Model Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program (MASPP)

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is intended to benefit American Indian adolescents and young adults by targeting community members.

SUMMARY

The Model Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program (MASPP) seeks to reduce the number of suicides and suicide attempts by adolescents and young adults in American Indian communities by identifying the unique needs of the community. Then, targeted prevention activities and direct mental health services are provided to decrease suicide ideation and rates and increase community awareness.

EVIDENCE

An evaluation study conducted over 15 years with an American Indian community in rural New Mexico found significant reductions in numbers of suicidal gestures and attempts; however, the actual suicide rates did not change significantly. This study did not have a control group.

COMPONENTS

The program contains five major objectives. The implementation details will vary, and how objectives are met is dependent on facilitators. Therefore, every implementation is tailored to the specific needs of the targeted community.

1. Identify suicide risk factors unique to the targeted American Indian community.
2. Ascertain which individuals, families, and groups within the community are at the highest risk for suicide.
3. Utilize prevention activities that target these high-risk individuals (e.g., a school-based suicide prevention curriculum could be implemented).
4. Provide mental health services to the identified individuals, families, and groups (e.g., conduct outreach events and activities that encourage health clinic visits).
5. Implement community education and awareness programs (e.g., community-wide social service programs may be implemented; school assemblies and community gatherings and events could highlight the need to address issues surrounding suicide).

PREVIOUS USE

The program was implemented over a 15-year period in a rural New Mexico setting and served up to 800 American Indian youth each year.
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**TRAINING**

Training may be required for implementation and will vary depending on the components/programs selected for use as part of the MASPP. For more information you may contact Patricia Serna of North Central Community-Based Service (NCCBS) by phone 1-575-756-2327, email pserna@nccbs.org, or visit website listed in the Contact section.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Considerations for implementing this program include community buy-in, facilitator recruitment and retention, and program implementation costs.

The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185, or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**IMPLEMENTATION**

If you are interested in implementing the MASPP, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you! Please call 1-877-382-9185, or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**TIME**

Implementation of MASPP is an ongoing process and program times will vary. Several months will be needed to assess needs, develop a plan, establish partnerships, and build capacity before implementation.

**COST**

The program manual may be downloaded for free at www.sprc.org/sites/sprc.org/files/library/AdolescentSP_ProgramManuaPH_ModelNA_Communities.pdf

Other material costs may be incurred depending on the preventative services selected for use.

**EVALUATION PLAN**

To move MASPP to the Promising category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence, at least one evaluation that utilizes a control group should be performed demonstrating positive effects lasting at least six months from program completion.

The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185, or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**CONTACT**

Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program.

Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu

You may also contact Patricia Serna of NCCBS by phone 1-575-756-2327, email pserna@nccbs.org, or visit www.nccbs.org

**SOURCE**