



LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN



MSI Law Enforcement Bulletin 2021-08

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED “LAW ENFORCEMENT SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY.”

WE ENCOURAGE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AMONGST THEIR OFFICERS AND FAMILIES!

The [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) recognizes numerous initiatives during the month of September to raise awareness of suicide prevention. These initiatives include National Suicide Prevention Month, National Suicide Prevention Week (September 5th-11th), and Worldwide Suicide Prevention Day (September 10). Law Enforcement Leaders may be planning to inform their communities of these initiatives and possibly even partner with mental health agencies and providers to connect those in need with essential resources. Although such actions are vital and greatly needed, this is also a critical time for law enforcement leaders to utilize these efforts to help promote National [Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day](#) on September 26.

Approximately 174 officers in 2020 and 90 officers to date have committed suicide based on data collected by the non-profit organization [Blue H.E.L.P.](#) Good physical health has long been recognized as a key to successful policing. It has also been recognized that good mental and psychological health is essential in keeping officers, their families, and their communities safe. Organizational policies, systems, and culture can play a critical role in eliminating the stigma associated with seeking mental health assistance. Law enforcement leaders should consider preparing for Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness Day by planning community and intra-agency messaging, reviewing existing policies, building partnerships, and having conversations with a broad selection of organizational personnel, including retired members.

It is imperative that agencies, at a minimum, have implemented the required provisions of [New Jersey Attorney General Direction 2019-1, Directive Promoting Law Enforcement Resiliency](#). Additionally, there are many other resources listed below that can assist organizations in building their capacity to promote the mental well-being of their personnel.

[NJ Cop2Cop](#)

[Law Enforcement Officer Suicide – 2020 Report to Congress](#)

[National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide – Final Report](#)

Outlines Five Consortium Recommendations:

1. Data and Research
2. Organization and Systems Change
3. Peer Support
4. Family Support/Surviving Families
5. Messaging

[I.A.C.P. Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide Toolkit](#)

Includes [Strategies for Safe and Positive Messaging](#) in Law Enforcement

[U.S. Department of Justice, COPS – Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness \(L.E.M.H.W.A.\) Program Resources](#)

[S.A.F.E.L.O. – National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers Program](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Law Enforcement Risk Control Consultant.

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