



Apr 17th, 2:35 PM - 3:50 PM

# Detecting Suicide Risk in Adolescents and Adults in an Emergency Department: A Pilot Study

Katie N. Davis

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Victoria N. Folse, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Davis, Katie N. and Folse, Faculty Advisor, Victoria N., "Detecting Suicide Risk in Adolescents and Adults in an Emergency Department: A Pilot Study" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 2.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/oralpres8/2>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O8.2

**DETECTING SUICIDE RISK IN ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS IN  
AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: A PILOT STUDY**

Katie N. Davis and Victoria N. Folse\*  
School of Nursing, Illinois Wesleyan University

Suicide is a serious health concern and was the cause of death of 29,350 Americans in 2000, making suicide the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for all Americans, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for young people from 15-24 years of age (Gould, Greenberg, Velting, & Shaffer, 2003; National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2003). Furthermore, individuals who were over 65 years of age accounted for 18% of all suicide deaths in the United States (National Institute of Mental Health, 2003). The Emergency Department (ED) is an ideal setting in which to detect suicide risk; the most important intervention in the prevention of suicide in or following the ED visit is screening (Gould, et al., 2003). The purpose of this pilot study was to assess the incidence of reported suicide risk in adolescents and adults who presented to an Emergency Department. The convenience sample of 39 adolescents and 65 adults, who presented to the Emergency Department in March 2004, was asked to answer a four-item Risk Suicide Questionnaire ([RSQ] Horowitz, Wang, Gerald, Burr, Smith & Klavon, 2001). The reliability of the RSQ was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha, and criterion-related validity was determined by correlating responses from the RSQ with the post-evaluation diagnosis. The results and implications of this study will be presented.

References

- Gould, M.S., Greenberg, T., Velting, D.M., & Shaffer, D. (2003). Youth suicide risk and preventive interventions: a review of the past 10 years. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 42, 386-405.
- Horowitz, L.M., Wang, P.S., Gerald, P., Burr, B.H., Smith, M.F., Klavon, S. et al. (2001). Detecting suicide risk in a pediatric emergency department: development of a brief screening tool. *Pediatrics*, 107, 1133-1137.
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2003). *Suicide in the United States*. Retrieved 1/4/2004 at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/suifacts.htm>
- National Institute of Mental Health. (2003). *Older adults: Depression and suicide facts*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.