

FC02-03 - SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND FAMILY-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN ADOLESCENCE: ADVOCACY FOR FAMILY CENTERED INTERVENTIONS

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Introduction: Suicidal behavior in adolescence is now well documented with regard to biological and psychological traits, family-environmental factors, and clinical management. In despite of this knowledge, few interventions are based on family therapy.

Objectives: To examine the association between suicide attempt in the adolescent population in Quebec and family constellation with regard to family structure and family functioning adjusted for socio-economic factors.

Methods: Data: Social and Health Survey of Children and Adolescents in Quebec State performed in 1999 (Institut de la Statistique du Québec, Canada). Subjects: 1186 adolescents aged 13 years and 1160 adolescents aged 16, and their parents. Outcome: suicide attempt during lifetime. Independent variables: family structure, witnessing interparental violence and parental emotional support. Covariates: family socioeconomic background and demographic variables.

Statistics: logistic regression analysis.

Results: 81 adolescents reported one suicide attempt or more during lifetime, with a significant risk for girls but this risk was independent of age and ethnicity. The adolescents had a 2.5-fold higher risk of suicide attempt when they live in monoparental household (OR=2.46; 95% CI=[1.37-4.42]), a 3.8-fold higher risk when they witnessed interparental violence (OR=3.76; 95% CI=[2.10-6.74], and a 2 to 6-fold higher risk when parental support is low, particularly paternal support. These associations are not modified by familial socioeconomic status.

Conclusions: These results are concordant with family stress perspective in the understanding of suicidal behavior in adolescents, and this independently of familial socio-economic deprivation. They give arguments for family centered therapy in the panel of interventions in health promotion in adolescence.