Evaluation Update

Native Youth Suicide Prevention Program

SAMHSA Grantee Meeting
Phoenix, AZ
January 5, 2009

Native Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Project Director
Jason Yarmer, B.S., CPS

Project Staff
John Spence, M.S.W., Ph.D.
Lee-Ann Foster

Evaluation Team
Juliette R. Mackin, Ph.D.
Tamara Perkins, Ph.D.
Anna Rockhill, M.P.P.

NYSP Activities

Education/Information & Awareness: Youth conferences, Wellness Day, Round Dance, youth mentoring trips, Elders luncheon, Culture camp

Trainings: QPR & ASIST, adolescent development

Culture as Prevention: Canoe activities, Tribal run, Talking Circles, Elders Gatherings

Products: Crisis response policy, posters, newsletter articles, billboard, prevention calendars, MySpace page

NYSP-Local Evaluation Team

Gather and submit data for cross-site evaluation

Implement local evaluation activities
  • Community Assessment and Re-Assessment
  • Assessment of community services, infrastructure, supports, needs, and goals
  • Changes in community readiness to address suicide prevention
  • Process evaluation

NYSP-Enhanced Evaluation

Purpose:
  • Assess impact of GLSMA activities at community level
  • Look at relationship between Risk and Protective Factors and Suicidal Behaviors

Methods:
  • Archival Data (statewide school survey - OHT)
  • Native Youth Survey (Tribal communities)
  • Focus Groups (youth)

Native Youth Suicide Prevention Program: Grantee: Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest
8 Tribal communities & Portland State Univ.: Programming based upon traditional, spiritual and cultural beliefs, and integrated with best practices
Emphasis on training, building community infrastructure and protocols, youth identification and intervention
Starting 4th year of GLSMA funding
The Oregon Native Youth Survey

- Risk and protective factors; includes cultural activities (cultural PFs & Tribal-specific px activities)
- 3 Tribes felt the survey was important enough to do with their own resources this summer; 1 more conducted in December
- Tribal communities are excited about having important data about their own youth

Archival (OHT) Data: Results/Implications

- Demonstrated the prevalence of risks, protective factors, and suicidal thoughts & behaviors
- Confirmed the higher risks of Native population and the presence of many protective factors
- Confirmed strong relationships between risk and protective factors and suicide attempts
- Modeling relationships between factors

Suicidal Thoughts & Behaviors

- Depression:
  - 25% of AI/AN youth (17% of other youth)
- Suicidal thoughts:
  - 20% of AI/AN youth (13% of other youth)
- Suicide attempts:
  - 11% of AI/AN youth (6% of other youth)
- Repeated attempts:
  - 57% of AI/AN youth (50% of other youth)

Suicidal Behaviors

- 1 in 6 AI/AN girls reported attempting suicide
  (1 in 11 non-AI/AN girls)
- 1 out of 20 AI/AN boys reported attempting suicide
  (1 out of 33 non-AI/AN boys)

Impact of Results

- Resource for Tribal communities – data specific to Native youth
  - Increased awareness of issue and interconnectedness with other youth behaviors
  - Increased buy-in and understanding of usefulness of evaluation/data collection
  - Generate additional support and funds for prevention and intervention efforts

Impact of Evaluation Activities

- Data User Agreement
- Increased awareness and understanding across the local Tribal health systems
- Validates Native approaches to wellness by recognizing the importance of protective factors
- Sharing tools with other AI/AN communities nationwide
Next Steps

- Full ONYS implementation next summer
- Reporting on analysis of relationships between risk and protective factors and suicide
- Further exploration of the role - and potential role - of culture in preventing youth suicide

For additional information, please contact:

Juliette Mackin
503-243-2436 x114
mackin@npcresearch.com