

September 2022

UNIVERSITY OF
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CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

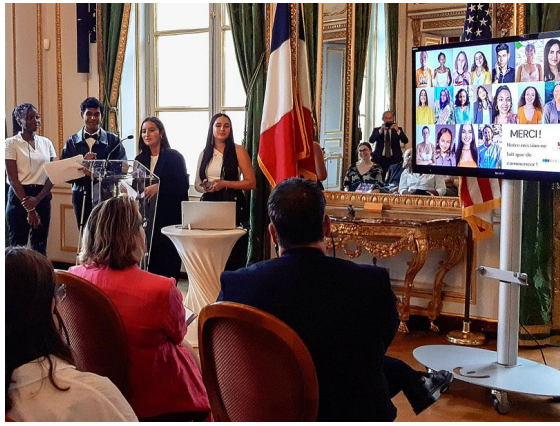
Key Findings of 2022 Lincoln Vital Signs Report Show Lincoln is Thriving in Many Areas but Challenges Persist



The Lincoln Journal Star and Nebraska Today highlight key findings of the 2022 Lincoln Vital Signs report, which was published in June 2022 at LincolnVitalSigns.org. Results point to the areas in which Lincoln is doing well as a community (decreased homelessness and food insecurity, low crime rates), persistent concerns (inequities in areas such as graduation rates and employment), and overall population shifts (increasing ethnic/racial diversity, aging population). The report has become the centerpiece of a community-wide engagement process to set priorities and take action to make Lincoln even stronger.

Lead partners on the effort include the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center** and the **Lincoln Community Foundation**. Read more in the **Lincoln Journal Star** and **Nebraska Today**, check out senior research manager **Dr. Stacey Hoffman's** interview with **KLKN**, or visit LincolnVitalSigns.org to see the full report.

PPC Goes International with Invent2Prevent Experiential Learning Program Evaluation



Invent2Prevent teams met in Paris, France for a final competition hosted by the U.S. Embassy on Sept. 7. Amine Djouadi is working with the Public Policy Center to evaluate the Invent2Prevent student innovation laboratory experiences for the U.S. State Department. Invent2Prevent is an innovative, experiential learning program that

challenges high school and college students to create and implement their own dynamic products, tools, or initiatives to address acts of targeted violence, hate, or terrorism in their specific communities. Learn more about **Invent2Prevent**.

Events

Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference to Meet in Lincoln in October

The **Great Plains Disaster Behavioral ATAP Conference** is planned for October 13-14 at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. The 2022 conference focuses on preventing targeted mass casualty attacks and discusses implications for threat assessment. **Learn More.**



Great Plains
CHAPTER

A **special pre-conference training** with Dr. Mario Scalora will take place on October 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (CST) at the Platte River Room South at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus Union. **Learn More.**

Register Today

Nebraska School Safety Summit Meets in Kearney in October

Registration is now open for the Fifth Annual **Nebraska School Safety and Security Summit**, which meets in Kearney, Nebraska on October 18 and 19.



Organizers of the event include the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska Department of Education, Boys Town, and the University of

Multiple Pathways of Recovery and Building Equity

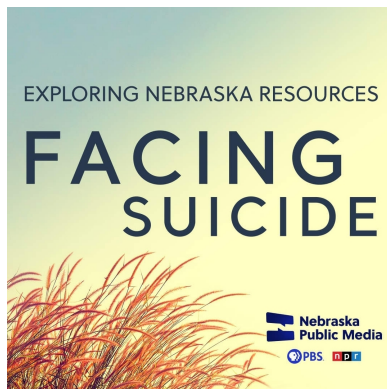
Registration is now open for "Multiple Pathways of Recovery and Building Equity" with Dr. Haner Hernández. This free virtual training is October 14 (Part I) and October 28 (Part II) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (CST). Sponsors include NUPPC and Nebraska DHHS Division of Behavioral Health.



This two-part training will explore the development of disparities related to substance use disorders and mental health, how to build health equity and community engagement, and helpful tools and strategies for engagement, retention, and improving outcomes. **Register today.**

Partner Spotlight

Facing Suicide Program Explores Nebraska Resources for Suicide Prevention



Getting rural Nebraskans mental health care remains a challenge. Learn more from Nebraska Public Media's "Facing Suicide" program, which features Sheri Dawson of Nebraska DHHS, Marley Doyle of UNMC's Behavioral Health Education Center, Michelle Nunemaker of Nebraska DHHS, and Jennifer Krajewski, founder of the North Platte Suicide

Prevention Coalition and coordinator for the Southwest Nebraska LOSS team. Find out more at NebraskaPublicMedia.org.

Center News

Center Staff Travel to Texas to Assist U.S. Army Research Institute with Data Collection and Analysis

The PPC has a three-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Research Institute (ARI) to identify factors impacting the development of leadership identity in enlisted Army personnel. **Dr. Mario Scalora** and **Dr. Denise Bulling** are working with **Dr. L.J. McElravy**, associate dean of graduate studies and associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This month, the team traveled to Texas to conduct surveys and interviews to gather data for further analysis. During the later phases, they will develop case studies and a training package for the ARI and the Department of Defense.

Governor Declares September Suicide Prevention Month and Preparedness Month in Nebraska

Quinn Lewandowski, president of the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition and senior research specialist at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, joined Lt. Governor Mike Foley for a proclamation to declare September Suicide Prevention Month in Nebraska. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention-Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Extension, the Kim Foundation, Veterans Affairs, the National Guard, Bryan Health, Nebraska Local Outreach to Suicide Loss Survivors, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services were also present. Visit nsspc.org or afsp.org for more information.

Governor Pete Ricketts and Lt. Gov Mike Foley also declared September Preparedness Month in Nebraska. Disaster preparedness involves the whole community including state officials, organizations, and individuals. Find out today how you can be prepared for disasters at ready.gov.

Honorable Mentions

- **Lisa PytlikZillig** joins Rodrigo Franco Cruz as part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's faculty ombud team. An ombud serves as someone that faculty members can talk to about workplace issues in confidence, listens to concerns as a neutral party, and serves as an advocate for fairness and equity.
- **Ashley Miller** will lead a THIRA weather scenario in partnership with the National Weather Service for the North Central Region. The exercise for emergency managers will focus on a storm scenario impacting the Burwell rodeo.
- A manuscript by **Katherine Richardson Bruna** (Iowa State University), **Jennifer Farley** (NUPPC), and **Lyric Bartholomay** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) titled "'Popping It' as family in Mosquitoes & Me: affective accumulation and Anzaldúan aesthetic consciousness in *Ciencia Zurda*" has been selected for publication in a special issue of *Cultural Studies of Science Education* on Borderlands.
- PPC undergraduate research assistant **Bhagya Pushkaran** and 19 of her fellow Huskers have been named finalists for 2022 Homecoming Royalty. **See all the finalists.**

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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