Analytic Framework: Targeted School-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Programs to Reduce Depression and Anxiety Symptoms

Students’ mental health assessed

Students’ with mental health condition

Referral for diagnosis and treatment

Reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression

Students’ at risk for depression or anxiety

Targeted school-based CBT programs for reducing the symptoms of depression and anxiety

Improved coping strategies
  - Emotional self-awareness
  - Response normalization

• Improved students’ mental health and behavior
  • Improved student seeking mental health treatment

• Increased referral for diagnosis and treatment
  • Identification and reporting of child maltreatment

Reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression

Response to child maltreatment

Potential additional benefits
  • Improved social interaction
  • Improved learning abilities
  • Improved classroom function
  • Improved family management of youth anxiety

Potential harms
  • Secondary and vicarious traumatization
  • Negative impact on sharing traumatic experiences

Key potential effect modifiers
  • Program type, content, and provider type
  • Student and family characteristics: SES; race/ethnicity; parent mental health

Improved quality of life
Targeted School-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Programs to Reduce Depression and Anxiety Symptoms

This analytic framework represents the hypothesized pathways and relationships between targeted school-based cognitive behavioral therapy programs and improved quality of life. Students’ metal health is assessed to identify students’ at risk for depression or anxiety. It is postulated school-based cognitive behavioral therapy will improve students’ coping strategies which may, in turn, improve their mental health and behavior and increase the likelihood they will seek mental health treatment. It is expected this will lead to reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression. Students’ improved coping strategies may also increase referral for diagnosis and treatment and the identification and reporting of child maltreatment. This is expected to reduce the symptoms of anxiety and depression and increase the response- to child maltreatment. Improved coping strategies are also postulated to reduce the symptoms of anxiety and depression. These effects are expected to improve students’ quality of life. Key effect modifiers are program type, content and provider type, and student characteristics. Potential harms would include students experiencing secondary and vicarious trauma and negative impact of sharing traumatic experiences. Additional benefits could include improved social interaction, learning abilities, classroom function, and family management of youth anxiety.