

Chronic Pain, Depression, and Suicidality in Adolescents

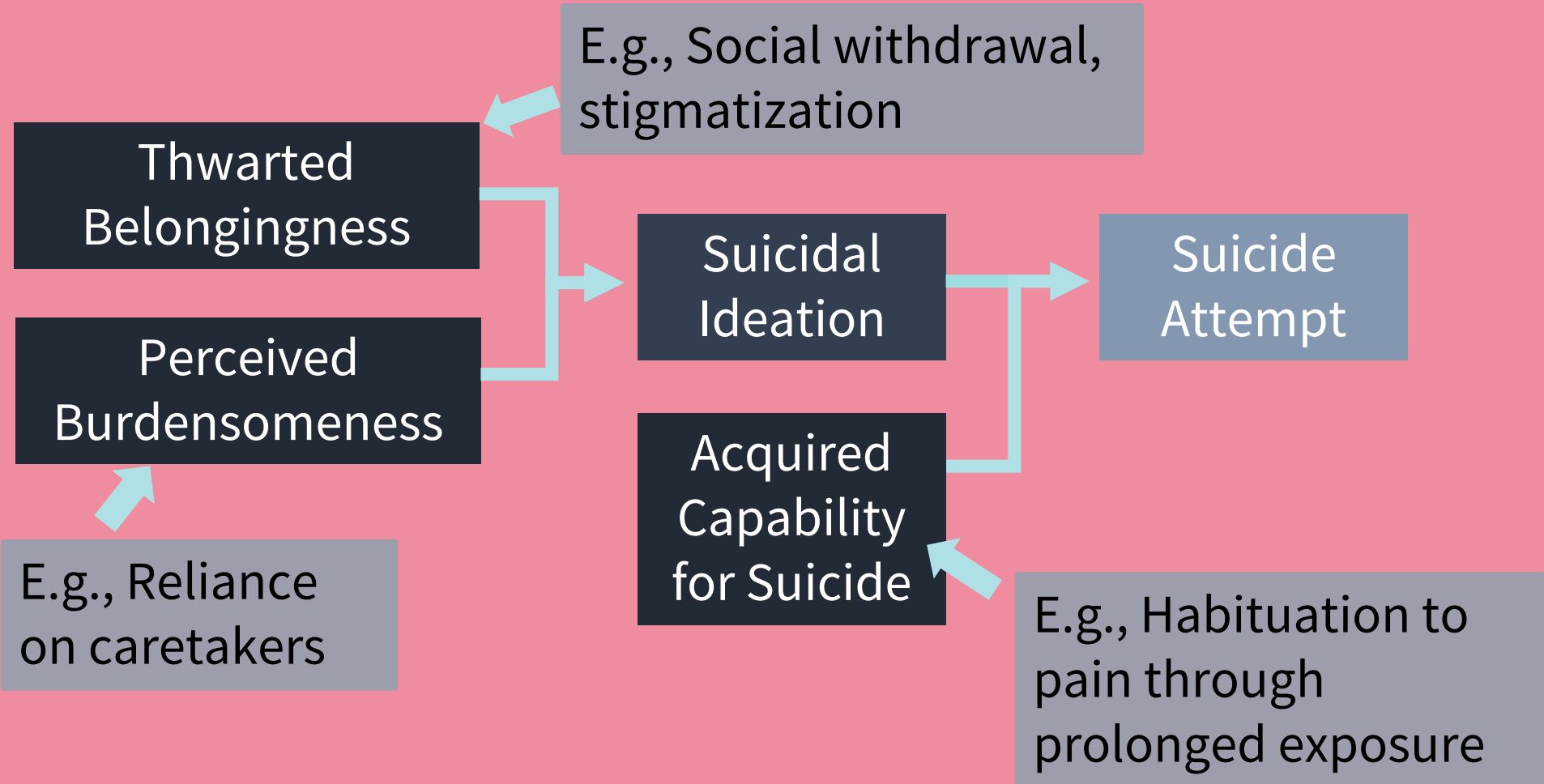
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Introduction

- Chronic pain is associated with impairments in social functioning and elevated depressive symptoms.
- Depression is a well-established risk factor for suicidality in youth with chronic pain.
- The relationship between chronic pain and suicidality is complex and depends on more factors than depression alone.
- The ITS includes several factors that may help explain the relationship between chronic pain and suicidality.

The Interpersonal Theory of Suicide (ITS):



Objective and Hypothesis

Objective: To extend previous research on the ITS framework to examine the relationship between chronic pain and suicidality in adolescents, while also examining depression.

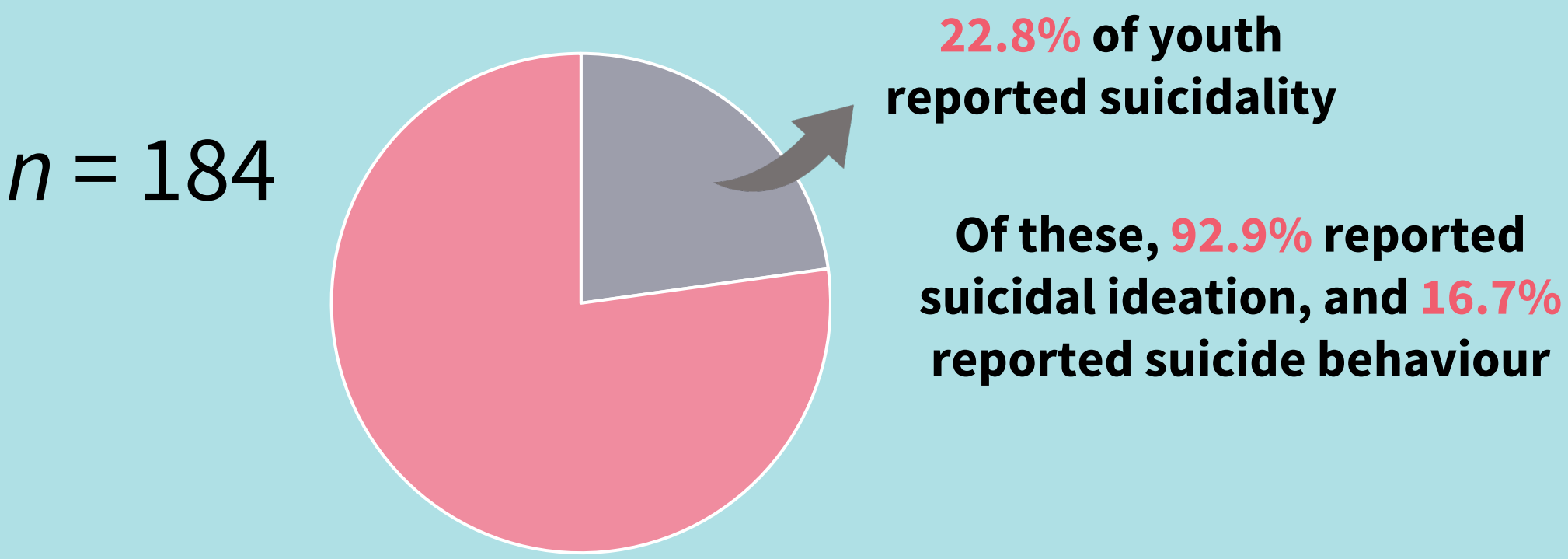
Hypothesis: Depression, thwarted belongingness, and acquired capability for suicide will predict suicidality in adolescents with chronic pain.

Methods

Data from the Pain and Mental Health in Youth study (P.I. Dr. Melanie Noel)

- 184 youth with chronic pain
- 10-18 years ($M = 14.27$ years)
- 71.2% female
- Pain duration ($M = 3.19$ years)
- Suicidality: Kiddie-SADS clinical interview
- Depression: Revised Anxiety and Depression Scale
- Thwarted belongingness: Social Experience Questionnaire
- Acquired capability: Fear of Pain Questionnaire – Child
- Two patient partners with lived experience were engaged in data interpretation and conclusions.

Results



Depression and thwarted belongingness, $r = .188$
Depression and acquired capability, $r = .678$
Thwarted belongingness and acquired capability, $r = .283$

Depression					95% CI for B	
	B	SE	β	p	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
RCADS	0.739	0.329	2.094	0.025*	1.099	3.989

Note. * $p < .05$. CI = Confidence interval; RCADS = Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale.

Depression predicted occurrence of suicidality

Thwarted Belongingness					95% CI for B	
	B	SE	β	p	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
SEQ	0.801	0.373	2.227	0.032*	1.072	4.627

Note. * $p < .05$. CI = Confidence interval; SEQ = Social Experience Questionnaire.

Thwarted belongingness predicted occurrence of suicidality

Acquired capability did not predict occurrence of suicidality

Conclusions

- The relationship between chronic pain and suicidality is very complex and may be influenced by depression and thwarted belongingness.
- Preventative steps should be taken to target risk factors, such as depression and thwarted belongingness, in treatment of chronic pain.
- Chronic pain may be a unique risk factor for suicidality.
- Future research should explore other risk factors that may impact this relationship.

Disclosure

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