

Technology-based suicide prevention programs – Slovenian stakeholders' attitudes and needs

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Introduction & Objectives

Suicidal behavior is a serious public health problem within the European Union and as well in Slovenia. In recent years there has been an increase in use of technology-based suicide prevention (TBSP) programs among member states.

The study was set to examine the attitudes and needs regarding TBSP programs among stakeholders, who work in the field of suicide prevention in Maribor region, Slovenia. Objectives were (1) to consider knowledge of TBSP programs among stakeholders, (2) to consider differences in frequency of use of TBSP programs between younger and older stakeholders and (3) to consider which are the factors enhancing and hampering the use of TBSP programs among stakeholders in Maribor region.

Methods & Materials

The survey was performed from December 2012 until January 2013. Descriptive statistical analysis including the description of frequency distributions and the comparison of average values within and between stakeholder groups was made.

Stakeholders' category

10 decision and policy makers (DPM)

11 mental health professionals (MHP)

9 persons from non-governmental organizations and social area (NGO)

Survey material

Questionnaire for DPM

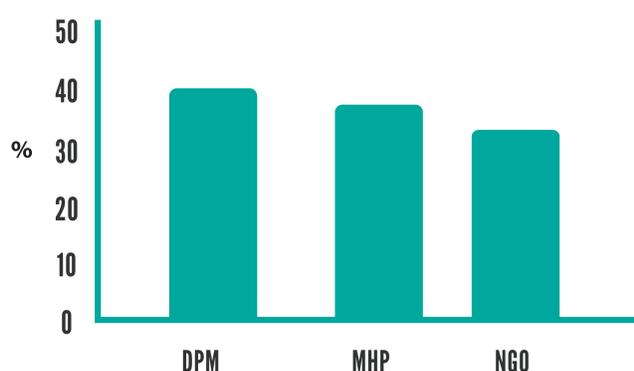
Questionnaire for MHP

Questionnaire for NGO

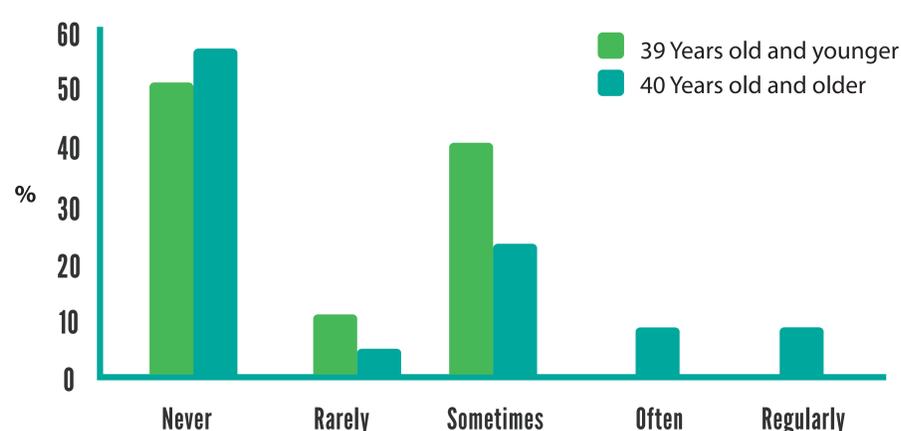
Total: 30 participants

Results & Discussion

Knowledge of at least one TBSP program by stakeholders' category



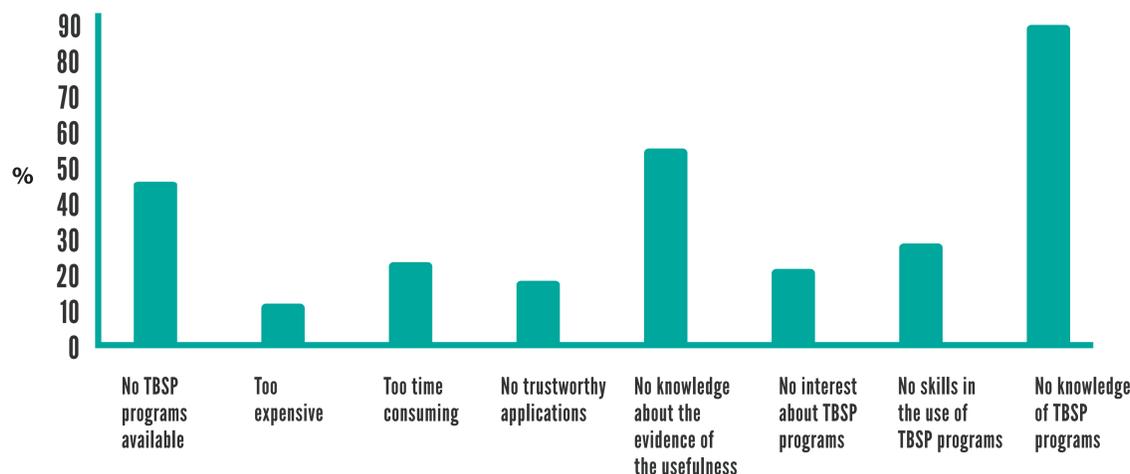
Frequency of use and recommendation of TBSP programs



- 11 among 30 stakeholders in Maribor region knew at least one form of TBSP program.
- Level of knowledge of TBSP programs among stakeholders in Maribor regions is rather low.
- Both younger and older stakeholders in Maribor region mostly never use and recommend TBSP programs, whereas younger stakeholders more likely sometimes use and recommend TBSP programs than older stakeholders.

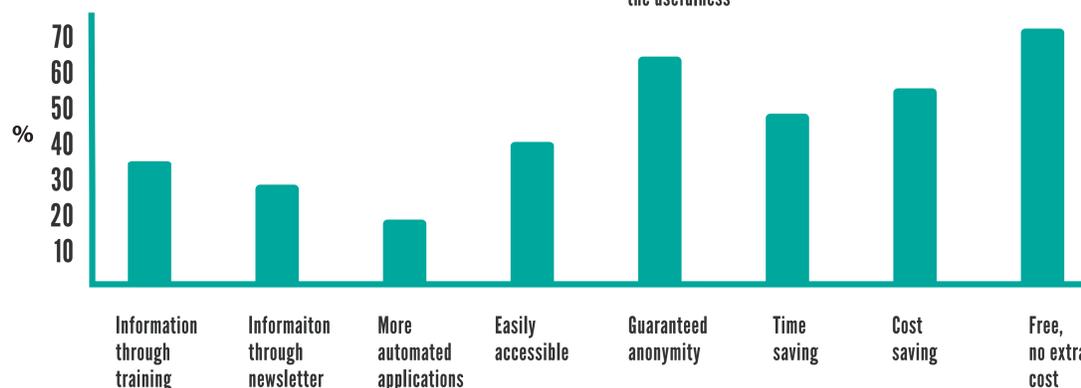
Factors hampering the use of TBSP programs

Factors hampering the use of TBSP programs among stakeholders in Maribor region: no knowledge of TBSP programs, no knowledge about the evidence of the usefulness of TBSP programs and belief that no TBSP programs are available.



Factors definitely encouraging the use of TBSP programs

Factors that are definitely encouraging the use of TBSP programs among stakeholders in Maribor region: factors regarding cost-effectiveness (free, no extra cost; cost saving; time saving) and guaranteed anonymity.



Conclusions

Stakeholders in field of suicide prevention in Maribor region are not familiar with TBSP programs, which is the main reason for a rare use and recommendation of these programs to their users (e.g. patients). Usage of TBSP programs among stakeholders in Maribor region could be encouraged with promotion of cost-effectiveness of TBSP programs and with increasing the confidence in TBSP programs as programs with guaranteed anonymity.

Acknowledgments

The study was part of the Euregenas (European Regions Enforcing Regions against Suicide) project funded by European Union under the Public Health Programme 2008-2013. More information about Euregenas project is available on www.euregenas.eu.