The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has set a bold goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in the United States 20 percent by the year 2025. Using analytics and modeling tools, and with guidance from leaders in the field of suicide prevention, AFSP has identified four critical areas which represent the highest potential to reach the most people at risk for suicide in the shortest amount of time.

**Firearms and Suicide Prevention**

There are nearly 23,000 firearms-related suicides each year; roughly half of all suicides. By making suicide prevention education a basic part of firearms ownership, we can increase awareness of mental health and suicide prevention tools, and further the importance of safe storage and other life-saving practices.

**Healthcare Systems**

An estimated 45 percent of individuals who die by suicide visit their primary care physician in the month prior to their death. By accelerating the acceptance and adoption of evidence-based suicide prevention practices within primary and behavioral healthcare systems, we can identify those at risk, and a visit to the doctor’s office can become a critical opportunity to connect them to care.

**Emergency Departments**

An estimated 39 percent of individuals who die by suicide visit an emergency department in the year prior to their death. By encouraging the acceptance and adoption of suicide screening and delivery of follow-up services as a standard of emergency care, we have a greater chance of preventing suicide in these at-risk individuals.

**Corrections Settings**

Suicide is the leading cause - and accounts for - 35 percent of all deaths in jails. By enhancing mental health education and improving coordination of suicide prevention care in and at key points of contact with corrections systems, we can significantly reduce the rate of suicide in these settings.

**By partnering with organizations that can help put these strategies into practice, we can reach more people in need of help, and save lives.**