

Suicidal behavior in Muslim adolescents and it's perception as a means of expressing distress and help seeking

Results from the SEYLE project- Israeli site



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מרכז שניידר לרפואת ילדים בישראל
مركز شتايندر لطب الأطفال في إسرائيل
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Introduction

- Suicide is a common cause of death among adolescence
- In Israel, suicide is the second cause of death for teenage boys, and third in teenage girls
- Every year, about 3,600 individuals in Israel, reach the ER for a suicide attempt, 35% aged 15 to 24 years (Israel's Health ministry 2009)



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Suicide among Muslim adolescents in Israel

- Suicide is less common among Muslim youth
- Suicidal behavior has become more common in this population in recent years (Gal et al, 2011).
- The number of suicidal attempts among the Muslim adolescents is rising .
- Suicide among Israeli-Muslim adolescents is not much investigated

SEYLE

Saving and Empowering Young Lives in Europe



- The SEYLE is a large project conducted by the EU
- Main goals:
 - Map, identify and diagnose the patterns of suicidal behavior among European youth
 - Create and evaluate interventions for suicide prevention

The SEYLE project participating countries





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Current study - Aims

- Evaluate differences between Muslim and Jewish adolescents
 - in suicidal ideation and behavior
 - In help-seeking techniques
 - In attitudes toward suicide
- Investigate the correlation between the severity of psychopathology and suicidal behaviors.



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Methods

- N= 841
- 426 Muslim (50.6%) and 415 Jews (49.4%)
- Self-report questionnaires regarding:**
 - socio-demographic background, suicide ideations and attempts (Paykel Suicide Scale; DSHI), psychopathology (BDI: SDQ: Zung Anxiety Scale), help seeking techniques and attitudes toward suicide.

**All questionnaires were screened for severe suicidal behaviors, and identified subjects were interviewed by school counselor.



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Results – suicidal behavior and ideation

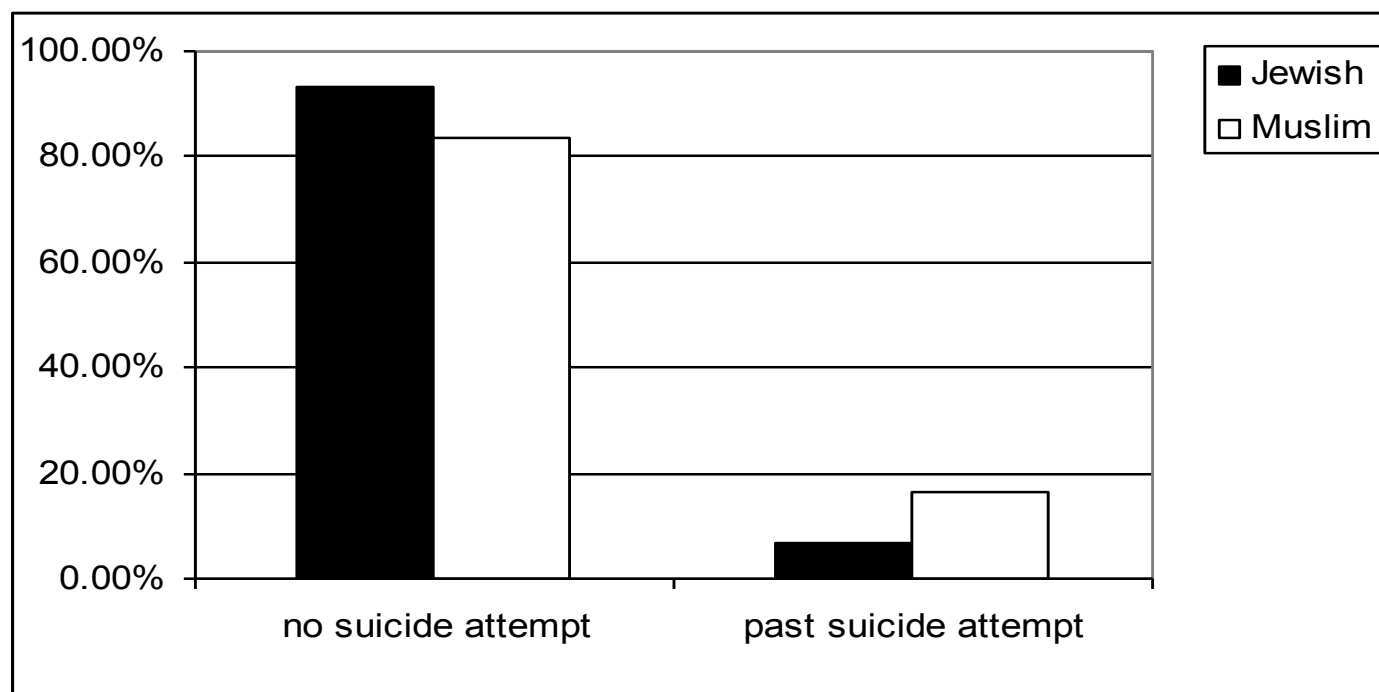
- Suicidal behavior is more common among Muslim adolescents and among Muslim girls in particular.



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Results – suicidal behavior and ideation

Comparison between the Muslim and Jewish adolescents for rate of reported suicide attempts



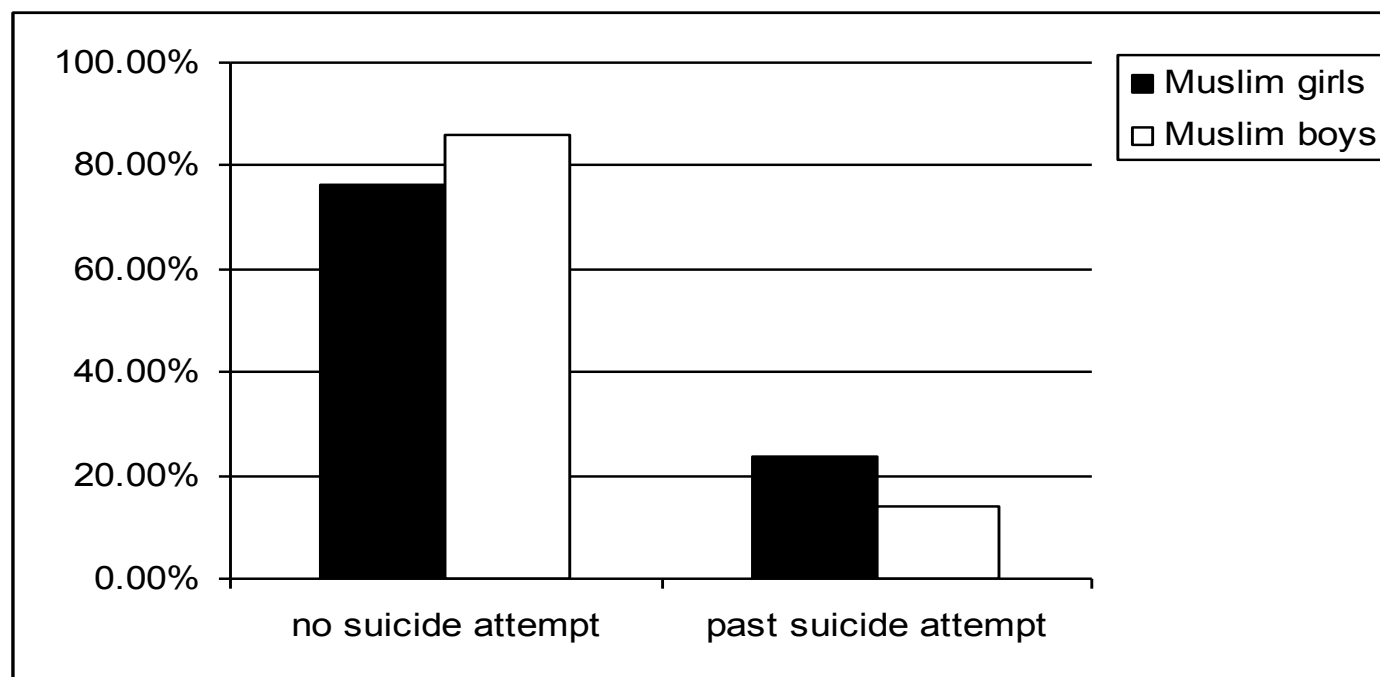
** Fisher's exact test $p < 0.0001$



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Results – suicidal behavior and ideation

Comparison between Muslim boys and girls for rate of suicide attempts



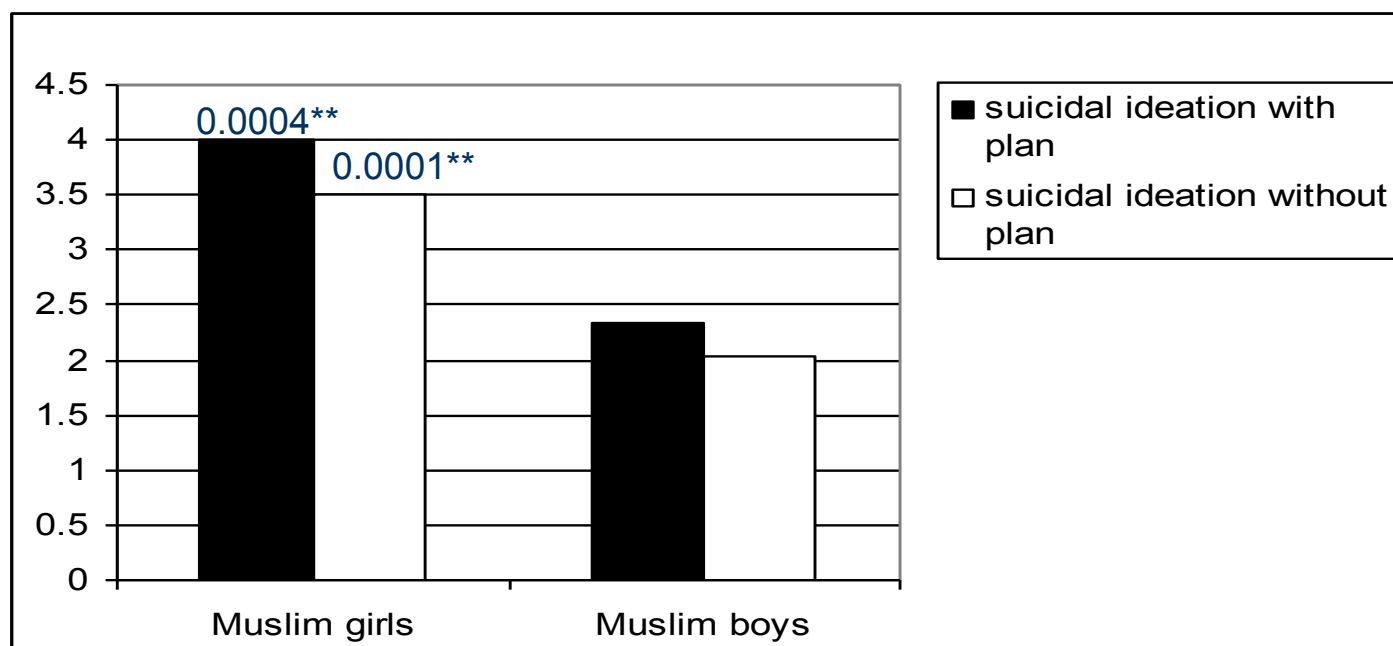
**Fisher's exact test $p < 0.023$



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Results – suicidal behavior and ideation

Comparison between Muslim girls and boys in relation to the levels of suicidal ideation with and without a plan





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Results – coping strategies

- Muslim adolescents use more maladaptive coping strategies such as social isolation, self medication and substance abuse, compared to Jewish adolescents
- Muslim girls tend to use more adaptive coping strategies such as professional help-seeking, compared to Muslim boys



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Results – attitudes

- There were differences in the attitudes toward suicide between Muslim and Jewish youth.
 - Muslim adolescents perceive suicide attempts as *a solution to problems* more than Jewish adolescents.
 - Muslim adolescents perceive suicide attempts as *a wish to die* less than Jewish adolescents.



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Results – psychopathology and suicidal behavior

- There were slight differences in the correlations between psychopathology and suicidal behavior, but no dominant direction was found.



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Conclusions

- Suicidal behavior, including attempts, ideation and NSSI among Muslim adolescents in Israel is high, and growing
- Suicidal behavior is even more common among the Muslim girls, compared to the Muslim boys.



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Conclusions

- Muslim youth, especially Muslim girls, seek help, however Israel lacks trained professionals for this population.
- It is necessary to continue investigating this issue, in order to plan suitable mental health programs for this population.

Acknowledgement- SEYLE



- The SEYLE project is supported by the European Union through the Seventh Framework Program (FP7), Grant agreement number HEALTH-F2-2009-223091. SEYLE Project Leader and Principal Investigator is Professor in Psychiatry and Suicidology Danuta Wasserman, National Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention of Mental Ill-Health (NASP) Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. The Executive Committee comprises Professor Danuta Wasserman and Senior Lecturer Vladimir Carli, both from NASP, Sweden; Professor Marco Sarchiapone, Italy; Professor Christina W. Hoven, and Medical Anthropologist Camilla Wasserman, both from Columbia University, NY, USA; the SEYLE Consortium comprises sites in twelve European countries. Site leaders are Danuta Wasserman (NASP, Coordinating Centre), Christian Haring (Austria), Airi Varnik (Estonia), Jean-Pierre Kahn (France), Romuald Brunner (Germany), Judit Balazs (Hungary), Paul Corcoran (Ireland), Alan Apter (Israel), Marco Sarchiapone (Italy), Doina Cosman (Romania), Dragan Marusic (Slovenia) and Julio Bobes (Spain).



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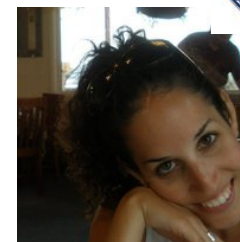
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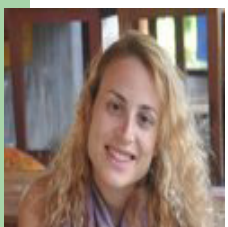
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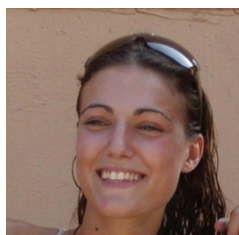
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