

# Strengthening and Sustaining Ohio's Suicide Prevention Coalitions Initiative

## Strengthening and Sustaining Ohio's Suicide Prevention Coalitions Initiative Community Readiness Assessment FAQs June 30, 2020

### **Question #1: What if a key informant wants the questions beforehand?**

**Answer:** We recommend that you do not send the questions beforehand. The social dynamics of interviewing mean that key informants want to come up with answers that they think the interviewer will like or view positively. That means that if key informants get the questions beforehand, you can expect that your key informant will have been thinking about them and/or doing background research in preparation for the interview. That could result in readiness scores that are higher than your community's actual level of readiness.

### **Question #2: We are excited to understand readiness to engage in a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention using the CDC strategies but what if a key informant has no idea what the CDC strategies are? Won't this demoralize them in the interview?**

**Answer:** In general, having key informants tell you that they are not aware of the 7 CDC strategies gives you important information about the readiness of your community to address suicide prevention using a comprehensive approach. If you experience this situation with a key informant, it is likely to occur after you have asked Q2.

#### **COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE OF EFFORTS**

I'm going to ask you about current community efforts to engage in a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention using seven key strategies from the CDC. By efforts, I mean any programs, activities, or services in your community that address engaging in a comprehensive approach to suicide.

#### **2. Are there comprehensive efforts in **(community)** that address suicide prevention using the CDC strategies?**

*If **Yes**, continue to question 3; if **No or Don't Know About the CDC Strategies**, skip to question 16.*

This question prompted us to change the skip pattern from Q2 to include "No" or "Don't know" as answers that will skip key informants to Q16. If you encounter a key informant who is not familiar with the 7 CDC strategies, we recommend you acknowledge the "Don't know" response and then screen share page 12 (attached here) from the CDC technical manual, which presents the strategies in a short table. We would recommend that you share the graphic and let the key informant know that the table

presents a summary of the strategies. This approach will help ensure that your key informants do not feel demoralized by not knowing about the 7 CDC strategies.

**Question #3: We are excited to understand readiness to engage in a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention using the CDC strategies but we are a new coalition that is just getting started. What if we are just beginning to work to prevent suicide and a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention is too much of a stretch right now?**

Answer: This is an important question because the goal of the CRA is to understand community readiness to address suicide prevention using a comprehensive approach and the 7 CDC strategies. However, if your coalition is just getting started, this problem of practice may not fit where your coalition is. In that situation, it is okay to change the problem of practice to “readiness to prevent suicide” or “readiness for suicide prevention efforts.” However, before you make that change, please contact Matt Courser (614-746-5670 or [mcourser@pire.org](mailto:mcourser@pire.org)) before you make the change so that he can talk through the challenge with you and make sure the change best fits your coalition and community.

**Question #4: Question 26 doesn’t make sense because if our problem of practice is “comprehensive approaches to suicide prevention,” that is not an issue that is “tolerated.”**

Answer: This is a good catch and we apologize for not noticing this before. As Q26 reads currently, it asks, “Are there ever any circumstances in which members of (community) might think that this issue should be tolerated? Please explain.” We recommend that this question be rephrased to read, “Are there any circumstances in which members of (community) might think that comprehensive approaches to suicide prevention should not be attempted? Please explain.” We will make this edit in the instrument on the website as well.