

Who's at risk of suicide contagion?

The Circles of Vulnerability Model can help you to determine the impact of the death by suicide on members of your school community.

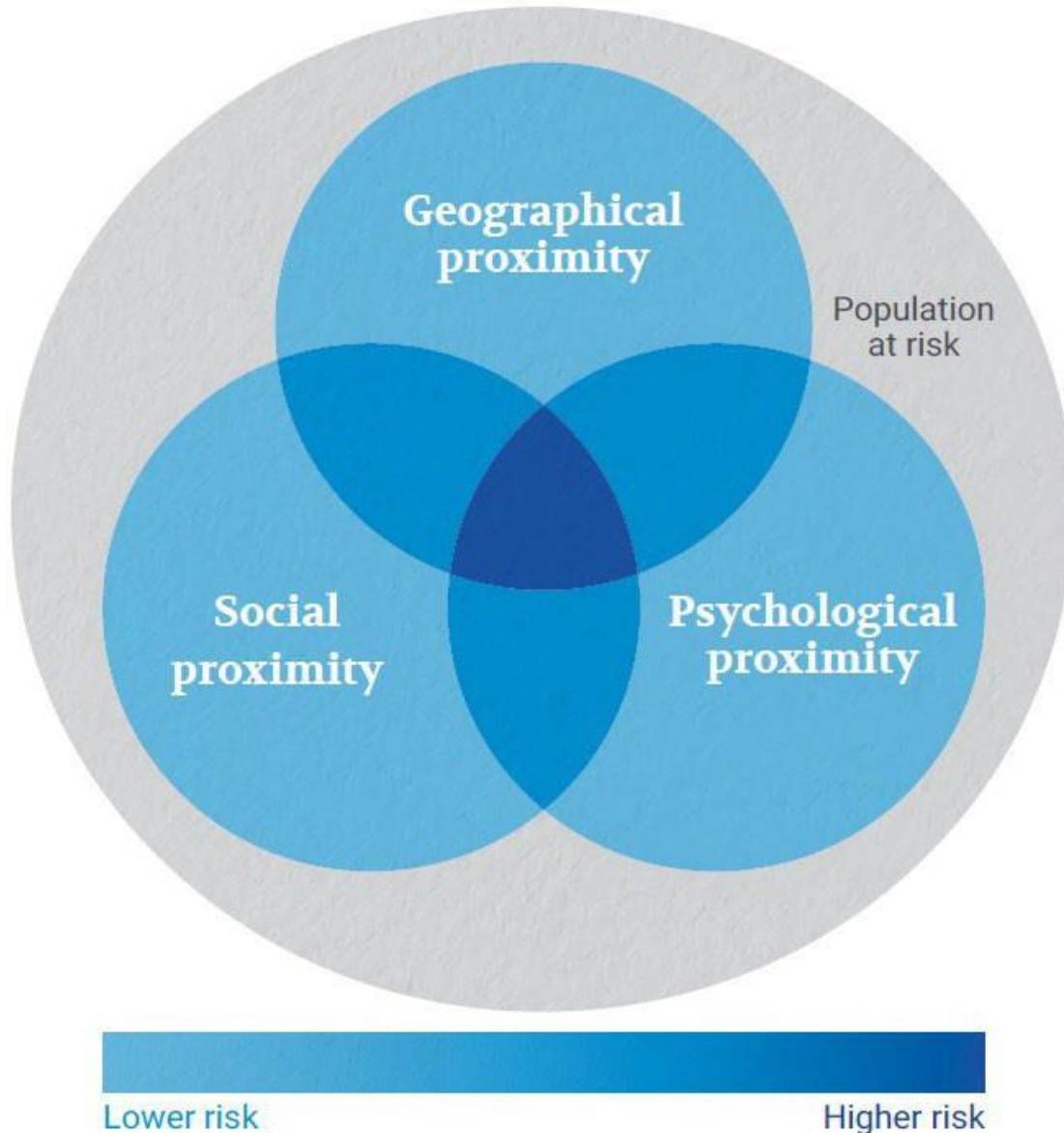
Population at risk: Young people who already have a range of suicide risk factors.

Geographical proximity: Young people who have witnessed the death, were exposed to it or had contact with the person shortly before they died. Social media can substantially broaden the exposure and impact of the suicide.

Psychological proximity: Young people who relate to the deceased through cultural connections, shared experiences or perceive themselves to be like the deceased in some way.

Social proximity: The relationship someone had with the deceased, including family, friends, social circles and romantic partners. Even if they don't appear to have had a relationship with the person who died, a young person's perception of closeness (for example, feeling close to the person because they travelled on the same bus together for years, even if they never spoke) has been found to significantly influence their level of risk.

For more information, see Be You Suicide Response Toolkit: beyou.edu.au



Adapted from Lahad & Cohen, 2006