

A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds a central white circle. The illustrations include green ferns, yellow flowers, red leaves, purple flowers, and green leaves. The central circle contains the title text.

Alliance Youth Focus Groups (High level findings)

September 2023

2023 Focus Groups



Adi's Act Focus

- ❑ Gauge student awareness of their school's suicide prevention plans / policy to gather anecdotal information about Adi's Act implementation
- ❑ 76 attendees
- ❑ 44% were age 14-17

Crisis Line Messaging Focus

- ❑ Learn how youth have heard about different crisis and help lines, which ones they have reached to, hear concerns they have or difficulties in using the lines and use this information to create recommendations to OHA on messaging and advertising of lines
- ❑ 32 attendees
- ❑ 72% were age 11-17

Adi's Act Themes



- ❑ When students have positive relationships with teachers, they feel safer and identify them as people they can talk to in crisis
 - ❑ The opposite is true when students have negative relationships with teachers, they have a difficult time at school and feel isolated
- ❑ Students believe that having a safe, quiet place to go when they are escalated or having a crisis would be beneficial and help them to manage their crisis
- ❑ Students want their teachers and their peers to receive trainings on suicide prevention and intervention
 - ❑ There were differences in how they think this could be accomplished
- ❑ Students don't believe that resources are easily and readily available both at schools and for ongoing supports
- ❑ Overall, universal screenings about mental health would be helpful but there were some questions and concerns

Crisis Line Messaging Themes



- ❑ Some schools don't share crisis lines / mental health information
- ❑ For the ones that do, students find it helpful when information is shared on flyers at school in the hallways and bathroom stalls and at counselor offices
- ❑ Calling it a 'crisis' line can make people feel like they can't use the line if they minimize what they are experiencing
- ❑ People want flowcharts / examples of what happens when you call or text a crisis line
- ❑ Not everyone was aware of the SafeOregon Tip Line
- ❑ For those who do know of it, they are worried to use SafeOregon Tip Line because of potential police involvement
- ❑ Students are more likely to talk with someone they are concerned about than report it or call a line about the person because they don't want anything to happen to them
- ❑ Who shares the resources matter. Students report being more open to hearing the information from peers / student leadership than teachers or school staff

Next Steps



- ❑ Pause on focus groups until March 2024
- ❑ Will be problem solving some of the hiccups that were encountered, reaching out to committees about topics they would like for a focus group, thinking through youth engagement with committees, planning out in-person focus groups, connecting with other organizations around the state



Full Findings will be on the Alliance
website





Questions?
