



What's Your Risk? What American Indian Adolescents are Saying

BeLIEVING In Native Generations
Annual NIHB Tribal Public Health Summit
April 7-9, 2015



Presentation Objectives

- Understand history and development of risk assessment instrument
- Understand uses and limitations
- Understand interviewer training needs
- Understand administration and scoring
- Implications for services



Description of Riverside Indian School

- Founded in 1871
- One of 4 remaining “off reservation boarding schools” in the US.
- Residential facilities house 500 students through the academic year
- Serves more than 75 federally recognized tribes
- Students in 4-12 grades and 10-20 years of age
- School is custodial guardian and permitted interviews



Caveat

- The instrument is an organic process, revised on an annual basis to reflect new or emerging issues within the student population.
- Developed to gather important information about the students we were serving.



Why did we do this?

- First year - Delivering a juvenile delinquency prevention intervention needed a way to understand and build a relationship with students
- Second year – Partnering with MSPI program we added questions to identify students with suicidal tendencies
- Third year – Partnering with VOCA program we added questions to identify students who had been victimized
- Fourth year – Added questions to determine impact of students with incarcerated parents/family members



Identified Risk Factors

- Events or circumstances that create an environment that threatens health and wellbeing
 - Internal forces - Personal choices and behaviors about substance abuse, violence, bullying, academic failures, early sexual initiation, unaddressed mental health issues, no trust in adults, poor health
 - External forces – Experiences of happenstance such as an unstable and chaotic environment, poverty, living with extended family and no mother/parent in household, exposure to gangs and violence



Identified protective factors

- Events, circumstances, or people who create shields that protect from internal and external threats.
 - Caring adults, two-parent household or mom in household; stable home life, spiritual life, good health, academic successes, delayed sexual initiation, avoidance of alcohol and drugs, having goals.



Why it is important

- More protective factors, greater likelihood of success in school, relationships, and career.
- More risk factors, greater likelihood of academic failure, chaotic and dangerous relationships, substance abuse, problems with the law, and unemployment (leading to poverty, poor health, and a host of other disparities).



Interview Script

- **Combination of three surveys**
 - School intake
 - BLING intake
 - Kiowa Teen Suicide Prevention risk assessment
- **Thirteen scored topic areas**
 - 50 possible risk factors



Instrument Topics & # Risk Factors

1. Mandated to RIS	1
2. Home risk	7
3. No adult	1
4. No money	1
5. Academic risk	3
6. Bullying risk	2
7. ATOD	6
8. Sex	5
9. Court	5
10. Family in prison	3
11. Loss/grief	5
12. Suicide	6
13. Abuse	5
– Total Possible Risk Factors	50



Demographics Questions

- Name
- Date
- Age/Date of birth
- Gender
- Grade
- Tribe
- Home town



1. Why Riverside?

- Why did you decide to come to Riverside?
 - Determines if a student is voluntarily attending the school or has been mandated by the court, a parent/caregiver, or is homeless.
 - Meet other NA
 - Traditional cultural activities
 - Trouble at prior school
 - Trouble at home or community
 - Be more independent
 - Try something new
 - Get away from home
 - Had no choice
 - Other
- Identifies **one** possible risk factor



2. Home Life Questions

- Tell me about your home? (Who do you live with now?
How many people live in the same place with you?)
- Is your family more traditional (powwows, stomps, ceremonies) or more mainstream?
- Do you live with extended family members?
- What does your family do for fun?



Check box for family members - Dad; Mom; Stepdad; Stepmom; Brother; Sister; Aunt; Uncle; Grandfather; Grandmother; Niece; Nephews; Cousins---how many in household—overcrowding

Come from traditional family (ceremonies, practices) – [Protective factor](#)

Considers self to be traditional – [Protective factor](#)

2-parent household or Mom in household – [Protective factor](#)

Mother NOT present in household – Risk factor

Lives ONLY with extended family – no parent in household – Risk Factor

Foster care past or present – Risk factor

History of homelessness – Risk factor

Substance abuse in family – Risk factor

Emotional problems in family – Risk factor

Other problems in family – Risk factor

Other

-Identifies **seven** possible risk factors



3. Adult Support

- Who is the adult (older than 18) you go to at home to talk to?
 - Determines if there is an adult support system.
 - Mom/stepmom; Dad/stepdad; Grandfather; Grandmother; Sister; Brother; Aunt; Uncle; Friend
 - No one
 - Identifies **one** possible risk factor.



4. Money

- Who do you get money from on a regular basis – like once a week or once a month?
 - Identifies sources of support (family, tribe, SSI)
 - Parents; Other relatives; Friends; Social security; Tribal assistance; Tribal per capita
 - Get no money (Risk factor); Occasional/erratic support (Risk Factor)
 - Identifies **one** risk factor.



5. Academics

- Tell me about your experiences in school?
 - Determines academic success
 - Likes school – Protective factor; Doing well in school – Protective factor; Gets along with teachers – protective factor
 - Having problems with math/reading; Doesn't like school – Risk factor; Has had problems with teachers – Risk factor; Has been expelled/suspended
 - Identifies **three** possible risk factors (**two** protective factors – doing well and likes teachers)



6. Bullying

- Tell me a little about bullying. Have you ever been bullied at school? When? Have you ever bullied someone else? When?
 - Determines if student has been bullied or bullied. (Sometimes LGBT youth disclose problems.)
 - Never been bullied; Never been a bully
 - Been bullied – Risk factor; Has bullied – Risk factor. Identifies **two** possible risk factors.



7. Alcohol/Substance Use

- Tell me about your experiences with alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other drugs. (Age at first use, who introduced it? When did you last use? Do you use regularly? Do you want help stopping?)
 - Determines substance abuse history
 - Never used ATOD – Protective factor
 - Ever used – Risk factor; Smoked cigarettes in last 30 days – Risk factor; Pot in last 30 days – Risk factor; Alcohol in last 30 days – Risk factor; Other drugs in last 30 days – Risk factor; Been in treatment program – Risk factor; Been in other type of program – Risk factor
 - Wants help now – Medical referral
 - Identifies **six** possible risk factors (**one** protective factor)



8. Sex

- Tell me about your experiences in relationships.
 - Determines sexual risks
 - No experience; Dating, not sexually active
 - Ever hit or been hit by dating partner – Risk factor; In relationship and has been sexually active (past/present) – Risk factor; Sexually active and no birth control – Risk factor; Has been pregnant/fathered a child – Risk factor; Has child/ren – Risk factor.
 - Identifies **five** possible risk factors.



9. Court

- Talk about any experiences or history you have with the law and court system.
 - Determines risks for court involvement
 - Has been in trouble – Risk factor; Has been in jail – Risk factor; Is on probation – Risk factor; Been involved in gangs – Risk factor; Been in Juvenile Detention – Risk factor
 - Identifies **five** possible risk factors.



10. Prison

- Tell me about any family members who are in jail or prison.
 - Determines family history of incarceration and number of family members involved.
 - None
 - 1-2 family members – One risk factor; 3-4 family members – Two risk factors; 5 or more family members – Three risk factors.
 - Identifies up to **three** risk factors.



11. Loss/Grief

- Tell me about any losses you have had in the past year? Has someone close to you been sick or hurt in an accident? Has someone close to you died?
 - Determines possible issues of grief
 - Death of mother – Risk factor; Death of father – Risk factor; Death of close grandparent – Risk factor; Death of sibling – Risk factor; Death of other close relative or friend – Risk factor.
 - Identifies **five** risk factors.



12. Suicide

- Tell me about any experiences you or your family or close friends have had with suicide.
 - Identifies risk for suicide
 - Ideation in **past year** – Risk factor; Suicide ideation over a year ago
 - Suicide attempts ever – Risk factor
 - Suicide attempts in past year – Immediate referral
 - Had a family member - Risk factor; or 5) friends who have attempted or completed – Risk factor
 - Suicide ideation now? – Immediate referral
 - Identifies **six** possible risk factors.



13. Abuse

- Tell me about any types of abuse you may have experienced.
 - Determines history of and types of abuse.
 - Emotional abuse (name calling, badgering) – Risk factor
 - Neglect (no food or clean clothes) – Risk factor
 - Physical abuse at home – Risk factor
 - Physical abuse on dates – Risk factor
 - Sexual abuse (bad touching, assault, rape) – Risk factor.
 - Identifies **five** possible risk factors.
- » Requires 24 hour referral to BIA in cases of sexual assault.



Health

- Tell me how you've been feeling and about any health conditions or concerns you may have.
 - Determines need for medical, dental, vision exam.
 - Not included in risk factor calculation.



Protective Factors

- Tell me about your spiritual life (Church, traditional beliefs, regular prayer, ceremonies, belief in higher power)
- What types of hobbies do you have? What do you do in your free time?
- What do you want to do when you get out of school?
- What are your goals for this year?



Training Staff

- Interviewers received training on “trauma-informed” and “motivational interviewing” techniques – use of open-ended questions and following prompts
 - 8 hour training with CEUs for licensed staff
 - Role play
 - Review of forms, scoring, referral and reporting policies
 - Confidentiality statement



Staffing

- Interviewers had worked for the BLING HIV prevention program and were familiar with school and staff but were not school employees
- Volunteers were from child-serving organizations
- All interviewers were Native American



Interview Process

- Group facilitators conducted brief one-on-one interviews at the beginning of each semester
 - Each session lasted 5-15 minutes
 - Students received a “gift bag” of hygiene items
 - Interview responses were tabulated
 - Referrals were submitted to school counseling staff.
 - **Students referred for medical need, suicidality/ideation; sexual abuse, bullying, drugs, grief/loss (dependent), or if total of referrals was more than 8***



Scoring

- Risks per category are recorded during or after the interview
- Total number of risks are tallied
- Students with scores of 8 or higher are referred to the school counseling center*
- Immediate referrals are made for suicide, sexual assault, or as indicated through the interview process



Reporting

- On a daily basis, interview forms were reviewed and compared to referrals to ensure no referral needs were missed
- Data was entered into a data management program to track on progress
- De-identified results were aggregated into an administrative report for school leaders

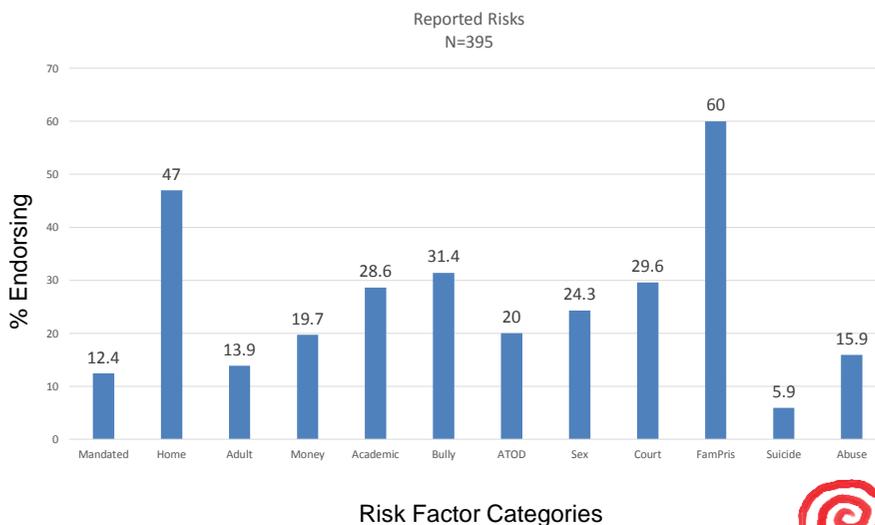


Results for 395 Interviews

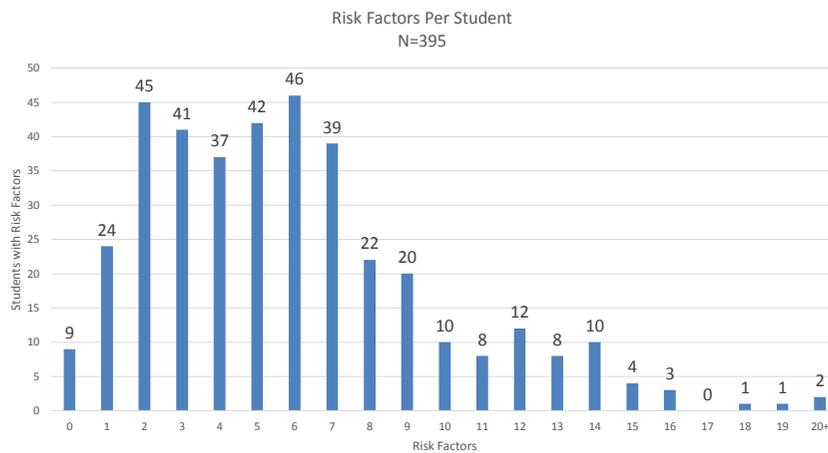
- Mandated to RIS – 47 (12.4%)
- Home risk – 206 (47%)
- No adult – 55 (13.9%)
- No money – 79 (19.7%)
- Academic risk - 113 (28.6%)
- Bullying risk - 124 (31.4%)
- ATOD - 80 (20%)
- Sex - 96 (24.3%)
- Court - 117 (29.6%)
- Family in prison- 237 (60%)
- Suicide - 23 or 5.9%
- Abuse - 15.9%



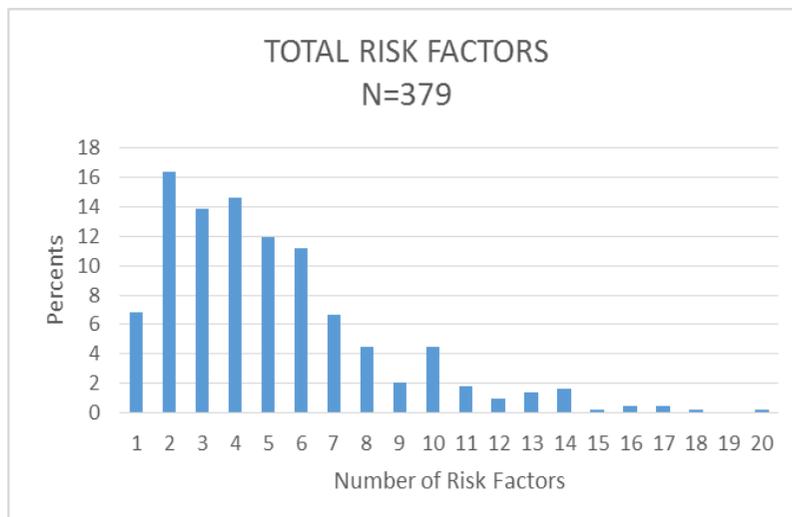
Aggregated Risks 2014-15



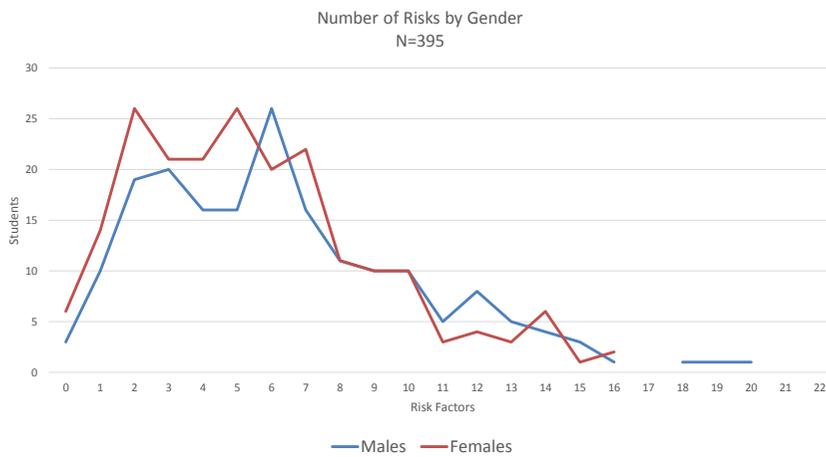
Risk Factors Per Student 2014-15



Risk Factors Per Student 2013-14



Risks by Gender 2014-15



Protective Factors

- Considers self to be spiritual – 70% (276)
- Has hobbies – 92% (363)
- Has future plans/interests – 81.5% (322)
- Has goals for school year - 91% (359)



Results of Screening Efforts

- **In 2012-2013 with adolescent girls only (n=93)**
 - 40 were referred to behavioral health and/or medical staff (43%)
- **In 2013-2014 with adolescent girls and boys (n=379)**
 - 137 were referred to behavioral health and/or medical staff (26.9%)
 - 34 (27%) were referred for medical care
 - 103 (81.7%) were referred to behavioral health services
 - 14.5% (n=55) were referred for suicidal risk factors**
- **In 2014-15 with adolescent boys and girls (n=395)**
 - 163 were referred to behavioral health and/or medical staff (41.3%)
 - 43 (26%) for medical care (vision, dental, etc.)
 - 120 (74%) for behavioral health
 - 14.7% (n=24) for suicide prevention/intervention**
 - 25.7% (n=42) for victims of violence



Limitations

- This is a screening process and accuracy is dependent upon truth-telling and interviewing skills
- This is a triage methodology for identifying students in need of further assessment
- This is not an intervention nor is it counseling
- Counseling staff need to be involved
- Referral resources need to be in place (medical providers, mental health providers, substance abuse treatment programs, etc.)



How Students Were Impacted

- Students referred to counseling
 - Suicidal students received care/hospitalized
- Students referred to medical services
- Students referred to BLING sponsorship program (volunteers from across the country financially support a student throughout the academic year ~\$12,000)
- BLING received funding for support groups for victims of violence
- Career interests of students informed selection of presenters for a career conference
- Homeless students referred to Oklahoma supportive services



Making Use of Findings

- Improve family life
- Secondary interventions
 - Programs for children of incarcerated
 - Networks of supportive adults
 - Grief/grieving support groups
 - Implement anti-bullying policies/programs
 - Teach sex education
 - Substance abuse programming
 - Academic support
 - Foster connections to a spiritual life to build emotional resiliency
 - Opportunities to earn money



Contact Information

- www.facebook.com/believinginnativegenerations
- [Deborah Scott](#)
- dsscott@sageways.com
- [281 773 9677](tel:2817739677)



WADO!

