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Suicide Prevention

News from a local youth coalition: Monroe Youth Coalition

The Monroe Youth Coalition was formed during the 2014-2015 school year at Monroe High School as a subcommittee of the Monroe Community Coalition. The coalitions are committed to addressing the co-occurring issues of substance abuse and mental health.

The youth coalition launched a "[You are not alone...](#)" campaign during National Suicide Prevention week, September 7–13, 2015, with the goal of connecting at-risk peers with people who can help. Its public service announcement has been distributed on social media platforms, in a local theater, and during the district-wide, all-staff school and student safety training. Way to go, Monroe Youth Coalition!

Oregon's new Suicide Prevention Plan

January 2016 must be the month to release suicide prevention plans. Washington released its plan earlier this month, and I just received word that our friends in Oregon also released a new plan. The plan is called [Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan 2016-2020](#). It took almost one year to write, and was

completed with the input of more than 100 experts and interested people from Oregon.

Police-Based Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program

The Post Falls, Idaho, Police Department uses its volunteer chaplains for its [suicide prevention and awareness program](#) – very compassionate on part of the police.

Suicide Research Training Institute

The Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention will hold its third suicide prevention Research Training Institute in Rochester, N.Y., from April 18 to 22. See this [website](#) for more information and to apply.

Suicide Safer Homes Memorial

Here are photos from the Suicide Safer Homes Memorial, an event organized by Forefront and held on the lawn of the Capitol in Olympia as part of the 2016 Suicide Prevention Education Day.



The 1,111 tombstones on the lawn of the Capitol building represent the number of suicides in Washington State in 2014.

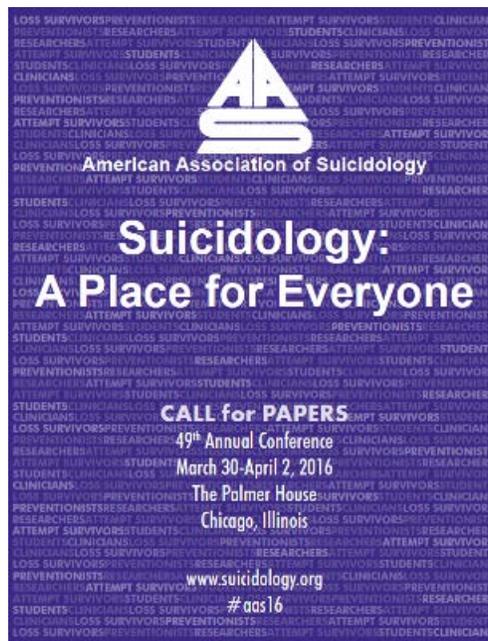


The red tombstones symbolize the 544 firearm suicides in 2014. The 207 yellow tombstones stand for suicides by poisoning while the 258 white tombstones are symbolic of suicides by suffocation.



Annual Conference of the American Association of Suicidology

From March 30 to April 2, 2016, the American Association of Suicidology will hold its 49th annual conference at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois. The theme for this year's conference is [Suicidology: A Place for Everyone](#).



In the News

- [The Human Story Behind Washington's New Suicide Prevention Plan](#) – Read Jennifer Stuber's story.
- [Oregon gun store owner tried to block troubled woman from buying gun](#) – This is not a current news story – it's from 2013. I just became aware of it through Paul Quinnett, CEO of QPR. It makes for an interesting read.
- [Rare Common Ground: Gun Dealers And Public Health Workers Unite To Cut Suicides](#) – interesting article – worth reading
- [State lawmakers considering suicide prevention bill](#) – this bill seeks to reduce access to lethal means such as firearms and prescription medications
- [Long-term study shows why bullying is a public health problem](#)

Proposed House Bill 2793

The last item under “In the News” makes reference to [proposed HB 2793](#), providing for suicide awareness and prevention education for safer homes. This is a lengthy bill with 10 parts, sponsored by Representative Orwall and others. Here is a summary: The bill proposes to

- Establish a Safe Homes Task Force, run by the University of Washington School of Social Work, to develop suicide awareness and prevention messages, training, and implement advocacy efforts with new partners (National Rifle Association, firearm dealers, shooting ranges, second amendment foundation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, pharmacists) to pair suicide prevention training with the distribution of devices for the safe storage of lethal means (i.e. firearms, medications);
- Create a Safe Homes Project at the Department of Health to certify firearm dealers that meet specified requirements as Safe Home Partners, and to establish a tax credit for those Safe Home Partners;
- Require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to incorporate information on suicide awareness and prevention in its firearm safety pamphlet;
- Require pharmacists to complete a one-time training on suicide assessment, treatment, and management, and two Washington State universities to develop suicide prevention materials for pharmacy customers.

I read on a firearm website that **[this bill is supported by the NRA!](#)**

Fact Sheet

Here is a fact sheet from the Violence Policy Center about [Guns and Suicide](#).

Webinar

[Lessons on Stakeholder Engagement from the Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan](#): In a one-hour webinar on February 23, from noon to 1 p.m. Karyn Brownson from the Washington State Department of Health will discuss her experience developing the Washington State Suicide Prevention

Plan with more than 250 stakeholders whose input led to a relevant and useful document.

Zero Suicide Conferences

- Zero Suicide Puget Sound and partners will host [Be the Connect: Intro to Zero Suicide Conference](#) on February 26 at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Buren. Speakers will include Forefront affiliate faculty member Kate Comtois, faculty director Jennifer Stuber, and State Rep. Tina Orwall. The conference includes six continuing education credits and meets state requirements for suicide prevention training.
- Zero Suicide Inland Northwest presents [Tools for Preventing Suicide](#), its second annual conference and training day, on March 11 at Gonzaga University in Spokane. This year will offer breakout sessions and plenary speakers Dr. Matt Layton and Golden Gate Bridge suicide attempt survivor Kevin Berthia. Jennifer Stuber from Forefront will introduce Forefront's new documentary film on firearms, and will give a legislative update. Two day-long trainings, one for professionals meeting the state mandate and one for laypeople, will be offered for a fee on March 12.

Trainings

Forefront offers trainings in **Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR)**. The six-hour training meets the legislative mandate of ESHB 2366 and counts for continuing education credit.

The next training opportunities are on:

[March 22](#)

[June 16](#)

Study

A Canadian study [links concussion to a higher risk of later suicide](#).