

Abstracts from selected relevant Australian Institute of Family Studies research papers

Effects of child abuse and neglect for children and adolescents. Edition: January 2014

Melbourne, Vic. : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2014.

Child abuse and neglect can lead to a wide range of adverse consequences for children and young people. This resource sheet reviews what is known about the possible effects of abuse and neglect for children and adolescents, and the critical factors that influence its impact, include the frequency and duration of maltreatment and the co-occurrence of multiple forms of maltreatment. Topics include: trauma, stress and the developing brain; attachment and interpersonal relationship problems; learning and developmental problems; mental health problems; youth suicide; alcohol and other drug use; behavioural problems; aggression, violence and criminal activity; physical health problems; teenage pregnancy; homelessness; and fatal abuse.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a146141/index.html>

Australian Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Inquiry into Suicide in Australia: submission. (FULL TEXT AT ATTACHMENT C)

Australian Institute of Family Studies ; prepared by Elly Robinson, Bridget Tehan.

[Melbourne, Vic.] : Australian Institute of Family Studies, November 2009.

This submission to the Australian Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee's Inquiry into Suicide in Australia is from the Australian Institute of Family Studies. It focuses on the following four Terms of Reference for the Inquiry: a) personal social and financial costs of suicide in Australia; c) the appropriate role and effectiveness of agencies, such as police, emergency departments, law enforcement and general health services in assisting people at risk of suicide; f) the role of targeted programs and services that address the particular circumstances of high-risk groups; and g) the adequacy of the current program of research into suicide and suicide prevention, and the manner in which findings are disseminated to practitioners and incorporated into government policy. This submissions draws upon research that the Institute has conducted on a range of matters relating to suicide. This includes an evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (completed in 1999), research related to the impact of suicide on families and suicide postvention and suicide and mental health issues.

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/suicide/submissions/sub80.pdf

Building capacity for life promotion: evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Penny Mitchell.

Melbourne : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to evaluate the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. One of five separate evaluation reports, this volume describes the Strategy's system level activities which aimed to build capacity and assist the adoption of evidence based practice in all service systems relevant to youth suicide prevention. Research and evaluation activities described are: Evaluation of National Demonstration Projects; Research and consultation with young people; National Youth Suicide Research Strategy; National stocktakes of programs and

activities; National Coronial Information System; and Study of suicide in indigenous communities. Communications activities described are National Communications Project, and AusEinet. Education and training activities described are: National General Practice Project; Keep Yourself Alive; National University Curriculum Project; National training; Resource guide on education and training; Kids Help Line; Lifeline; Here for Life Youth Sexuality Project; Exploring Together Program; and Resourceful Family Project. Networking and intersectoral collaboration activities were: AusEinet; Here for Life Networking Project; High Street Community Linkage Project; Cellblock Community Linkage Project; Centacare; Connexions; Limelight; Mind Matters; and Shoalhaven Combined Services. Community development activities described are: Support to Rural Communities Project; Yarrabah Study; Galiwin'ku; Here for Life; Lumbu Foundation; and Project X. Each section of the report includes suggestions about 'what works', and recommendations are included.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/ysp/evaluation.html>

Community development approaches to preventing youth suicide: first national stocktake of youth suicide prevention activities.

Mitchell, P

Youth Suicide Prevention Bulletin no.3 May 1999: 2-13

This article on community development is the fourth in a series reporting content analysis of data from the First National Stocktake of Youth Suicide Prevention Activities and Programs conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Two types of programs are discussed in this paper: community support programs and community development programs. Both types of programs have the goal of increasing the involvement of community members in youth suicide prevention. However, the strategies used to achieve this goal and the principles underlying the approaches are different. The other articles relating to the stocktake provided a general overview of the database (YSP Bulletin no.2, p.3) and focused on primary prevention approaches (YSP Bulletin no.2, p.12). An article describing early intervention programs was published in the September 1998 issue of AusEinetter. Information about activities and programs belonging to other approaches will be made available on the Australian Institute of Family Studies website. AIFS location: SER 362.2870994 YOU

A content analysis: first national stocktake of youth suicide prevention activities.

Mitchell, P

Youth Suicide Prevention Bulletin no.2 Jan 1999: 2-7

This article provides a summary content analysis of data from the first National Stocktake of Youth Suicide Prevention Programs and Activities, compiled by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. It provides a descriptive summary of data based on simple frequency distributions of the major fields in the Stocktake database. The Stocktake contains the most current information available about a wide range of programs being implemented across Australia. Details of specific programs are available in a printed directory and on the Institute's website. The analysis contained in this article aims to provide program planners, policy makers and researchers with an overview of current strengths, weaknesses and gaps that may assist future planning in the national effort to prevent suicide among young people.

AIFS location: SER 362.2870994 YOU

Crisis intervention and primary care: evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Penny Mitchell.

Melbourne : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to evaluate the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. One of five separate reports, this volume evaluates crisis intervention and primary care projects funded under the Strategy, which were focused in hospital accident and emergency departments, general practice, and telephone counselling services. Hospital emergency department projects of the Strategy were: Blacktown; Central Sydney; Youth at Risk of Deliberate Self Harm (YARDS) Project; Shoalhaven Combined Services; Mackay and Moranbah; Peninsula Youth Suicide Prevention Project; Staying Alive Project; and Guidelines for the management of deliberate self harm in young people. General practice and other primary health care projects of the Strategy were: National General Practice Youth Suicide Prevention Project; Keep Yourself Alive; and Here for Life Networking Project. Telephone counselling projects of the Strategy were Lifeline and Kids Help Line.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/ysp/evaluation.html>

The decline in Australian young male suicide: article review.

Robinson, Elly

Family Relationships Quarterly no.5 2007: 11-12

The National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NYSPS) was established in 1995. This article reviews a recent article by Morrell, Page and Taylor, which investigated whether a drop in young male suicide rates after the implementation of the NYSPS can be attributed to NYSPS strategies, and also whether the strategy had an effect on methods of suicide.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/newsletter/newsletter5.html#article>

Early intervention: its place in the prevention of youth suicide.

Mitchell, P

AusEinetter no.5 Sept 1998: 2-7

A national stocktake of youth suicide prevention activities was recently completed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies as part of the Communications Project of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Information on over 900 projects throughout Australia has been collected and entered into a database. A content analysis of projects in the stocktake database that adopt an early intervention approach to suicide prevention is presented in this article. The author explores the difficulties of categorising early intervention projects. She places early intervention within the area of secondary prevention using the public health framework of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. A total of 85 early intervention projects are included in this analysis. The projects focused on five main target groups: the general population, students, young people exposed to a wide range of general risk factors, young people with emerging or early stage mental health problems and young people belonging to other particular high risk groups of homeless youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people involved in the justice system and males.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-10581>

Evaluation of the NYSPS communication project : building an 'information highway' for suicide prevention.

Bryan Tanney.

Commissioned by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

In 1997, the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NYSPS) contracted the Australian Institute of Family Studies to develop and implement a communications strategy and information dissemination program to address youth suicide in Australia. This Youth Suicide Prevention

project featured a public website, newsletter, discussion list, national stocktake of programs, and other activities aiming to involve and inform organisations and individuals engaged in suicide prevention activities. This report assesses the impact of this project and its effectiveness.
AIFS location: F 362.2870994 TAN

Primary prevention and early intervention : evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Penny Mitchell.

Melbourne : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

One of five separate reports, this volume presents findings of the Australian Institute of Family Studies' evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy in relation to primary prevention and early intervention projects and activities. Specifically, five different types of projects are covered: parenting programs; school based programs; early intervention; participation of young people in mental health promotion; and access to means.

Recommendations and suggestions are provided along with an index and a list of contact details for projects referred to in the volume.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/ysp/evaluation.html>

Treatment and support : evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Penny Mitchell.

Melbourne : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to evaluate the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. One of five separate evaluation reports, this volume presents the results of a meta-analysis of the evaluations of projects that addressed the support needs of young people who are identified as marginalised and disaffected. This group includes young people with mental health problems as well as young people experiencing other sustained risk factors such as exposure to neglect and abuse, homelessness, substance misuse, contact with the juvenile justice system, or sexuality identity issues, which can lead to their being marginalised from the wider community. The projects that provided support to marginalised and disaffected young people which are evaluated in this report are: ConneXions; Limelight Productions; The Young Women's Project; Belong's Haven; High Street Youth Health Service; Cellblock Youth Health Service; and Centacare Youth Suicide Intervention Program. Projects based in mental health services which are evaluated are: YPPI-IA; Out of the Blues; and LifeSPAN.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/ysp/evaluation.html>

Valuing young lives : evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Penny Mitchell.

Melbourne : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2000.

The National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy was an initiative of the Commonwealth government to provide a coordinated approach to youth suicide prevention throughout Australia, and was administered through the Mental Health Branch of the Department of Health and Aged Care. A summative evaluation of the Strategy was conducted independently by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), and is published by the Institute in five separate reports. This main report provides an overview of the Strategy, what the Strategy achieved and what was learned from the Strategy as a whole. The report includes administration, policy context, conceptual basis and a description of activities within each of the main approaches adopted by the Strategy. It presents the evaluation methodology and a summary of major achievements and

good practice findings. Detailed information about what was achieved and learned by projects within each of the particular approaches adopted by the Strategy is presented in a series of four supplementary technical reports. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/ysp/evaluation.html>

Valuing young lives: the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy and its evaluation.

Mitchell, Penny

Family Matters no.57 Spring - Summer 2000: 54-61

The Australian Institute of Family Studies has recently completed an evaluation of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. This article provides an overview of the Strategy and a brief summary of findings from the evaluation. The article is accompanied by an inset covering the statistics on youth suicide.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2000/fm57/pm.pdf>

Yarrabah: a success story in community empowerment.

Mitchell, P

Youth Suicide Prevention Bulletin no.4 Oct 2000: 16-23

One of the research projects funded by the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy was a study of suicide in Indigenous communities of North Queensland. Yarrabah, an Aboriginal community in Far North Queensland, has important lessons to contribute to the understanding of the process of effective community engagement and empowerment around the problem of suicide. This review of the Yarrabah study seeks to elucidate some of the most critical understandings about community development emerging from the Yarrabah experience. The analysis of community development activities examined the following questions: What works to ensure that the community and that young people are engaged and empowered in the community development process? and What facilitates the achievement of higher order goals and objectives of community development?

AIFS location: SER 362.2870994 YOU

Selected relevant supporting research papers from external sources

Effects of child abuse and neglect for children and adolescents. Edition: January 2014

Melbourne, Vic. : Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2014.

Child abuse and neglect can lead to a wide range of adverse consequences for children and young people. This resource sheet reviews what is known about the possible effects of abuse and neglect for children and adolescents, and the critical factors that influence its impact, include the frequency and duration of maltreatment and the co-occurrence of multiple forms of maltreatment. Topics include: trauma, stress and the developing brain; attachment and interpersonal relationship problems; learning and developmental problems; mental health problems; youth suicide; alcohol and other drug use; behavioural problems; aggression, violence and criminal activity; physical health problems; teenage pregnancy; homelessness; and fatal abuse.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a146141/index.html>

Attempting suicide and help-seeking behaviours: using stories from young people to inform social work practice.

Gair, S; Camilleri, P

Australian Social Work v.56 no.2 Jun 2003: 83-93

In recent decades Australia has recorded one of the highest youth suicide rates worldwide. Attempted suicide is considered to be up to 50 times more common than completed suicides. This small, qualitative study, undertaken in North Queensland, aimed to offer a window into young people's lives concerning their suicide attempt(s) and their help-seeking behaviours. In-depth interviews were undertaken with nine young people. Findings reveal help was sought from a range of individuals prior to the attempt, including family, friends and professional workers. Regarding their attempts, there was evidence in some stories of a series of events leading up to the attempt, but also evidence in others of more impulsive acts. The intent of the attempt for this sample appeared to be unique to individual attempts. Getting information about depression, and workers listening to young people's unique story was important and workers, who could fill a 'mate' role, was viewed by some participants as helpful.

AIFS location: SER 361.3 AUS

Sexual abuse and suicidal behaviour: a model constructed from a large community sample of adolescents.

Bergen, Helen A Martin, Graham Richardson, Angela S Allison, Stephen Roeger, Leigh
Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry v.42 no.11 Nov 2003:
1301-1309

This study used data from a survey of Australian high school students to examine relationships between self reported sexual abuse, depression, hopelessness and suicidal feelings among adolescents. The authors found that sexual abuse is associated with suicidal feelings, hopelessness is more strongly associated with sexual abuse in boys than girls and depressive symptoms are more strongly associated with high suicide risk in girls than boys.

AIFS location: SER 618.9289 AME

Sexual abuse and suicidality: gender differences in a large community sample of adolescents.

Martin, Graham Bergen, Helen A Richardson, Angela S Roeger, Leigh Allison, Stephen Child Abuse and Neglect v.28 no.5 May 2004: 491-503

This study of South Australian adolescents examined gender specific relationships between self reported child sexual abuse and suicidality. The findings strongly suggest that sexual abuse is associated with suicide ideation and behaviour, and that there is a marked difference between girls and boys in the rates of making suicide plans and suicide attempts. The article recommends that health professionals, should be alerted to an increased risk of suicidal behaviour among adolescents with a history of sexual abuse, especially among boys.

AIFS location: SER 362.76 CHI

The Brotherhood's social barometer : challenges facing Australian youth.

Martine Boese and Rosanna Scutella,
Fitzroy, Vic. : Brotherhood of St. Laurence, 2006.

This second issue of the Brotherhood's Social Barometer considers the situation of young Australians aged 12 to 24. The transitions to adulthood and from school to work for today's generation of young people are more complex and longer than previous generations. The report presents indicators of young people's capabilities to negotiate the transitions, covering seven key dimensions of life - physical health (obesity, smoking and substance and alcohol use); mental health (problems and suicide); housing and homelessness; education, training and employment; physical safety (victims of crime, bullying and racism, perceptions of crime); economic resources (income distribution and poverty); and social and civic participation (computer and internet access, volunteering, political engagement). Each section is introduced by an individual's story. The barometer concentrates on national data, paying particular attention to young people with socioeconomically disadvantaged, refugee and Indigenous backgrounds. The report found a lack of reliable national data monitoring trends in the various dimensions of young people's capabilities and well-being, and recommends ways of developing more integrated policy solutions, which include consulting young people to identify their needs and gain their insights.

http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/BSL_Social_Barometer_youth_challenges.pdf

The essence of emotional despair in young people.

Kids Help Line 1324-4930 Nov 2002 1-2

Kids Help Line receives nearly 1,800 suicide related calls each year. This article presents a statistical overview of the callers, revealing the prevalence of mental health problems, sexual abuse and emotional abuse among young people with suicidal thoughts. The article outlines the way in which Kids Help Line responds to callers and explains why the anonymity and accessibility of the phone service is so important.

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/upload/1863.pdf>

In young people with a depressive disorder, does diagnostic specificity matter in the prediction of suicidality?

Hetrick, Sarah; Vance, Alasdair; Hall, Nicole

Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH) v. 7 no. 3 Nov 2008:

7p

While suicidality is clearly associated with depression in young people, predicting which young people with depression will experience suicidal ideation or attempts is an ongoing dilemma for clinicians. This study examined the association of suicidality in young people with major depressive disorder compared to those with dysthymic disorder to investigate whether major depressive disorder, typically considered a more severe disorder, is associated with greater frequency and severity of suicidality. The study showed no distinction between the diagnoses on the basis of the frequency and severity of suicidality. Clinicians should assess the level of depressive disorder symptom severity as well as suicidality when assessing young people, regardless of depressive disorder type. Any suicidality should be treated and carefully monitored.

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/24225/20091003-0031/www.auseinet.com/journal/vol7iss3/hetrick.pdf>

Don't ask, don't tell : hidden in the crowd : the need for documenting links between sexuality and suicidal behaviours among young people : report of the Same-sex Attracted Youth Suicide Data Collection Project.

Sue Dyson ... [et al.]

Melbourne : Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, 2003.

This project was commissioned to establish whether agencies and services collected qualitative or quantitative data that might demonstrate links between suicidal behaviours and issues of sexuality for young people. Funding was received ... under the Victorian Dept. of Human Services' Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Data Research Project.

AIFS location: F 362.280994 DON

Child deaths - overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth who suicide.

Brisbane : Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, 2012.

Though Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth only comprise only 6% of the total Queensland youth population, they constitute 30% of all suicides. This paper examines this overrepresentation by comparing the suicide figures and risk factors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to non-Indigenous children and young people.

<http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/pdf/publications/papers/trends-and-issues/Issues-Paper-no-11-Overrepresentation-of-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-youth-who-suicide.pdf>

Indigenous dreaming: how suicide in the context of substance abuse has impacted on and shattered the dreams and reality of Indigenous communities in Northern Territory, Australia.

Hanssens, Leonore

Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.31 no.6 Nov-Dec 2007: 26-34

The aim of this study was to identify factors that contribute to the clustering of suicide, and the contagion effect operating within these clusters, in Northern Territory Indigenous communities. The study analysed data from the National Coroners Information System relating to intentional self harm by Indigenous people in the Northern Territory. The analysis confirms the clustering of suicide in particular communities, either as 'hotspots' for suicide followed by recovery, or as

echo clusters where the community remains in the grip of suicide. Alcohol and other substance abuse was found to play a definitive role in co morbid mental, physical and behavioural disorders implicated in suicides. Indigenous culture requires the relocation of a household after the death of a family member in the home, and may help account for the contagion effect of suicide from one family group to another and one community to another. The impact of suicide on Indigenous families in the Northern Territory is discussed, including the disruption and devastation of communities and the risk of imitation and self harm among children. According to Indigenous Elders, suicide is not part of their culture, and the difficulty of incorporating it into their dreaming represents evidence of the shattered spirit of Indigenous people.
AIFS location: SER 362.849915 ABO

Vulnerabilities, families and child development : crises affecting the young in a north Australian community.

Robinson, Gary

In: Robinson, Gary, ed. Eickelkamp, Ute, ed. Goodnow, Jacqueline, ed. Katz, Ilan, ed. Contexts of child development. Darwin, NT : Charles Darwin University Press, 2008: 36-48

Drawing on material from early intervention programs established between the Tiwi people of Bathurst and Melville Islands in the Northern Territory, their schools and health services, and university researchers, this chapter explores aspects of child development among the Tiwi. It provides an insight into the meanings of children's play and their interactions with their parents in the context of a community that experiences a high rate of suicide and where families are subject to high levels of stress. It explores issues including parenting and child development, children's play and its relationship to their anxieties, violence and substance misuse, and suicide threats and emotional bargaining.

AIFS location: 305.231 CON

Whitefella racism and its impact on Indigenous attempts to protect the future of their youth.

De Ishtar, Zohl

In: Working together for young people however what works, what could work: State Youth Affairs Conference, Brisbane, April 2005: conference proceedings. West End, Qld: Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, 2005, 7p)

Why are the children and young people of Wirrimanu, Western Australia, killing themselves? This paper explores the impact of white cultural racism on Indigenous children and young people. It explains that the denial of a colonised peoples' culture results in destruction of self esteem and loss of sense of worthiness. The paper describes the importance of law and culture centres to the maintenance of Indigenous cultural integrity.

AIFS location: Not held; contact the library

Child deaths - cyberbullying as a risk factor for youth suicide.

Brisbane : Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, 2012.

This paper explores the association between cyberbullying and suicide among children and young people. It briefly discusses the growth of social media, the impact of bullying, and risk factors for suicide. It also notes Queensland statistics on the number of young people reporting cyberbullying. <http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/pdf/publications/papers/trends-and-issues/Trends-and-Issues-Paper-5.pdf>