Effects of Prevention

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for adolescents. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the School Health Profiles, CDC-based surveys conducted biennially in Delaware public schools, indicated that while suicide prevention programming was primarily occurring in high schools, a greater percentage of students reported having attempted suicide in the past 12 months at the middle school level. The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Families Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services applied for and received a Garret Lee Smith Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which allowed them to implement training and increase staff at the middle school level. Comparing data collected in 2011, at the beginning of the grant period, with data collected in 2013, after the trainings, the percentage of middle school students reporting they attempted suicide in the past 12 months has been reduced by half, and the reductions are consistent across Counties. While further analysis will need to be done, preliminary findings support the effectiveness of Prevention programming and practice.

![Percent of Delaware Middle School Students who Report a Suicide Attempt, 2011 and 2013](chart.png)