

Suicide and its Relational Mechanics

Background

- The American Psychological Association notes a rapid increase in suicide over the past two decades.
- Among women and girls, there has been a 50% increase in suicide between 2000 and 2016, from 4 to 6 per 100,000 (Winerman, 2019).
- Among men and boys, there has been a 21% increase from 2000-2016, from 17.7 to 21.4 per 100,000.

Research Question and Hypotheses

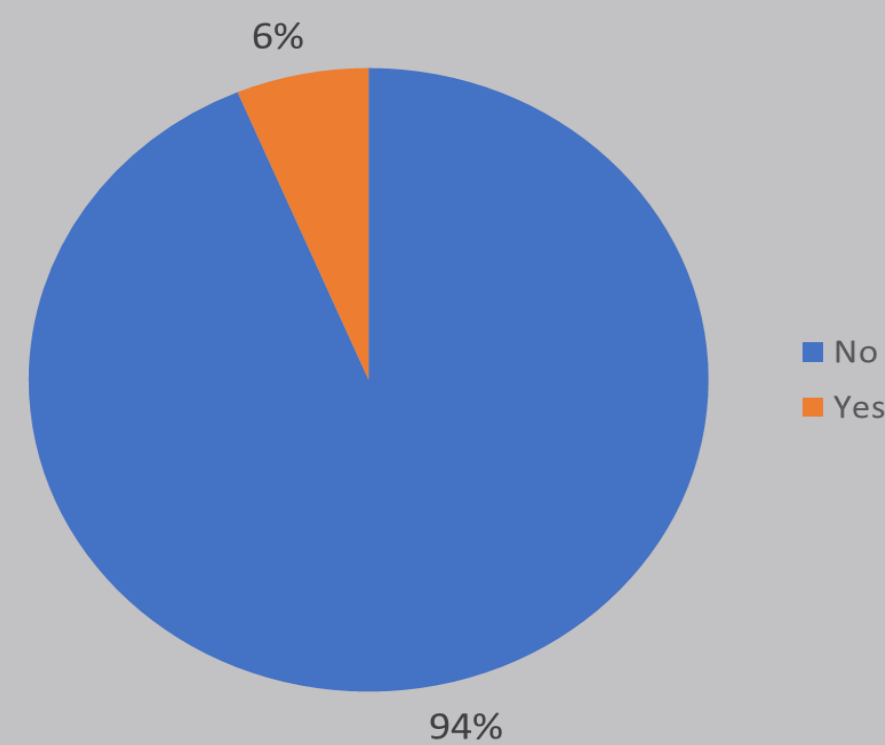
- How do friend and familial suicide attempts impact one's likelihood to contemplate suicide?
- I hypothesize a positive association between friend and family suicide and one's own suicidal ideation.
- Sense of control will moderate the association between friend and familial suicide and own suicidal ideation.

Data

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (AddHealth)
- Public use data
- Wave 4

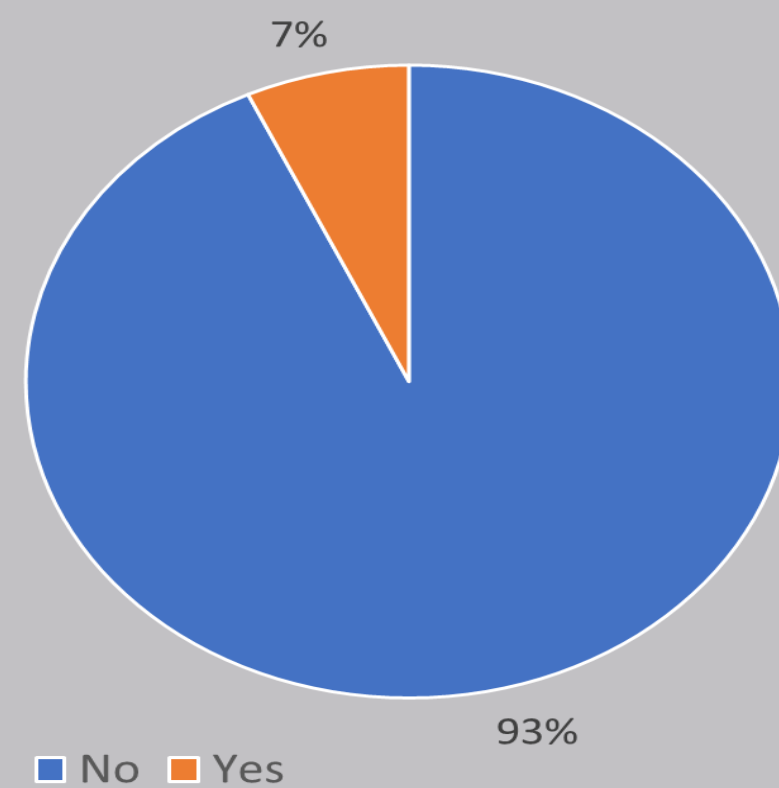
Dependent Variable

During the Past 12 Months, Did You Ever Seriously Think About Committing Suicide?



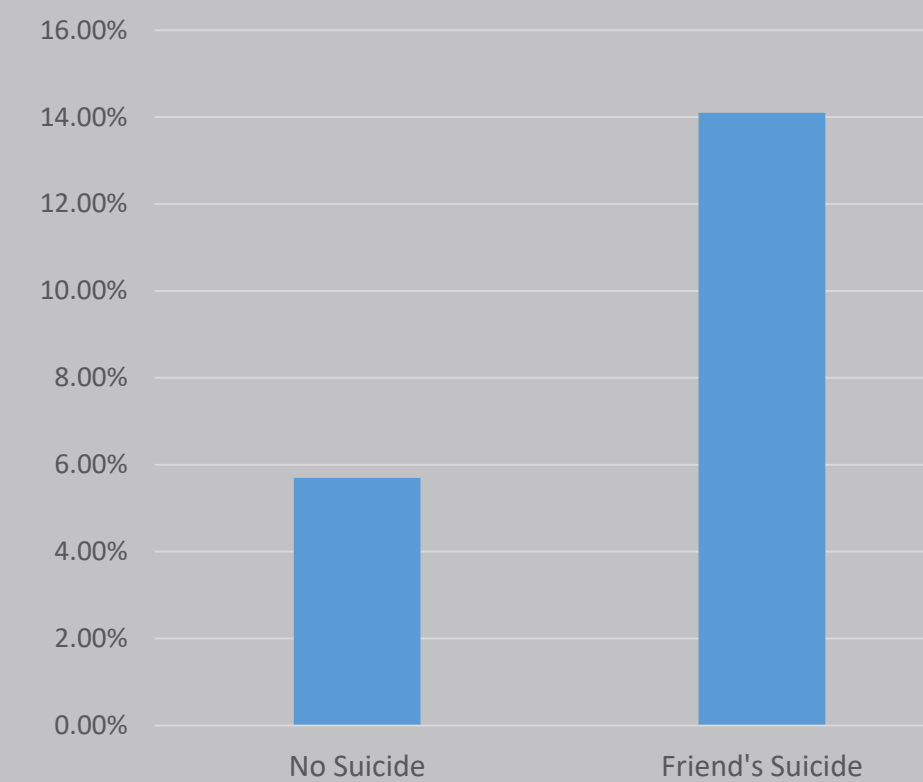
Independent Variable

Have Any of Your Family or Friends Tried to Kill Themselves During the Past 12 Months?



Bivariate Analysis

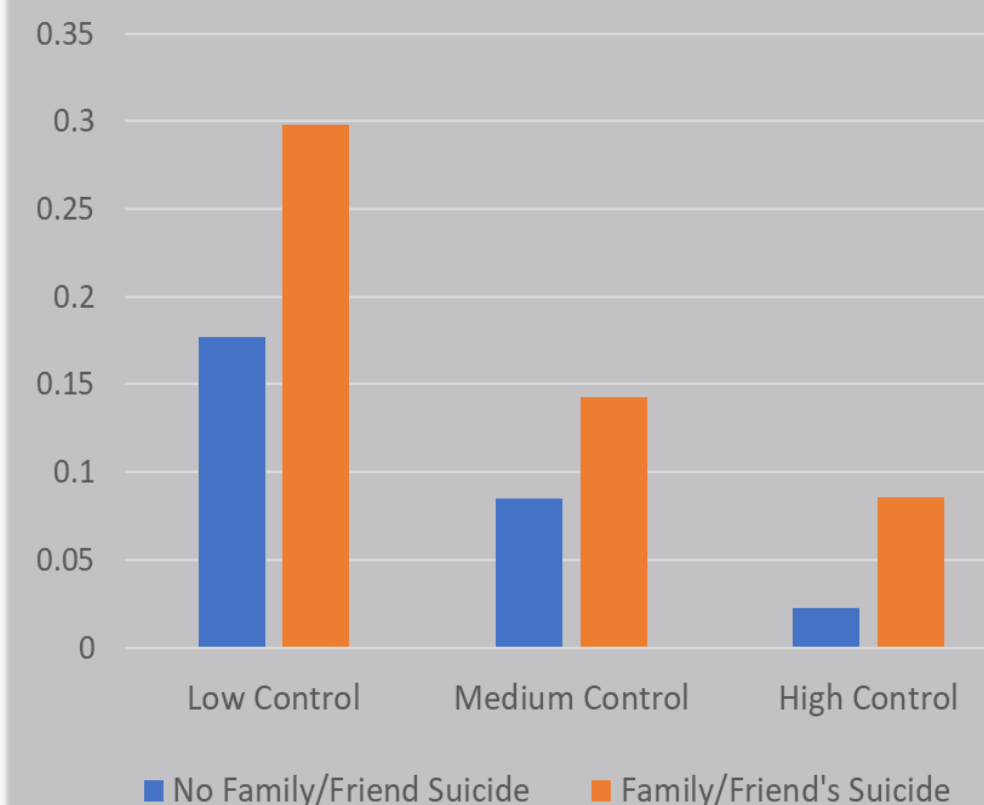
Own Suicidal Thoughts



*The Chi Square for this is statistically significant at a level of $p < .0001$

Multivariate Analysis

Suicidal Ideation by Friends/Familial Suicide and Perceived Control



*Chi-square significant at all levels of control

Results

- There is a positive association between friend and family suicide and own suicidal ideation.
- The relationship between family and friend suicide and own ideation is significant at all levels of control.
- Perceived control is associated with lower suicidal ideation.
- The results of this study suggest that acts of suicide are connected to relationships shared with others.

Limitations and Implications

- Limitations of the study include the possible effects of the Great Recession on mental health.
- Socioeconomic status is another factor where suicide might be more likely for poor individuals.
- Implications for further study include analysis of mental health conditions, such as bipolar disorder or depression.

References

- Irmak, F., & Çam, T. (2014). *An overview of Durkheim and Merton's social anomie. International Journal of Human Sciences, 11(2)*, 1297-1305.
- Pompili, M., Innamorati, M., Raja, M., Falcone, I., Ducci, G., Angeletti, G., ... De Pisa, E. (2008). Suicide risk in depression and bipolar disorder: Do impulsiveness-aggressiveness and pharmacotherapy predict suicidal intent? *Neuropsychiatric disease and treatment, 4(1)*, 247-255.
- Sandler, E. P. (2018). The ripple effect of suicide. Retrieved from <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/September-2018/The-Ripple-Effect-of-Suicide>