



REGION 6 CRISIS LANDSCAPE & 988 UTILIZATION

Data Snapshot & Discussion Guide



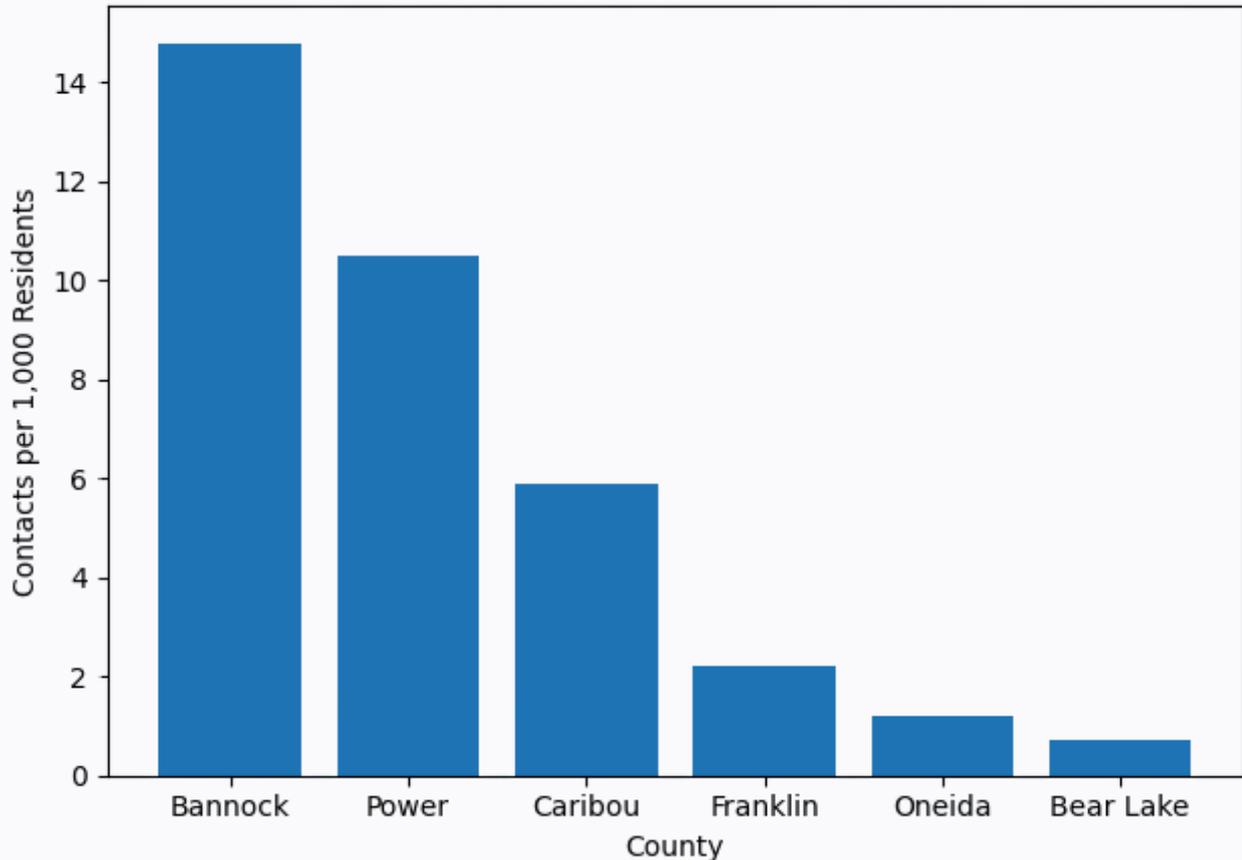
2026

This packet is designed to support discussion, reflection, and strategic alignment.



LOOKING CLOSER: PER CAPITA 988 USE

988 Contacts per 1,000 Residents (Region 6, 2025)



Why Per Capita Matters

- Helps contextualize use across counties of different sizes
- Per capita rates provide context – not a measure of crisis prevalence.



WHAT 988 UTILIZATION REFLECTS

How Communities Connect to Support

988 utilization reflects how communities access and use crisis support – not the amount of crisis they experience.



988 CONTACT VOLUME REFLECTS HELP SEEKING BEHAVIOR NOT THE LEVEL OF PAIN IN A COMMUNITY.

Utilization May Be Shaped By

- Awareness that 988 exists
- Comfort asking for help
- Trust in confidentiality and response
- Access to phones, texting, or internet
- Local messaging and partnerships

What Different Patterns May Suggest

- Higher utilization may reflect earlier connection to support.
- Lower utilization may reflect barriers or different help-seeking paths

What might influence how people in our communities seek support during difficult moments?



WHAT THIS DATA INVITES US TO CONSIDER

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FROM UNDERSTANDING TO OPPORTUNITY

Across Region 6, people connect to crisis support in different ways. This section considers how the region might respond together.

Where Region 6 May Have Opportunity

Based on the patterns we've seen, potential areas for focus include:

- Awareness
 - How consistently is 988 visible across all counties?
 - Who is sharing the message – and where?
- Access
 - Are people aware of text and chat options?
 - Are there geographic or technology barriers we should consider?
- Early Connection
 - Where can people be reached before crisis escalates?
 - Who encounters distress early but may not be connected to support?
- Local Pathways
 - How do people currently seek help in different communities?
 - How might 988 complement – not replace – trusted local supports?

A Shared Lens

The goal is not to make all counties look the same – it is to ensure every community has clear, trusted paths to support.



WHERE REGION 6 MAY FOCUS ATTENTION

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BUILDING FROM WHAT WE SEE

Across Region 6, people connect to crisis support in different ways. This highlights both existing strengths and areas of opportunity.

EXISTING STRENGTHS

- Active community partners who encounter people in distress
- Established crisis response through 988
- Local knowledge of how communities seek support

AREAS TO EXPLORE

- Consistency of 988 awareness across counties
- Visibility of text and chat options
- Distance and access barriers in rural areas
- Clarity between local supports and crisis services

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALIGNMENT

- Strengthening trusted local messengers
- Connecting existing supports to 988 as an added pathway
- Sharing learning across counties while honoring local context

SHARED ORIENTATION

The goal is not to create identical solutions, but to ensure every community has clear, trusted paths to support.

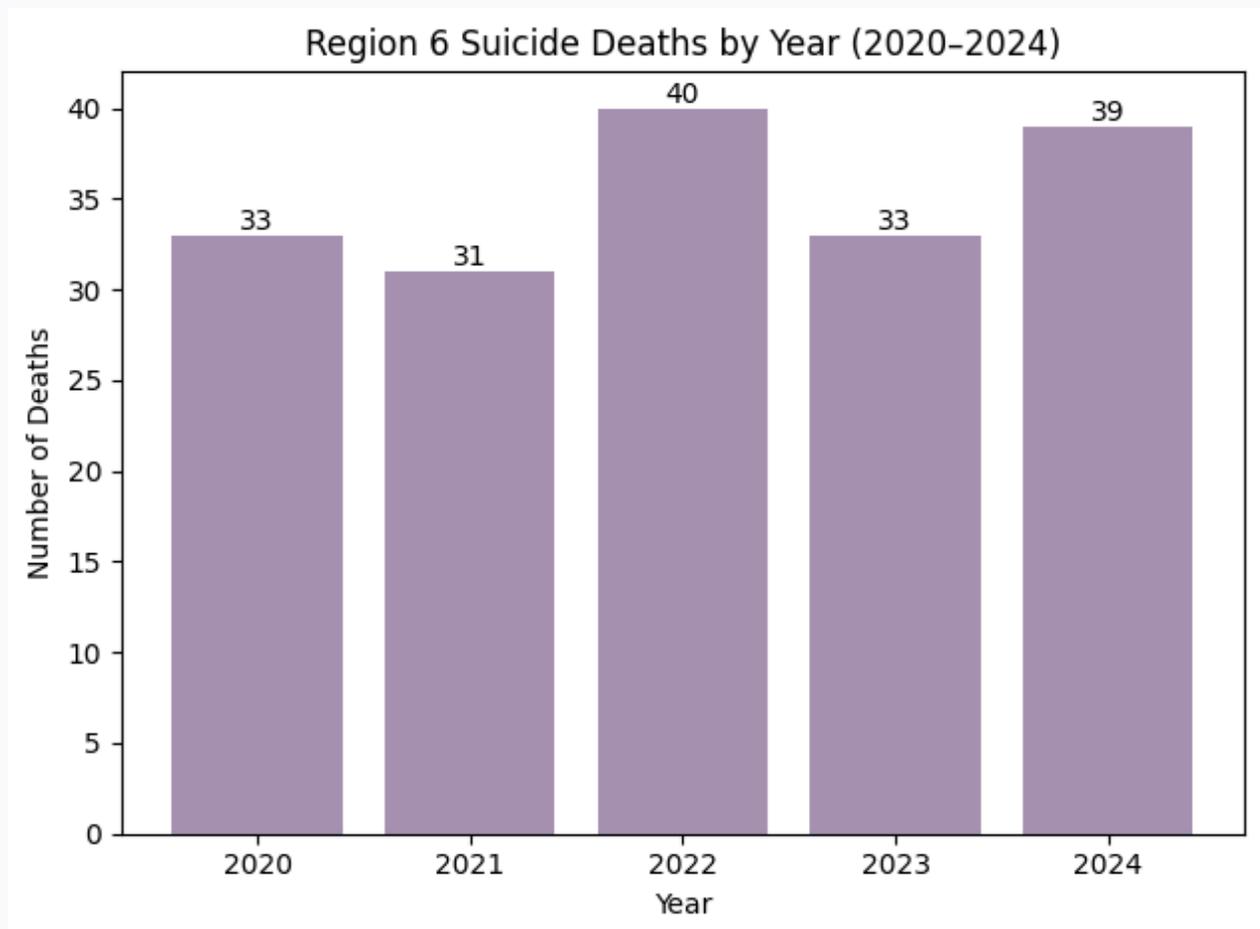
Which of these areas feels most relevant for Region 6 right now?



WHY EARLY CONNECTION MATTERS

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The data below reflects loss of life across Region 6 over time. It grounds our discussion in outcomes and reinforces the importance of early, trusted pathways to support.



What This Trend Tells Us

- Suicide loss in Region 6 is persistent across years
- Even lower years represent significant loss for a small region

Regional Context

While suicide loss varies by county year to year, patterns shift across time and no single county carries this impact alone.

Important Context

These numbers represent outcomes, not effort. They do not tell us who sought help or where connection might have made a difference.

They are best understood alongside:

- 988 utilization patterns
- Community access and awareness
- Local pathways to support



ALIGNING ACTION WITH IMPACT

From Insight to Intention

Understanding how people connect to support helps clarify where small, coordinated actions may strengthen access across Region 6.

Potential Action Areas for Region 6

Identify & Strengthen Local Pathways

- Map where people currently turn during distress (schools, faith leaders, clinics, EMS, community orgs)
- Identify which local partners already encounter crisis early
- Clarify how 988 can support, not replace, those pathways

Who in our communities is already doing this work?

Improve Access Awareness

- Increase visibility of 988 across counties in ways that fit local culture
- Emphasize text and chat options, not only phone calls
- Use language that normalizes reaching out before crisis escalates

Where could this message show up more consistently?

Support Trusted Messengers

- Equip local leaders with simple, clear information about 988
- Provide guidance on when and how to refer someone to crisis support
- Reduce uncertainty about confidentiality and response

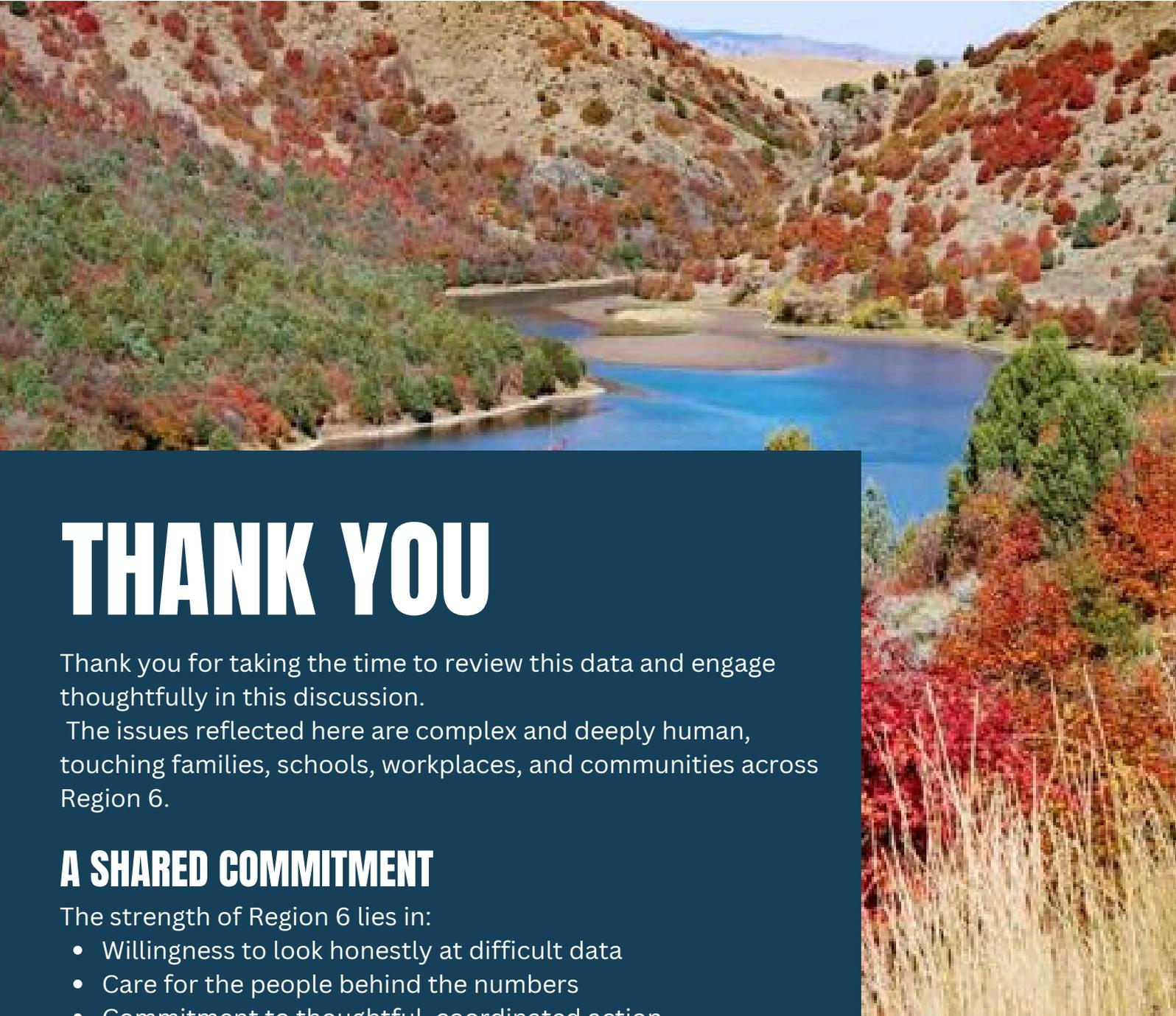
Who do people already trust to talk about hard things?

Make Support Paths Clear

- Create or update simple local resource lists by county
- Clarify how local supports and crisis services work together
- Ensure resources are easy to find, share, and understand

Are our resources clear and accessible to the people who need them?

Small, coordinated actions, **grounded in local trust**, strengthen access to support across Region 6.



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to review this data and engage thoughtfully in this discussion.

The issues reflected here are complex and deeply human, touching families, schools, workplaces, and communities across Region 6.

A SHARED COMMITMENT

The strength of Region 6 lies in:

- Willingness to look honestly at difficult data
- Care for the people behind the numbers
- Commitment to thoughtful, coordinated action

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

This conversation is one step in an ongoing effort to strengthen early, trusted pathways to support across our region.

Your perspective, experience, and care are essential to that work.