

Suicide

New Mexico Adventures in SuperComputing Challenge

Final Report

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Team 071

Shiprock High School

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Executive Summary

A successful or unsuccessful attempt to intentionally kill oneself is caused by Lonely, depressed, angry, or ashamed people. The purpose of our project is to try to determine what suicide really is. We want to find out why people commit suicide or why they try to commit suicide. We also want to find out how we can prevent people from making that horrible mistake that would take their lives away from the people who care and love them. We gathered information and other useful facts about suicide and what the causes and affects were. Some resources that we used were books and the internet.

In the past only Oregon permitted physicians to help their terminal patients commit suicide. Along with this, forty-nine states have passed laws regulating assisted suicide. Forty eight of those states prohibit the practice. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned state laws in Washington and New York that banned suicide assistance in January 1997. Governments were unconcerned with suicide before Christianity. After Christianity, suicide became a sin. Many Christians believed life was a gift from God. Later, Christianity weakened and suicide became aggressive against nature, not God. Suicide was judged to be a crime against society.

Introduction

Hypothesis

Suicide is the taking of one's own life. We think suicide is a very important issue in the United States and should be taken seriously. Many people don't think suicide is an important issue but really it is a disease to human society. We as a team are striving to get true facts about suicide out to the public by providing an in school counseling program for teens and adults of all ages who suffer from this form of self-destruction.

Model

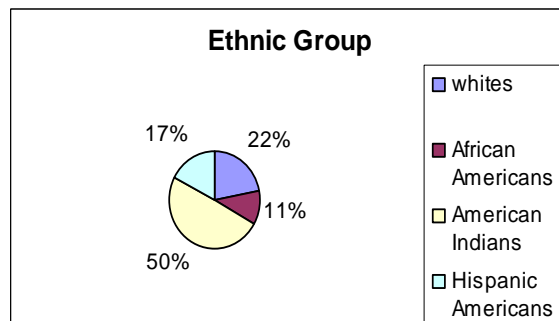
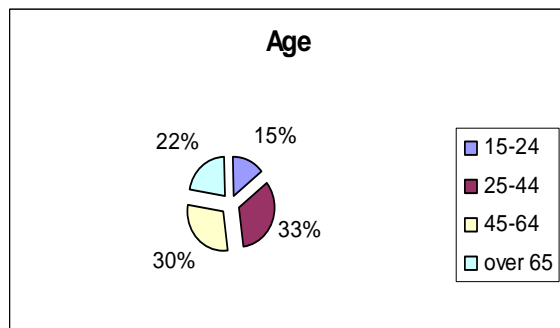
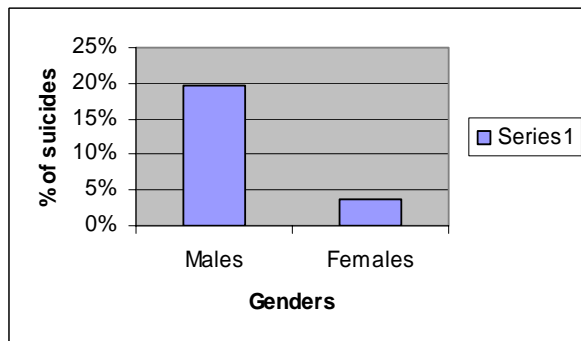
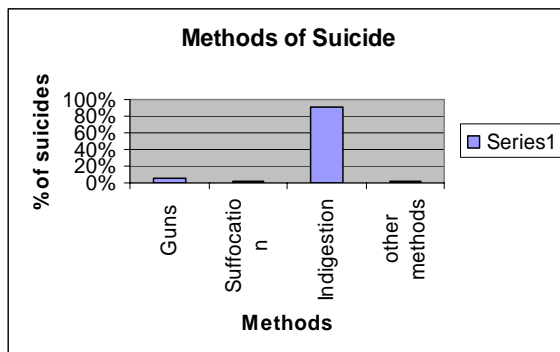
As a group we found out that 60% of high school students have thought of suicide. Suicides occur every seventeen minutes. Whenever a child is born, there is always a teen or person taking the chance of committing suicide because that person is either tired of life, is lonely, or various other reasons. We have thought about giving a survey to people in our high school in Shiprock. The survey would have included questions about whether they have thought of suicide or if they know anyone who has ever committed suicide.

Project Description

Hypothesis:

We as a group believe that the main cause of people committing suicide or trying to commit suicide is depression. Is this true? Through our research we have found some information about why many people commit suicide. Some of the most common causes are feeling rejected, abandoned, alone, ashamed, hopeless, depressed (sadness that does not go away and has no clear cause), afraid of something/someone, unworthy of forgiveness, or feeling like a failure. Other causes include being pressured at school, home, or with friends, problems with alcohol or drugs, breaking up with a boyfriend/girlfriend. Still include doing poorly in school, being gay and feeling guilty, or afraid of not being accepted, having committed a serious crime, and death of someone close.

Model



Results

We found that suicide is a growing problem among many people. The most common method of suicide is self-inflicted gunshot. The second most common method of suicide was suffocation. Ingestion of poison or overdose of pills is the third most common method. Males are five times more likely than females to actually commit suicide. Girls and women are three times more likely than males to fail in their attempt to commit suicide. Native Indians have the highest suicide rate. We have found that the reason for this is the lack of respect for Native-American history in public schools cause's young people of the ethnicity to feel alienated and commit suicide. Another reason is due to the suppression of their religion and culture by the Federal Government. African-Americans have the lowest suicide rate. We believe that people commit suicide because of racial reasons however others have their own reasons for their suicide.

Conclusion

From our research we discovered that suicide can be prevented if people see the warning signs, and get help before they take their own life. We as a team will do all we can to help people stop committing suicide or attempting to commit suicide. We really didn't do our survey we wanted to do. Fortunately, we did find some information on what you can do if you know of someone wanting to commit suicide.

- Be direct. Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Be non-judgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture on the value of life.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support.
- Don't ever tell him or her to do it.
- Don't act shocked. This will put distance between you.
- Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek support.
- Offer hope that alternatives are available but do not offer glib reassurance.
- Take action. Remove means, such as guns or stockpiled pills.
- Get help from persons or agencies specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention

Recommendations

We recommend that people look out for these warning signs in the future to prevent someone from committing suicide.

- No longer taking good care of him or herself (wearing clothes that are not clean, not bathing or not keeping hair clean and combed; no longer caring what his or her room looks like.)
- Not eating regularly, losing weight; or eating all the time, gaining weight rapidly.
- Drinking alcohol; abusing other drugs.
- Fighting with parents, siblings, even friends and family, and teachers; not being able to control anger; or other strong feelings.
- Neglecting schoolwork, failing to attend classes.
- Spending less time with friends and family, and more time alone.
- Talks about committing suicide
- Has trouble eating or sleeping
- Experiences drastic changes in behavior
- Loses interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Has attempted suicide before
- Is preoccupied with death and dying
- Increases use of alcohol or drugs

Acknowledgements

The team would like to acknowledge our sponsors for their valuable insight and many helpful suggestions.

References

- ❖ <http://www.dailynorthwestern.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/05/14/3ec1fc107f5b>
- ❖ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/nataspir.htm>
- ❖ <http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?srch=1&p=suicide&n=20&fl=0&fr=fp-pull-web-t&b=421>

Suicide Tragic Choice

Enslow Publishers, Inc 1999

Suicide Opposing Viewpoints

Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1998

After a Suicide

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994

Teen Suicide Too Young to Die

Enslow Publishers, Inc, 1994

Suicide Troubled Society

The Rourke Corporation, Inc., 1990

Teen Suicide

The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997

Appendix A: (code)

Work in progress

Appendix B: (suicide pictures)



This picture shows a man jumping off a building.



This pictures shows the different methods people use to commit suicide.



This pictures shows some pills people use for overdosing another suicide method.



This picture also shows a man trying commit suicide by jumping off his apartment building.

Dear Mom & Dad
For my funeral
I want open
casket. I want
my death to
be announced
at school.
Make sure all my
friends know
about the funeral
service. Have a
~~glamorous~~ glamou
shot picture
of me by my
casket. →

This picture shows a suicide letter that someone left for their parents.



Here shows a picture of a small note stating they are worthless and tired of life.