Connect Postvention training is a unique community-based intervention designed to increase the competence of communities to respond to completed suicides in a manner that ultimately reduces the number and rate of suicides, while promoting healing.

The essence of Connect is the training of gatekeepers, professionals and youth in protocols for responding to suicidal events. The protocols were developed by NAMI NH staff working with other professionals representing a variety of disciplines. National experts in suicide prevention also contributed.

**Project Evaluation**

Connect trainings address suicide prevention across the lifespan. Current program evaluation efforts have been conducted by Connect program staff using pre- and post-test evaluations collected during postvention trainings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Campus</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educators</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Leaders</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Responders (EMS)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health/Substance Abuse Service Providers</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Service Providers</td>
<td>2,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,535</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evaluation measures the effects of Connect training on participant:

- Knowledge about suicide and suicide prevention/postvention.
- Confidence and comfort in dealing with suicide incidents.
- Stigma related to suicide and seeking mental health care services.

Updated: February 2023
**POSTVENTION EVALUATION RESULTS**

**Knowledge about Suicide and Suicide Prevention and Postvention**

- Participants in Connect trainings demonstrated significant increases in overall suicide, suicide prevention and suicide postvention knowledge.
- The number of participants answering correctly increased for all items from pre-test to post-test.
- Possible Score Range: 0-7

![Participant Knowledge](chart)

**Confidence in Readiness to Deal with Suicide Incidents**

- After taking part in Connect trainings, participants report feeling better prepared to respond to suicide incidents. This includes increases in:
  - Confidence in their own knowledge and abilities.
  - Responsibility to act when faced with a suicide attempt or death in their community.
- Possible Score Range: 0-40

![Participant Belief in Preparedness to Respond](chart)

**Stigma Related to Discussing the Topic of Suicide and Seeking Mental Health Care Services**

- Participants in Connect trainings also demonstrated significant decreases in stigma around suicide and seeking mental health care. This includes:
  - More willing to talk about suicide.
  - Greater willingness to access mental health care.
  - Increased acknowledgement of mental illness as a serious issue.
- Possible Score Range: 50-0

![Participant Stigma Rating](chart)

Significance Levels: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

For more information: Contact Elaine de Mello at edemello@NAMINH.org or visit www.TheConnectProgram.org