

June 2025



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

Online Resource Discusses Recent Trends in Behavioral Health Threat Assessment



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) has released a new resource with information about recent trends in the evolving landscape of behavioral threat assessment. Dr. Mario Scalora provides an overview of the complex threat landscape and outlines key factors to assessing risk. Scalora provides an overview of the nature of violence and grievances as well as the role of the electronic footprint and the interplay of mental illness in the online world. He further discusses the pathways to violence and key takeaways for practitioners. Read more at ptv.unl.edu/home/resources.

Suicide Prevention Campaign Aims to Reach Rural Nebraskans



Suicide Prevention Awareness Campaign Prepares to Wrap Up Second Year of Outreach

A statewide suicide prevention initiative, supported by funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and managed by the Public Policy Center, prepares to wrap up year two of a multi-year campaign aimed at reducing suicide rates, particularly among men in rural Nebraska. The statewide media campaign includes broadcast television and radio ads, digital media ads, and print ads in newspapers around Nebraska. Since September 2024, a total of 122 distinct communication products were disseminated to the public. Radio PSAs aired 3,152 times across 84 different radio stations throughout Nebraska, television PSAs were broadcast 766 times on 21 stations during prime viewing hours, and digital video PSAs on YouTube reached users 3,307,441 times. Additionally, Spotify and Pandora PSAs were played 928,767 times and reached 416,601 unique users. The communication materials focused on upstream suicide prevention strategies, emphasizing recognition of suicide warning signs, the importance of lethal means safety, particularly firearm safety, and awareness of available suicide prevention resources.

[Learn
More](#)

Events

2025 Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Exercise

Virtual: Via Zoom

July 23, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon (CT)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

The Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Exercise is designed to support collaboration across local agencies in understanding how their plans interact in the context of newly updated Disaster Behavioral Health Response and Recovery Plans. Join us for this virtual event. Questions about the event? Contact Jason Shoner at jason.shoner@unl.edu.



**RSVP
Today**

Zero Suicide 101: An Introduction to Safer Suicide Care in Nebraska Lunch & Learn Webinar

Virtual: Via Zoom, all at 12:00 pm (Central)

- [Register for July 1](#)
- [Register for July 15](#)
- [Register for July 25](#)

This webinar is for anyone interested in learning more about the Zero Suicide approach and how it's being implemented across Nebraska. You'll be introduced to the framework's key concepts and core pillars and learn real-world examples of how health and behavioral health organizations in NE are using it for safer suicide care. This introductory session will provide a solid foundation for understanding Zero Suicide.

Check out Zero Suicide's free toolkit and additional resources on the [Zero Suicide Institute website](#).



Center News

We are Hiring an IT Specialist and a Student Copy Editor



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is currently seeking an **Information Technology Specialist** to provide computing management services to NUPPC and the Center on Children, Families and the Law. **Apply by July 7.**

NUPPC is also seeking an **Undergraduate Copy Editor** to provide support for our staff to assist with proofreading academic reports and press releases. They will also

help proofread promotional material, social media posts, and web content for a minimum of 15 hours a week starting in July. Appointment is for one semester but can be extended if desired. **Apply Today.** Interested students should submit letter of interest, resume, and three references to Liz Green at **Liz.Green@unl.edu**.

Center Researchers Speak at Nebraska School Mental Health Conference in Kearney



In May, NUPPC Research Director Janell Walther and Senior Research Manager Jennifer Meek co-presented with Amber Hartsock from the Nebraska Department of Education at the Annual Nebraska School Mental Health Conference in Kearney, Nebraska. The team presented on strategies to reduce stigma around mental health in rural school districts and their surrounding communities. NUPPC researchers Ashley Miller and Elizabeth Gleason also contributed to the presentation.

Paper Focusing on Trust in the Workplace Named Best Paper by Journal of Trust Research

A paper titled "How does trust in multiple trustees influence disclosure of workplace conflict? Testing the Perceived Influence Model of Trust" has been named Best Paper (2023-2025) from the *Journal of Trust Research*. In addition to Senior Research Manager **Lisa PytlikZillig**, authors of the paper include Ashley

BEST PAPER
SHORTLIST NOMINEE



Votruba, Michelle Fleig-Palmer, Jooho Lee, Mariska Kappmeier, and Abigail Herzfeld. **[Read the paper.](#)**

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