

Coordination for evidence-informed suicide prevention in Sweden

The value of coordinated implementation of cross-sectoral strategies

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A platform for national coordination can help to successfully implement evidence-informed cross-sectoral suicide prevention strategies. It enables identification of knowledge gaps, transfer of knowledge and recognition of areas for collaboration, creating synergies between national stakeholders.

More and more countries are adopting evidence-informed, cross-sectoral national suicide prevention strategies. These often involve a range of different agencies and other stakeholders, requiring coordinated efforts across sectors to ensure effective implementation. The approach taken to coordinate Sweden's cross-sectoral suicide prevention strategy at national level can serve as an example for other countries aiming to implement their own national strategies.

National strategy and coordination

Sweden adopted a national suicide prevention strategy in 2008. It involves evidence-informed actions in 9 strategic areas such as health care, migration, transport, education, social services, first responders as well as research and civil society. Since 2015, the Public Health Agency of Sweden has been commissioned by the government to promote the implementation of the strategy. The Agency's role is to develop coordination and monitoring of suicide and suicide preventive work, and to develop and disseminate knowledge support to a wide range of stakeholders. Specifically, the Agency is responsible for developing and spreading knowledge in the field of population health.

A platform for sharing knowledge

To support the implementation of the national strategy and the enhancement of evidence-informed prevention, we have

created a national coordination group of agencies and a national interest group comprised of researchers and representatives of the non-profit sector (NGOs). These groups now make up a platform for knowledge dissemination, knowledge transfer and national coordination. We meet regularly to discuss common concerns and to exchange knowledge and ideas.

Value of coordination

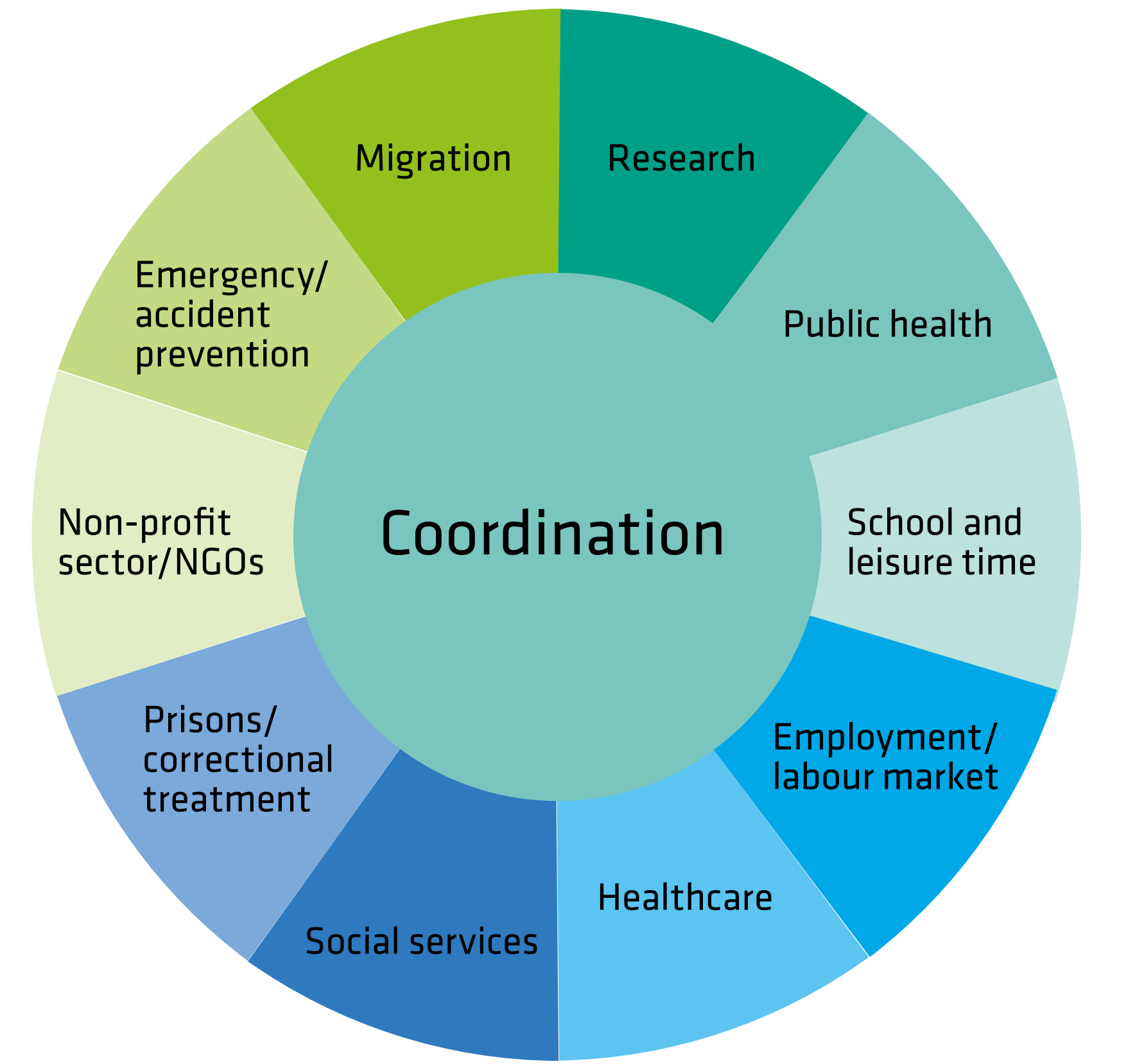
There are several benefits of national coordination in the area of suicide prevention. When agencies and other relevant organisations meet and coordinate their work, they can take advantage of each other's expertise and endorse the dissemination of knowledge among different target groups. National coordination also facilitates the identification of knowledge gaps and the prioritising of areas of action, based on different target groups' needs. The coordination platform promotes cooperation on common concerns and collective action to be taken. It creates synergies between national stakeholders and prevents duplication of efforts.

Conclusion

Implementation of national suicide prevention strategies can benefit from platforms that support coordination between government agencies from different sectors, researchers and NGOs, particularly when it comes to promoting evidence informed preventive actions.

Goal

To strengthen collaborative efforts among national stakeholders in order to spread knowledge more effectively, and to enhance evidence-informed prevention at all levels of society.



National coordination contributes to the exchange of knowledge between different sectors in society.