

Tribal Learning Collaborative

August 5, 2013

*Cora Whiteman, Coordinator, Wiconi Ohitika Strong Life Project,
Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Spirit Lake Nation*

*Francene Larzelere-Hinton, BA., Sr. Field Program Coordinator,
Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health*

*Novalene A. Goklish BS., Sr. Field Program Coordinator, Johns
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*Elinor Nault, M.Ed. Montana Board of Crime Control Youth Justice
Council - Rocky Boy, Montana*



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Objectives

- Encourage Tribes to review/revise and enforce suicide prevention statutes
- Understand the importance of community based code development
- Familiarize Tribes with resources and tools available to assist in revising or developing statutes

Tribal Suicide Prevention Codes

- ✓ Few tribal suicide prevention codes exist
- ✓ Misconception that tribal communities do not have resources to draft their own codes
 - Adoption of state codes, or the adoption of other tribal codes
 - Codes that are not relevant to the community's history, culture, tradition or geography
 - No buy in from the community

Presenters



Cora Whiteman, Coordinator, Wiconi Ohitika Strong Life Project, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Spirit Lake Nation



Francene Larzelere-Hinton, BA., Sr. Field Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health

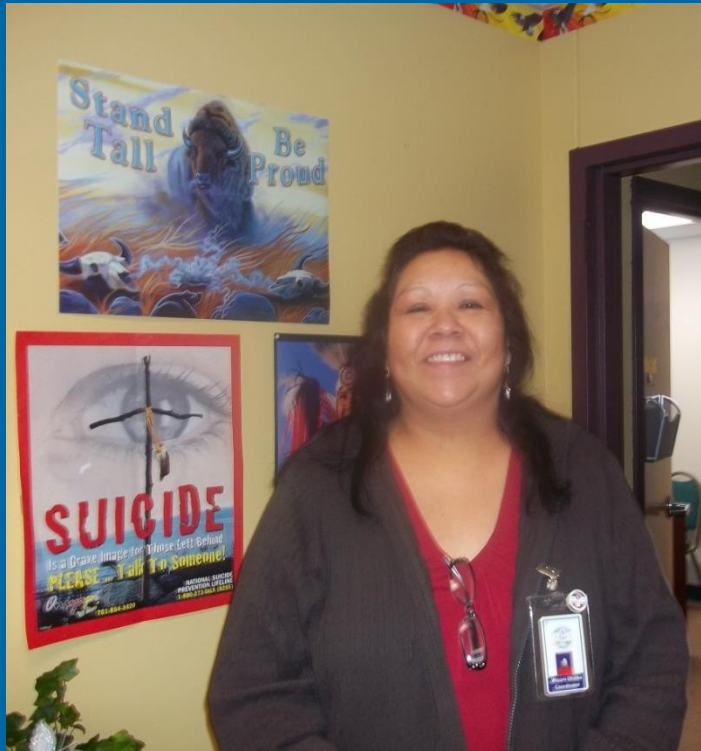


Novalene A. Goklish, BS., Sr. Field Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health

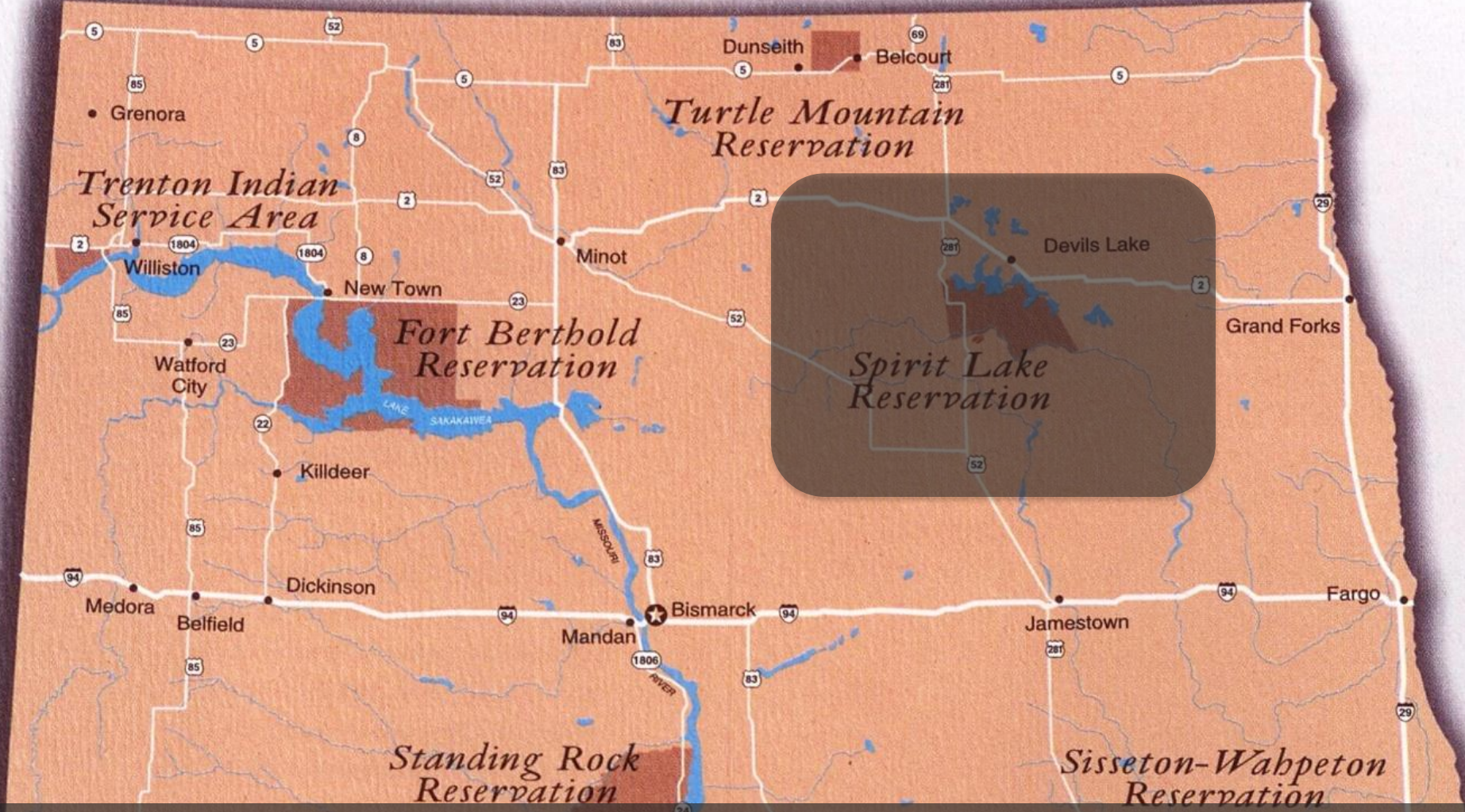


Elinor Nault, M.Ed., Montana Board of Crime Control Youth Justice Council, Rocky Boy, Montana

Wiconi Ohitika Strong Life Project, Cankdeska Cikana Community College



**Cora Whiteman, Coordinator
Spirit Lake Nation**



Spirit Lake Nation, North Dakota



White Mountain Apache Tribe Constructing a Suicide Data Surveillance System

**Novalene A. Goklish BS., Sr. Field
Program Coordinator**

**Francene Larzelere-Hinton, BA.,
Sr. Field Program Coordinator,**

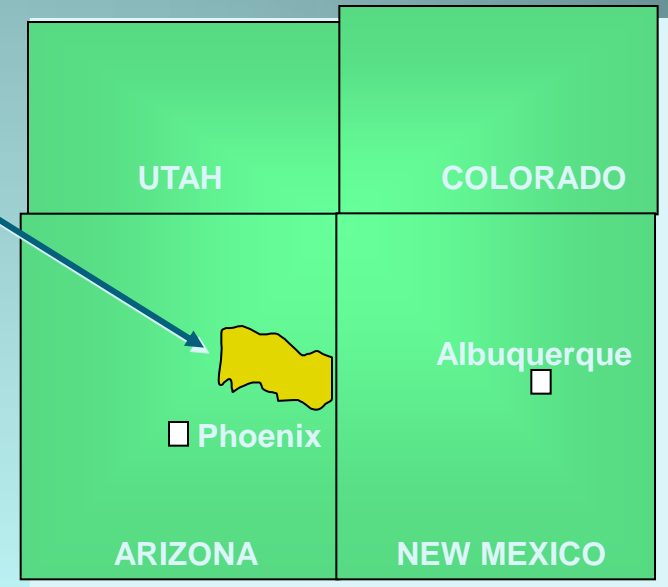


*White Mountain Apache Tribe
Constructing a Suicide Data
Surveillance System*



White Mountain Apache Tribe

- ~15,500 enrolled tribal members
- Fort Apache Res. (1.6 million acres)
- Geographically isolated
- Spectrum of traditional and mainstream cultures
- Governed by Apache Tribal Council
- 30-year relationship with JHU & Center for American Indian Health (JHCAIH)
- Infectious Disease, Behavioral and Mental Health, & Training programs



History

Talk :

- Community Initiative to Prevent Suicide 20 years of progress
 - Seeking Guidance and Support - 1992
 - Implementation of Ghost Busters – 1993 to 1998
 - Tribal Mandate – 2001 to Present
 - Surveillance System 2004 - Present
 - Community intervention design and implementation
 - Evaluation

Seeking Guidance & Support 1992

- Community Meetings In Whiteriver & Cibecue
- Tribal Members & Tribal Council Meetings
- Tribal Council & Health Authority Meetings
- Tribal Council & Health Authority Requesting for Assistance from Johns Hopkins University
- Community assessments and surveys

Implementation of Ghost Busters

– 1993 to 1998

- Established based on outcomes from assessments and surveys.
- WMAT Police Department seek funding for Ghost Busters .
- Ghost Busters consist of elders to provide guidance & support.

Tribal Mandate – 2001 to Present

- Tribal Council formed Suicide Task Force
- Tribe mandates suicide surveillance and registry system
- First Tribal Registry
 - Paper and pencil reporting system
 - Limited follow-up & financial resources
 - Suicide Task Force received funding for 1 yr for follow-ups.

Surveillance System 2004 - Present

- 2004: Tribe partnered with JHU CAIH to launch new project:
 - Update and computerize registry system
 - Follow-up with all reported suicidal behaviors
 - Celebrating Life Program for youth attempters
 - Case management and aided referral for suicidal individuals
- 2006: WMAT-JHU partnership expands with GLS Funding
 - Design and piloting of prevention interventions
 - Universal
 - Targeted
 - Selected

Major AI/AN Youth Health Disparities

Death Rate (0-25 yrs): 3.2x higher

Suicide Rate (15-24): 5x higher

Injury Deaths: 3.8x higher

Alcohol-related Deaths: 7x higher

Teen Childbearing: ~2x higher

Diabetes: ~3x higher

Apache Youth Suicide

- Very low suicide rates prior to 1950
- Spike in youth suicide rates:
 - 1990-1993
 - 2001-present



PHASE I: Methods

- Yellow Surveillance Form
 - Collected from all tribal health and human service agencies, schools, churches, individuals
- Pink Follow Up Form
 - Verify surveillance data
 - Case management
 - Referrals

White Mountain Apache Tribe "Celebrating Life" (Suicide)

Date of Report: _____

Name (Last name, First name): _____

Gender (circle one): Male Female

Date of Birth: ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ Age: _____ (please estimate)

Tribal affiliation (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> White Mountain Apache	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> San Carlos Apache	<input type="checkbox"/> Unkn
<input type="checkbox"/> Navajo	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Marital status (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Sepa
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Divor
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Habiting (Unmarried and living together)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wido
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Educational status (check one):

White Mountain Apache Celebrating Life Case

INSTRUCTIONS: COMPLETE THIS FORM BASED ON ALL THE INFORMATION THAT PERSON TELLS YOU, YELLOW FORM, POLICE REPORT, ER I

Date of visit: ___ / ___ / ___

Name (Last name, First name): _____

Gender (circle one): Male Female

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Tribal affiliation (check all that apply):

White Mountain Apache

San Carlos Apache

Navajo

Unknown

Other Tri

N/A

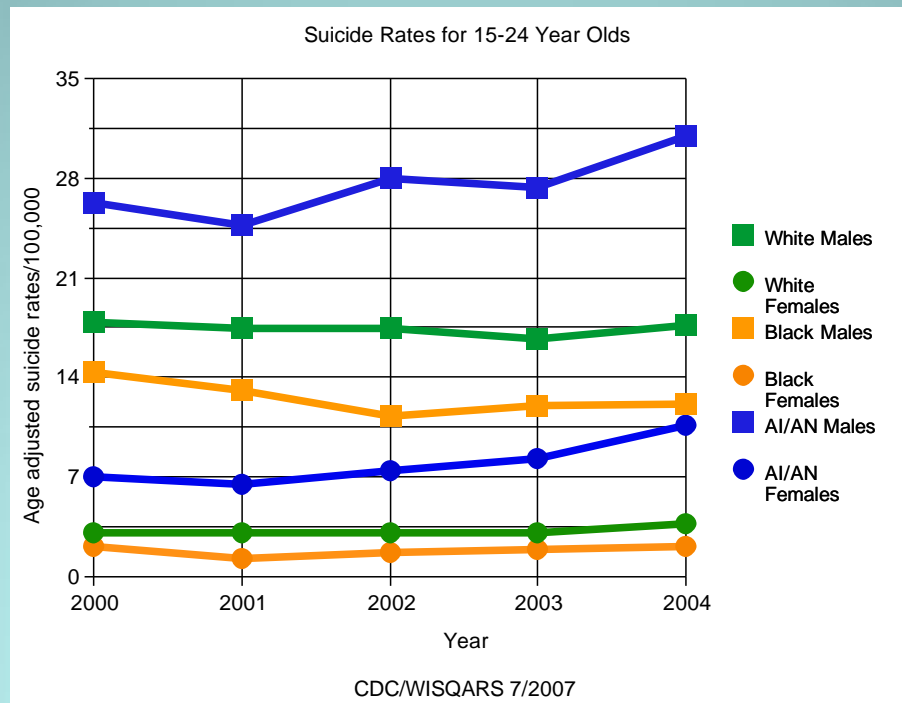
Living status (check all that apply):

With mother

With chil

PHASE I:

What can the data teach us?

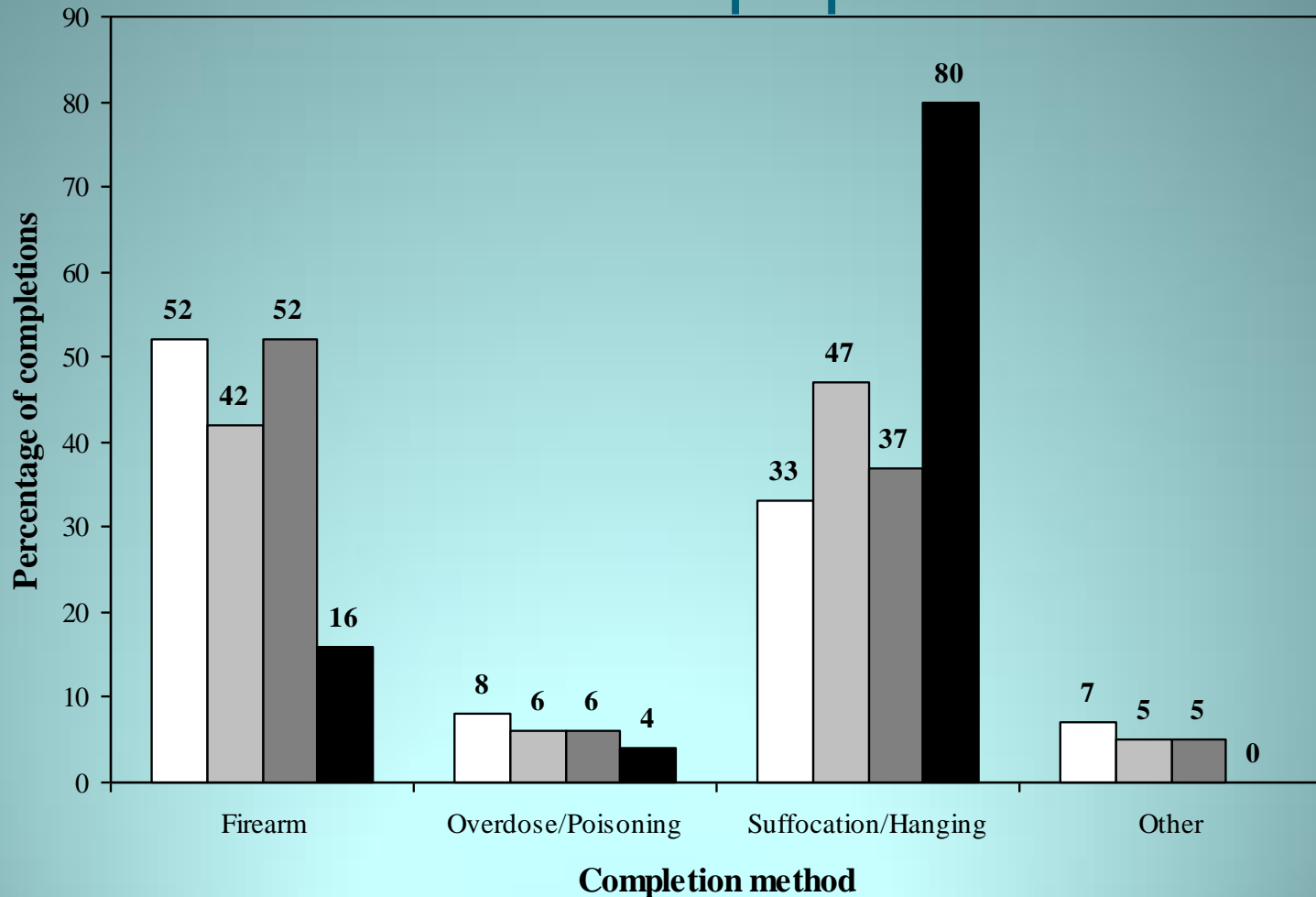


How do Apache Rates Compare?

Average suicide incidence rates per 100,000/year

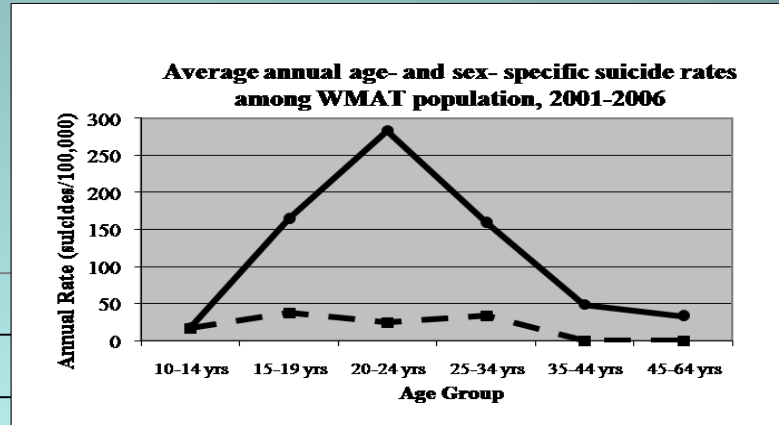
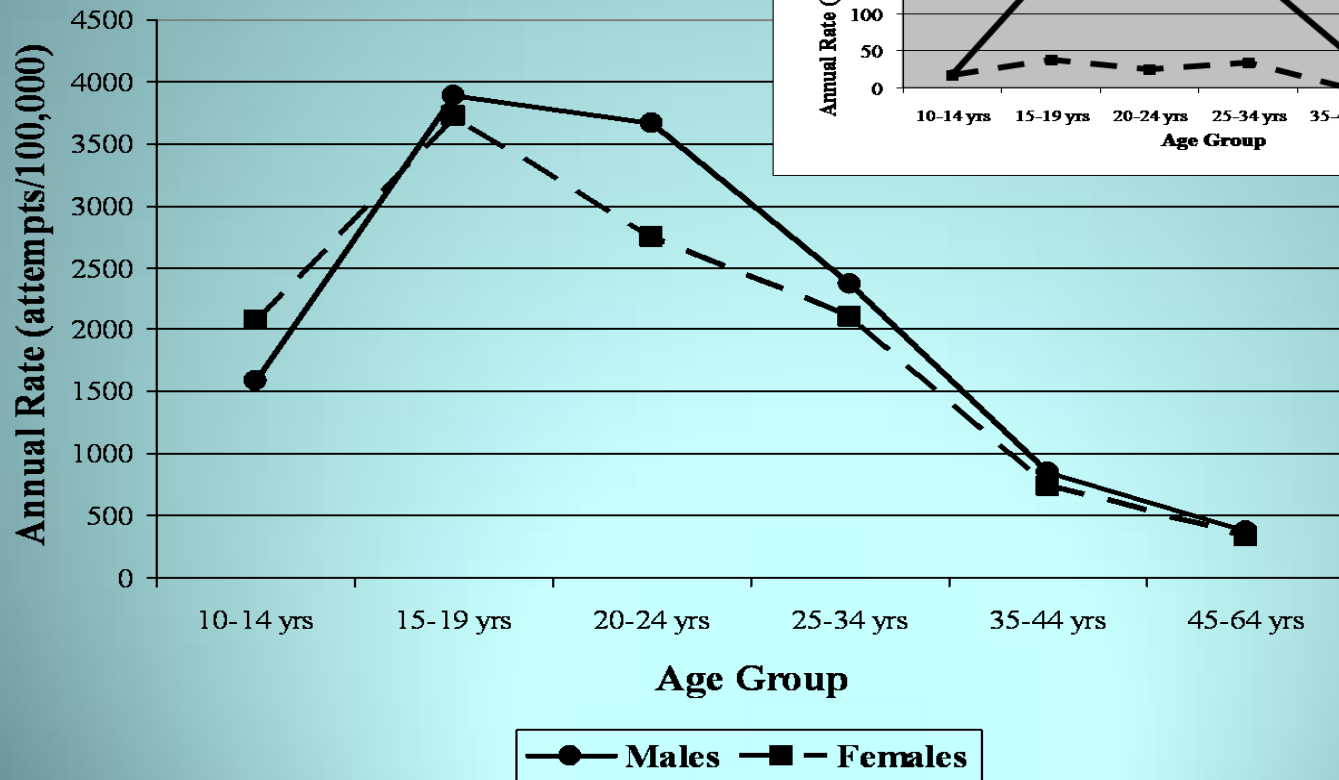
	U.S. All Races (2003)	AI/AN (2003)	White Mountain Apache (2001-2006)
Total Population, Age Adjusted	10.7	10.3	40.1 (~4x US)
Ages 15-24	9.8	17.25 (~2x US)	129.9 (~13x US)

Completion methods: WMAT vs. other populations



□ U.S., 2001-2004 □ AI/AN, 2001-2004 □ I.H.S., 1989-1998 ■ WMAT, 2001-2006

Rates of WM Apache attempts and completions, 2001 - 2006



“Celebrating Life” Phase I Summary

- Apache youth suicide rate: 13x U.S. All Races, ~6x AI/AN rates
- Highest completion rates: 15-24 yr olds; highest attempt rates: 15-19 yr olds
- Male : Female ratios: 6:1 completions; ~1:1 attempts
- Methods - 80% Hanging despite availability of fire arms
- Known triggers for attempters: conflict with partner or close relative; loss of loved one; substance use

Celebrating Life Phase I

Stakeholder Interpretation of Findings

- Possible reasons for hanging:
 - No disfigurement
 - Shames the “finder”
 - Contagious
 - Silent method
- Males losing traditional roles; in crisis
- Females – possible role of abuse
- Outside media incongruous with Apache culture
- Alcohol/drug use integrated with self-harm
- Youth feeling “somehow”
- Depression and suicide link new revelation
- Lack of mental health service providers

Thank you



Tribal Code Revision Project

Elinor Nault, M. Ed.
Rocky Boy, Montana



Goal

Designed to address the efficiency and effectiveness of a juvenile justice system and demonstrate that communities can improve their systems without sacrificing public safety.

Restructured codes, policy and practice to create system improvements that reach far beyond detention alone.

Required Community Collaboration

- All relevant local, state and federal partners were invited to participate in training and process of code, policy and procedure revision.

Partners

- OJJDP Tribal Youth Program - Technical Assistance
- Montana Board of Crime Control Youth Justice Council
- Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative
- Association of American Indian Affairs
- Indian Child Welfare
- National Council of Crime and Delinquency

Partners cont.

- Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Social Services
- Boys & Girls Club
- Schools
- TANF
- Chemical Dependency Center

Developed policies and procedures to assess youth at various points of contact in the justice system:

- Immediately upon contact with Law Enforcement personnel.
- Prior to preliminary hearing.
- Prior to adjudicatory hearing.
- Reassessed within three (3) months while on probation.

Revised code to include:

- **Risk Assessment Instrument**
- **Informal Process**
- **Alternatives to Detention - Healing to Wellness Drug Court (HTWC)**
- **Probation Assessment**

Results:

Decreased the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately detained;

Reduced the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication;

Redirected public funds towards effective juvenile justice processes and public safety strategies;

Reduced the disproportionate minority confinement and contact of the juvenile justice system; and,

Improved the juvenile justice system overall.

THANK YOU! Question & Answers

Q & A

What are the barriers, if any, to implementing suicide prevention statutes in your community?

Q & A

What strategies have been successful in empowering sites/communities to begin these discussions? What kinds of information have been useful to stakeholders?

Q & A

How do statutes move from being just a discussion to becoming a movement by the suicide prevention program staff?

Presenter Contact Information

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Announcements

- Resource List; Title VI-Children's Protection Code; PowerPoint
- Evaluation
- Next Meeting: November 4, TBD
 - If you have additional ideas or questions, contact Petrice at ppost@edc.org