



Transcript - Why Comprehensive Suicide Prevention is Important

As you can see, there's a lot of work to be done to effectively prevent suicides on campus. So, why put in all this work? Suicides on campus are relatively rare, right? Why is suicide prevention important in the college setting?

While suicides among college students are relatively rare, no campus community wants the heartbreak of losing one of its members to suicide. Such an event has a negative impact on campus morale, distracts both students and staff from focusing on the academic mission of the institution, and can damage a school's reputation for years to come. Furthermore, recent surveys of institutions across the nation have shown that self-injury as well as suicidal thoughts and behaviors are steadily rising among students. When students are struggling with such concerns, they are at risk of dropping out. In addition to having significant financial and personal consequences for the student, this damages retention rates and results in a loss of tuition dollars for the institution. Alternatively, when students receive the support they need, they are much more likely to complete their degree, report greater satisfaction with the institution, and are more likely to support the school as an alumnus.

But doing this work does so much more than prevent needless student deaths; it helps create a campus culture dedicated to caring for the emotional well-being of all students. We have a legal and a moral obligation to support the health and well-being of everyone on campus. Both the law and parents have the expectation that we are going to take care of and protect those who are enrolled. And students themselves are calling for services to help them improve their mental health and cope with the challenges faced during their education.

Although it takes some extra work on the front end, preventing suicide and addressing emotional well-being is an investment well worth making for institutions of higher education.

So, what's next? We are developing a series of videos to assist you in putting these components into place on your campus. We know you are busy and want to help you break down this enormous task into bite-sized pieces that feel manageable. So, videos and their accompanying worksheets will typically be short and each will give you just one or two tasks to take on as you have the time. Videos will also be designed to stand on their own, so you can watch them in the order best fits your campus needs and available resources. Check out our next video now, at www.campussuicidepreventionva.org.



This video was produced by the Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia. Our office serves all institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth with education, consultation, training, and resources to prevent suicide and promote mental health among your students. Our services are free of charge, so please contact us. We're here to support you!