

 **SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER**

Making Sense of the Research: Recent Findings and Implications for Practice

Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention
Grantee Meeting

February 2010

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 **Panelists & Featured Studies**

- David Drum, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin **Nature of College Student Suicidal Crises**
- Daniel Eisenberg, Ph.D.
University of Michigan **Healthy Minds**
- Ben Locke, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University **Center for the Study of Collegiate Mental Health**

Handout


- Mort Silverman, M.D., SPRC
- Linda Langford, Sc.D., SPRC

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 **Session Overview**

- Being a thoughtful consumer of research (Langford)
- Highlights from the three studies (Drum, Eisenberg, Locke)
- Synthesis of key findings across studies (Silverman)
- Application to practice (Langford, audience, panelists)

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 **Being a Thoughtful Consumer of Research and Data**

- Different research findings provide different (and valuable) information
- No one study tells the whole story
- Research findings are affected by how they are collected

Each finding is inherently useful and inherently flawed.

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 **Survey Data**

- Findings are affected by numerous factors, e.g.
 - Who was included in the population of interest
 - Who was actually surveyed/responded
 - One institution vs. many
 - Representative sample vs. convenience
 - Response rate/ bias in response pool
 - How the survey is framed for respondents
 - e.g., health, mental health, suicide, experiences
 - Exact questions asked
 - Time period covered by questions
 - Other methodology issues, e.g., format, confidentiality measures, setting, trained interviewers, etc.

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 **Resources**

- Table I: Study Characteristics – Three Featured Studies
- Table II: “Seriously Considered Suicide” – Lifetime and Past Year Prevalence
 - Three featured studies
 - ACHA-NCHA I
 - ACHA-NCHA II

Handout


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Examples of Questions to Ask Yourself

- Do these results represent college students nationally, or some populations more than others?
 - How do they apply to the population on *my* campus?
- What is this finding telling me (and not telling me)?
 - Keep in mind who responded and what they were asked
- How does this finding apply to our project activities?
- What follow-up questions do I have that this or other studies might answer?



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