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## Spring 2018 Postvention Demographics Report

### Introduction/Letter of Thanks:

In the Spring of 2018, OSPF recognized the need to begin gathering demographic data on the Local Outreach of Suicide Survivor (LOSS) Teams and coalitions engaging in postvention work across the State. This information was collected via an online survey and has been used to gather an important view of the suicide postvention work occurring in Ohio. The report also provides three clear needs of LOSS Teams and postvention in the state which OSPF is laying plans to address in the coming months and years.

A sincere thank you to all who took time to complete the survey as it has provided invaluable insight into Ohio's postvention needs, activities, and successes. A thank you to all engaging in this difficult but important work through their local coalitions and LOSS Teams.

Sincerely,  
Shawna Hite-Jones  
Program Director  
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

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## Section 1: LOSS Teams Who Completed Survey

16 respondents completed the survey, representing 11 full-developed LOSS Teams, 2 LOSS Teams in Development, & 2 coalitions engaging in postvention work without LOSS Teams. See Graph 1 below.

Graph 1: Map of Counties Represented by Survey Respondents:

**Survey Respondents by County**



Source: diymaps.net (c)

### Foundation Dates of LOSS Teams:

All LOSS Teams surveyed were founded within the last 9 years. The earliest LOSS Teams were founded in Ohio in 2011. 3 respondents indicated they were forming LOSS teams in 2 counties (2 respondents represented the same county forming a LOSS team) and 2 respondents indicated they were engaging in postvention work in an additional 2 counties without LOSS Teams in development. See Table 1 below.

Table 1. Foundation Dates of LOSS Teams

Number of Respondents	Year Founded
1	2011
2	2012
0	2013
2	2014
1	2015
3	2016
1	2017
1	2018
3	In Process
2	No Team Yet

## Section 2: LOSS Team Demographics

### Numbers of LOSS Team Volunteers:

There were a total of 176 volunteers serving Ohio LOSS Teams. The average number of volunteers for counties with active LOSS Teams was 12 volunteers per team. This average excludes one LOSS Team outlier with 49 volunteers.

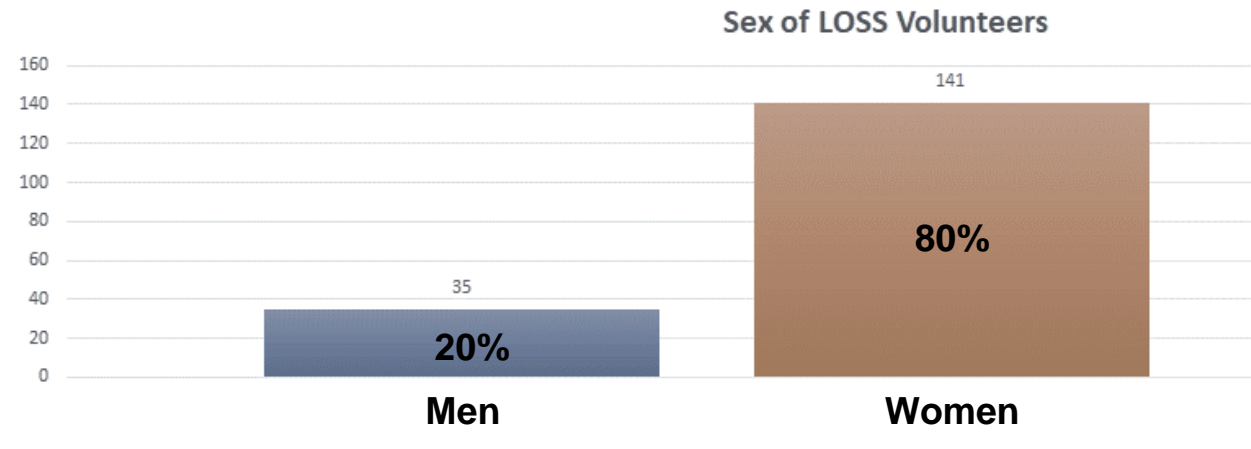
Table 2: Volunteers in Ohio LOSS Teams

<b>Total Volunteers:</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Average Per Team (Excluding Outlier):</b>	8
<b>Average Per Team (Excluding Outlier &amp; Counties without LOSS teams):</b>	12

### Sex of LOSS Team Volunteers:

The majority of LOSS Team volunteers were reported as women with 141 of the 176 volunteers being women. See Graph 2 Below.

Graph 2: Percentage of Volunteers Reported as Men and Women



### Race & Ethnicity of LOSS Team Volunteers:

The majority of LOSS Team volunteers were reported as White/Caucasian and not Hispanic/Latino. See Tables 3-4 Below.

Table 3: Count of Volunteers by Race

Asian	Black/African American	White/Caucasian	Other
1	3	129	1

Table 4: Count of Volunteers by Ethnicity

<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	<b>Not Hispanic/Latino</b>
2	152

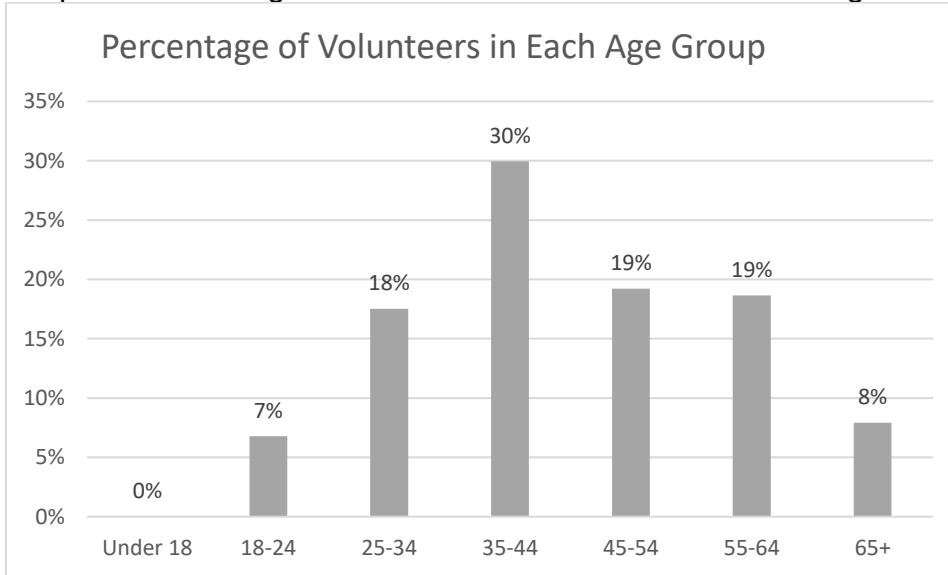
### Ages of LOSS Team Volunteers

LOSS Team volunteers crossed a wide range of age groups with the largest percentage of volunteers (30%) (53 total) being between the ages of 35-44. All reported volunteers were adults (18-65+ years of age). See Table 5 & Graph 3 below.

Table 5: Counts of LOSS Team Volunteers in Each Age Group

<b>&lt;18</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
0	12	31	53	34	33	14

Graph 3: Percentages of LOSS Team Volunteers in Each Age Group



### Section 3: LOSS Team Activities

#### Services Provided by LOSS Teams:

Survey respondents were asked what postvention activities their LOSS Teams and/or coalitions were engaging in within their communities. Three recognized postvention activities were offered for respondents to select as being implemented within their communities, with the additional option to write “other” additional activities as well. Teams reported high activity in crisis response following a suicide death in their community. Many respondents elected to write additional activities of their coalitions and/or LOSS Teams. See Graph 4 & Table 6 below.

Graph 4: LOSS Team Activities

#### Percentage & Count of LOSS Teams Engaging in Activities:

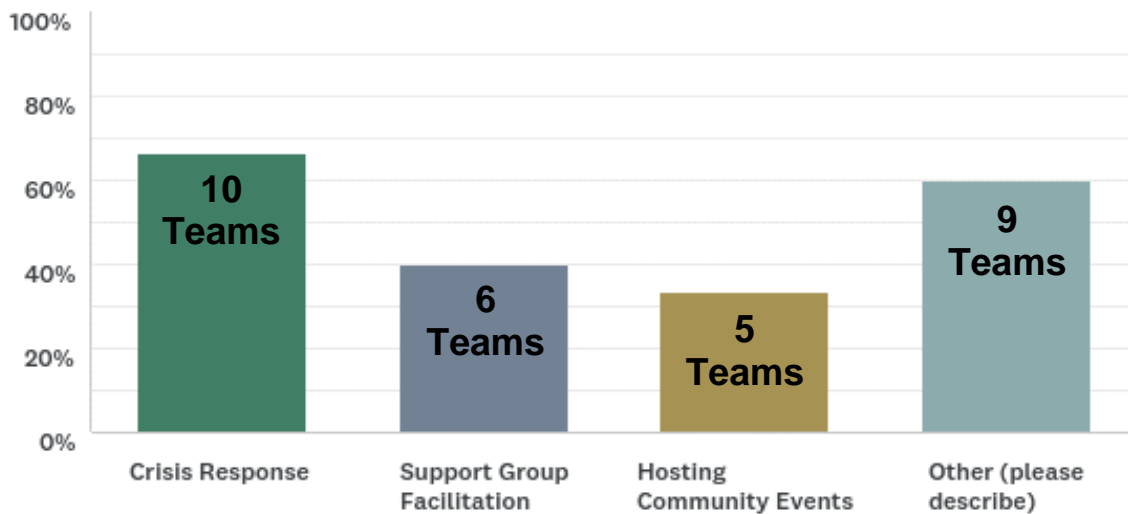


Table 6: “Other” Activities Engaged in by LOSS Teams/ Coalitions

<b>Other Services Being Provided:</b>
One on one Companion program, Suicide Prevention training (QPR), Education events for survivors (Am I Ready to Volunteer? How to Tell My Story. Surviving the Holidays), Postvention education events for mental health and community members
<b>Community Education/Training</b>
Suicide prevention and response training for the community-at-large, esp law enforcement.
linkage to community resources
support for survivors of suicide loss with self-care boxes, with plans to form a support group in the future
Bereavement packets to survivors, information and referral, lending library
Our mobile crisis program acts as a pseudo-LOSS Team, as they have responded to scenes and families. We also have a separate Survivor's of Suicide Loss group.

### LOSS Teams Responding to Crisis Scenes:

Nine out of 16 respondents indicated that volunteers were responding to crisis scenes within their communities. See Graph 5 below. A total of 136 crises were responded to by Ohio LOSS Teams during this time. Of those indicating crisis response activities, there were an average of 11 crisis response trips to support suicide loss survivors within the past year (One LOSS Team outlier who had responded to 60 crises within the last year was excluded from calculation of average). See Table 7 below.

Graph 5: Percentage & Number of LOSS Teams Engaging in Crisis Response Activities

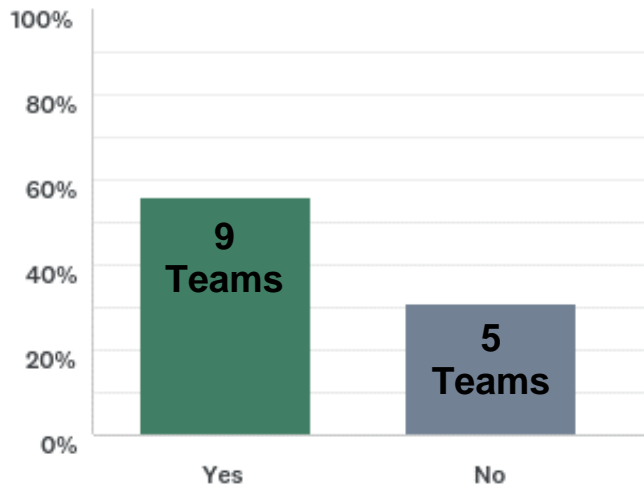


Table 7: Average Number of Crises Responded to Within the Last Year

<b>TOTAL</b> Crisis Responded To Across Teams:	<b>136</b>
<b>Average Number of Crisis Responded to (Excluding Outliers &amp; counties without LOSS Teams):</b>	11

### LOSS Teams Providing Follow-Up to Survivors of Suicide Loss:

All survey respondents were asked to provide information on whether they were providing follow up outreach to survivors of suicide LOSS. The majority of respondents (11) indicated ongoing follow-up provided to survivors after a death by suicide in their communities. See Graph 6 below. Of those who indicated ongoing follow-up, each team reported providing follow-up to an average of 14 survivors within the past year (One LOSS Team outlier who had followed up with 2,019 survivors within the last year was excluded from the calculation of this average). See Table 8 below.



Graph 6: Percentage and Number of LOSS Teams Engaging in Follow Up

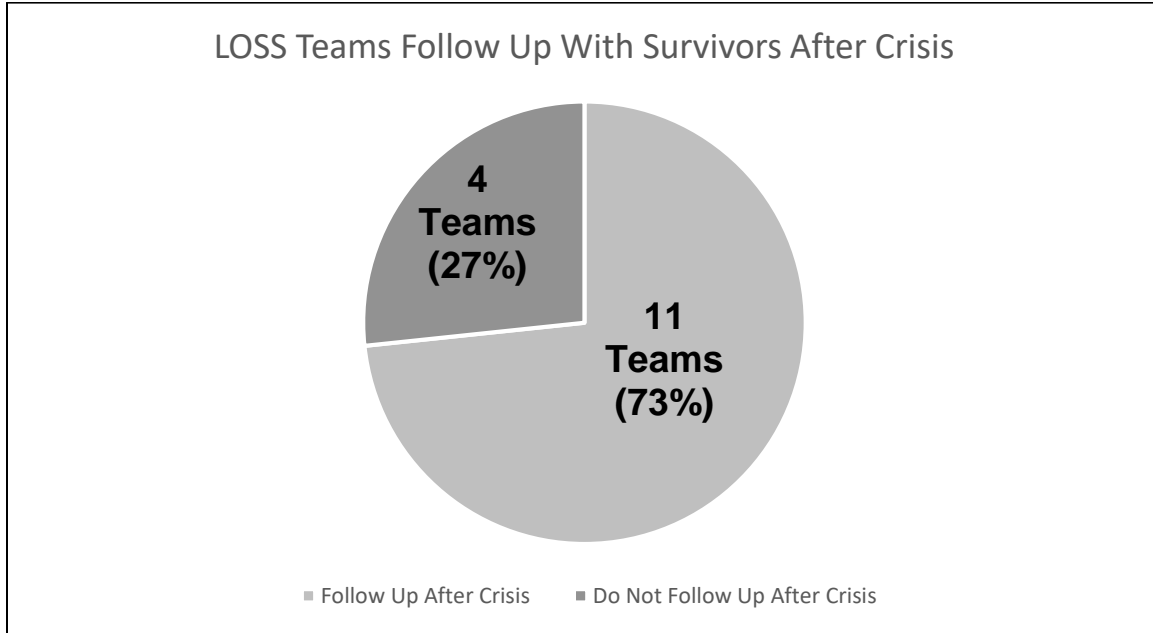


Table 8: Average Number of Survivors Provided with Follow Up Outreach Within the Past Year

<b>Total Number of Individuals Provided with Follow Up Outreach</b>	<b>2,115</b>
<b>Average Number of Individuals Provided Follow Up Outreach (Excluding Outliers &amp; counties without LOSS Teams)</b>	<b>14</b>

## Section 4: Postvention Needs

OSPF also asked all respondents to provide an open-ended answer on what they believed was most needed from the state to support local postvention efforts in their communities. Three common themes emerged from respondents' answers as demonstrated in Table 9 below. These themes were:

- 1) Increased financial support
- 2) Increased training opportunities on postvention
- 3) Advocacy on the importance and value of LOSS Teams to community partners including first responders, coroners, and other community leaders

Table 9: Three Most Common Themes on Identified Postvention Needs

Themes	Number Who Mentioned Theme
Financial Support	9
Training	8
Advocacy for Postvention	5

Image 1: Word Cloud of Most Common Words

Q17 What support do you believe LOSS Teams currently need from the state?

Training Opportunities Funding Law Enforcement  
Support

As a result of these clear themes, OSPF is planning to include additional mini-grants for postvention infrastructure development, programming, & technical assistance in the Fall/Winter of 2018. OSPF will also provide ongoing webinars designed to provide LOSS Teams with training important to postvention activities throughout State Fiscal Year 2019. OSPF has not formerly advocated for LOSS Team development in Ohio. A small workgroup will be convened in the Summer-Fall of 2018 to address this need and adequately plan for advocacy networking and outreach in the coming years.

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*A sincere thank you to all who participated in this year's LOSS Team demographic survey. Your information and input has been invaluable and will significantly contribute to the growth of postvention efforts in Ohio in the future.*

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