

# Protecting Urban American Indian Young People From Suicide

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**Objective:** To examine the likelihood of a past suicide attempt for urban American Indian boys and girls, given salient risk and protective factors. **Methods:** Survey data from 569 urban American Indian, ages 9-15, in-school youths. Logistic regression determined probabilities of past suicide attempts. **Results:** For girls, suicidal histories were associated with substance use (risk) and positive mood (protective); probabilities ranged from

6.0% to 57.0%. For boys, probabilities for models with violence perpetration (risk), parent prosocial behavior norms (protective), and positive mood (protective) ranged from 1.0% to 38.0%. **Conclusions:** Highlights the value of assessing both risk and protective factors for suicidal vulnerability and prioritizing prevention strategies.

**Key words:** urban, young people, American Indian, suicide

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