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: https://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.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/oralpres8/2

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Suicide is a serious health concern and was the cause of death of 29,350 Americans in 2000, making suicide the 11th leading cause of death for all Americans, and the 3rd 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

