

Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Capacity Assessment Tool (SPACECAT) Planning and Implementation Projects

In 2021, National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), was awarded funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to collaborate with the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to develop and pilot the Suicide Prevention and Adverse Childhood Experiences Capacity Assessment Tool, known as SPACECAT. This tool was developed to help local, state, and territorial health agencies assess their current capacity to address the intersection of suicide, overdose, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Since its development, the SPACECAT tool has been used as a key resource for several NACCHO projects aimed at strengthening local health department (LHD) capacity at this intersection.

Strengthening Capacity in Suicide, Overdose, and ACEs Prevention for Local Health

Departments (2022): NACCHO provided one-on-one technical assistance to help LHDs translate their SPACECAT results into actionable guidance to begin improving internal capacity to address the intersection of suicide, overdose, and ACEs. NACCHO provided funding to 10 LHDs.

Project Sites:

- Cincinnati Health Department, OH
- Dent County Health Center, MO
- Erie County Health Department, OH
- Johnston County Health Department. OK
- City of Minneapolis, MN
- Orleans County Health Department, NY
- Snohomish Health District, WA
- St. Joseph Department of Health, IN
- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, WA
- Winnebago County Health Department, IL

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Departments: Community Prevention Framework Pilot (2022-2023): This project expanded on the previous year's work towards the goal of developing comprehensive, integrated, approaches to addressing the intersection. NACCHO and Education Development Center (EDC) provided technical assistance to assist five (5) pilot sites in applying the Community-Led Suicide Prevention Framework to:

- Leverage cross-sector partnerships and engage community collaborators to develop an organizing body (internal or with community partners) to commit to working at the intersection.
- Identify health inequities and focus efforts on supporting those in greatest need within their communities.
- Develop and adopt a strategic plan to tackle the intersection of suicide, overdose, and ACEs.
- Identify and select evidence-based strategies to strengthen the prevention response, identifying adaptations, if needed, for the communities' cultural context and readiness for change.

Project Sites:

- Baltimore City Health Department, MD
- Missoula City-County Health Department, MT
- Panhandle Public Health District, NE
- St. Joseph Department of Health, IN
- Tuscarawas County Health Department, OH

Suicide, Overdose, and ACEs Prevention Planning Project (SOAPP) and Implementing at the Intersection of Suicide, Overdose, and ACEs (ISOAP) (2023-2024): These projects supported two distinct categories of activities —planning and implementing community-based approaches to address the intersection. The LHDs participating in planning (SOAPP) received technical assistance to co-develop a strategic plan with community partners. The LHDs participating in implementation (ISOAP) worked with community partners to implement and evaluate activities to address the intersection of these issues.

Project Sites:

- Huron County Public Health, OH (SOAPP)
- Klamath County Public, OR (SOAPP)
- Lorain County General Health District, OH (SOAPP)
- Missoula City-County Health Department, MT (ISOAP)
- Erie County Health Department, OH (ISOAP)