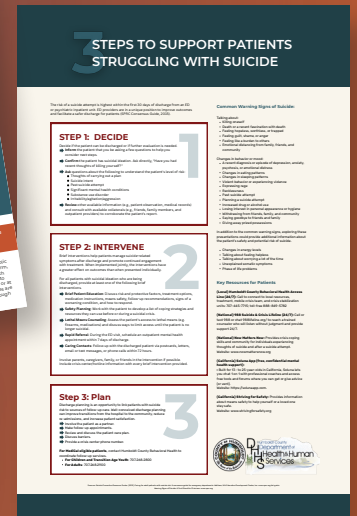


Youth Suicide *Prevention & Response* Network



California Department of Public Health, Office of Suicide Prevention

September 2023 to June 2025

YSM Budget: \$750,000

YSM Role: Subcontractor to Center
for Applied Research Solutions

Additional Partners: UCLA

Primary Audience:

County public health agencies and their
county, education, health care and
community partners

Region: California

YSM Services:

Needs assessment, technical assistance
and peer learning strategy, virtual topical
models, skills-building webinars, learning
collaboratives, individualized technical
assistance, site visits, system flow mapping,
maturity model.

Background and Challenge

In response to a rise in youth suicide rates in California and findings from a stakeholder needs assessment released by CDPH's Office of Suicide Prevention which identified a critical need for local, timely data on suicide risk, attempts, and deaths to address resource and infrastructure gaps in local communities, the California's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) launched the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program (YSPRN).

Overseen by CDPH's Office of Suicide Prevention, YSPRN aimed to address the urgent need for rapid, local-level suicide response by developing systems to more quickly report and comprehensively respond to youth suicides and suicide attempts in 10 pilot counties: Alameda, El Dorado, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, and Solano.

Read the UCLA Published Paper "[System mapping to strengthen youth crisis response: findings from a multi-county California pilot](#)" to learn more.

Strategic Approach

As a subcontractor to the Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS), Your Social Marketer (YSM) provided in-depth training and technical assistance to 10 pilot program counties, with UCLA contracted to oversee an independent evaluation. Pilot counties were supported through a series of topical and skill-building webinars, communities of practice, virtual and in-person TTA meetings, universal resources, a comprehensive system flow mapping process, and individualized technical assistance.

YSM developed and delivered 58 virtual topical modules, skills-building webinars and peer learning exchanges over the course of 18 months. In addition, YSM supported the creation of a number of publications to support pilot sites, including:

- Onboarding Guide to build shared knowledge around suicide prevention across partners.
- Surveying and Interviewing Partners Tip Sheet
- Memoranda of Understanding Planning Guide
- Youth Crisis Reporting & Response Systems Maturity Model Rating Tool and Maturity Model Companion Guide designed to define, understand, and rate the maturity of components of the Youth Crisis Reporting and Response Systems.
- Suicide Prevention and Intervention Training Catalog



A structured system mapping process was used across the 10 counties, encompassing a facilitated self-assessment, baseline and final system flow maps, and cross-sector analysis across six components: surveillance, rapid reporting, crisis access and coordination, school system integration, healthcare integration, and postvention. Maps were refined through facilitated partner meetings with stakeholders from public health, behavioral health, hospitals, schools, and law enforcement, supported by intensive technical assistance including meeting facilitation, protocol review, partner surveys, and support translating maps into action steps. Baseline maps were completed in June 2024; final maps in March 2025.



The Impact

The project resulted in 10 System Flow Maps documenting how youth enter the local crisis continuum following suicidal thoughts, attempts or deaths, and how they are supported once they do.

- **Data systems and dashboards** were created or enhanced for timely detection of suicide attempt trends, and understanding suicide deaths.
- **Cross system information sharing** agreements and workflows to rapidly notify and mobilize crisis services and supports in response to a youth suicide event were developed.
- **System-level silos were reduced.** Gaps and solutions were identified to provide timely and culturally responsive services for youth following a suicide event.
- Youth, adults, and providers in school, health and community settings have been **trained in suicide prevention, intervention and bereavement.**