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

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