



Suicidal ideation/attempt in Child and Adolescent transgender group: Insights from 10 years of data

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Introduction

- ❑ Suicide is the 3rd highest cause of death among adolescents in the United States, with approximately 16 percent of 9 to 12-grade student reporting serious suicidal thoughts, and 7.8 percent reported suicide attempts once or more in the past 12 months.
- ❑ 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention recognized lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ) youth and children at an increased risk for suicide.
- ❑ A 2016 review identified the odds of attempting suicide for lesbians, gays, and bisexual's youth are approximately 2 to 7 times higher than those of heterosexuals.
- ❑ There are **no national statistics about completed suicide** among gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons' because neither the U.S. death certificate nor the NVDRS identifies sexual orientation or gender identity.
- ❑ Therefore, it is not clear whether LGBTQ people die by suicide at higher rates than comparable heterosexual people.
- ❑ This publication offers a brief overview of the prevalence of suicidal behavior and risk among LGBTQ people.

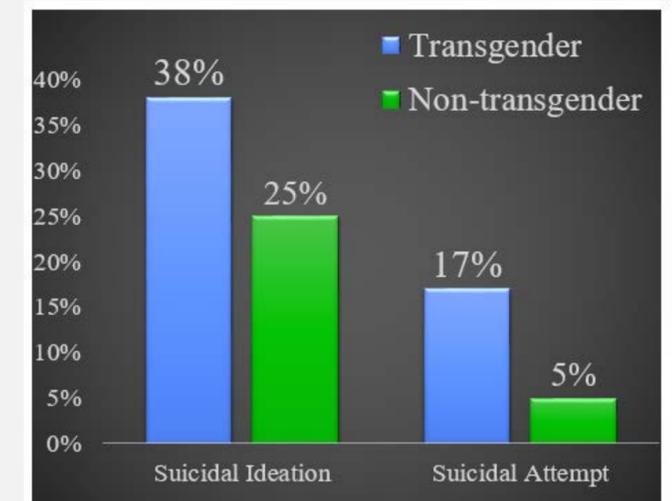
Methods

- ❑ Data were collected from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) for the year 2005-2015.
- ❑ We ran the ICD-9 codes to obtain our study cohort of adolescent patients with transsexualism diagnosis.
- ❑ We compared these patients with adolescents without transsexualism.
- ❑ To reduce the baseline characteristics imbalance between the groups, we performed a **1:4 nearest neighbor propensity score matching** with a caliper width of 0.0001 from a random order.
- ❑ In the **propensity score matching**, age, year of hospitalization, mood disorder, anxiety disorder, race, illness severity, and region of the hospital were included.
- ❑ Groups were compared for the rate of suicide, other baseline characteristics, and discharge disposition.

Results

- ❑ After the propensity score match, 144 patients were included in transgender and 566 patients in the non-transgender group.
- ❑ The mean age of the study population was 15.1 years, and 59% of patients were white.
- ❑ The prevalence of mood and anxiety disorder were 83% and 34%, respectively.
- ❑ Personality disorders were more frequent in the transsexual population (10% vs 4%), and ADHD and other conduct disorders was more common in non-transsexual patients. (38% vs. 20%).
- ❑ There was no difference between the groups in substance use disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychotic conditions.
- ❑ **Prevalence of suicidal ideation (38% vs. 25%, p<0.001), and suicidal attempt (17% vs 5%, p<0.001) was more in transgender group.**
- ❑ **The odds ratio for the composite of outcome of suicidal ideation/attempt was 2.91 (95% CI 2.00-4.23, p<0.001).**
- ❑ More patients in the transgender group were discharged to other healthcare facilities (17% vs 12%, p <0.001).

Figure 1. Rate of Suicidal Ideation/Attempt



Conclusions

- ❑ The prevalence of suicidal ideation/attempt is significantly high in the transgender group. There should be increased focus on suicide awareness for this vulnerable group.

Disclosures

The authors has no disclosures.