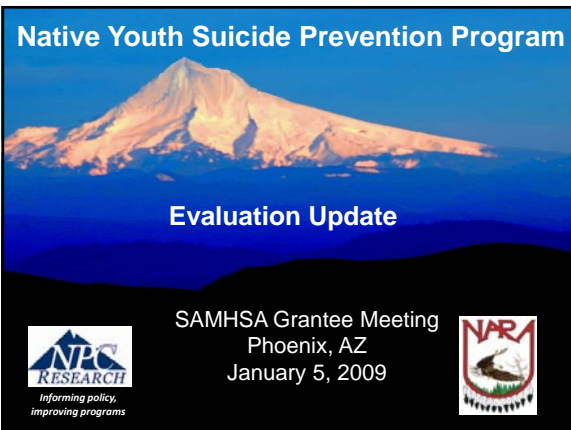





Native Youth Suicide Prevention Program



Evaluation Update

SAMHSA Grantee Meeting
Phoenix, AZ
January 5, 2009








Native Youth Suicide Prevention Program

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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




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)



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



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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



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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)



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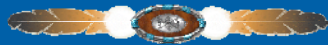
Suicidal Behaviors

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)



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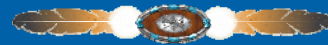


Impact of Results

- 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



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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



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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



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