkplaceSuicidePrevention.com](http://www.workplacesuicideprevention.com/).

The [2020 CDC report](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6903a1.htm) ranking suicide rates by industry has made it clear - many industries need to make suicide prevention as important as they do other health and safety initiatives. Many agree they need to change the culture of work to increase psychological safety and reduce elements that contribute to job strain like sleep disruption, job insecurity and low job control -- things shown to be connected to suicide risk.

The [National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention](http://workplacesuicideprevention.com/) consist of [8 Guiding Principles](https://workplacesuicideprevention.com/about-us/guiding-principles/) and [9 Practices](https://workplacesuicideprevention.com/). Developed through a partnership involving dozens of stakeholders, these tools are designed to be cross-cutting through private and public sectors, large and small employers, and across all industries, and:

1. Give employers and professional associations an opportunity to pledge to engage in the effort of suicide prevention. Sign the pledge here: <https://workplacesuicideprevention.com/take-action/take-the-pledge/>
2. Demonstrate an implementation structure for workplace best practices in a comprehensive, public health approach.
3. Provide data and resources to advance the cause of workplace suicide prevention.
4. Bring together diverse stakeholders in a collaborative public-private model.
5. Make recommendations for easily deployed tools, trainings and resources for both short-term action and comprehensive and sustained strategy.

Of the organizations and leaders who registered as official pledge partners with the National Guidelines:

* 27.5% said that someone in their workplace had experienced a suicide death in the last 12 months.
* 51% said that someone in their workplace had experienced a suicide death in the last 10 years.
* 81.3% of participants said they are actively promoting crisis resources.
* 61.1% said their workplace was completely committed to implementing suicide prevention programming and 54% said they were very confident about their organization’s ability to adopt the guidelines.
* Of the 9 practices, these pledge partners stated these were the three most important: bold leadership, mental health resources and communication.

To learn more and to take the pledge, please visit [WorkplaceSuicidePrevention.com](http://www.workplacesuicideprevention.com/)and follow along on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WorkplaceSuicidePrevention), [Twitter,](https://twitter.com/WorkSuicidePrev) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/workplacesuicideprevention/) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/40849573/admin/).

About The National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention

The mission of the National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention is to change the culture of workplaces to reduce job strain and negative, fear-based, prejudicial and discriminatory thoughts, behaviors and systems regarding suicide and mental health while at the same time promoting psychologically healthy norms and environments. We envision a world where workplaces and professional associations join in the global effort to aspire to zero suicides by sustaining a comprehensive suicide prevention strategy as part of their health and safety priorities.

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