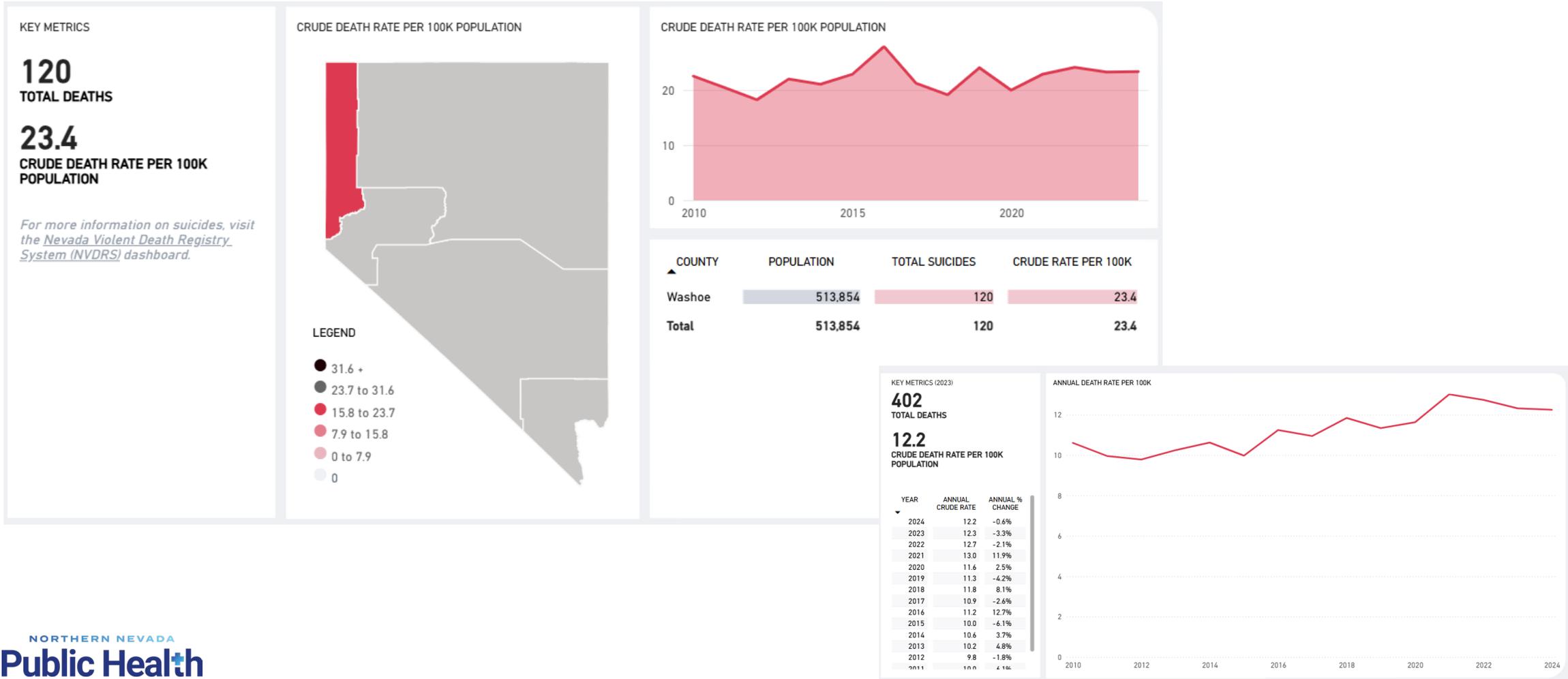


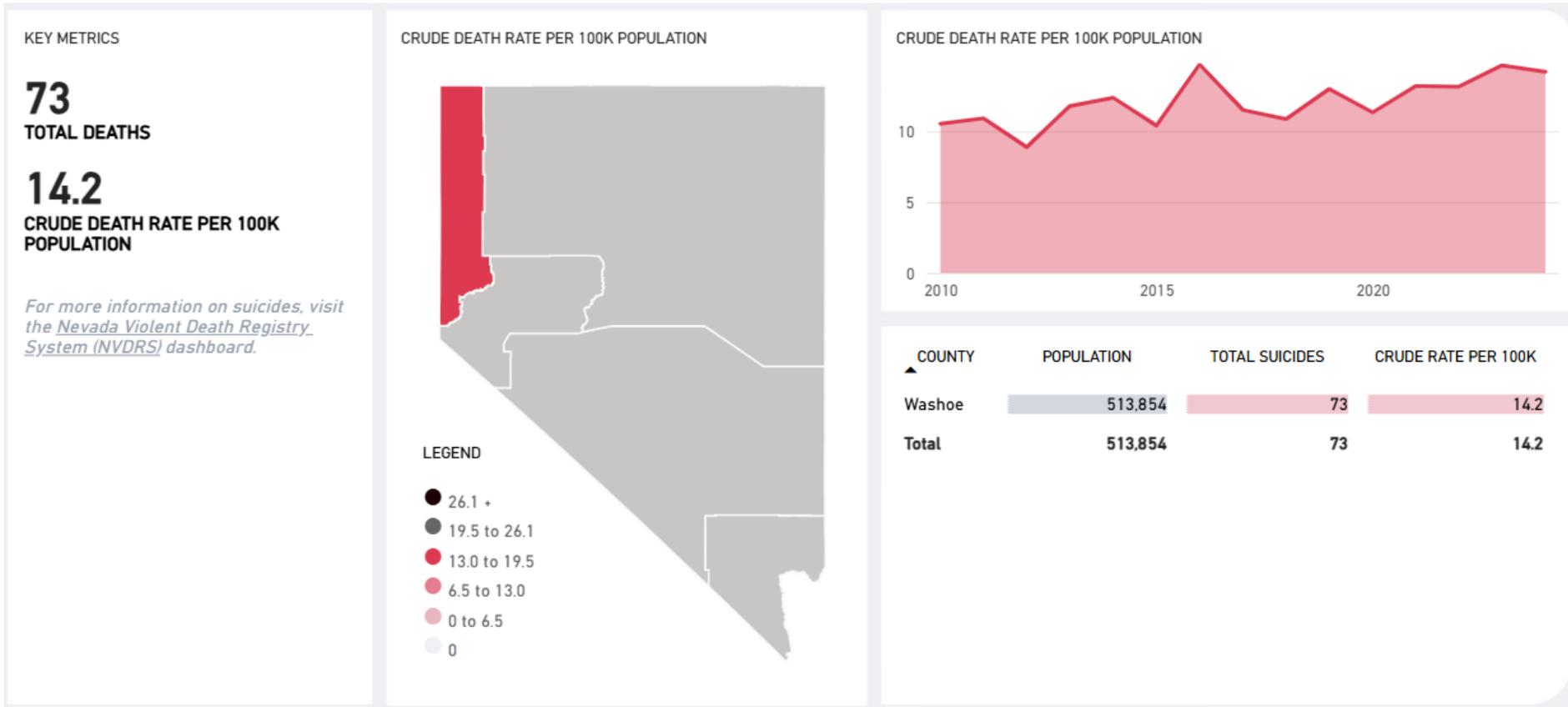
Northern Nevada Public Health's Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Joe Dibble, Health Educator II
Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Program
Population Health Division

Washoe County and Nevada Suicide Death Statistics



Washoe County Suicide Deaths (2024): Firearms / Explosives only



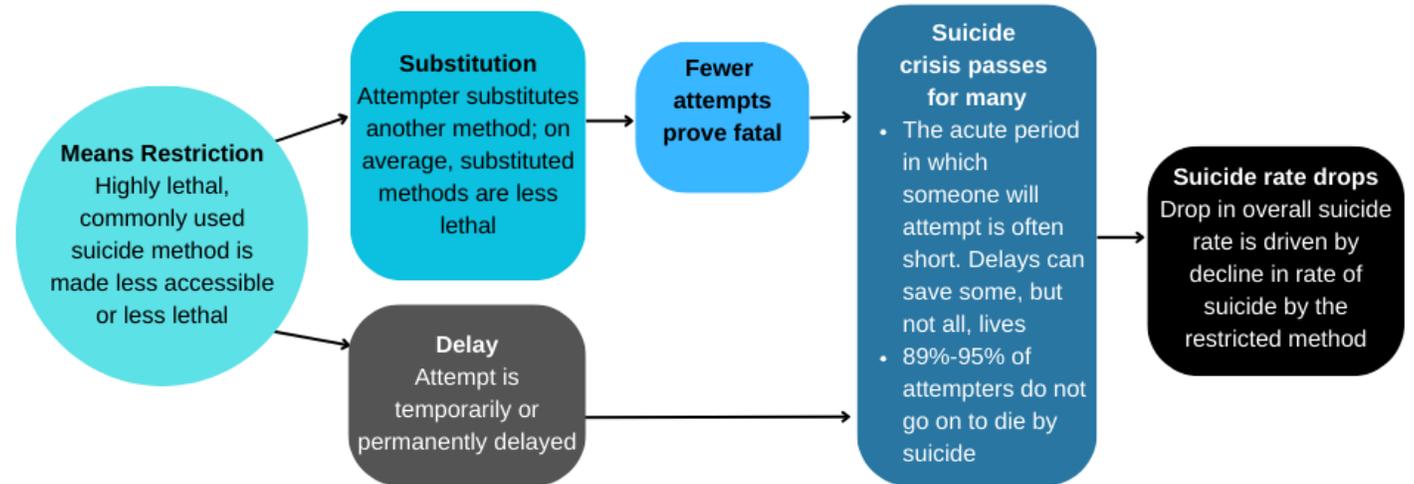
Firearm-Related Injury and Death Reduction

- Firearm-related deaths from suicide in Nevada and the U.S. outnumber firearm-related homicide deaths by nearly 2:1
- Nearly 70% of all annual firearm-related deaths in Nevada are suicides.
- Firearms are the leading and most lethal method of suicide: 90% of suicide attempts are lethal when a firearm is the means chosen.



Suicide Survival: Means Matter!

- A suicidal crisis is often a brief event. Putting time and distance between a person in suicidal crisis and their access to lethal means can save lives.
- Further, 90% of those who attempt suicide do **not** go on to die by suicide later.



National Alliance for Suicide Prevention 2020

Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance

NNPH-led partnership with 15 local firearm owners and suicide prevention advocates:

- VA Health Care
- Renown Health
- American Foundation of Suicide Prevention
- Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.
- Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Vet-to-Vet Support Group
- Local Suicide Prevention Advocates and Gun Owners



**Nevada Urban
Indians, Inc.**



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



Renown[®]
HEALTH

“Keep it Safe & Secure!”

WSPA Vision:

- Increase collaborative efforts to reduce suicide-related deaths in Washoe County.

WSPA Mission:

- Create a space for organizational collaboration to reduce suicide through lethal means safety education, impactful prevention measures, and policy changes.
- To reduce instances of suicide among firearm owners through targeted education and prevention measures.
- Increase suicide prevention awareness with an emphasis on lethal means safety education, stigma reduction, and policy initiatives.



Outreach

WSPA in the community – a collaborative effort

- Multi-Media awareness campaigns
- Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) classes
- At firearm retailers and local firearm owner events
- Local outreach events



Public Policy and Expansion

WSPA Public Policy Advocacy

- Efforts led to passage of Assembly Bill 451 in 2025, providing immunity from civil liability for licensed firearm retailers participating in temporary secure storage practices. The law became effective October 1, 2025.
- Positions Washoe County as a leader in Nevada
- Creates a model for expansion

The Armory Project (TAP) Partnership

- A national Suicide Prevention initiative led by Veterans Affairs and rooted in Louisiana. Includes more dedicated training and support, dedicated funding with a financial incentive, and resources for firearm retailers.
- First Nevada licensed firearm retailer, Reno Guns & Range, now participating with others following



Local Suicide Prevention Training

Goal: Increase community capacity to recognize and prevent suicides.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training – ASIST

- Evidence-based, 2-day (16-hour) training that teaches people to identify suicide risk, have direct conversations, and connect individuals to help.
- Builds a locally prepared community, strengthens early intervention, and reduces crisis escalation and system strain.

S.A.V.E Training

- Evidence-based training that teaches people to recognize warning signs, start a conversation, and connect someone to help.
- Expands a community-wide safety net, increasing early identification and timely support before a crisis escalates.

Strengthening Our Impact

- Investment in community-based suicide prevention training
- Champion lethal means safety messaging across county systems
- Expand partnerships with healthcare providers and firearm retailers
- Support the growth of the TAP partnership
- Endorse or champion secure storage messaging
- Sustain or increase program funding and resources
- Align policy efforts and public messaging to reinforce prevention work



Questions / Contact

Joe Dibble, RDN
Health Educator II
Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
Northern Nevada Public Health
jdibble@nnph.org
775-328-6153

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