

2003 Evaluation of Program Effectiveness

An evaluation of the SEHS Suicide Prevention Program was undertaken with a focus upon three major questions: First, how effective is the message presented within the current program in changing attitudes about suicide? The results of this study show that changes in attitude occurred in the desired direction for each of the eight target areas. Statistical significances varied widely, depending on the question and the method used to evaluate the change.

Second, the evaluation set out to determine if the results of the current program would replicate the positive results of the program measured in 1993. The results of the current program were greater (statistically significant in 7 of 8 similar targeted areas) than (6 of 8) those of the program measured in 1993.

Finally, the third and most important question was; is the program as effective in another school when given by a different presenter? The results showed that the program is effective even when a different presenter gives it.

An article detailing the 2003 study is available for review in the January 2007 issue of the journal *Social Work*. The following is the citation and abstract:

Social Work

2007, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 41 - 49

Suicide Prevention: An Analysis and Replication of a Curriculum-Based High School Program

Jerry Ciffone

Abstract

This article highlights some of the concerns about and benefits of curriculum-based suicide prevention programs delivered to students in a high school setting. In addition, it presents information about a specific curriculum-based prevention program and provides evidence that the program changed unwanted attitudes about suicide in all the areas targeted for change and reduced adolescents' reluctance to seek mental health treatment for themselves and their peers. The positive results were much like those found in a similar study by Ciffone (1993). Furthermore, multiple presenters in two separate schools all obtained similar positive results.