2020 HSRProj Research Competition:

Suicide Research: Project Selection, Thematic Analysis, Funding Sources

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OVERVIEW

• Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death within the US and 2nd leading cause for ages 10 to 341
• Suicide Rates are expected not expected to plateau but continue to increase into the near future2
• Expanded research is need to identify contributing social, ethnic, and demographic factors that inform subsequent efficacious interventions3
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How can we leverage the HSRProj database to assist top funding agencies in visualization of high priority areas in suicide research?

What do these visualizations tell us about potential research opportunities?
METHODS

Suicide Research Project Extraction

• Basic search of HSRProj database
  • “Suicid*”
  • 499 projects extracted

Project Inclusion for Analysis

• Inclusion/Exclusion Process
  • 250 projects included
**Funding Source**
- Extraction of **SAList** field

**Thematic Coding**
- Extraction of MeshHeading & Keywords fields
- Qualitative Integrity of coded themes
## Findings

### Top 3 Funding Sources:

1. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
2. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)
3. Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)

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**Figure 1:** Treemap of funding sources with project volume >5

|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
Top 5 Themes by Funding Source:

1. Mental Health
2. Children
3. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
4. Minority Groups
5. Gender/Sexual Identity

Figure 2: Sunburst of project volume for top 5 themes by funding source
Top Sub-Themes by Theme & Funding Source:

1. National Institute of Mental Health
   - Depression
   - Mental Health Services
   - Adolescent
   - Child

2. Department of Veteran Affairs
   - Depression
   - Mental Health Services
   - Suicide
   - Veterans

3. Canadian Institute of Health Research
   - Adolescent
   - Child
   - Indigenous
   - Community

Figure 3: Sunburst of project volume for top 5 sub-themes by theme & funding source
CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

• US based sources (NIMH & VA) focus on mental health services may reflect interventions in target populations, possibly related to depression
• Canadian source (CIHR) focuses on community interventions in their youth indigenous populations, this may reflect preventative strategies
• Funding agencies can use accessible and innovative visualizations to:
  • highlight current research priorities in the field of Suicide Research
  • identify opportunities for further research such as the efficacy of preventative community interventions vs mental health services among various target populations
References


