

July 13, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

The helpline for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will shift this weekend to **988** and will be available to every person in every state. This is a huge step forward in addressing the mental health challenges that have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As reported in TFAH's 2022 [Pain in the Nation Report](#), deaths associated with alcohol, drugs, and suicide took the lives of 186,763 Americans in 2020, representing a 20% increase in the number of substance misuse deaths ever recorded in a single year. The new 3-digit number will be adopted universally and will connect individuals to call centers staffed by trained workers or volunteers. Individuals can either call or text to reach help, and calls will be routed to a national center if not able to be answered locally.

To learn more about the mental health crisis in America, please join [TFAH's Pain the Nation Congressional Briefing tomorrow](#), July 14, at 1:30 pm ET.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

Data systems that include information on the health of older adults are crucial to developing programs and services that meet their health and social needs. Organizations and agencies can use this information to target resources, identify community partners, support grant applications, and develop strategies to address health disparities and social needs in their communities.

The July training will focus on the importance of data in addressing social determinants of health among older adults. This session will also highlight how some states have developed and used data on older adults to advance healthy aging in their communities.

This session will be held on **July 21 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our June training on [Food Security & Nutrition among Older Adults](#) and read June's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to Do With... Food Insecurity?*

Rocky Times: Why Agile Leadership is Crucial for Impact – Thursday, July 14, 2022, 11:00am ET. Hosted by the Center for Health Leadership & Practice, this session

will feature panelists from multi-sector partnerships that are working to advance equity in their communities. Stories will be shared from alumni of the Leadership Academy for the Public's Health, a program of the Public Health Institute's Center for Health Leadership & Impact. These stories exemplify the adaptive skills necessary to truly meet the needs of communities. Register [here](#).

Exploring the Intersections of Person and Place: Healthy Aging for Adults with Long-Term Physical Disabilities – *Thursday, July 14, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* This University of Michigan Center for Disability Health and Wellness webinar will focus on healthy aging for people with long-term physical disabilities. An interdisciplinary panel of experts will discuss the importance of environmental factors, such as the built, attitudinal, and policy environments. They will cover topics including housing, social disconnectedness and isolation, and home and community-based supports, and focus on how individuals and communities can take steps to improve outcomes. Register [here](#).

National Brain Health Webinar: Four Paths to Addressing Dementia in Tribal Communities – *Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* The National Indian Health Board and the Alzheimer's Association are hosting a session to highlight the work of four Tribal sub awardees in addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) in their communities. Each Tribal sub awardee has partnered with one other Tribal organization to tailor ADRD strategies according to needs and opportunities in their communities. They will share their unique stories and practical advice with webinar attendees. Register [here](#).

Comms Crash Course: Using Social Media for Public Health Communications – *Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* The Public Health Communications Collaborative is leading a session on strategies and best practices to address public health communications challenges. Panelists will focus on how public health professionals are using social media to build trust and expand their reach. Register [here](#).

“Caring for the Caregiver during the Pandemic” – *Saturday, July 16, 2022, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* The National Hispanic Council on Aging is holding a one-day virtual training, sponsored by ARRP, to provide caregivers with the tools and resources they need to overcome caregiving challenges, including those imposed on them by the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of practicing self-care habits and recognizing one's role as a caregiver will also be emphasized. Participants will receive a certificate for their participation. The session will be in Spanish. Register [here](#).

Second Annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit – *Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET.* The George Washington University's Center for Aging, Health and Humanities is hosting the Second Annual Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit. This virtual regional collaborative event will be held in partnership with Age-Friendly Alexandria, Arlington, DC, Howard County, Hyattsville, Montgomery County, and the Georgetown University Aging & Health Program. Register [here](#).

Funding Opportunity –a Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has released a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds specific to homelessness in rural communities. The \$365 million package includes grant funds and vouchers that will enhance communities' capacity to address unsheltered homelessness by connecting vulnerable individuals and families to housing, health care, and supportive services. This initiative promotes partnerships among health care organizations, public housing authorities and mainstream housing providers, and people with lived experience and expertise of homelessness. Learn more about this [opportunity](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Messaging about the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

The Public Health Communications Collaborative recently released [Answers to Tough Questions](#) about the Novavax vaccine in advance of the Food and Drug Administration and Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) pending recommendations. This messaging can help answer questions in communities, including "What is the Novavax Vaccine?" "How does Novavax differ from other available vaccines in the United States?" and "What are the known side effects of the Novavax vaccine?" Messaging will be updated to reflect changes in CDC guidance.

Burden of COVID-19 on Latino Older Adults

Gerontological Society of America Journalist in Aging Fellow Ruben Castenada was featured in a recent U.S. news article, on how the [COVID-19 pandemic took a disproportionate toll on Latino older adults](#). Citing evidence from several research studies, Castenada notes that there is "no single reason why older Latinos have been dying of COVID-19 at a higher rate than non-Hispanic whites" but it is important to note "that structural inequality in access to health care, education and well-paying jobs – as well as redlining practices and policies that segregated many Hispanics over the years in under-resourced neighborhoods – all have played a role."

Impact of Reminders from Primary Care Physicians

Kaiser Permanente Northern California's Division of Research examined the effectiveness of standard and culturally tailored electronic messages and postcards from patients' own primary care physicians (PCP) encouraging them to get COVID-19 vaccines. The study included 8,287 older adult patients. These [electronic messages and postcards from PCPs were effective in increasing the number of people who came in for COVID-19 vaccines](#), especially among Black and Latino ethnic backgrounds patients.

Additional Resources

Flu Vaccine Recommendations for Older Adults

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted to recommend the administration of [enhanced influenza vaccines for adults age 65 and older](#). Certain flu vaccines may offer more or longer protection for older adults, whose weakened immune systems do not respond as well to traditional shots. The recommended vaccines include high-dose inactivated influenza vaccines, recombinant influenza vaccines, and adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines.

Infographic Highlights How Fall Prevention Programs Saves Lives and Money

[A new infographic from the National Council on Aging](#) highlights key statistics on fall-related injuries and solutions to help save lives and money. More than 1 in 4 adults age 65 and older fall every year, and falls are the number one cause of injury and death from injury among older adults. Evidence-based community fall prevention programs can reduce falls, risk factors, and costs associated with falls.

Supporting Family Caregivers Using Data and Research

While data enables the states to understand the demographics and needs of its caregivers, states often do not have the resources to pay for extensive family caregiver data collection and program evaluation. [States can collect family caregiver data through the passage of the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable Act](#). Under this act, hospitals are required to identify a caregiver and collect their contact information, notify the caregiver of discharge planning, and train them in nursing or medical tasks they are asked to perform. The act has been passed in over 40 states.

Addressing Ageism through Cross-Generation Experiences

An 81-year-old triathlete asked Los Angeles Daily News columnist Helen Dennis how younger generations can be educated about aging after a young lifeguard ask her if she needed a life vest. Dennis responded by noting that [an effective way of countering ageism is to develop shared positive experiences between generations](#). There are several organizations dedicated to providing these experiences, including Gen2Gen, Sages and Seekers, and Generations United.

Created with support from The
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P (202) 223-9870

F (202) 223-9871

E AFP@TFAH.ORG



CONTACT

TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH

1730 M ST NW

SUITE 900

WASHINGTON, DC 20036

