

SUICIDE PREVENTION:

CHANGING ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE TO SAVE LIVES

STIGMA

is a prominent barrier to identifying and preventing suicide.

Fear and judgment are substantial barriers that keep patients from seeking help for suicidal thoughts and mental distress. Stigma surrounding mental health keeps people from speaking up for fear that they will be judged, misunderstood, or dismissed. This leads to greater isolation which can exacerbate symptoms of mental illness and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

An organization's culture determines its impact in changing the story of suicide in Alabama.

The **Zero Suicide** framework is an evidence-based, system-wide framework for changing healthcare cultures to reduce and eliminate suicide within served populations.

Zero Suicide aligns leadership, clinical practice, and organizational culture to promote suicide-safer care for patients.

When this foundation is firmly established, the **Zero Suicide** framework fosters a coordinated, organization-wide commitment to suicide prevention.

This collective commitment cultivates a culture of low-stigma, high-quality care that both improves patient outcomes and enhances provider performance and well-being.



Project Zero Suicide is a statewide effort to lower the number of suicides in Alabama to zero. Through implementation of the Zero Suicide framework in healthcare systems alongside community engagement and education efforts, VitAL's Project Zero Suicide team is working to create suicide safer spaces for all Alabamians. Reach out today to explore how you can join this work and how the Project Zero Suicide team can support your organization or community!

Scan the QR Code to fill out the Project Zero Suicide Engagement Form.
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