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Compass Health Network strives to provide all communities in our service areas the support to achieve effective, efficient, and economical means of improving public health. We have taken on the responsibility of reducing suicide issues in these communities by creating pilot programs to educate community members about suicide facts, suicide prevention, and suicide intervention. One of the key educational tools is to promote lethal means safety, specifically firearms, to reduce overall suicide deaths.

Compass is concerned with the increase in suicides of Veterans, Youth, and Rural Americans by firearms. The pilot programs are "not" to change the laws, rights, or general opinions on firearms in the communities involved, but to provide suicide awareness in conjunction with firearm safety education to promote a suicide safer community. Statistics show that 3 out of every 5 deaths by firearms are a suicide death. These same statistics also show that 64 Americans die by firearm suicide every day; that is almost 1 death every 22 minutes.

Compass was recently awarded a planning grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to work with others in the Veteran, Rural and Educational areas to help determine the messaging and strategies to create a suicide safer community. We would like to invite you to be a member of an advisory committee that will be comprised of both internal and external stakeholders, including consumer participation. The committee will meet to identify any issues related to the planning grant, outcomes, and general access issues, as well as proposed solutions and recommendations.

Compass is asking communities in our geographic coverage area to participate in a Community Assessment Survey (CAS). This CAS is designed to help Compass design educational programs to better assist our communities in suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Our goal is to create "suicide safer communities" in Missouri. By focusing our program on the demographics of Veterans, Youth and Rural Americans we can create an umbrella of help for those in our communities most at risk. The survey will take between 10-12 minutes to complete.

Below is a hyper link and QR to the Community Assessment Survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGHVGP6>



Please contact Sam Smith, Prevention Consultant Manager, Advisory Committee Chair, should you have interest in joining the committee or if you have additional questions. Thank you.