

Features

3 Youth Suicide: A Review

By Madelyn S. Gould, Ph.D., M.P.H., Ted Greenberg, M.P.H.,
Drew M. Velting, Ph.D., and David Shaffer, M.D.

Following a comprehensive review of the research literature on youth suicide, the authors discuss the rates and patterns of completed suicides and suicide attempts. The state of the research on potential risk and protective factors is also reviewed, covering personal characteristics, family characteristics, adverse life circumstances, and socioenvironmental and contextual factors.

8 Practical Strategies for Preventing Adolescent Suicide

By Keith A. King, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

A comprehensive approach to suicide prevention is needed to effectively address the problem of teen suicide. This article describes three levels of prevention (primary prevention, intervention, and postvention) and provides practical strategies that community, mental, and social health professionals can use within each level to help prevent suicidal behavior among youth.

12 Youth Suicide Prevention Programs

By John Kalafat, Ph.D.

Youth suicide prevention programs are described that promote the identification and referral of at-risk youth, address risk factors, and promote protective factors. Emphasis is on programs that are both effective and sustainable in applied settings.

16 American Indian Youth Suicide Prevention

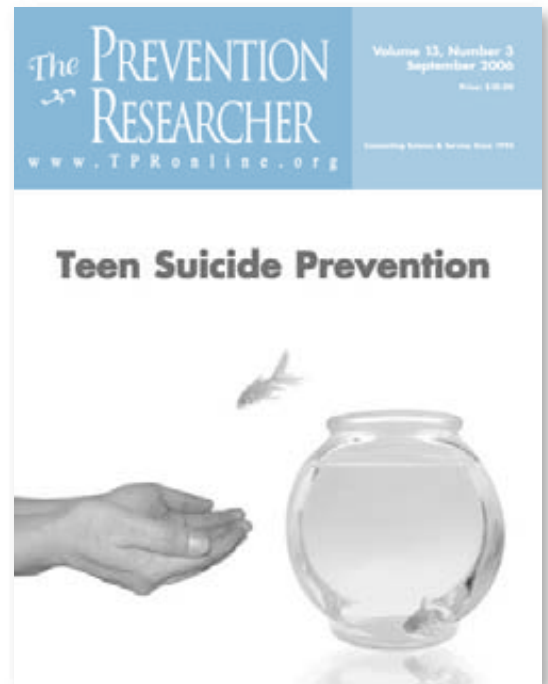
By Teresa LaFromboise, Ph.D.

This article reviews the prevalence of suicide and suicidal ideation among American Indian adolescents. Unique risk and protective factors, and historical trauma and associated symptoms, are explored in the context of American Indian adolescent suicide. The need for culturally-sensitive interventions are necessary, and an example of a reservation-community initiated intervention, the *American Indian Life Skills Development Curriculum*, is provided.

19 Preventing Suicide Risk Among Sexual Minority Youth

By Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D. and Steven R. Marks, S.M., M.S.

Sexual minority youth are among those most likely to report suicidal thoughts, plans, and attempts (suicidality). This article reviews suicidality risk factors among sexual minority youth, considering both those that are common to all youth as well as factors unique to these young people.



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The Prevention Researcher is a quarterly journal with the mission of connecting service professionals to the latest research. Established in 1994, each single-theme issue of *The Prevention Researcher* focuses on an "at-risk" youth topic from a prevention standpoint. *The Prevention Researcher* is indexed in ERIC, CINAHL, and PsycEXTRA.

The Prevention Researcher (ISSN 1086-4385) is published quarterly (February, April, September, and November) and includes an annual Resource Issue each December, by Integrated Research Services, Inc., 66 Club Road, Suite 370, Eugene, OR 97401. Material published in *The Prevention Researcher* reflects the views of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official position of, or the endorsement of, Integrated Research Services. The accuracy of material published in *The Prevention Researcher* is the responsibility of the authors. Copyright © 2006, Integrated Research Services, Inc. All material published in *The Prevention Researcher* is protected by copyright. Material may not be reproduced in any form without permission from Integrated Research Services, Inc. **Permission request:** permissions@TPRonline.org **Advertising:** marketing@TPRonline.org **Subscription price:** United States, \$36 a year; Canada and all others please add \$10 a year for additional postage and handling (\$46 a year). Single copies (to the U.S.): \$10. **Change of address:** send to *The Prevention Researcher*, 66 Club Road, Suite 370, Eugene, OR 97401; orders@TPRonline.org **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Prevention Researcher*, 66 Club Road, Suite 370, Eugene, OR 97401. Printed on recycled paper.

From the Editor's PC

Dear Colleagues,

With teen suicide the third leading cause of death for our nation's youth, it is imperative for us to explore this important topic within *The Prevention Researcher*. Indeed, the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that in the 12 months prior to the survey, 1 in 5 students had seriously considered attempting suicide, and 1 in 12 had made a suicide attempt.

To lay the groundwork for this issue, Dr. Madelyn Gould and colleagues provide a review of the most recent teen suicide research. They explore the rates and patterns of teen suicide by age, gender, and ethnicity, then examine research on potential risk and protective factors.

Our next two articles explore suicide prevention strategies. First, Dr. Keith King approaches youth suicide prevention from three levels—primary prevention,

intervention, and postvention. Specific strategies within these three levels are outlined. Next, Dr. John Kalafat explores evidence-based suicide prevention programs, grouping them into three different categories: identification and referral of at-risk youth to treatment, addressing risk factors, and enhancing protective factors.

In response to questions frequently asked about teen suicide, this issue also delves into the unique needs and experiences of two specific populations. First, Dr. Teresa LaFromboise examines suicide among Native American youth exploring unique risk and protective factors, and discussing culturally-sensitive prevention programs. Then, Dr. Stephen Russell and co-author, Steven Marks, explore suicide among sexual minority youth, including their unique risk and protective factors. It is our hope that these last two articles will

not only provide an understanding of suicide prevention strategies with Native American and sexual minority youth, but also show how any program or prevention strategy needs to fit with the unique needs of the youth being served.

Finally, don't miss our upcoming Resource Issue (December 2006), which will provide additional resources on teen stress, depression, and suicide.

All the best,



Steven Ungerleider, Ph.D.
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Koke Printing, Eugene, OR
Production & Design