

Reducing Social Isolation and Suicidality in Older Adults: An RCT of the BE WITH Structured Warm Calling Program

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In short, in this workshop the prevalence and implications of social isolation loneliness and elevated suicidality (SILES) among older adults is provided, as well as an overview of techniques and best practices that can be used to address SILES in homebound, diverse, at-risk, isolated older adults. Then, we quantify the effect of the BE WITH program (in aggregate and on an individual call basis) at ameliorating those constructs of SILES. The results of this clinical trial will enable us to learn more about the impact of lay providers (aging services volunteers) that serve as “natural helpers” offers measurable positive outcomes for older adults who are isolated and may be considering suicide. Implications for local, state, and national impact are discussed along with practical procedures for how to replicate this programming.