

CDC-funded Massachusetts Department of Public Health Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program

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Short Description: This was a five-year cooperative agreement between the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the primary goal of reducing suicide attempts and suicide deaths by 10%. There were five separate teams: Behavioral Science Team, Communications, Epidemiology, Evaluation, and Occupational Health & Safety. Diverse members of LIHER were a part of the Behavioral Science Team, led by Dr. Martínez, to examine the facilitators and barriers to mental health and suicide prevention resources among working-aged men, Latino/x men, veterans and active military, and men in high-risk occupations (e.g., construction, first responders, fishing, manufacturing). We also convened a diverse group of community stakeholders to not only inform our research and program planning but encourage them to join regional Massachusetts Coalitions on Suicide Prevention, and increase the numbers of male and bilingual suicide prevention trainers in the state. We were also tasked with using results from the qualitative study to culturally modify existing suicide prevention interventions in the state for the aforementioned vulnerable populations. For example, we used our findings with Latino/x men to modify MassMen, a website for men who live and work in the Commonwealth that provides services and supports for suicide prevention. We helped organize with our community partners a four-part suicide prevention training series aimed at male-specific social service and health service providers. We continue to work on publications that identify and discuss the structural sources of suicidal behavior among Latino/x men, re-entry population, veterans, and first responders.

Presentations:

1. "Structural Sources of Suicidal Behavior: Current CSP Solutions & Future Recommendations." 24th Annual Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Conference. Norwood, MA. April 23, 2025. Presenter.
2. "Culturally Responsive Suicide Prevention: The Transcreation of the MassMen Website for Latinx working-aged Men through a CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program." Oral presentation at 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; Minneapolis, MN.
3. "Generational differences in Latino/x men's machismo, behavioral health and help-seeking behaviors in Massachusetts: Implications for suicide prevention." Greater Boston Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition. August 8, 2023.
4. "Engaging diverse Latinx communities in Massachusetts for the CDC-funded Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program: Preliminary findings from the Behavioral Science Team." Massachusetts Annual Suicide Prevention Conference. Norwood, MA. May 17, 2023.

Publications:

1. Martínez A.D., Kloft, S., Fernández, P., Hernández, D., Ricci, A., Dezyani, P., & Cunningham, K. (2025). A scoping review of suicide prevention approaches and intervention strategies for U.S. Latino/x adult populations. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1481904>
2. Martínez A.D., Kloft, S., Hernández, D., Dezyani, P., Batista, M., Pagán, G., & Cunningham, K. (2025). Culturally response suicide prevention: the transcreation of the MassMen website for Latinx working-aged men through a CDC-funded Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 2025;19(2). doi:[10.1177/15579883251328358](https://doi.org/10.1177/15579883251328358).
3. [IN PROGRESS] Martínez A.D., Kloft, S., Batista, M. & Cunningham, K. A. An intersectionality-based policy analysis documenting structural sources of suicidal behavior among vulnerable Latino/x men in Massachusetts.