

Indian Health Service  
Division of Behavioral Health

**National Clinical & Community Based  
Services Conference**

**Suicide Prevention & Care Program**

**August 29, 2019**

# Background

- Suicide disproportionately affects American Indians and Alaska Native people.
- The suicide rate among AI/AN has been increasing since 2003, and in 2015, AI/AN suicide rates in the 18 states participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System were more than 3.5 times higher than those among racial/ethnic groups with the lowest rates.
- More than one third of AI/AN decedents were aged 10 – 24 years

# Scope of the Problem

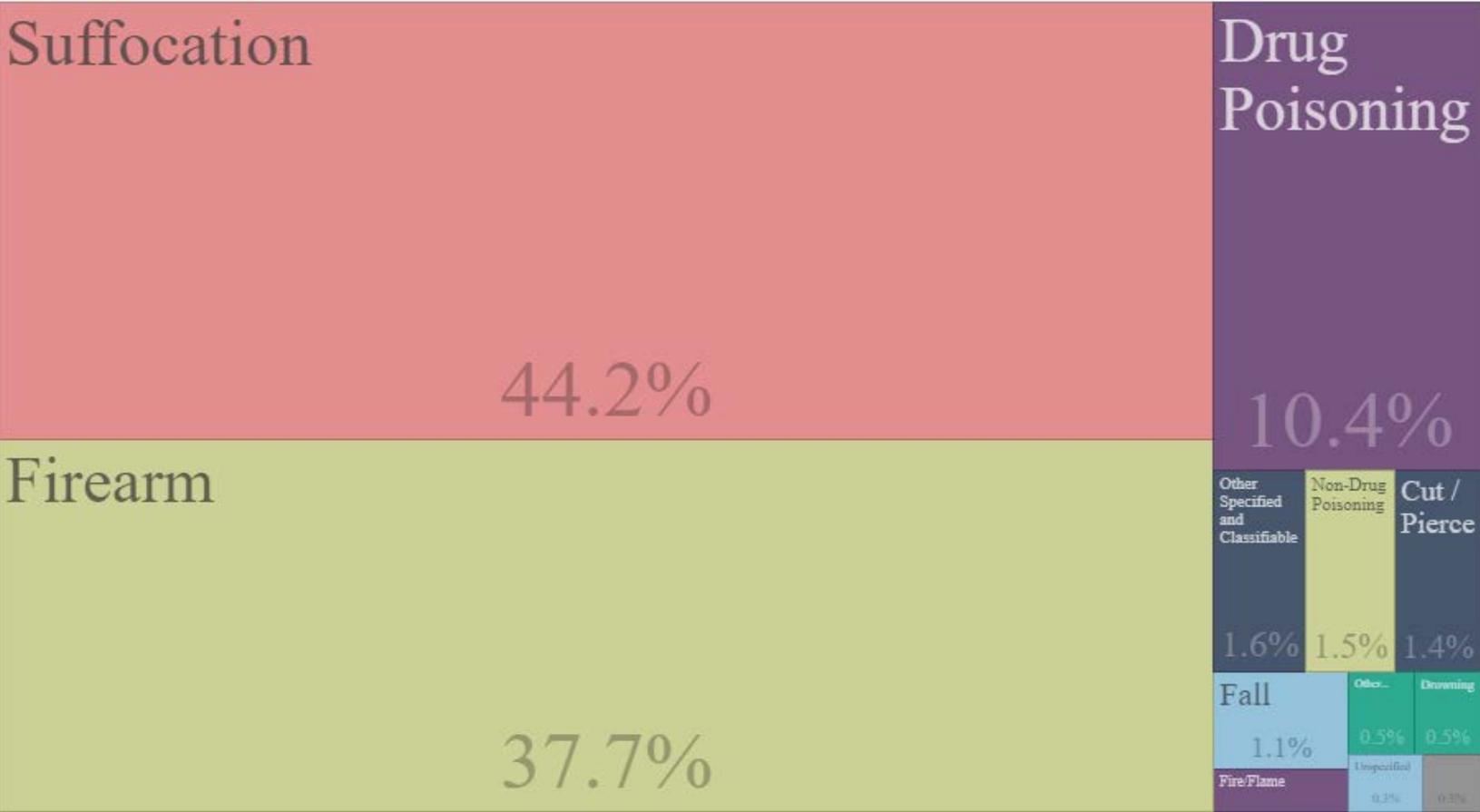
- Suicide Rate for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) adolescents and young adult ages 15 to 34 (19.1/100,000) was 1.3 times that of the national average for that age group (14/100,000).
- Between 1999 and 2017 suicide rates increased for all race and ethnicity groups but the largest increase occurred for non-Hispanic AI/AN females (139% from 4.6 to 11.0 per 100,000)
- Suicide is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among all AI/AN across all ages.

# Trends and Data Sets

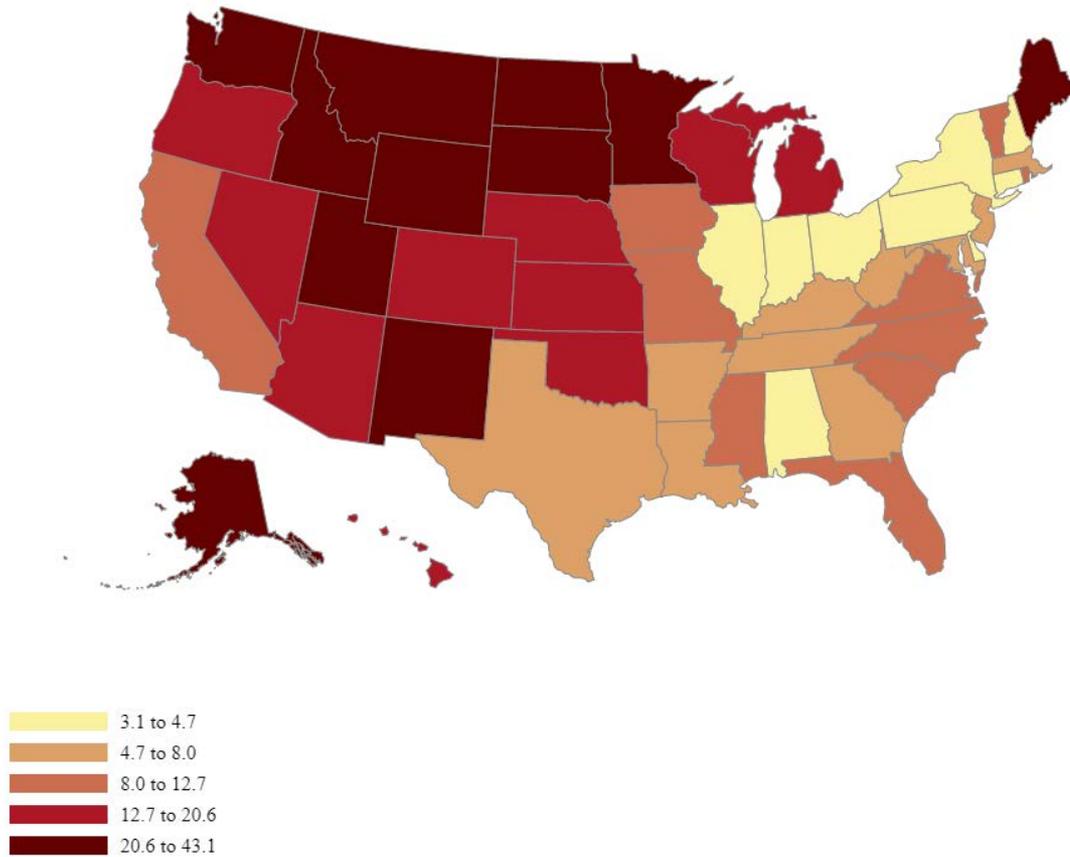
# Rates are Rising

- Between 1999 and 2017 suicide rates increased for all race and ethnicity groups.
- The largest increase occurred for non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) females (139% from 4.6 to 11.0 per 100,000).
- In 2017, rates for females aged 15–24 and 25–44 were highest among non-Hispanic AIAN females (20.5 and 20.7 per 100,000 respectively).
- The largest increase was observed among non-Hispanic AIAN males (71%, from 19.8 to 33.8 per 100,000).
- Rates for males aged 15–24 and 25–44 were highest for non-Hispanic AIAN males (53.7 and 58.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- Rates were calculated with the limitation of a likely underestimation of deaths by about 33% for non-Hispanic AIAN.

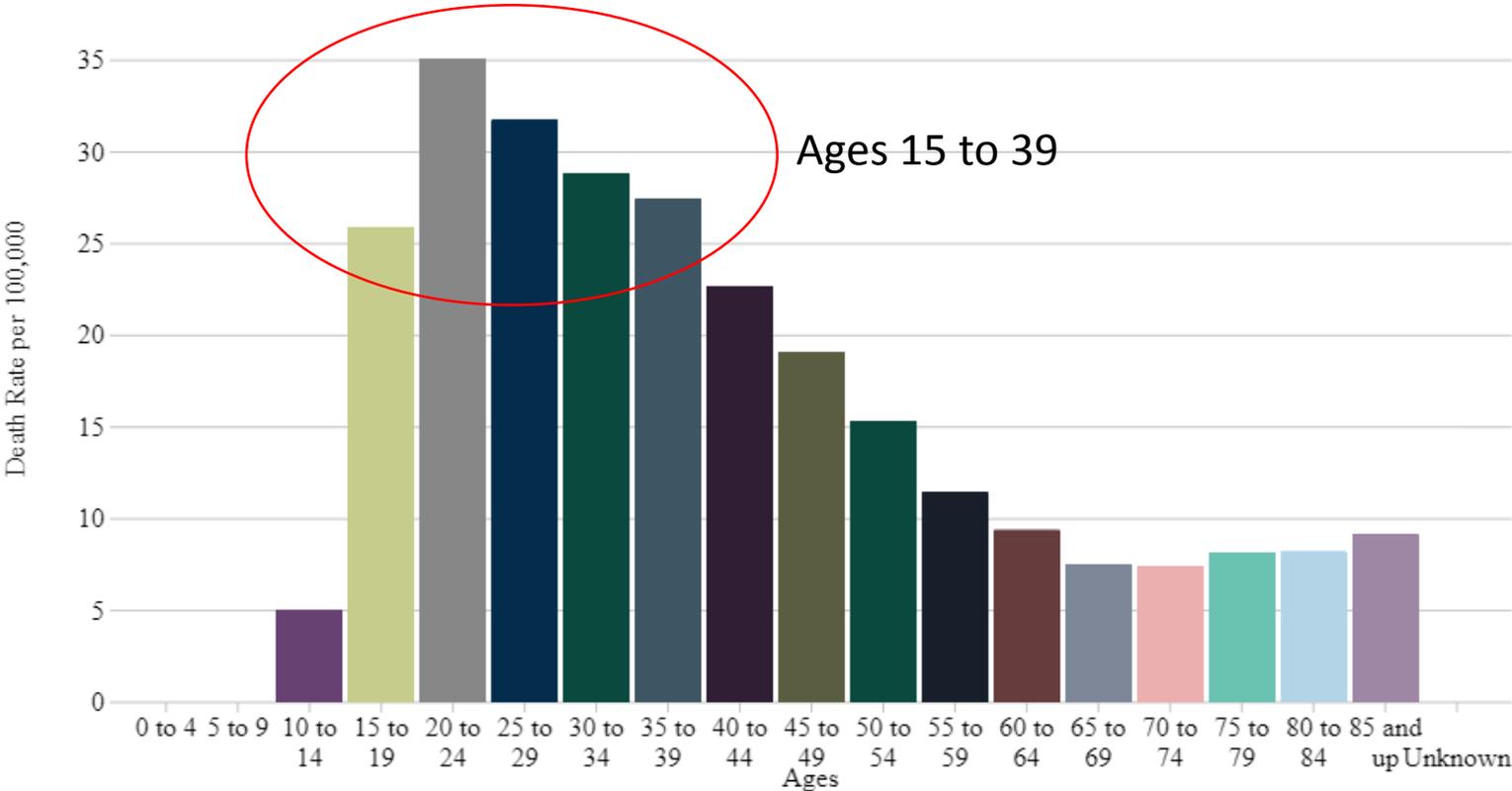
# Suicide Means



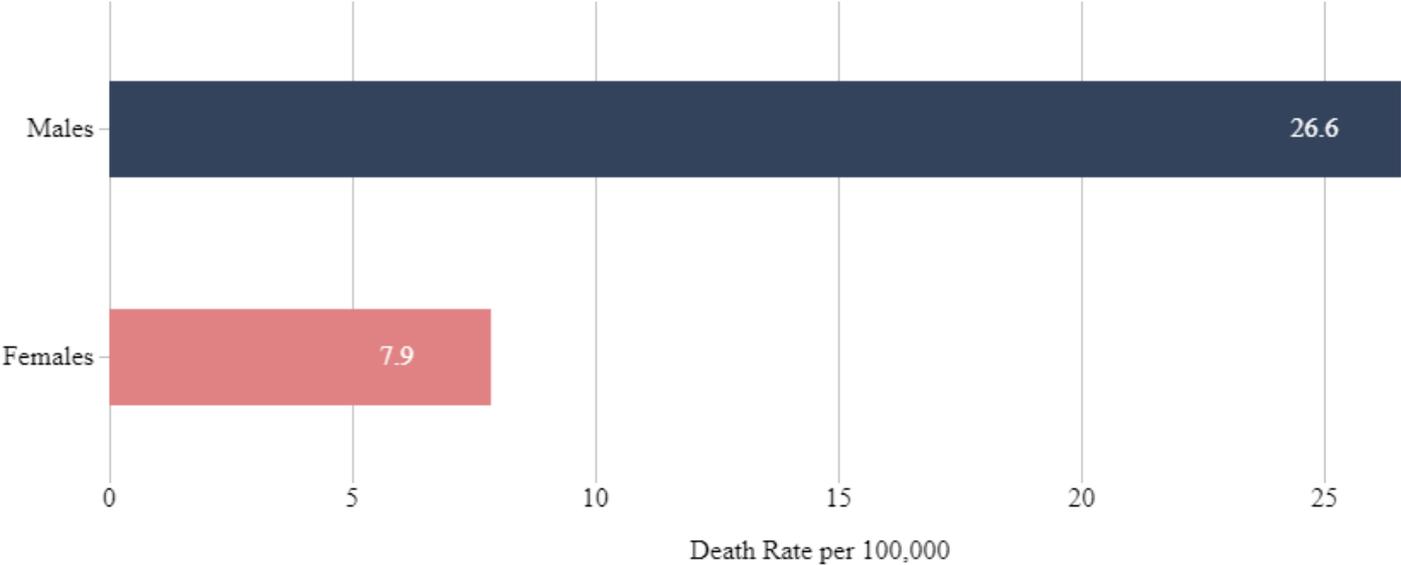
# Suicide by Region



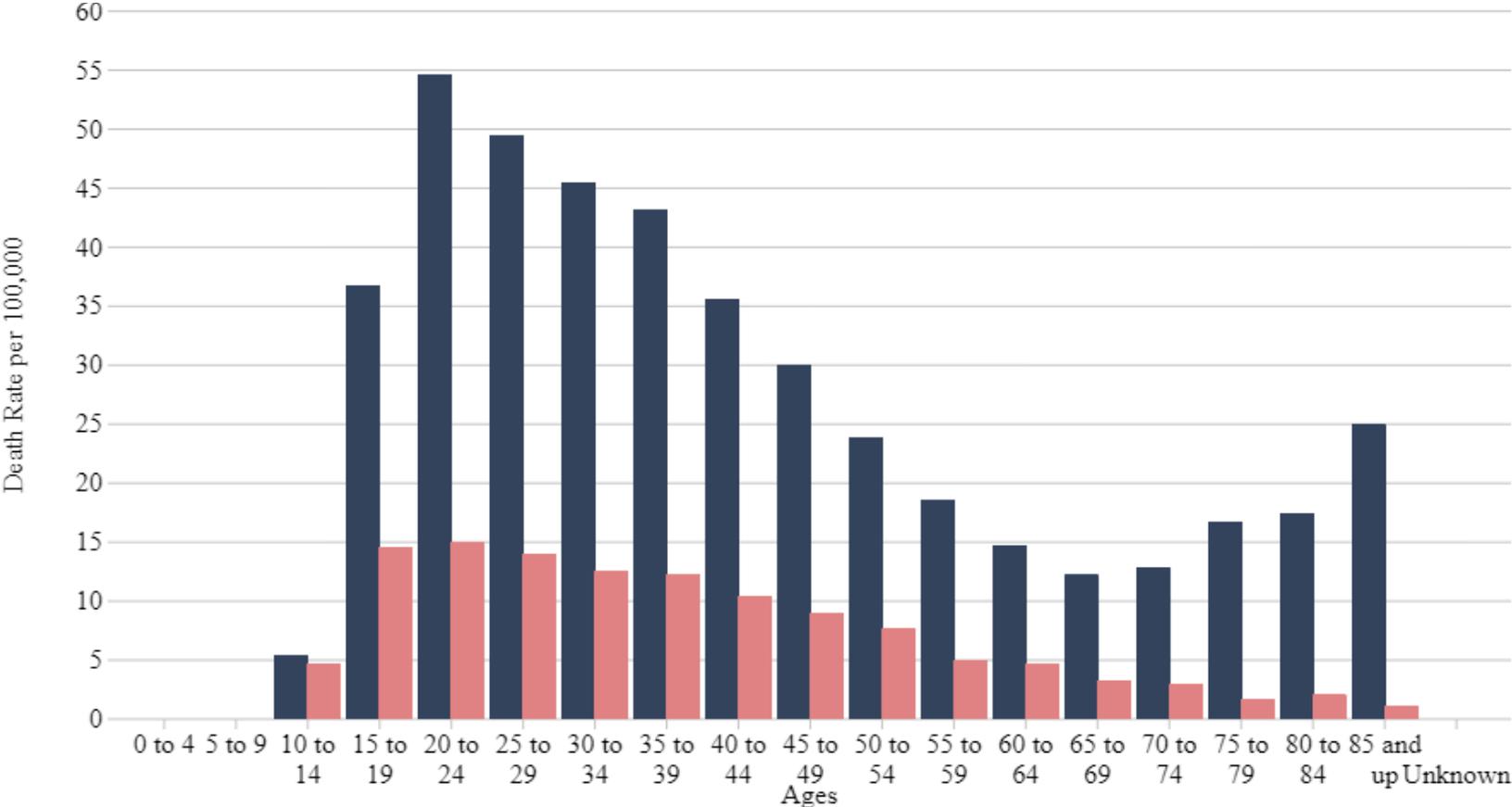
# Suicide Rates by Age



# Suicide Rate AI/AN Male to Female



# Suicide Rate AI/AN Male to Female by Age

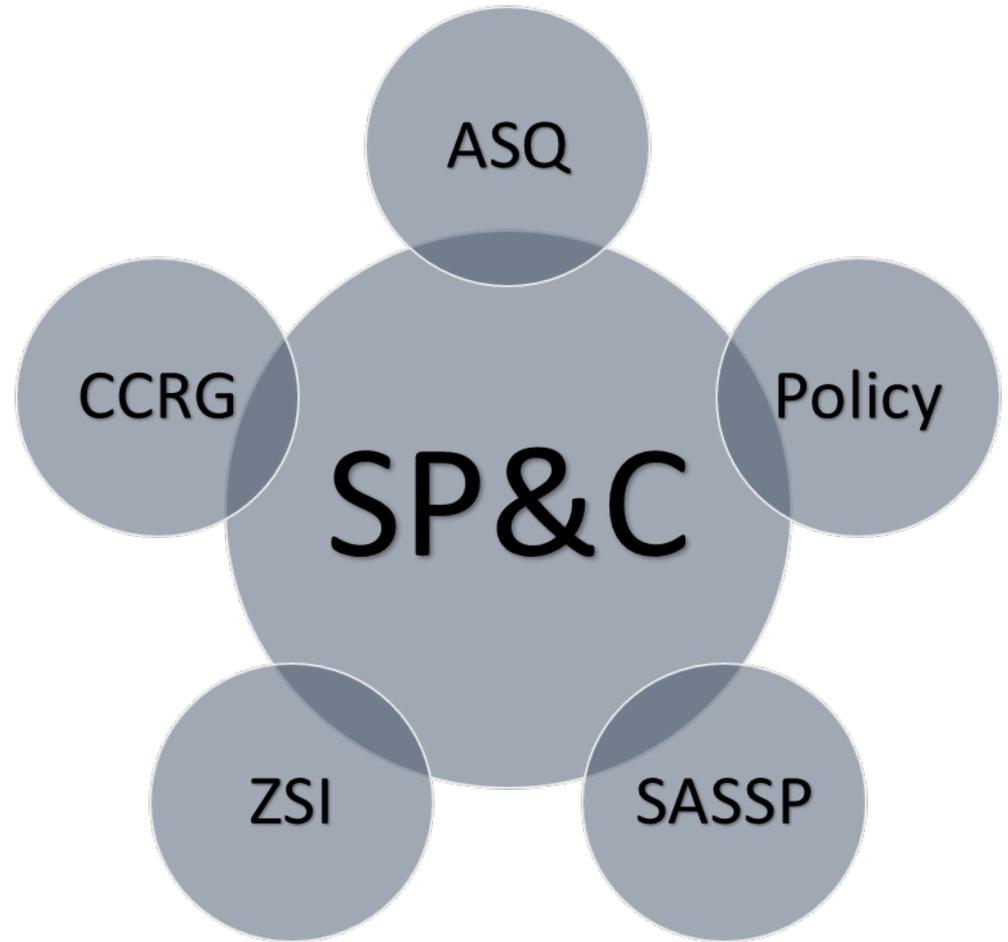


# Suicide Prevention & Care

# Suicide Prevention and Care

IHS HQ/OCPS/Division of Behavioral Health

- Suicide Prevention & Care
  - Policy
  - ASQ
  - SASSP
  - ZSI
  - Community Crisis Response Guidelines
- Other Initiatives & Efforts
  - NAASP
  - AI/AN Task Force
  - NSPLL
  - IHS/VA MOU
  - NSPCRC



# Approvals & Outcomes in 2019

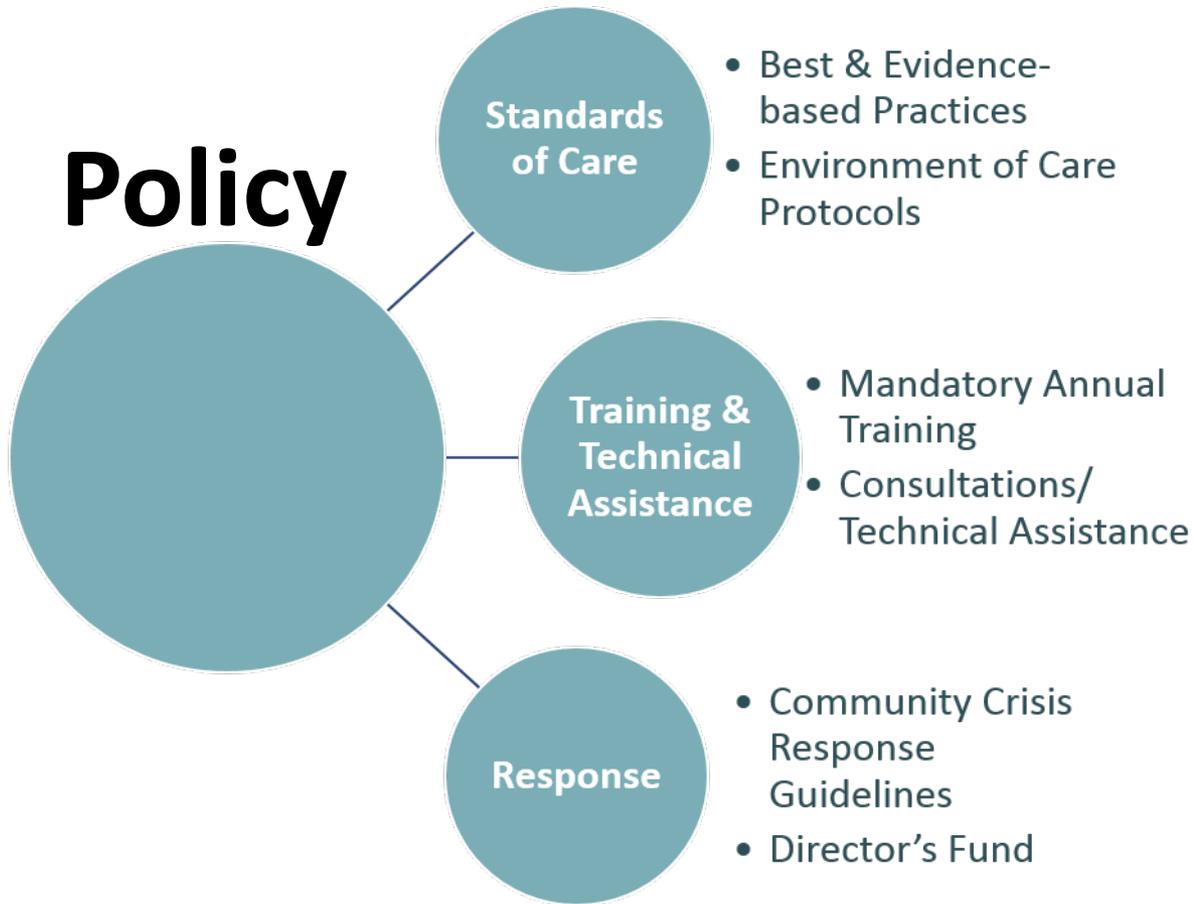
- Suicide Prevention & Care Program was codified in February 2019.
  - [IHM Manual, Part 3, Chapter 34](#)
- Ask Suicide Screening Questions Quality Improvement Pilot (ASQ QIP) Launched February 2019.
  - Memorandum of Understanding finalized with the National Institute of Mental Health June 2019.
- National Suicide Prevention Committee On Respectful Cultural Connection (NSP-CRC) charter initiated and entering review July 2019.
- Memorandum on Training in view July 2019.

# Suicide Prevention and Care in Practice

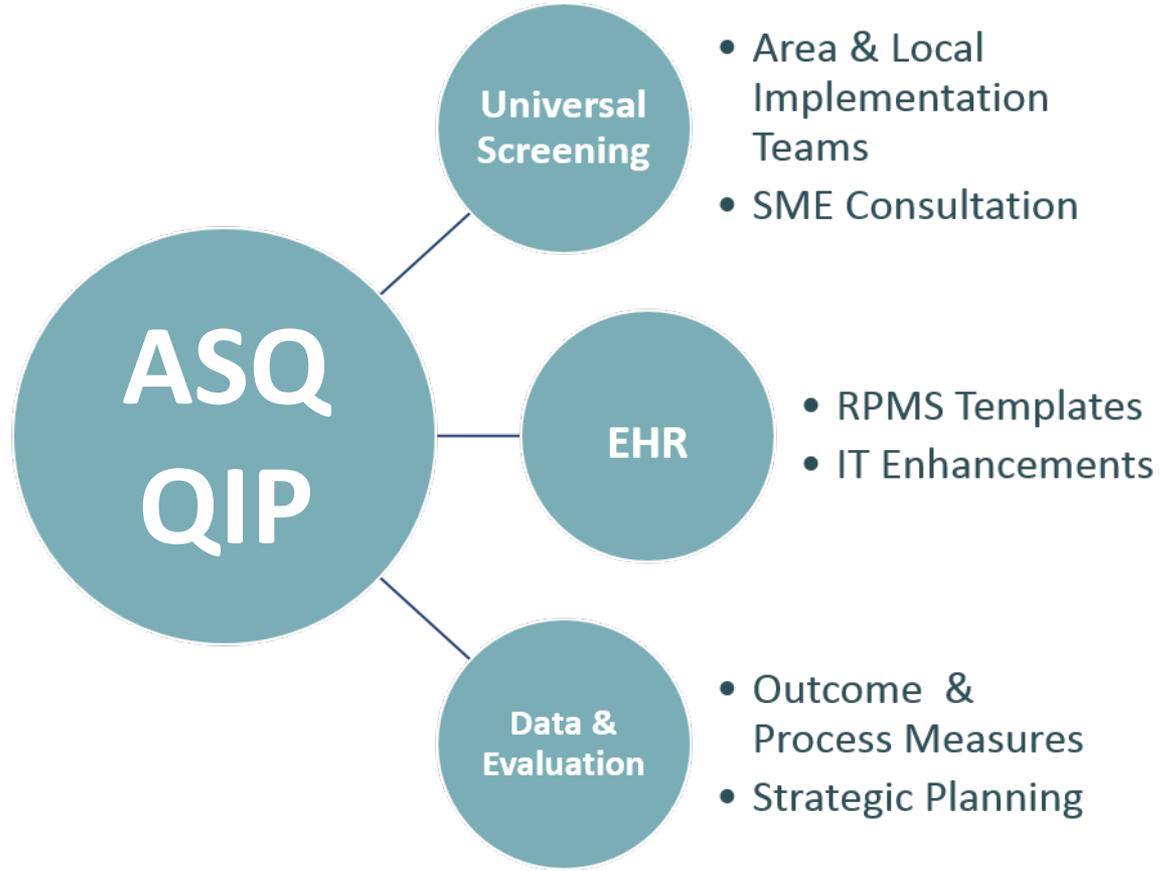
# National Guidance, Field Implementation

- Suicide Prevention & Care Policy
- ASQ QIP
- Zero Suicide Initiative
- Crisis Response

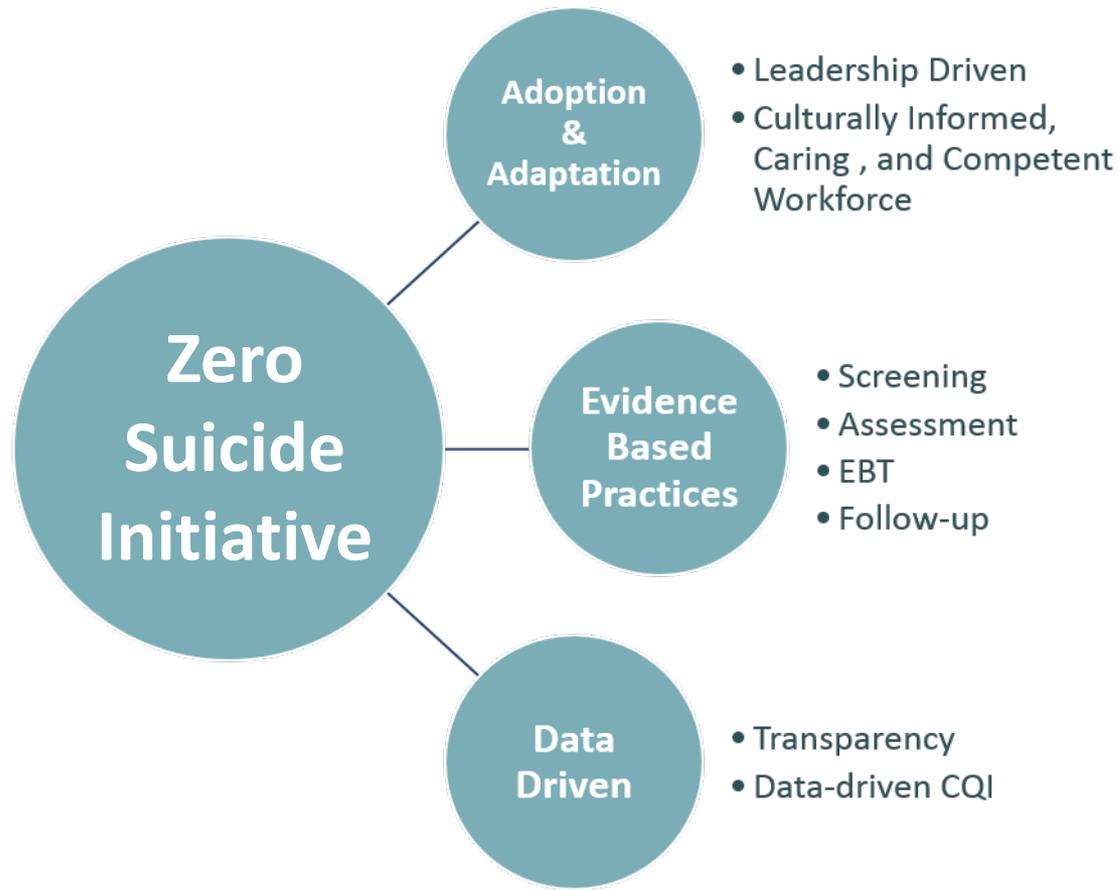
# Access



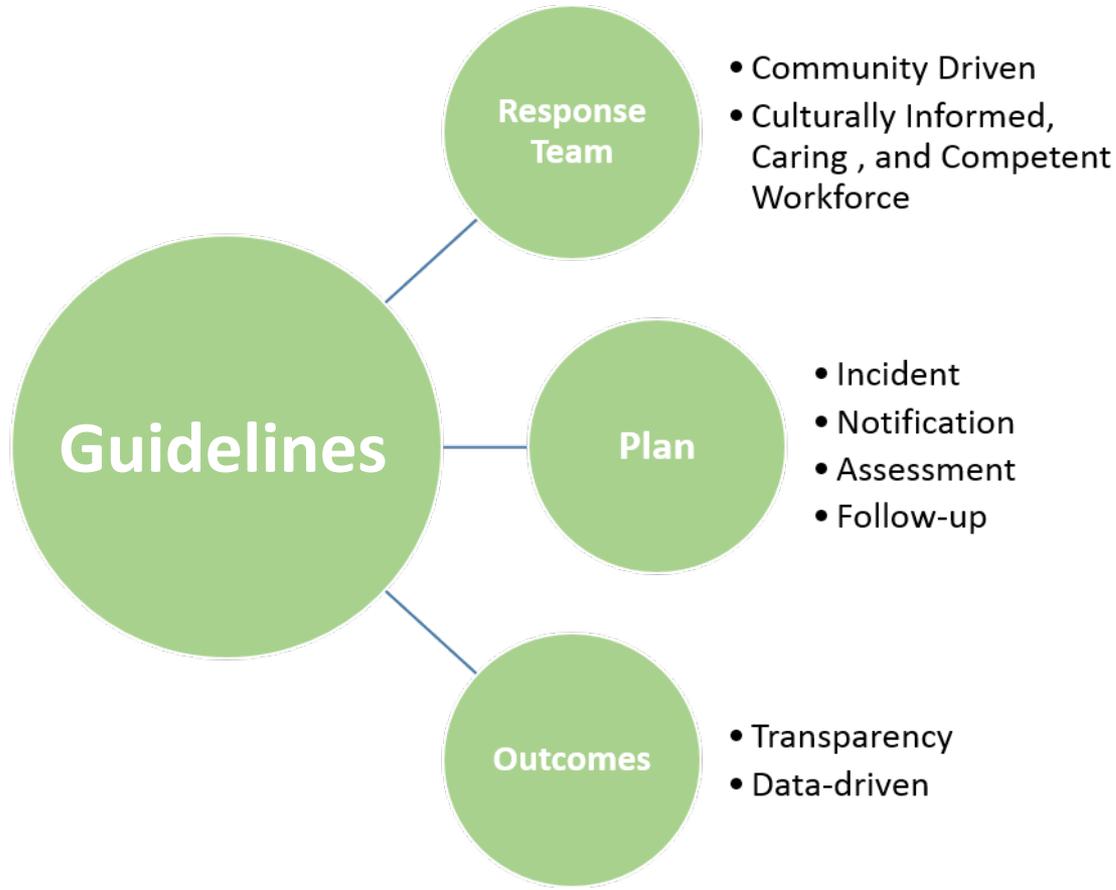
# Quality Management



# System of Care



# Community Crisis Response



# Community Crisis Response Process & Policy

## Crisis Identified

- A crisis can be identified by key stakeholders and providers
- Tribe must be notified and local IHS Facilities involved

## Notification

- Tribal leadership collaborates with local IHS Facilities
- Convenes a Crisis Response Team including a Team Lead
- Contacts Area Behavioral Health Consultant

## Additional Needs

- Area Behavioral Health Consultant acts as point of contact for IHS Area and determines additional needs
- Area Behavioral Health Consultant collaborates with tribe and Area for determination of additional needs
- Area Behavioral Health Consultant notifies IHS Headquarters for need of a Commissioned Corps Deployment

# Indian Health Service (IHS)

- Community Crisis Response Guidelines
  - <https://www.ihs.gov/suicideprevention/communityguidelines/>
- Requests for the Director's Emergency Fund
  - [https://www.ihs.gov/suicideprevention/includes/themes/responsive2017/display\\_objects/documents/emergencyfundrequests.pdf](https://www.ihs.gov/suicideprevention/includes/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/emergencyfundrequests.pdf)

Q&A

# Contact Information

- Pamela End of Horn, MSW, LICSW
  - [pamela.endofhorn@ihs.gov](mailto:pamela.endofhorn@ihs.gov)
- CDR Sean Bennett, LCSW
  - [Sean.Bennett@ihs.gov](mailto:Sean.Bennett@ihs.gov)

# References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html>
2. [http://www.glitc.org/forms/epi/glitec\\_suicidereport\\_highrez.pdf](http://www.glitc.org/forms/epi/glitec_suicidereport_highrez.pdf)
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6708-H.pdf>
4. [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/suicide/rates\\_1999\\_2017.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/suicide/rates_1999_2017.pdf)
5. [www.Zerosuicide.org](http://www.Zerosuicide.org)
6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23027429>