

Connect/Frameworks Suicide Prevention Project



A National Best Practice Program



New Media and Implications for Suicide Prevention/Postvention



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Public/Private Partnerships

- Suicide Prevention Partnership
- Endowment for Health
- NH Charitable Foundation
- Geoffrey E Clark and Martha Fuller Clark Fund
- NH Dept of Health and Human Services
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



What is New Media*

OLD MEDIA

- One way communication
- Reading Content
- Home Pages
- Web forms

New Media

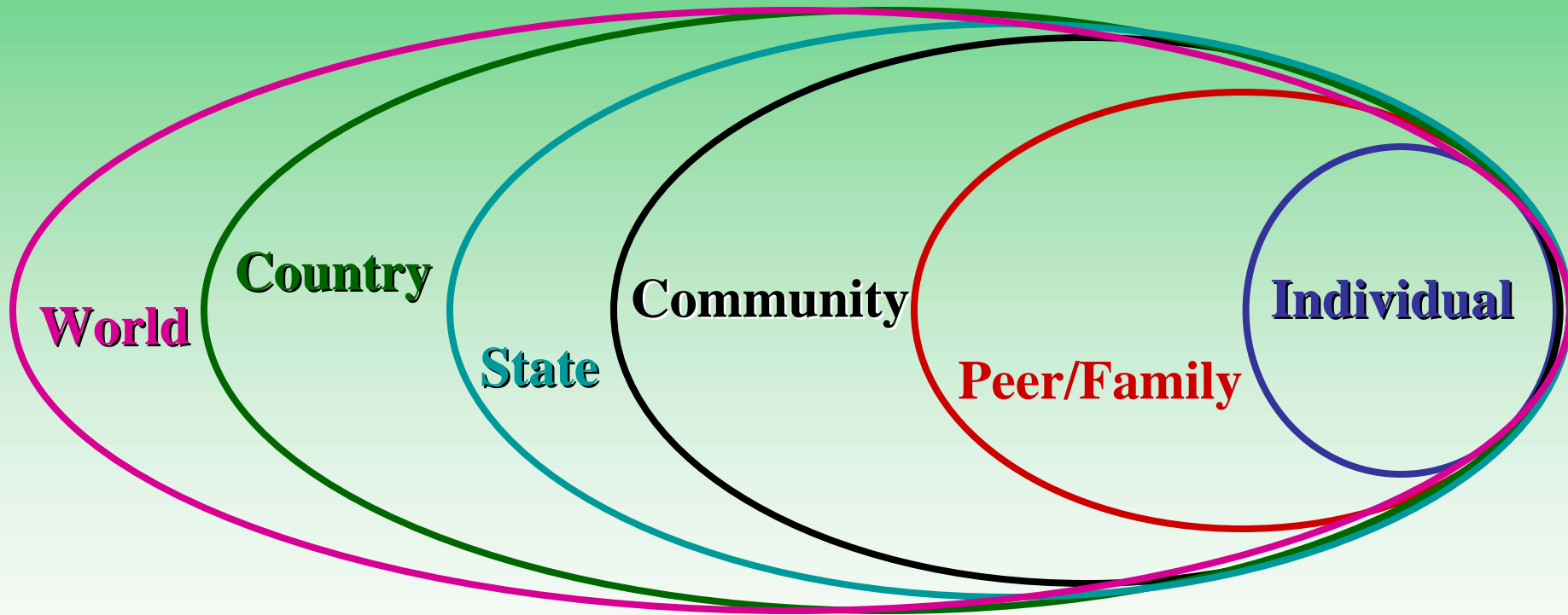
- **Interactive communication**
- **Creating content**
- **Communities**
- **Web applications**

Who Uses New Media

- 35 % of adult internet users have a profile on a Social Networking Site(2009)
 - 18-24 (75%)
 - 12-17 (65%)
- 15% of Internet users visit a video sharing site on a typical day (2009)
 - 18-29 (30%)
- 36% of teens send text messages every day (2007)
- Eight in 10 internet users go online for health information (2006) 23% mental health issues

Impact of New Technology

Ecological Model



www.sprc.org



Stigma/Safe Messaging

(the shame or disgrace attached to something regarded as socially unacceptable)

Stigma as it relates to suicide is complex.

- + Positive stigma prevents people from acting on suicidal impulses.
- Negative stigma prevents people from seeking help, or it can isolate family members and fellow Soldiers following a suicide death.

Positive Action:

Encourage help-seeking

Email Scenario

- 16 year old boy sent a time delayed suicide note to friends. After receiving the email, friends called police who found him dead



Positive Email Scenario

- Near anniversary date of suicide friend emailed parents of deceased (via memorial site) stating intent to die
- Only info was name and home town
- Parents contacted therapist who contacted NAMI NH
- Outreach to law enforcement, health care providers etc. who eventually identified him
- Individual contacted and agreed to be evaluated in local emergency dept.

Parents: Cyber Bullying Led to Teen's Suicide

Megan Meier's Parents Now Want Measures to Protect Children Online

Nov. 19, 2007



The parents of a 13-year-old girl who believe their daughter's October 2006 suicide was the result of a cruel cyber hoax are pushing for measures to protect other children online.



Megan Meier

(Courtesy Tina Meier)

Tina and Ron Meier, who are now separated and plan to divorce, have taken up the cause of Internet safety after a bizarre twist in their daughter Megan Meier's death.

The mother of a former friend of Megan's allegedly created a fictitious profile in order to gain Megan's trust and learn what Megan was saying about her daughter. But the communication eventually turned hostile.

Webcam

- 23 year old woman found dead from suicide by hanging. Computer is nearby and running and has web camera pointed in direction of body.
- What steps should be taken?



Teen's Dad, Expert: Viewers of Webcast Suicide Played Role:

By Oren Dorell, USA TODAY

- When Abraham Biggs broadcast the last moments of his life on the Internet, he joined a small fraternity of troubled young people who gained notoriety through death.
- Biggs, 19, broadcast live from a bedroom in his Hollywood, Fla., home Wednesday as he talked of suicide, took pills and lay down to die. Some viewers egged him on, then discussed whether what they had seen was real.

You Tube

- Trend of video tributes following a suicide death
- Obits from several recent young adults suicides in NH mentioned they were IPC fans
- Googled IPC (Insane Clown Posse)
- Song “Suicide Hotline”
- User generated aspects



Electronic News Media

- Most major media outlets have websites.
- Trend is for less editorial oversight.
- Comments Sections frequently contain inappropriate and potentially harmful comments.

Positive Action:

- Recommend that Comments Sections be edited or restricted for suicide-related stories.
- Post warning signs and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) (1-800-273-TALK)
- Advocate for revision of At A Glance Media guidelines



Legacy.com



- Linked to local funeral homes and newspaper obituary
- Guestbook
- Paid subscription to keep site active

Social Networking

- www.facebook.com
- www.myspace.com
- www.livejournal.com
- www.twitter.com

The screenshot shows a Facebook group page with the following layout:

- Navigation Bar:** Profile edit Friends ▾ Inbox ▾ home account privacy logout
- Search:** Search bar with a magnifying glass icon.
- Applications:** Photos, Groups, Events, Marketplace, Causes, SuperPoke! (with a dropdown arrow for more).
- Group Title:** every time i feel bad I WISH I COD SUICIDE (Global)
- Information Section:**
 - Group Info:** Type: Just for Fun - Totally Random; Description: sometimes we all want 2 suicide frm dis shiyyy lifeeee i HAAAATTTEE MY LIFE i wanna DIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
 - Contact Info:** Office: dieee; Street: world of suicide
- Recent News:** there will be national suicide daaayyyy on 1922030
- Photos:** Displaying 4 of 16 photos (See All). The photos include a person with face paint, a yellow character with 'SUICIDE' text, a person with a gun, and wings.
- Videos:** No one has uploaded any videos.
- Posted Items:** No one has posted any items.
- Discussion Board:** There are no discussions.
- Right Sidebar:**
 - Join this Group
 - Share +
 - Related Groups:** Feed a Child with just a Click! (Common Interest - Beliefs & Causes), I ♥ Emos (Just for Fun - Totally Random), luv is a chapter in boys lifee while luv in girls life is a whole boook (Just for Fun - Totally Random), every girl wants a boy like this.. (Just for Fun - Totally Random), Let's set and break a Guinness Record!!!! (Approved by guinnessworldrecords.c Entertainment & Arts - General)
 - Group Type:** This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.
 - Admins:** Sundus Abul Shamat (Middle East International School) (creator)

Social Networking Sites/Internet

- Search and monitor postings for information related to the death, a suicide pact, or warning signs of the deceased/friends.
- Sites can often be deactivated or placed on memorial status when requested by next of kin.
- Recognize that social networking sites can serve as a connected community.

Positive Action:

- **Notify others of individuals at risk.**
- **Post warning signs and NSPL 1-800-273-TALK**
- **Link to NSPL and other help seeking sites**
- **Continue to monitor.**

Sample Links

- Died by suicide in 2005
<http://www.myspace.com/rianna624>
- Died by suicide 3/09 ;
[http://www.facebook.com/group.php?sid=e
a3888b20673ca1a4ba5cdd58fbce7c9&gid
=62109532675](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?sid=e
a3888b20673ca1a4ba5cdd58fbce7c9&gid
=62109532675)

[http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/chelsea
rae/Homepage.aspx](http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/chelsea
rae/Homepage.aspx)

Posting to Web

- Offer condolences to family and friends – use deceased's name
- Normalize grief reactions
- State risk factors/warning signs
- Encourage people to watch out for each other
- Encourage help seeking
- Provide with NSPL 1-800-273-8255
(Note new phones can't spell!)

On Line Support



Parents of Suicide
Friends and Family of Suicide

www.pos-ffos.com

» HOME » CONTACT US » PRESSROOM Online Community Login »



ABOUT US ▾ PROGRAMS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ EVENTS ▾ NEWS/MEDIA ▾ GET INVOLVED ▾ **DONATE**

Remember the Love, Celebrate the Life, Share the Journey







Welcome to the home of America's front line resource for all who are grieving the death of a loved one serving our country. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, whether it is just to talk, or meet others with shared experiences and understanding, or to find support and information from our professional network of resources.

- Online Community
- Calendar of Events
- Seminars & Good Grief Camps
- Professional Education
- TAPS Photo Gallery
- Volunteer with TAPS
- Friends of TAPS

	2010 Honor Guard Gala		Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp Events		Professional Education Earn Credits		Suicide Prevention Webinar - January 21		Run and Remember Team		Online Store
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Survivor Connections... In the News... ★★★

SNS Promoting Connectedness/Belonging

		Facebook	MySpace
	Air Force	60,225	2,693
	Army	127,981 (107,960)	95,076
	Coast Guard	1,997	
	Marines	40,940 (205,696)	71,403
	National Guard	210,3075	14,286
	Navy	50,351	9,612

Texting/Cell Phone

- Suicide plan disclosed to friend via text message
- Information on suicide attempters medical condition relayed to friends via text
- Information regarding suicide death relayed via text message
- Picture of youth who suicided sent by text and displayed on cell phones



Citizen Journalist Tells Story of a Life Saved by Texting

In Prevention on July 24, 2009 at 9:28 pm

Citizen journalist Dana Brandorff's [YourHub.com](#) story recounts how a sustained episode of text messaging by 15-year-old Hunter Smith saved a life. The incident began when "a friend of hers [who] was emotionally distraught" texted Hunter to let her know what was happening.

For several hours, the two texted back and forth until he calmed down. Hunter says, "At the time, I really thought he was going to do something to himself, so I felt compelled to stay 'with him.'" In between texts, she disclosed the situation to her parents who instructed her to inform the school counselor about the situation.

"My parents explained that I could and should support my friend, but that the counselors were trained and equipped to handle these types of situations," says Hunter. "One question I asked myself was, 'How would I feel if my friend hurt himself and I could have prevented it?"

Indeed, Hunter did confide in the school counselor concerning her friend.

"She did the right thing," says Michele Campbell, a former high school counselor who currently has her own private therapy practice focusing on adolescent issues. "At this age, emotions are real, tangible, and acute."

Campbell says it's best to err on the side of "worst case" and not just assume that these types of text messages are a form of teenage angst.

Hunter's experience helping her friend also shows that "high tech tools can also be used for good, and a cell phone can become a lifeline for some."

"The positive is that teens are reaching out to someone. But it's not just the



Hunter Thompson, doing what teens do: texting.
(Photo by Dana Brandorff)

Sexting/Suicide

- <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/29546237#29546237>
- <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29546030/>



WATCH LIVE: Obama discusses health plan at town hall meeting in N.C.

Parenting & Family

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Her teen committed suicide over 'sexting'

Cynthia Logan's daughter was taunted about photo she sent to boyfriend

By **Mike Celizic**

TODAYShow.com contributor

updated 9:26 a.m. ET, Fri., March. 6, 2009

The image was blurred and the voice distorted, but the words spoken by a young Ohio woman are haunting. She had sent nude pictures of herself to a boyfriend. When they broke up, he sent them to other high school girls. The girls were harassing her, calling her a slut and a whore. She was miserable and depressed, afraid even to go to school.

And now Jesse Logan was going on a Cincinnati television station to tell her story. Her purpose was simple: "I just want to make sure no one else will have to go through this again."

The interview was in May 2008. Two months later, Jessica Logan hanged herself in her bedroom. She was 18.

[Story continues below ↓](#)

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Video



Launch

'Sexting' leads teen to suicide

March 6: 18-year-old Jesse Logan took her own life after a nude picture of her was passed around by e-mail. TODAY's Matt Lauer talks to her mom, Cynthia Logan, and Internet safety expert Parry Aftab about the dangers of "sexting."

Today show

Slideshow



[Celebrity daddies](#)

Sponsored links

Boston Moms! Lose 42lbs Following 1 Rule

I Cut Down 42 lbs of Belly Fat in a Month by Obeying this 1 Old Rule..

[RachaelRayBlogging.com](#)

Boston Moms! Lose 47lbs, Follow 1 Rule!

I Cut Down 47 lbs of Stomach Fat In A Month By Obeying This 1 Old Rule

[www.RachelRayBlogs.com](#)

Boston MOMS: Follow 1 Rule, Lose Weight!

I Lost 47 lbs of Belly Fat In A Month By Following This 1 Old Rule...

[Rachel-Ray-Blog.com](#)

ATTN Boston! Mom Got Skinny

I Slashed 53lbs of Pure Fat Effortlessly by Obeying 1 Old Rule. (Read)

[www.KristinGotSkinny.com](#)

ATTN: Boston! Lose up to 50lbs from home

Read my story on how I lost 50lbs using 2 products found

INTERACTIVE WEB SITES:

Right to die: Final Exit Network targeted by authorities

West suburban man's plan to kill himself with right-to-die group's help is on hold

By Jason George | Tribune reporter

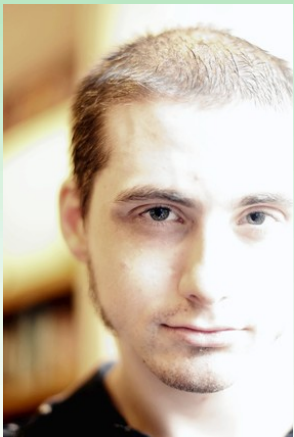
March 17, 2009

Kurt Perry, 26, has a disorder that weakens his extremities and breathing. (Tribune photo by Scott Strazzante / March 10, 2009)

Wanting to be free of a painful disorder that weakens his limbs and breathing, Kurt Perry decided last month it was time to end his life. He picked his place, his method and his death date: Feb. 26, 2009.

It was to be a carefully coordinated event—one the 26-year-old west suburbanite had long planned with the help of Rosalie Guttman and Jerry Dincin, Chicago-area volunteers with Final Exit Network, a right-to-die organization.

For three years, Perry had come to rely on these Final Exit "guides" for emotional support. He also counted on them being present, but not participating, on the Thursday he planned to "hasten his death"—a phrase the group prefers to euthanasia.



Turn On, Tune In, Drop In

- Recognize and close cultural gap
- Adults need to become more tech savvy
- Teach about new technology
- Monitor, Monitor, Monitor

- Successful example



Resources

- www.sprc.org – Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- www.spanusa.org – Suicide Prevention Action Network
- www.poynter.org – On line Resource for Journalists

Contact Information

www.naminh.org

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Team Connect