

Youth Educated to Stop Suicide (YESS) Project

Indiana Cares Youth Suicide Prevention Project
IPFW Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute

Project Description

Project Aims:

- Understand Latino and African American youth's beliefs and attitudes towards suicide and suicide prevention.
- Adapt suicide prevention educational messages to address the specific needs of Latino and African American youth.

Why this project?

- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth; 1 in 6 youth seriously consider suicide each year.
- Existing suicide prevention programs for youth were created by adults for a general youth audience. There aren't any culturally tailored suicide prevention messages for Latino and African American youth created by youth.
- Suicide prevention campaigns focusing on the needs of a specific population will be more effective than a "one size fits all" approach.

Who?

- Latino and African American youth ages 12 - 18 years of age who sign consent forms and whose parent/guardian signs consent forms.
- Youth will be recruited with help from our project partners: Club Unified Youth Intervention Program, Greater Progressive Baptist Church, Boys & Girls Club, Fellowship Missionary Church, Youth for Christ of Fort Wayne, Mind Over Matter, Inc. QPR Suicide Prevention Training will be provided to our partners' staff/ volunteers.

What will this project do?

- Ask youth about attitudes and beliefs about suicide and it's prevention in two ways:
 1. *Focus groups* (Oct - Jan): Small groups of Latino youth and African American youth will discuss their views on suicide and how to prevent it with a group leader. Two or three focus groups will be held with both Latinos and African Americans (separately).
 2. *Questionnaires* (Jan -April): Approximately 350 Latino and African American youth will complete a questionnaire about their beliefs and attitudes about suicide and how to prevent it.
- Work with youth in medium sized groups to create *culturally specific messages* for Latino and African American youth (Summer 2012)
- If funding can be secured, the messages that are created will be piloted and evaluated.
- Incentives for participation include: \$15 Walmart gift card for those involved in focus groups and the messaging project, and those who complete the questionnaire will be entered into a drawing for 2 iPad tablet computers.

Report on Findings

- The YESS Project findings will be available by late Summer 2012 and will be shared with project partners and our funder.

Funding for this Project

- The YESS Project is part of the *Indiana Cares Youth Suicide Prevention Project* which works to build capacity of communities and youth-serving organizations across Indiana. It is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as part of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. It is part of the Behavioral Health & Family Studies Institute and the College of Health and Human Services at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Project Staff

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