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

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Recommended Citation
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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

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


Nemeroff, C. B. (2008). Depression, desperation, and suicidal ideation in college students: results from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention College Screening Project at Emory University. Depression and anxiety, 25(6), 482-488.


Selected References


