

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2025

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EIPH Recognizes Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Eastern Idaho - In recognition of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month this September, Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) and Community Suicide Prevention (CSP) urge the community to take an active role in preventing suicide. Suicide is a serious public health issue in Idaho that brings tragic loss to families, friends, schools, and entire communities.

In 2023, Idaho had the 4th highest suicide rate within the United States after increasing by 4.7% from the previous year. The [Department of Health and Welfare](#) lists suicide as the 2nd leading cause of death for teens and young adults ages 15-24 in 2023.

“Suicide prevention is a shared responsibility that starts with us, in our own communities,” said, Timalee Geisler, Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator. “This month, we want to empower everyone to be a support for their friends, family, and neighbors. By working together to reduce stigma and increase access to help, we can create stronger, more resilient communities.”

Throughout the month of September, EIPH and CSP will host several events aimed at raising awareness and providing resources to the public.

- **September 19th** - Community Suicide Prevention 7th Annual Conference: Connecting Communities to Save Lives
 - 7:30am, Idaho State University, Idaho Falls Campus, Student Union Building
 - Tickets available on [Eventbrite](#)
 - For more information, contact Timalee Geisler at (208) 533-3149 or tgeisler@eiph.idaho.gov
- **September 23rd** - St. Anthony Angel “Hope” Bench Dedication
 - 6:00pm, Clyde Keefer Memorial Park, St. Anthony
- **September 25th** – Rigby “Wings of Hope” Community Suicide Awareness and Memorial Walk
 - 6:00pm, Rigby South Park, Southeast Corner at the Angel “Hope” Bench, Rigby

EIPH encourages community members to share messages of hope and support on social media using the hashtag #SuicidePreventionMonth.

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