



Suicide prevention strategies among Alaska Native youth

January 30, 2015

News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News

State: Alaska

[Native Times](#) [1]

To help prevent youth suicide in remote Alaska Native communities, a new project called [PC-CARES](#) [2] (Professional-Community Collaborations for At-risk youth Engagement and Support) will focus on communication and collaboration. Lisa Wexler, who is leading the project and is an associate professor of community health education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, described the project: "PC-CARES creates a process where local people, service providers, parents and other community members can share stories and information so that people are reaching out to others more often in their everyday lives, noticing people that might be vulnerable and figuring out ways to support them." The Maniqa Association of Kotzebue is also participating in the project, which will build on understandings that already exist in the community. "Really, it's less delivering the training than it is facilitating a conversation," said Wexler. PC-CARES includes a robust evaluation component, to track the growth of formal and informal support networks and to show whether service use increases in the study area.

Spark Extra: Visit [Sharing Our Wisdom](#) [3], where SPRC brings together stories of American Indian/Alaska Native approaches to suicide prevention.

Populations: Youth, American Indians and Alaska Natives

Settings: American Indian/Alaska Native Settings

Planning and Implementing: Culturally Based Practices

Links within this resource

[1] <http://www.nativetimes.com/index.php/life/health/10925-suicide-prevention-strategies-among-alaska-native-youth>

[2] <http://www.pc-cares.org/about>

[3] <http://www.sprc.org/aian/sharing-our-wisdom>

Printed on 10/15/2019 from <http://www.sprc.org/news/suicide-prevention-strategies-among-alaska-native-youth>

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center at EDC is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), under Grant No. 5U79SM062297.

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