



c a s t

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION SURVEY*

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY

Prevention can be defined as a strategy or approach that reduces the likelihood of health problems ever occurring. Prevention programming is common in schools. We are interested specifically in prevention activities designed to reduce suicide-risk behaviors among young people in school communities. The questions in this survey are about your awareness of suicide prevention efforts in your building and how you might respond to a distressed youth. Your responses are anonymous. That means that there will be no way to identify your answers from those of others that complete the survey. If there is a question that you do not want to answer, you are free to skip it.

1. Are you aware of any suicide prevention activities/programs in your school?

- _____ a. Yes
- _____ b. No
- _____ c. Maybe or I think so

If yes:

1a. How many different programs/activities are you aware of? _____
(Write in number)

1b. What types of programs/activities are available?

If no:

1c. How open do you think your building would be to a suicide prevention program?

Not at All						A Great Deal
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

* Adapted from: Thompson, E.A., Raffety, B. & Johnson, C. (1997). Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program, Telephone Survey. *Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program, Report of Activities*. University of Washington, School of Nursing

2. How important do you think it is for schools to provide preventive services to assist students who exhibit the problem behaviors listed below? Please use a scale of 0 to 6, where "0" means Not at All and "6" means Extremely. You may give me any number from 0 to 6. Please circle your response to each question.

Not at All		Neutral				Extremely	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	

- 2a. Suicide-risk behaviors? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 2b. Anger control problems? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 2c. Violent behavior? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 2d. Drug use/abuse? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. In a situation where you are concerned about a student who you think is depressed or thinking about suicide, how would you proceed to get help for that student in your building? Please mark all that apply.

- _____ a. Refer the student to school counselor
- _____ b. Refer the student to school psychologist
- _____ c. Refer the student to intervention team
- _____ d. Refer the student to a specific program
- _____ e. Call the student's parent
- _____ f. Handle it myself [What would you do? _____
- _____ h. Seek consultation from a colleague to determine how best to handle the situation
- _____ i. Notify an administrator
- _____ j. Other, please specify: _____

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

This section contains some questions that might be more sensitive for you. These are questions about how you might respond to a young person who may be at risk for suicide.

4. Please take a moment to imagine that you know a young person, 15-19 years old, who is showing signs of being suicidal. In order to know if this person might be in danger of attempting suicide, what 3 *signs* would you look for?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

HELPING DEPRESSED/SUICIDAL PERSON

For the next 4 questions, use a 0 to 10 scale to answer the questions. A value of “0” means “not at all,” a 10 means “very much or extremely;” and a “5” means you’re neutral or feel “so-so” about your response. Please circle your response to each question.

Now, imagining this same young person who seems suicidal...

5. In your opinion, is it *appropriate* for you to ask this person—who may be suicidal—the following question: “*Are you thinking of harming yourself or attempting suicide?*”

not at all appropriate					neutral						extremely appropriate
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

6. How *likely* would you be to ask this person if they were thinking of harming themselves or attempting suicide?

not at all likely					neutral						very likely
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

7. How comfortable would you be in asking this question?

not at all comfortable					neutral						very comfortable
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

8. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“*I think suicide among young people is a major issue facing my community.*”

strongly disagree					neutral						strongly agree
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

BEHAVIOR/ACTIONS TAKEN

The next section asks about *your* experiences with people 15-19 years old. Some questions may be more sensitive for you. If you prefer not to answer a question, please just leave it blank and continue on to the next question.

9. In the last 4 weeks have you been in contact with anyone, 15-19 years old, who was depressed or showing signs of being suicidal? _____ Yes _____ No

If your answer is “Yes,” write in number of times _____

If your answer is no—SKIP TO question #14 below

10. Did you talk to them (him/her) about your concerns for their well-being?

- _____ 1. Yes _____ 3. Indirectly or tried to suggest ways to get help
_____ 2. No _____ 4. Not sure

11. Did you ask them if they were considering harming themselves or attempting suicide?

- _____ 1. Yes _____ 3. Indirectly or tried to suggest ways to get help
_____ 2. No _____ 4. Not sure

12. Did you talk with the person about where they could get help?

- _____ 1. Yes _____ 3. Indirectly or tried to suggest ways to get help
_____ 2. No _____ 4. Not sure

13. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your interaction with this person/
these people?

14. Are you concerned *now* about anyone, 15-19 years old, who might be at suicide risk?

- _____ 1. Yes [continue to 6a]
_____ 2. No [Skip to Section V]
_____ 3. Maybe/uncertain [continue to 6a]

- If you are concerned about this person's safety, it is important that you talk with him or her directly to persuade him/her to get help.
- If you need information about how to do this, I'd like you to call your local crisis information telephone number. The crisis line people are specially trained and available to provide just this kind of consultation.
- The numbers for your area are: _____

We are nearly at the end of our questions—just a few more questions so we will be able to describe the source of our information

15. Are you male or female? _____ 1. Male _____ 2. Female

16. What is your age?

1. _____ Under 25 yrs. 5. _____ 50-59 yrs.
2. _____ 25-29 yrs. 6. _____ 50-59 yrs.
3. _____ 30-39 yrs. 7. _____ 60 or more yrs.
4. _____ 40-49 yrs.

17. How long have you worked at this school? _____

These are all the questions we have for you today. Thank you for helping us. Your efforts will contribute to youth suicide prevention in our community.