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# Broward Suicide Prevention Coalition

## Townhall Findings Summary

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Wednesday, October 11, 2023

1:00 PM EDT

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# Background

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# Psychological Autopsies Demographics

The majority of individuals made less than \$50,000 per year.

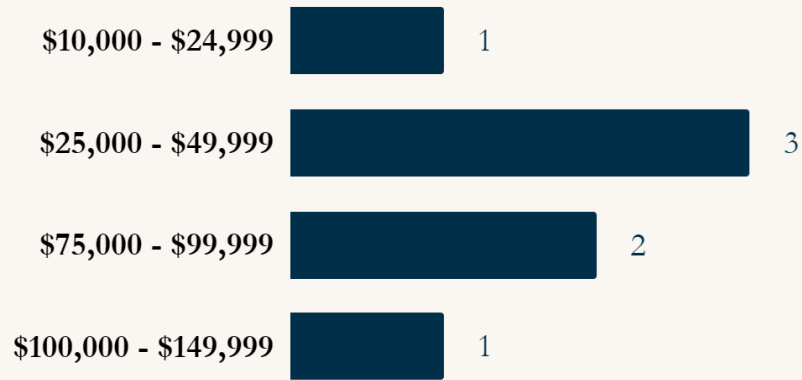


Figure 1. Annual Incomes. \*Data unknown for 4 individuals

		N	%
<b>Gender</b>	Male	6	54.5
	Female	5	45.5
<b>Age</b>	21-30	2	18.2
	31-40	5	45.5
	41-50	2	18.2
	51-60	1	9.1
	61+	1	9.1
<b>Racial Identity</b>	Black/African American	2	18.2
	Hispanic or Latino	3	27.3
	White	6	54.5
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Hispanic	3	27.3
	Non-Hispanic	7	63.6
	Unknown	1	9.1



# Key Topic Areas

## High prevalence in the data

- Mental Health Challenges
- Access to Lethal Means
- Trauma Healing
- Behavioral Health Management / Coping Mechanisms
- Care Coordination
- Warning Signs

## Medium prevalence in the data

- Relationship Challenges
- Gun Safety
- Stigma



# Townhall Findings Summary

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# #1: Care Coordination

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Need for additional data (e.g., attempts)
- Training professionals around Baker Acts and coinciding stigma
- Need to minimize judgment/taboo around asking direct questions

## What are solutions to address this?

- Expanding suicide assessments and prevention - “from CEO to housekeeping”
- Training (e.g., warning signs, trauma-informed care)
- More effective coordination for people being discharged from Baker Act or respite
- Tailored and culturally appropriate messaging to target stigma



# #2: Warning Signs

## What are you seeing in the community?

- Different cultures impact our perceptions of mental health and warning signs
- Lack of culturally (even linguistically) competent providers
- Warning sign training should include awareness about cultural and linguistic services

## What are solutions to address this?

- Increase the number of mental health professionals in schools and the criminal justice system
- Increase community engagement via targeted marketing and information on available resources across sectors.
- Target ‘in-between’ populations
- Train physicians (e.g., symptoms, breaking stigma, accessing treatment and supports)



# #3: Trauma Healing

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Participants agreed with our findings
- Need to focus on how systems of care are trauma-responsive
- CBT as a “great treatment for trauma... [one that] leads to positive results”
- Stigma has decreased but suicide has not.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Diversify mental health workforce.
- Explore non-traditional models of healing.
- Invest in prevention services early on.
- Create legislation that supports affordable training on trauma-focused care.





# #4: Behavioral Health Management

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Co-occurring SUD and MH increase suicidality
- Impact of opioid epidemic
- Difficult to determine whether a death was an intentional or accidental overdose.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Educate community on mental health and substance use issues (and stigmas)
- Train providers on implicit bias
- Strengthen provider abilities to address comorbid issues.



# #5: Stigma

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Presents challenges in help-seeking
- Peer support is critical
- “We’re doing better”
- The reality of litigation and liability of suicide work.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Advocate for changes in policies and laws.
- Youth programming on mental health.
- Promotion of billboards, 988, and community involvement



# #6: Mental Health Challenges

## What are people seeing in the community?

- People seeing physicians, not mental health professionals.
- Cost (including co-pays) is too high for many people.
- Warning sign training and reducing stigma are critical for improving access.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Improve marketing around mental health treatment options.
- Training/Resources around navigating the healthcare system.
- Increase knowledge of what mental health precipitants are.



# #7: Lethal Means and Gun Safety

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Focus on gun safety education, not gun ownership.
- Law enforcement and the Military are trained extensively on gun safety, and yet they are still HIGH risk.
- Gun culture and de-sensitization.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Need to find common ground and build trust.
- Involve family members in the conversation.
- Extend the period between getting a gun and using it.



# #8: Relationship Challenges

## What are people seeing in the community?

- Relationship issues can emphasize unresolved trauma.
- Untreated mental health challenges make building relationships difficult.
- Seniors who lose a spouse/long term partner or have severe medical issues are at elevated risk for suicide.

## What are solutions to address this?

- Need to create more community activities that bring people together.
- Need for more SEL training and focus.
- Emphasize building interpersonal relationships and engaging parents and loved ones in the process.



# Q & A



# Next Steps

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# Action Steps

- Feedback will inform action plans and strategies
- Champions and work groups can implement select next steps







# Coalition Survey

Use the QR code above



# THANK YOU



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