Suicide Prevention: How it helps and how it may promote suicide

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Because of the high rate of suicide on the Standing Rock Reservation, the federal government has provided money for the tribe to prevent more deaths. The government became aware of the suicides through news and interviews. They then decided to take into consideration programs that might help.

The government also hired people to run these programs, some from out of state. One was a consultant from out of state who traveled around the country helping kids by means of activities and questions. Another consultant was a woman who also traveled to many states and she helped the students by informing them on what depression is. She also provided some reasons why teens might be committing suicide. Others were locals who help the community by volunteering.

The program and activities attracted many kids by providing games and giving them information on where to get help and more support. The games involved getting to know other kids and winning prizes. The leaders gave information on STDs and how to get help or reach people in case they were thinking about suicide.

The tribe, however, did not take into consideration that not all kids have issues to this extent. There lies the problem in which some began to wonder if such programs promote suicide. Students participated the programs and heard the things that were said, and not all kids are going to use this information in a good way.

Some of these students now know that they can get attention from adults, because it seems to be the way other teenagers are solving their problems. These kids and others are now considering suicide to be a way out. Information can be a good thing, but when it lands in the wrong hands, can be dangerous.

The suicide rates have not gone down, if anything, they’ve increased. The tribe should consider other means of preventing suicide than promoting it. If the rates do not stop increasing, there will be an overwhelming amount of death among teens on the Standing Rock reservation.