Suicidal Desire in Adolescents: An Examination of the Interpersonal Psychological Theory Using Daily Diaries

Analyzing Short Term Predictors of Daily Suicidal Thoughts in a High-Risk Adolescent Sample Through the Lens of IPTS

Interpersonal-Psychological Theory of Suicidal Behavior (IPTS)
Interpersonal experiences of thwarted belongingness in combination with perceived burdensomeness are related to suicidal desire.

- 78 adolescents hospitalized due to suicide risk responded to one survey/day for 28 days after discharge.
- Multilevel models examined IPTS-informed predictors of same- and next-day suicidal urge intensity.

Key Findings
- The two-way interaction between burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness was significantly associated with increasing same-day, but not next-day, suicidal ideation.
- Greater belongingness attenuated the adverse impact of burdensomeness.
- The only significant predictor of next-day ideation was higher previous-day burdensomeness.
- Baseline burdensomeness also emerged as a predictor of day-to-day suicidal ideation.

Conclusion: Fostering peer and family relationships is important for reducing suicidal thoughts in the post-discharge period. Initial burdensomeness, along with daily levels of burdensomeness, have a lasting influence on suicidal thoughts during this period, which could help inform intervention efforts.