

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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Strategies & Challenges for Community Suicide Prevention: AF Suicide Prevention Program



A Model For Community &
Organizational Approaches to
Prevention

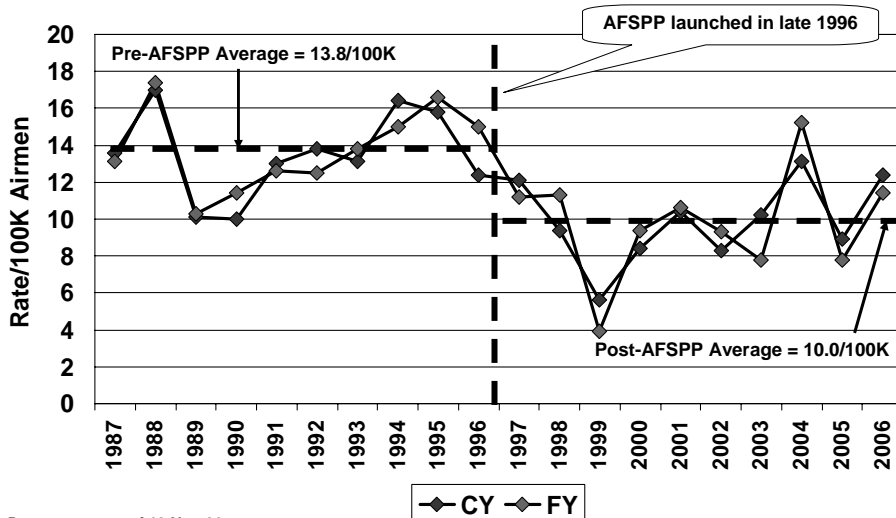
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ADAF Suicide Rates

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Data current as of 13 Nov 06

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Implementation Strategies

- Embrace suicide prevention as organizational priority
 - Atmosphere of responsibility and accountability
- Clearly Articulated Vision:
 - Suicide prevention is a community responsibility
 - Leadership involvement essential for success
 - Affirm and encourage help-seeking behavior
- Prevention through early identification of and intervention
 - Requires widespread community knowledge & skills
- Organized around an integrated system of 11 initiatives
 - Integrated network of policy and education
- Built upon existing organizational infrastructure & culture

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Sustainment Issues & Challenges

- Sustaining success
- Living with new expectations of success
- Winning buy-in from all segments of community
- Overcoming stigma
- Continuous program refinement
- Succession of leadership issues
- Competing for resources in face of new priorities
- Explaining program components to newcomers
- Translating program into novel settings

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Applications beyond the USAF

- **USAF admittedly unique population**
 - Initiatives can be required for all personnel
 - Organizational and community elements
 - Differences may be more superficial than substantive

 - **Results suggest that coordinated network of policy and education initiatives may be effective in decreasing suicide risk in a population**

 - **Program may be particularly adaptable in workplace, university, or other organizational settings**
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QUESTIONS?

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