

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

Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting, February 2010

Characteristics of Featured Studies

Study Name	Format	When Collected	Frame <i>What respondents were told the survey was about.</i>	Population(s) Included <i>Groups that were sampled from.</i>	N <i>Number of respondents and institutions (IHEs)</i>	Response Rate <i>% of invited participants who responded</i>	Sample Demographics	
							Undergrad/Grad F/M Class/Age	Race/Ethnicity
Nature of College Student Suicidal Crises	Web-based survey	Spring 2006	Student mental health with a focus on suicidal thoughts and behaviors	-Undergrads -Grad students -4-year IHEs	26,000 students; 70 IHEs	25%	57% Undergrad/43% Grad 61% F/ 39% M 22% 1 st Year 22% Sophomore 26% Junior 29% Senior	76% Caucasian 5% Asian American 5% Latino/a 4% African American <1% Alaska Native/ American Indian 4% Multiethnic 6% International
Healthy Minds	Web-based survey	2005, 2007, 2009, 2010 (annual thereafter)	Mental health and related support and services	Random sample from undergrad & grad students; -4-year IHEs to date -2-yrs also in future	14,175 students; 26 IHEs (2007-09); ~40,000 students and 27 IHEs anticipated in 2010	44%	74% Undergrad/26% Grad 56% F/ 44% M 67% age 18-22 13% age 23-25 10% age 26-30 10% age 31+	66% White, non-Hisp 9% Asian 8% Hispanic 6% Black 6% Other category 5% Multiple
Center for the Study of Collegiate Mental Health	Intake data gathering. Web or paper and pencil.	Fall 2008 and ongoing	Intake paperwork.	Counseling center clients. Grad and undergrad. Primarily 4 year institutions.	>28,000 students; 66 IHEs	~100% (of counseling center clients at 66 IHE's)	83% Undergrad/15% Grad 64.3 F/ 35.4% M 18% First year 19% Sophomore 23% Junior 23% Senior	70% White 6.2% Asian Amer./ Asian 6% Hispanic/Latino/a 8% African American .4% Alaska Native/ American Indian 3% Other 3% Multi-racial

“Seriously Considered Suicide” – Comparison of Prevalence Across Studies

Survey	Question Wording	Response Options	All Responses	Lifetime	Past Year
Nature of College Student Suicidal Crises	<p>Lifetime: “Have you ever seriously <i>considered</i> attempting suicide?”</p> <p>Past Year: “During the past 12 months, have you seriously <i>considered</i> attempting suicide?”</p>	Yes/No		Undergraduate: 18% Graduate: 15%	Undergraduate: 6% Graduate: 4%
Healthy Minds	In the past year, did you ever seriously think about committing attempting suicide?	Yes/No	6.3% 93.4%	Not measured	6.3%
Center for the Study of Collegiate Mental Health	Please indicate if, and when, you have had the following experiences: Seriously considered attempting suicide.“	Never Prior to college After starting college Both	75% 11% 6% 8%	25%	n/a
ACHA – NCHA, Fall 2007 (before redesign)	Within the last 12 months, how many times have you.....Seriously considered attempting suicide	Never 1-2 times 3-4 times 5-6 times 7-8 times 9-10 times 11 or more times	89.7% 6.6% 1.3% 0.7% 0.4% 0.2% 1.0	Not measured	10.3% (100 – “never”)
ACHA – NCHA II, Fall 2008 (after redesign)	Have you ever....Seriously considered suicide	No, never No, not in the last 12 months Yes, in the last 2 weeks Yes, in the last 30 days Yes, in the last 12 months	80.8% 12.8% 1.3% 0.9% 4.1%	19.2% (100 – “never”)	6.4% (Past 2 wks + Past 30 days + Past 12 mos)