

# COLUMBIA SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE (C-SSRS) INITIATIVE



## SUICIDE IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

Recently, we've been seeing increases in suicide thoughts, attempts, and deaths regionally. Twenty percent (20%) of high school youth in Indiana seriously considered suicide each year. Anyone can be at risk- regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, type of career, etc. Our clients, colleagues, family members, and neighbors could be thinking about suicide.

## SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE...

If we know what to look for and what to do. However, in order to prevent it, we must first appropriately identify it; the C-SSRS can help us do that! Why screen for suicide risk? Approximately 25-50% of people who die by suicide are seen by primary care/ER in the past 12 months for non-psychiatric reasons. Had screening occurred, suffering and deaths may have been avoided. Healthcare providers are not the only ones who can screen for suicide risk. People thinking of suicide have interactions with pastors, barbers, baristas, service providers, etc. who could also ask about suicide.

## OUR INITIATIVE

Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana Coalition is working with its partners to establish a **common language around suicide** across northeastern Indiana. Ideally all agencies, service providers, educators, churches, etc. would use the same standardized suicide screening tool.

A common tool:

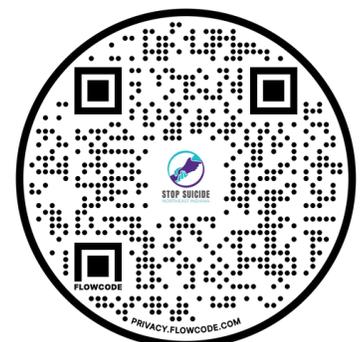
- Remove individual interpretation and improve consistency
- Provide proper identification and accurate level of risk leading to sound decisions about care
- Ensure a smoother transition/continuity of care between organizations and/or systems

## THE TOOL

Coalition partners are offering **low-cost training** on how to use the brief **Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale**. Ideally, pastors, barbers, baristas, service providers, parents, educators, everyone would use this so they could help those at risk get appropriate care.. Why the C-SSRS screener?

- It asks about ideation, intent, and past behavior leading to better prediction of suicide risk which can save lives
- Easy to use- 3-6 questions
- Helps determine low, medium, or high risk and what steps to take at each level
- It's the most evidence-supported tool
- Tool is free & available in multiple languages
- Anyone can use it

Interested in learning more? Scan this QR code or visit:  
<https://www.stopsuicidenow.org/c-ssrs-initiative>



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