



Minority Fellowship Program

The National Board for Certified Counselors

Innovations in Counseling: Working with Minority Populations- Part 4 Session 5: Preventing Child and Adolescent Suicide: Myths, Risks and Protective Factors

Webinar Follow-up Question and Answer Session with Dr. David Capuzzi.

1. **Question from Allen Vosburg**

I have found that networking confusion occurs when a client utilizes both peer networks and non-peer networks for support there are times that one group tries to get the client to believe that the other group is not a positive influence. The reasons for this vary and are many, but my concern is the client and knowing how important the networks are to the client. Do you have any thoughts on how to work on this difficulty for the positive work for the client?

Answer

My inclination would be to see if I could facilitate a meeting between myself, the client's peer network, and the client to see if we could reach an understanding about what the peer group concerns might be and how discrepancies could be addressed.

2. **Question from Kacey Brown**

How is the "pass out game" calculated in the statistics? Do you believe that this has been a way for families to avoid disclosing the suicide? Do you believe the pass out game convolutes the overall picture of adolescent suicide?

Answer

I don't know that it is calculated and I definitely believe it convolutes the overall picture of adolescent suicide. Lots of things do skew the picture, however, including some families' decisions not to reveal the existence of a suicide note. Child and adolescent suicide rates are likely much higher than we know.

3. **Question from Carol Chaffin**

Is it common for family members of a suicidal client to be depressed and/or suicidal also?

Answer

Depression and extreme guilt are common reactions for family members. A family member would also have to be having prior difficulty with depression and some suicidal ideation to become very high risk suicide. A suicide of a family member would not automatically precipitate another suicide in the family.

4. **Question from Darlene Sellers**

I work on a Native American reservation in Montana. Do you have resources directly related this population that would be helpful for us to be aware of?

Answer

I don't have a good answer for this question. My inclination would be to learn as much as I could about the differences between my culture and that of the population I was working with as a first step. For example, I once had a research assistant who was/is a Native American from Alaska. We met on Monday each week to go over the goals for the week. During these meetings she did not make much eye contact with me but



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that did not mean she was not attending---it was a sign of respect towards me who she viewed in the same way as she viewed the elders of her "tribe" who would be disrespected if someone younger made too much eye contact.

5. **Question from Deb Dempsey**

What is the age range that you are defining as adolescent?

Answer

I just finished a book on human development over the life span for Wiley. There is some debate around this question but generally from about 11 to 12 to 24 (as the high end) of the range.

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