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### Demographic, Psycho-Social, and Religious Predictors of Suicide Attempts Among Adolescents of a Conservative Religious Denomination

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## Introduction

- Depression is a major predictor of suicidal ideation (Garlow, et al., 2008).
- Previous research has indicated that negative family climate was also associated with suicide attempts (Lai, 2001).
- Parenting style has a strong effect on suicidal ideation (Lai, 2001)
- Religion serves as a protective factor for suicidal ideation (Dervic, 2004).

## Research Questions

- Will the correlations between these factors and suicide attempts be represented by subjects within a conservative religious population?
- Will religion serve as a protective factor for suicide attempts within this context?

## Methodology

### Participants

- The participants of this study were students attending Adventist high schools across the United States, grades 9-12 (N = 10,832).

### Measures

- The Valuegenesis survey subscales: Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Intrinsic/Extrinsic Religious Orientation, Frequency of Depression, Frequency of Suicide Attempts, Family Climate, Parenting Style (Rice & Gillespie, 1992).

## Methodology (cont.)

### Analysis

- The correlations between the listed subscales and suicide attempts was analyzed using a Pearson's *r*.
- A multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze the strongest predictors of suicide attempts.

## Results

	Depression	Family Climate	Internal Religious Orientation	External Religious Orientation	Caring Parenting (mother)
Suicide attempt	<b>.312**</b>	<b>-.250**</b>	-.132**	-.055**	<b>-.234</b>

	Caring Parenting (father)	Overprotective Parenting (mother)	Overprotective Parenting (father)	Gender	Ethnicity	Age
Suicide Attempt	<b>-.209**</b>	.115**	.128**	.083**	-.019*	.009

Note. \*\*Correlations are significant at the .01 level; \*Correlations are significant at the .05 level

Variable	B	95% CI	$\beta$	t	p
Depression	.170	[-.152, .188]	<b>.243</b>	18.542	.000
Family Climate	-.011	[-.015, -.007]	<b>-.087</b>	-5.274	.000
Overprotective Parenting (father)	.002	[-.001, .005]	.021	1.342	.180
Overprotective Parenting (mother)	-.004	[-.007, -.001]	<b>-.040</b>	-2.480	.013
Caring Parenting (father)	-.003	[-.005, .000]	-.031	-1.858	.063
Caring Parenting (mother)	-.012	[-.016, -.008]	<b>-.115</b>	-6.567	.000
Intrinsic Religious Orientation	-.004	[-.008, -.001]	<b>-.030</b>	-2.239	.025
Extrinsic Religious Orientation	.002	[-.002, .005]	.011	.867	.386
Age	-.006	[-.012, .000]	-.024	-1.937	.053
Race/Identified Ethnicity	-.002	[-.016, .011]	-.004	-.337	.736
Gender	.064	[.030, .099]	<b>.046</b>	3.642	.000

Note. R<sup>2</sup> = .138 (N = 10,832, p < .001). CI = confidence interval for B

## Results (cont.)

- Correlational analysis revealed that all of the variables were statistically significant. However, Depression, Family Climate, Caring Parenting (mother & father) were the strongest out of the eleven.
- Multiple regression analysis revealed that the total variance explained by the model as a whole was 13.8%,  $F(11, 5853) = 85.35, p < .001$ . Depression, Family Climate, Overprotective Parenting (mother), Caring Parenting (mother), and Gender were the strongest predictors.

## Discussion

- As expected, this study found significant relationships between the listed variables and suicide attempts.
- Although small, intrinsic religious orientation does serve as a protective factor of suicide attempt.
- The role of intrinsic religious orientation is an area that more research should be conducted on to further affirm this analysis.

## Selected References

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- Lai, K. W., & McBride-Chang, C. (2001). Suicidal ideation, parenting style, and family climate among Hong Kong adolescents. *International Journal of Psychology*, 36(2), 81-87.