

Assessment of Suicide Prevention Knowledge and Training among the Office of Student Support Programs and Services Staff at Pasco County Schools

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Overview

Background

Study Purpose

Objectives and Hypotheses

Methods

Results

Strengths and Limitations

Future Recommendations

Implications for Adolescent Behavioral Health

Epidemiology¹⁻²

The Middle School Health Behavior Survey (MSHBS) 2011

N = 6,057

8% constructed suicide plans

6% attempted suicide

Higher prevalence for females

Epidemiology¹⁻²

Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
2013

N = 6,089

14% considered attempting suicide

10% created a suicide plan

8% attempted to commit suicide

Prevalence of suicide attempts was higher among females (10%) when compared to males (5%) and the state average (8%).

Study Purpose

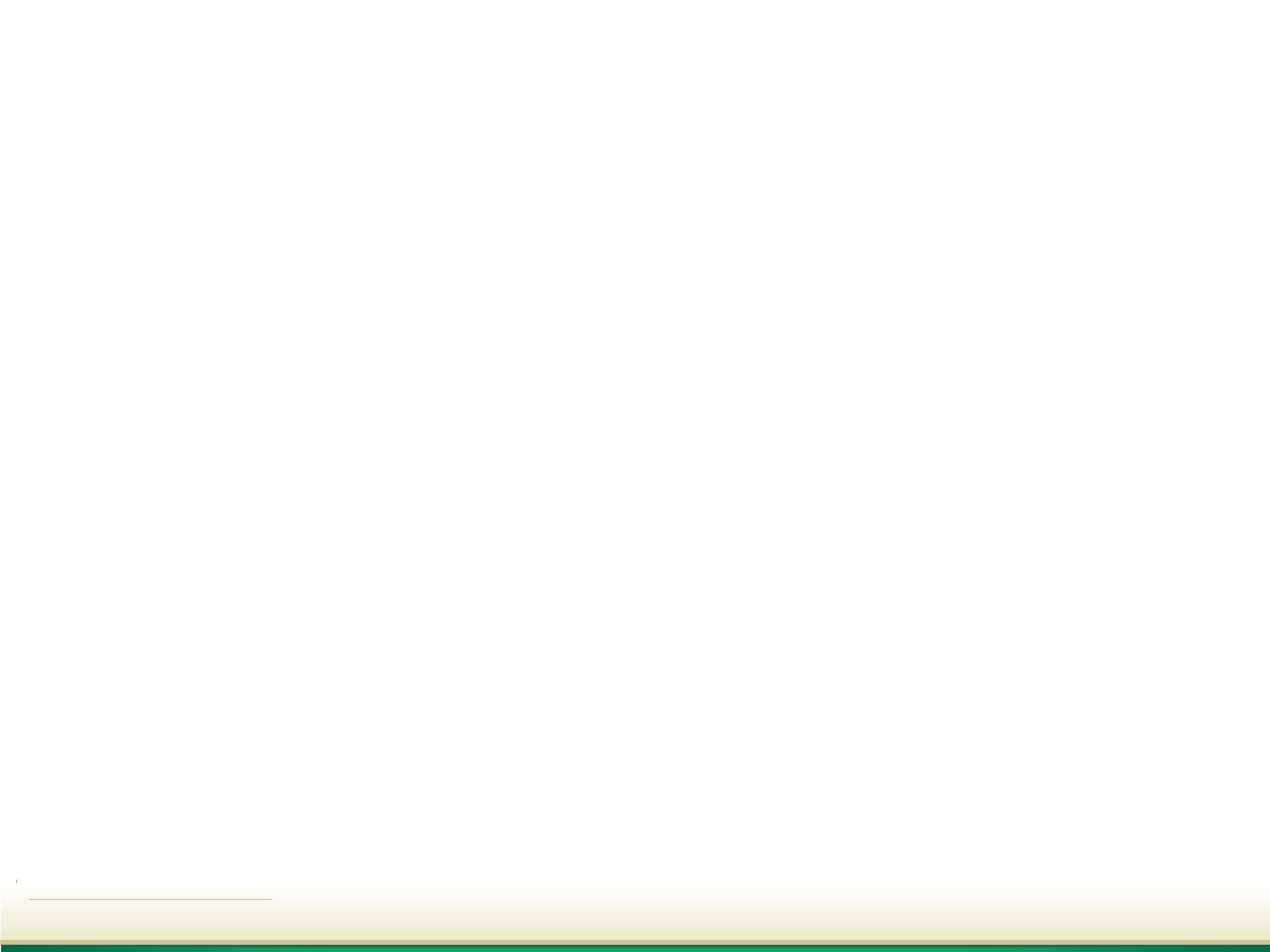
To guide the development of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention training for Pasco County Schools Office of Student Support Programs and Services (OSSPS) Staff

Community Partner Overview

Pasco County Public Schools

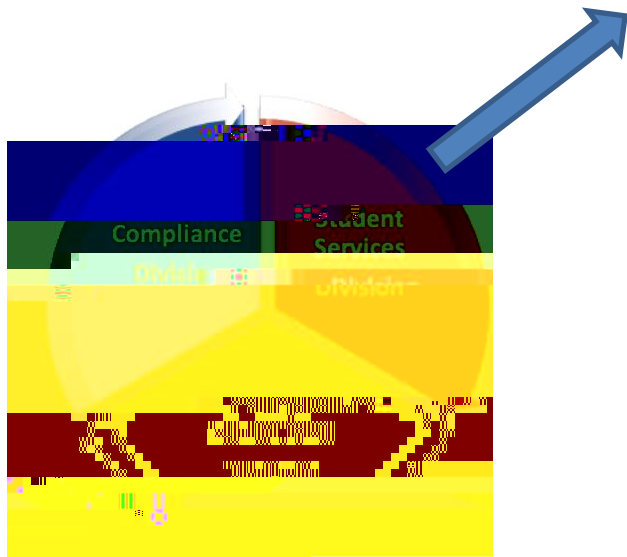
Pre-K through 12th grade are offered through traditional and nontraditional alternatives

84 total schools including charter schools



Office for Student Support Programs and Services

Social Worker Services
Sch27.9 RG[SMe601220]



Office for Student Support Programs and Services

Expressed the need for suicide prevention and clear protocol for addressing the health issue.

Training for suicide prevention (primary, secondary and tertiary) is needed for all OSSPS staff.

Study Objectives

Assess the level of training for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention amongst OSSPS staff

Assess the level of knowledge of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention amongst OSSPS staff

Methods

Online qualtrics survey administered via email

November 2015-March 2016

30 minutes in length

Inclusion criteria

OSSPS staff (School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Nurses and School Social Workers)

Results: Demographics

Results: Demographics

Results: Survey Questionnaire

Have you ever had a student referred to you as potentially suicidal?

Yes: 76.3%

In the past two years, about how many students have been referred to you as potentially suicidal

Elementary schools- 0-20 students

Middle school-0-86 students

High School-0-30 students

Do the schools you work in have a written policy allowing students to be seen by a OSSPS without parent consent if it is suspected that the student may be suicidal?

Yes: 32.2%

No: 11.9%

Some of them: 1.7%

Not sure: 54.2%

In the past two years, about how many completed student suicides have occurred in your..

Elementary schools: 0-2

Middle School: 0-2

High School: 0-5

**How well prepared do you
perceive yourself to be in each of
the following areas...**

Results: “How well prepared do you perceive yourself to be in each of the following areas...”

Prevention of Suicide Risk

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all prepared	3	5.1
A little prepared	9	15.3
Moderately prepared	18	30.5
Quite prepared	17	28.8
Extremely prepared	12	20.3

Results: “How well prepared do you perceive yourself to be in each of the following areas...”

Conducting assessment of suicide risk for individual students

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all prepared	2	3.4
A little prepared	6	10.2
Moderately prepared	8	13.6
Quite prepared	31	52.5
Extremely prepared	12	20.3

Results: “How well prepared do you perceive yourself to be in each of the following areas...”

Providing postvention (i.e., assisting after a completed student suicide)?

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all prepared	5	8.5
A little prepared	15	25.4
Moderately prepared	11	18.6
Quite prepared	22	37.3
Extremely prepared	6	10.2

What training have you received in each of the following areas...

Results: *“What training have you received in Prevention of suicide...”*

Graduate level coursework -61%

Self Study (e.g., read books, Internet resources) -55.9%

District in-service -45.8%

Professional development workshops -44.1%

Never been trained-5.1%

**Results: “What training have you received in
Conducting assessment of suicide risk of
individual students...”**

District in-service 66.1%

Graduate level coursework 49.2%

Professional development workshops -47.5%

Self Study (e.g., read books, Internet resources) 47.5%

Never been trained-1.7%

Results: “How comfortable do you feel working with these diverse youths in relation to suicide risk?”

English Language Learners

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all prepared	4	6.8
A little prepared	13	22.0
Moderately prepared	15	25.4
Quite prepared	20	33.9
Extremely prepared	7	11.9
Total	59	100.0

Results:

Barriers to involvement in prevention and intervention with suicidal youth...

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	4	6.8
A little	17	28.8
Moderately	22	37.3
Quite	13	22.0
Extremely	3	5.1
Total		

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

	Frequency	

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

Lack of visibility and/or time at assigned school(s)

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	4	6.8
A little	11	18.6
Moderately	11	18.6
Quite	16	27.1
Extremely	17	28.8
Total	59	100.0

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

Untimely identification of suicidal youth (e.g., teachers/students do not notify school psychologists of students in need)

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	10	16.9
A little	16	27.1
Moderately	23	39.0
Quite	7	11.9
Extremely	3	5.1
Total	59	100.0

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

Difficulty coordinating care of suicidal youth with

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	16	27.1
A little	13	22.0
Moderately	12	20.3
Quite	11	18.6
Extremely	7	11.9
Total	59	100.0

Results: “Rate the extent to which these barriers limit your involvement in prevention or intervention with suicidal youth...”

Fear of liability issues

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	31	52.5
A little	17	28.8
Moderately	8	13.6
Quite	3	5.1
Extremely	31	52.5
Total	59	100

Results: Procedures and instruments used to assess suicide risk

Student Interview: 81%

Other: 16.9%

Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire: 8.5%

Comprehensive measure of mental health: 6.8%

Beck Hopelessness Scale for Children: 1.7%

Beck Scale of Suicidal Ideations: 0%

Results: “Test Your Knowledge Score”

Average Score for all participants: 29.8

Average score by sections:

Prevention Knowledge

Mean score: 10.2

Intervention Knowledge

Mean score: 9.0

Postvention Knowledge

Mean score: 7.2

General Knowledge (True/False)

Mean score: 3.4

Strengths and Limitations

Limitations

Sample size

Competing demands of staff

Self-reported data

Online survey administration

Strengths

Baseline information

Timeliness

Assessment of various professional groups

Future Recommendations

Increase the awareness of Suicide Prevention

Training

- Identifying youth at risk

- Working with LGBTQ youth

- Implementing postvention procedures

Establish communication protocols and procedures

- Community Partners and Mental Health Service providers and OSSPS staff

- Parent resistance to mental health treatment

Professional Development

- Conferences, workshops, in-service, etc.

Survey administration following a staff meeting

- Paper based

- Addition of survey questions

Implications for Adolescent Behavioral Health

School Based Mental Health Practices

Standardized protocols and procedures for School based mental health professionals

Required annual trainings

Annual reviews of local, state, national mental health policies and implications

Thank you

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