

March 2023

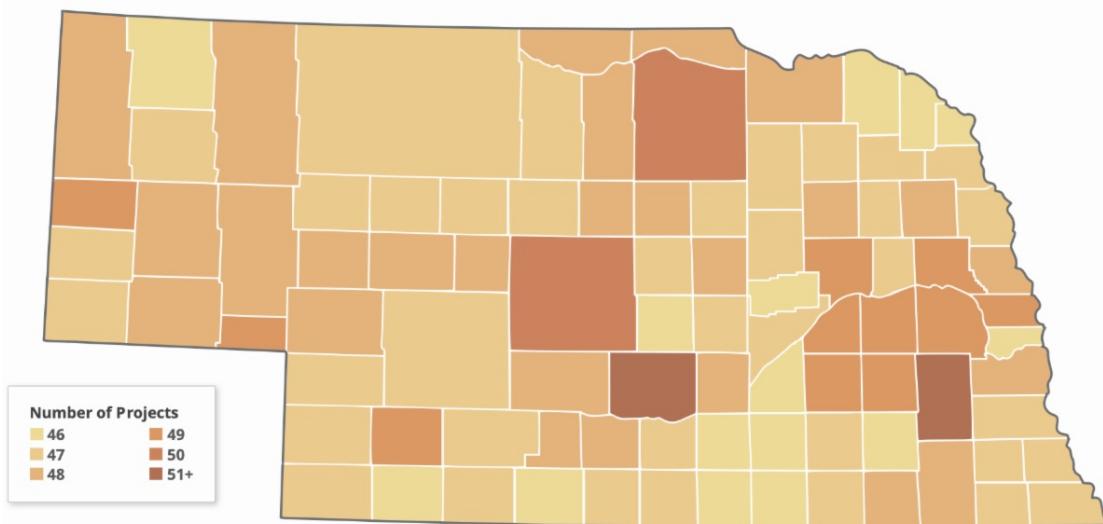


POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

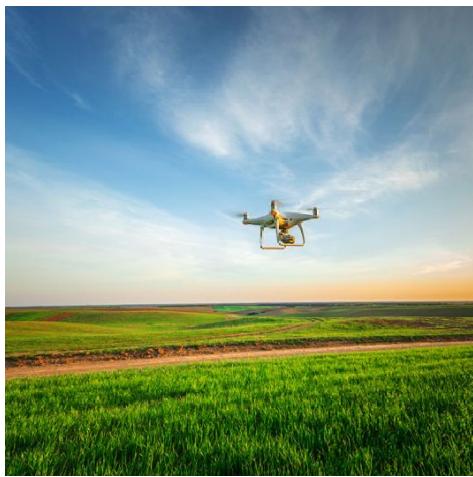
Featured News

Public Policy Center Impacts Every Nebraska County Through Research and Collaborative Projects



Over the past year, the Public Policy Center has maintained a statewide presence, with research and projects impacting every county in Nebraska. Notable projects include efforts to address school behavioral health and safety needs, youth suicide prevention, violence prevention and threat assessment efforts around the state, evaluating and expanding the 988 suicide and crisis helpline, and disaster preparedness and recovery for schools. Our research staff partner with policy makers and other stakeholders to apply rigorous academic methods and actively inform public policy. [Learn more](#) about our efforts and statewide impact.

NIMBUS Labs Receives Nearly \$2 Million in Funding to Forward Robotics and Drone Research



NIMBUS labs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln received nearly \$2 Million in funding to advance its drone and robotics research into the effects of climate change. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center faculty fellow, **Brittany Duncan**, leads the three-year National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded component of the project. PPC faculty fellow, **Carrick Detweiler**, and associate professor **Justin Bradley** comprise the rest of the team, who will

develop an integrated robot system to collect ecosystem data in the Arctic tundra. [Read the Full Story.](#)

Events

Navigating Ethics & Boundaries as Peer Professionals

JOIN FREE ON ZOOM



Tim Saubers

April 13, 2023

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Central)

[Learn More](#)

This workshop is for Certified Peer Support Specialists.

**Register
Today**

Tips and Tricks for Working with Children and Youth in Mental Health Practice - IN PERSON TRAINING

April 14, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mountain) - Gering, NE

April 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Central) - Fremont, NE



Dr. Cate Jones-Hazledine & Jennifer Jackson

There will be two opportunities to attend this free in-person training for behavioral health providers. [Learn more.](#)

Sponsored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health.

Engagement Highlight

Chadron State College Hosts Western Nebraska School Mental Health Conference



Chadron State College hosted the 2023 **Western Nebraska School Mental Health Conference** on March 7, 2023. PPC researchers attended the conference in association with AWARE. Nebraska AWARE aims to put mental health services in schools to address the high level of mental and behavioral

health needs of school-aged children in rural schools, including depression, anxiety, suicide ideation, and trauma. The PPC sponsored 5.0 continuing education hours for psychologists for the conference.

This project, jointly undertaken by the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, is made possible through Nebraska's AWARE-SEA grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Center News

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders County awarded \$25,000 to the PPC

The **Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties**

awarded \$25,000 to the PPC to complete a Community Needs Assessment to better understand the needs and strengths of the community as well as the specific needs of Head Start eligible families. The assessment will ultimately inform Community Action's program planning to better support community



members. The PPC surveyed stakeholders and conducted three focus groups with community leaders, Head Start staff, and caregivers of children currently enrolled in Head Start. Relevant community data and resources, including data collected from Lincoln Vital Signs, supplemented these findings. The Community Needs Assessment findings were shared with the Community Action Board in March 2023.

The PPC Is Seeking a Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Do you know a graduate student with an interest in targeted violence research? Encourage them to apply for our **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** position by **April 18, 2023**. Accepted applicants will join our targeted violence research team and work with Dr. Mario Scalora and other threat assessment experts.

Visit our **[careers page](#)** for more details about each position.



PPC in Action

PPC researchers Mike Schiwart, Janell Walther, Dylan Saunders, Alyssa Sloane, Liz Gleason, and Jen Farley at the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders (MSLBD) conference in Kansas City, MO.

Honorable Mentions

- Gov. Jim Pillen and assorted state law enforcement officials held a press conference on March 2 to address reports received from across Nebraska regarding false claims of school shootings. Led by Nebraska State Patrol's Col. John Bolduc, the conference included Pillen; Lt. Monty Lovelace, director of NSP's Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC); Jay Martin, Nebraska school safety and security director at the Nebraska Department of Education; and Dr. Mario Scalora, director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.
- Dr. Mario Scalora is featured on episode 15 of the podcast *Across the Dinerverse* with John Murphy to discuss the nation's collective mental health and the topic of mass shootings and violent crime. Listen on Apple, Spotify, iHeart, YouTube and more.

Community Resources

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention is working to decrease the suicide rate among young people by sharing resources on their website for people currently dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important.



Visit Our
Website

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Call or Text 988

Free 24/7 confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

Nebraska Family Helpline

1-888-866-8660

Free 24/7 confidential support for all Nebraskans.

Rural Response Hotline

1-800-464-0258

(M-F from 8AM-5PM)

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