

University of Wyoming

LENA NEWLIN, MPH, CHES
AWARE PROGRAM COORDINATOR
UW LIFESAVERS INITIATIVE GRANT MANAGER

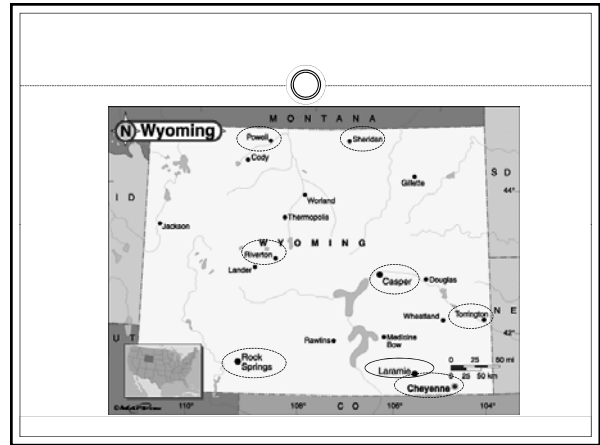
Wyoming

- Least populated state in US
 - 500,000 people spread over 98,000 square miles
- Ranks #1 in the nation for individuals committing suicide* (22.5 per 100,000 versus 11.1 nationally)
- Leading method is firearm
- “Cowboy-Up” culture of rugged individualism

*Source: American Association of Suicidology (AAS), 2006

Higher Education in Wyoming

- UW is only 4-year institution of higher education
- Seven community colleges
- One technical college
- One tribal college



Wyoming Higher Education Mental Health and Substance Abuse Summit

- Media involvement before and after
 - Local and statewide newspapers, radio, TV
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxyYmHcVZZ8>

S
U
M
M
I
T

WYOMING
HIGHER EDUCATION
MENTAL HEALTH &
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Year One: Spring 2008

- Approx 30 people
- Gatekeepers training
- Strategic Planning
- Collaboration with WY Dept of Health
 - Funding for community colleges
- Email listserve

Year Two: Spring 2009

- Approx 80 people
- Keynote speaker (Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas)
- Breakout sessions
- Gatekeepers train-the trainer
- Campus and community representatives and sponsorship

Year Three: Spring 2010

- The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management
- Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment Training with Brett Sokolow

Outcomes

- Network of support across the state in higher education for students
- Collaboration between institutions of higher education