



Preliminary Associations among Relational Victimization, Targeted Rejection, and Suicidality in Adolescents: A Prospective Study

Maya Massing-Schaffer  and Sarah W. Helms

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Karen D. Rudolph 

Department of Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

George M. Slavich 

Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology and Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles

Paul D. Hastings 

Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis

Matteo Giletta

Department of Developmental Psychology, Tilburg University

Matthew K. Nock

Department of Psychology, Harvard University

Mitchell J. Prinstein

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This study examined associations between multiple types of interpersonal and noninterpersonal stressors and the subsequent occurrence of suicide ideation and attempts among female adolescents. Adolescents ages 12 to 18 years old ($n = 160$) at elevated risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors were followed for 18 months, divided into two 9-month epochs for data analysis (Periods 1 and 2). Exposure to acute relational victimization, targeted rejection, nonspecified interpersonal, and noninterpersonal life stressors over the first 9-month epoch (Period 1) was assessed using semistructured interviews and an independent life stress rating team. Participants also completed phone-based semistructured interviews of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Preliminary analyses showed significant prospective associations between acute targeted rejection and nonspecified interpersonal stress during Period 1 and suicide ideation during Period 2, as well as relational victimization and noninterpersonal stress during Period 1 and suicide attempts during Period 2. However, in logistic regression analyses that adjusted for prior suicidality and depressive symptoms, relational victimization during Period 1 (but not targeted rejection, nonspecified interpersonal or noninterpersonal events) was associated with increased odds of suicide attempt during Period 2. Therefore, acute relational victimization exposure is associated with heightened risk for suicidal behaviors in female

adolescents. Future studies should examine potential mediators and moderators of this association, and these stressors should be considered for inclusion in clinical screening tools.

Suicide risk increases 17-fold between preadolescence (ages 10–14) and adolescence (ages 15–24; Boeninger, Masyn, Feldman, & Conger, 2010). These risks are higher among female adolescents, who are 1.6 times more likely than boys to attempt suicide (CDC, 2014). Given the lack of longitudinal research on this topic, as well as little improvement in predicting adolescent suicidality over the last 50 years (Franklin et al., 2017), more studies are needed to identify specific risk factors for adolescent suicide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014).

One risk factor perhaps especially relevant for female adolescents is interpersonal stress. Neurodevelopmental theories suggest that pubertal changes promote heightened neurobiological sensitivity to social/emotional stimuli, particularly among female adolescents (Somerville, 2013). Gender socialization theories also suggest that female adolescents show greater investment in close relationships (Rose & Rudolph, 2006). Supporting these frameworks, interpersonal stress is a strong prospective predictor of adolescent girls' suicide ideation and perhaps particularly suicide attempts (King & Merchant, 2008). Although links between suicide and numerous interpersonal stressors have been established (e.g., bullying, intimate partner violence; Holt et al., 2015; Van Dulmen et al., 2012), few studies examine the extent to which certain types of interpersonal stressors are most pertinent to suicide, leaving implications for prevention vague. In the present study, we focused on two interpersonal stressors that may be particularly relevant to suicidal behavior: relational victimization and targeted social rejection.

Prior definitions are inconsistent, yet contemporary research defines relational victimization as being the recipient of behaviors that use interpersonal relationships to cause psychological (nonphysical/overt) harm (Crick & Grotpeter, 1995). These behaviors may threaten victims' reputations (e.g., reputational victimization includes gossip, rumor spreading, teasing, or social exclusion) or removal of relationships (e.g., "silent treatments," social exclusion). Relational victimization can be direct/verbal (e.g., "You can't come to my birthday party") or indirect (e.g., spreading malicious lies about a peer), though indirect forms are most common in adolescence, especially among girls (Rudolph, Troop-Gordon, Monti, & Miernicki, 2014). Compared to bullying, relational victimization does not require temporal repetition and power imbalance (Ostrov, Blakely-McClure, Perry, & Kamper-DeMarco, in press).

Although several studies have examined associations between peer victimization (or related constructs, such as bullying, relational aggression, intimate partner violence) and suicidality (Holt et al., 2015; Van Dulmen et al., 2012), relatively few have considered relational victimization as a unique prospective predictor of suicidal thoughts and behaviors; instead, most have used a unitary construct of peer victimization (e.g., Geoffroy

et al., 2016; Gini, Card, & Pozzoli, 2017) and cross-sectional designs. Among concurrent studies, results are mixed, with several supporting a link between relational victimization and suicidality and others revealing no significant associations (Arango, Opperman, Gipson, & King, 2016; Dempsey, Haden, Goldman, Sivinski, & Wiens, 2011; Heilbron & Prinstein, 2010; Klomek, Marrocco, Kleinman, Schonfeld, & Gould, 2008). Some evidence suggests that relational victimization may be more strongly associated with suicide attempts compared to ideation, especially among females (Barzilay et al., 2017; Stewart, Valeri, Esposito, & Auerbach, 2017). Longitudinal research, particularly predicting attempts, also has yielded mixed results. However, preliminary analyses using self-report measures of stress supported a prospective link between relational victimization and suicide ideation in girls but not boys (Tsypes & Gibb, 2015).

In addition to relational victimization, relationship breakups are a common precipitant for suicide in adolescence (Prinstein, 2003). Recent research has conceptualized important relationship terminations in the context of a broader construct, called targeted rejection. This type of social rejection is directed at, and meant to affect, a single person and involves an active and intentional severing of relational ties (Slavich, Thornton, Torres, Monroe, & Gotlib, 2009). Targeted rejection can occur in multiple life domains, including peer interactions (i.e., getting kicked out of a peer group) and romantic relationships (e.g., romantic partner breakup).

Although no studies have examined targeted rejection in the context of suicide, prior work has indicated that romantic partner breakups commonly precipitate adolescent suicide attempts (Donald, Dower, Correa-Velez, & Jones, 2006). In a recent study, major loss events (i.e., romantic relationship breakup, child estrangement) were related to subsequent increases in suicide ideation among inpatient adolescents after controlling for other risk factors (Daniel, Goldston, Erkanli, Heilbron, & Franklin, 2017). Notably, interpersonal "losses" do not denote who initiates the end of a relationship. Given that victims of targeted rejection are the target of termination, these experiences may be especially damaging. Indeed, recent evidence suggests that experiencing a recent severe targeted rejection life event substantially hastens onset of depression (Slavich et al., 2009).

The focus of the present study was to examine the contribution of specific types of acute, interpersonal stressors to the occurrence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. The stringent examination of interpersonal stress in this study accounts for several methodological limitations in prior work (Liu & Miller, 2014). First, measurement of interpersonal stress has generally been broad, encompassing multiple types in one construct (e.g., family arguments, romantic breakups, peer conflict). Thus, the aspects of interpersonal stress that are most predictive of suicidal thoughts or behaviors remain less

known. Second, the quality of measures varies, with most studies using self-report checklists that are vulnerable to reporting biases. Third, investigators rarely identify stressors that predict suicide outcomes beyond the effects of depression. Finally, despite prior work highlighting the importance of acute stressors in the occurrence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, many studies do not consider the objective stress severity of different life events in relation to clinical outcomes (Monroe, Slavich, & Georgiades, 2009).

Given the wide range of psychopathology associated with suicide risk (Nock & Kessler, 2006), participants included a heterogeneous sample of female adolescents at risk for suicidality, offering an opportunity to examine these hypotheses within a sample offering maximal clinical application. A prospective design and semistructured interview assessment of life stress were used to address limits of previous studies. It was hypothesized that higher levels of acute relational victimization and targeted rejection stress would prospectively predict suicide ideation and attempts, above and beyond the effects of stress from other acute nonspecified interpersonal stress and noninterpersonal stress, demographic factors, and prior depression and suicidality.

METHOD

Participants

Participants were 160 female adolescents, between the ages of 12 and 16 years old ($M = 14.60$, $SD = 1.40$; 63.8% European American, 24.4% African American, 1.3% Asian American, 10.6% multiracial; 6.3% Hispanic/Latina), with a recent history of mental health concerns and thus at elevated risk for suicidality. Of an original sample of 220 adolescents, 57 were excluded from the current analyses due to missing life stress data (i.e., inability to contact 31 participants, 23 refused, and three study withdrawals). Additional participants ($n = 3$) were missing suicide ideation/attempt outcome data. Participants included versus excluded from analyses ($n = 60$) did not differ in age, minority status, depressive symptoms, suicidality, or stress exposure at baseline (all $ps > .15$, $d < .10$).

Recruitment

Participants were referred from local inpatient psychiatric units, outpatient clinics, community mental health agencies, high schools, and community advertisements. Eligibility criteria included (a) female gender; (b) 12 to 16 years of age; and (c) a history of mental health concerns in the prior 2 years, defined as having any prior psychiatric diagnosis, mental health treatment, or experience of elevated symptoms, as indicated by parents' report on a modified Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age Children—Present and Lifetime Version screener administered at the time of recruitment (Kaufman, Birmaher, Brent, & Rao, 1997). The sample was

heterogeneous in terms of mental health concerns, with 18.4% endorsing clinically elevated scores on conduct disorder scales, 13.5% on attention problems, 15.3% on hyperactivity, 11% on anxiety, and 8.3% on depression scales (per caregiver report on the Behavioral Assessment System for Children (Reynolds & Kamphaus, 1992). Exclusion criteria included active psychosis, pervasive developmental disorder, or intellectual disability.

Procedures

Adolescents' participation in the study occurred over an 18-month period, divided into two 9-month epochs, referred to herein as Periods 1 and 2. Caregiver informed consent and adolescent assent were obtained during a laboratory visit at the start of Period 1. At the end of Period 1, participants completed a phone-based semistructured interview that assessed adolescents' life stressors over the first 9-month period and self-report questionnaires assessing recent depressive symptoms. To ensure accurate reporting of suicidal thoughts and behaviors during each epoch, phone-based interviews were conducted every 3 months within Period 1 and Period 2. Risk procedures based on those outlined by Helms and Prinstein (2014) were employed for all safety concerns. Participants were offered gift cards as compensation for participation. All procedures were approved by the university human subjects committee.

Measures

Acute Interpersonal Stress, Relational Victimization, and Targeted Rejection

The semistructured Youth Life Stress Interview (Rudolph & Flynn, 2007) was administered at the end of Period 1 to assess the occurrence of negative life events over the prior 9 months. Two masked raters probed for the nature and surrounding context of stressors using semistructured follow-up questions. A team assigned objective stress ratings to each event on a scale from 1 (*no stress*) to 5 (*severe stress*). Events with ratings of 1 were excluded from analyses. This approach is based on the contextual thread method (Brown & Harris, 1978), which involves using objective information and independent judges to assess event severity and offers an advantage over mood-congruent, subjective self-reports. Consistent with prior studies highlighting the relevance of major life events to psychological distress (Monroe et al., 2009), only events with an objective stress rating of 2.5 or higher were included in analyses¹ (see Murphy, Slavich, Chen, & Miller, 2015; Uliaszek et al., 2012).

¹ Prior work offers multiple ways of measuring life stress, including a total score for objective stress ratings across all events or only among acute life stress events (i.e., with objective stress ratings of 2.5 or higher included). Only major life events were included in the present analyses based on prior work demonstrating the particular relevance of "severe" life events to mental health outcomes (Monroe & Hadjiyannakis, 2002). Models in the current study were also run without applying a stress threshold (i.e., including acute and nonacute events), yielding an identical pattern of significant results.

All events were coded into two mutually exclusive categories: (a) interpersonal events, or stressors that involve relationships with other people (e.g., argument, breakup of relationship) or affect the participants' relationships with other people (e.g., a significant figure moves away or becomes ill; Shih, Eberhart, Hammen, & Brennan, 2006), and (b) noninterpersonal events (i.e., did not meet criteria for interpersonal stress). Coding was conducted by a team of two graduate students with extensive experience coding Life Stress Interview (LSI) interviews (Cohen's $\kappa = .85$). Each interpersonal event was coded as relational victimization, targeted rejection, or other interpersonal stressors (nonspecified).² All stress variables were computed by summing objective stress scores for life events with objective stress ratings of 2.5 or higher.

Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

Suicidal ideation and attempts were assessed using the Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviors Interview (Nock, Holmberg, Photos, & Michel, 2007). This structured clinical interview provides a comprehensive assessment of several aspects of suicidality. In the present analyses, suicidality was measured with two dichotomous indicators of (a) suicidal ideation and (b) suicide attempts. To facilitate accurate suicidality reporting, three assessments within the first epoch (Period 1) and second epoch (Period 2) of suicidal ideation (i.e., "Have you ever had thoughts of killing yourself?") and suicide attempts (i.e., "Have you ever made an actual attempt to kill yourself in which you had at least some intent to die?") were included. Outcome variables included any suicidal ideation or attempts reported during Period 2. The Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviors Interview has shown good interrater reliability among adolescents and young adults ($\kappa = 0.99$), test-retest reliability over

6 months ($\kappa = 0.70$), and strong agreement with other measures of suicidality (Nock et al., 2007).

Depressive Symptoms

Depressive symptoms at the end of Period 1 were assessed using the Mood and Feelings Questionnaire (Costello & Angold, 1988), a self-report 33-item measure of youths' depressive symptoms over the prior 2 weeks that yields a mean score of items rated on a 0 (*not true*) to 2 (*mostly true*) scale ($\alpha = .94$). Four items assessing suicidal ideation were removed from the present analyses.

Data Analyses. To examine the unique effects of each predictor on likelihood of suicide ideation and attempts, two sets of binomial logistic regression analyses were conducted. Given that suicidal ideation and attempts have been shown to consistently vary by previous suicidality, depression (O'Connor, Smyth, Ferguson, Ryan, & Williams, 2013), age (Nock et al., 2013), and race (Goldston et al., 2008), these factors were entered as a priori covariates.³ In the first set of logistic regression analyses, suicide ideation during Period 2 was regressed onto prior ideation (Step 1); demographics (age and race) and depressive symptoms (Step 2); and acute relational victimization, targeted rejection, unspecified interpersonal and noninterpersonal objective stress (Step 3). In the second set of logistic regression analyses, suicide attempts during Period 2 were regressed on prior ideation and attempts (Step 1) and the other predictors in the same order.

RESULTS

Preliminary Analysis

Descriptive statistics are reported in Table 1. Approximately 59 (36.2%) and 12 (7.4%) participants reported suicidal ideation and attempts, respectively, during Period 1. Further, 47 (28.8%) and 11 (6.7%) participants reported suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, respectively, during Period 2. Regarding life stress, a total of 1,149 major life events were identified ($M = 7.05$ events per participant). Of these events, 72.7% were interpersonal in nature and 27.3% were noninterpersonal. In addition, 40.5% of the sample reported at least one major relational victimization event, and 25.2% reported at least one major targeted rejection event in the prior 9 months. On average, participants reported 1.76 acute relational victimization events, 1.14 targeted rejection events, and 5.88 nonspecified interpersonal events. Relational

² Based on definitions from prior research (Crick & Grotpeter, 1995), interpersonal life events involving the receipt of behaviors that threatened one's relationships (e.g., silent treatments) or social reputation (e.g., gossip, rumor spreading, teasing or social exclusion) were coded as relational victimization (e.g., getting laughed at by a group of kids, being excluded from a friend's party). Negative comments in the context of dyadic arguments (i.e., verbal aggression) were not sufficient to be coded relational victimization. Overt forms of victimization (i.e., physical threat and harm) were not examined as a discrete category of interpersonal stress due to infrequent occurrence in this sample ($n = 13$ events, or 0.7% of all stressors). Targeted rejection was coded as meeting all six of the following criteria (Slavich et al., 2009): (a) the participant was the primary target of the event; (b) the participants' rejection by another person or group of persons was the most salient feature of the event; (c) the rejection event was characterized by a clear intent to reject the subject (i.e., does not result from inaction or negligence); (d) the event was characterized by isolated impact in which only the target individual experienced the rejection; (e) the rejection event entailed a break in the relationship, or severing of relational ties; and (f) the break in relational ties had to last at least 2 weeks. Notably, no stressors with objective stress ratings greater than 2.5 involved breaks in relational ties lasting less than 2 weeks. Targeted rejection events could occur only within the context of close, established relationships and could involve multiple interpersonal domains (i.e., peer, family, or school). Sample targeted rejection events from the current study included getting "broken up with" by a friend or romantic partner. Reliability among coders was established (Cohen's $\kappa = .80$).

³ Given the importance of identifying factors that confer risk for suicide ideation and behavior above and beyond the effects of depressive symptoms, analyses controlled for depressive symptoms as a covariate. However, given the dependent nature of interpersonal stressors, it is also possible that controlling for depression may alter the effects of interpersonal stress in this model. Thus, analyses were conducted removing depressive symptoms as a covariate. The significance and findings remained unchanged.

TABLE 1
Summary of Descriptive Statistics and Intercorrelations Between Study Variables

| Variable | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Age | — | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Minority Status | -.05 | — | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Period 1 Depressive Symptoms | .21** | -.04 | — | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Period 1 Suicide Ideation | .20** | -.13 | .38** | — | | | | | | | |
| 5. Period 1 Suicide Attempt | .07 | -.07 | .23** | .37** | — | | | | | | |
| 6. Period 1 Rel. Victimization | .02 | -.07 | .18* | .10 | .01 | — | | | | | |
| 7. Period 1 Targeted Rejection | .13 | -.09 | .14 | .18* | .12 | .23** | — | | | | |
| 8. Period 1 Interpersonal (Other) | .22** | -.10 | .33** | .17* | .15 | .05 | .15 | — | | | |
| 9. Period 1 Noninterpersonal | .33** | -.11 | .35** | .23** | .29** | .08 | .09 | .27** | — | | |
| 10. Period 2 Suicide Ideation | .06 | -.10 | .36** | .37** | .34** | .03 | .18* | .20* | .10 | — | |
| 11. Period 2 Suicide Attempt | .11 | -.11 | .23** | .16 | .30** | .19* | .09 | .09 | .18* | .42** | — |
| M (SD)/n (%) | 14.63 (1.40) | 61 (37.40) | 12.00 (10.69) | 59 (36.20) | 12 (7.40) | 1.76 (2.62) | 1.14 (2.39) | 12.90 (10.26) | 5.88 (1.89) | 47 (29.40) | 11 (6.7) |

Note: Pearson correlations are reported for age, depressive symptoms, relational victimization, targeted rejection, interpersonal (other), and noninterpersonal stressors. Spearman correlations are reported for minority status, Period 1 and Period 2 suicidal ideation, and Period 1 and Period 2 suicide attempt. Rel. = relational.
* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

victimization and targeted rejection composed 13.1% of the acute interpersonal stressors in this study. Among events coded as targeted rejection, 71.0% involved a romantic partner, 24.2% involved friends, 1.6% were parental, and 1.6% involved other adults. Findings indicated that there were no significant differences in the objective (team-rated) severity of relational victimization ($M = 3.01, SD = 0.59$) versus targeted rejection life events ($M = 3.03, SD = 0.48$), $t(164) = 0.20, p = .84, d = -.037$. As such, differences in their links to suicide outcomes can be attributed to social-psychological characteristics as opposed to basic differences in severity. Notably, objective stress ratings for nonspecified interpersonal stressors ($M = 2.51, SD = 0.91$) and for noninterpersonal stressors ($M = 2.41, SD = 0.97$) were significantly lower than for relational victimization, $t(1243) = 5.57, p = .0001, d = -.652$, and $t(714) = 6.195, p = .0001, d = -.747$, respectively, and for targeted rejection, $t(1201) = 4.4987, p = .0001, d = -.715$ and $t(672) = 5.01, p = .0001, d = .106$, respectively.

Prediction of Suicide Ideation

Prior suicidal ideation and higher levels of self-reported depressive symptoms were significantly associated with greater odds of subsequent suicidal ideation (Table 2). Contrary to study hypotheses, major life events, including relational victimization, targeted rejection, nonspecific interpersonal, and noninterpersonal stressors, were not significantly associated with increased odds of subsequent suicidal ideation after controlling for depressive symptoms.

Prediction of Suicide Attempts

Greater relational victimization, but not other forms of stress, significantly predicted greater odds of subsequent suicide attempts, even while adjusting for prior suicidal ideation, attempts, and depressive symptoms (Table 3).⁴

DISCUSSION

This study examined links between different types of stressful life events and suicidal ideation and attempts among at-risk female adolescents, focusing on specific types of interpersonal stressors that may influence risk for suicidality. Greater

⁴ Diagnostics for logistic regression were performed by evaluating (a) linearity between predictors and logit transformation of suicide ideation/attempts (Box-Tidwell procedure), (b) absence of multicollinearity (Tolerance > .20 and Variance Inflation Factors < 5), and (c) absence of significant outliers (studentized residual values > 2.5). All assumptions were satisfied, with the exception of one outlier revealed for relational victimization objective stress scores; this score was winsorized. Analyses were also conducted examining each type of stressor as an individual predictor of suicide ideation and attempts, after controlling for prior suicidality, demographics, and depressive symptoms. No change in results were revealed.

TABLE 2
Multivariate Logistic Regression Analyses Predicting Period 2 Suicide Ideation for Different Types of Life Events

| Predictor | $\Delta\chi^2$ (df) | b (SE) | OR | 95% CI | p |
|--|---------------------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| Step 1 | 21.502(1) | | | | |
| Prior Suicide Ideation (Period 1) | | 1.332 (.420) | 3.789 | [1.662, 8.637] | .002** |
| Step 2 | 31.710(4) | | | | |
| Age | | -1.28 (.159) | .880 | [.644, 1.201] | .428 |
| Minority Status | | -.307 (.421) | .736 | [.322, 1.680] | .466 |
| Depressive Symptoms (Period 1) | | .059 (.021) | 1.061 | [1.018, 1.107] | .005** |
| Step 3 | 36.002(8) | | | | |
| Total Acute Noninterpersonal Stress (Period 1) | | -.032 (.038) | .968 | [.898, 1.044] | .401 |
| Total Acute Interpersonal (Other) Stress (Period 1) | | .023 (.020) | 1.024 | [.984, 1.065] | .246 |
| Total Acute Relational Victimization Stress (Period 1) | | -.082 (.090) | .921 | [.772, 1.099] | .363 |
| Total Acute Targeted Rejection Stress (Period 1) | | .100 (.081) | 1.105 | [.943, 1.295] | .217 |

Note: OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval.

** $p < .01$.

TABLE 3
Multivariate Logistic Regression Analyses Predicting Period 2 Suicide Attempts for Different Types of Life Events

| Predictor | $\Delta\chi^2$ (df) | b (SE) | OR | 95% CI | p |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------|-------|
| Step 1 | 8.919(2) | | | | |
| Prior Suicide Ideation (Period 1) | | -.472 (.972) | .624 | [.093, 4.196] | .628 |
| Prior Suicide Attempt (Period 1) | | 2.397 (1.064) | 10.995 | [1.366, 88.520] | .024* |
| Step 2 | 14.028(5) | | | | |
| Age | | .239 (.327) | 1.269 | [.669, 2.410] | .466 |
| Minority Status | | -.951 (.852) | .386 | [.073, 2.410] | .264 |
| Depressive Symptoms (Period 1) | | .048 (.035) | 1.049 | [.979, 1.124] | .172 |
| Step 3 | 18.556(9) | | | | |
| Total Acute Noninterpersonal Stress (Period 1) | | -.019 (.064) | .981 | [.866, 1.113] | .771 |
| Total Acute Interpersonal (Other) Stress (Period 1) | | -.002 (.039) | 1.002 | [.928, 1.081] | .962 |
| Total Acute Relational Victimization Stress (Period 1) | | .271 (.134) | 1.311 | [1.008, 1.706] | .044* |
| Total Acute Targeted Rejection Stress (Period 1) | | -.022 (.122) | 1.023 | [.805, 1.299] | .854 |

Note: OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval.

* $p < .05$.

relational victimization, but not targeted rejection, significantly predicted greater odds of suicide attempts in the subsequent 9 months, demonstrating a prospective association between relational victimization and suicide attempts that has been previously observed contemporaneously (Dempsey et al., 2011; Geoffroy et al., 2016; Heilbron & Prinstein, 2010; Undheim, 2013). Findings are notable given the remarkable dearth of factors revealed to predict suicide attempts after controlling for ideation and depressive symptoms (Franklin et al., 2017).

Findings suggest that relational victimization may be especially relevant to female adolescents' suicidal behavior. Given the importance of peers as a primary social context during this period (Prinstein & Giletta, 2016), exposure to relational aggression could invoke considerable social pain. Although targeted rejection is similarly associated with loss, threat, and devaluation by a member of one's social group (Slavich et al., 2009), targeted rejection presumes the presence of skills to establish a significant relationship, such as a "best friend" or romantic partner. Further,

targeted rejection in the present study was often experienced from a single social partner, most often a romantic partner. As such, it may be that adolescents who experience targeted rejection have additional social supports (i.e., friends) in place that can buffer against its effects.

Although significant bivariate effects were revealed in correlations among each form of life stress and suicide ideation, neither relational victimization nor targeted rejection remained a significant predictor after accounting for prior ideation and depressive symptoms. Results are broadly consistent with prior research suggesting that many risk factors are most relevant as predictors of suicide ideation via depressive symptoms, yet some specific stressors act as a precipitant or catalyst for suicidal behavior in the presence of additional risk factors (Bagge, Glenn, & Lee, 2013).

Future work should be guided by several study limitations. First, longitudinal work on adolescent suicide is rare, and this study offered an important advance by examining prospective associations. Yet, methods such

as ecological momentary assessment may help to further understand immediate short-term risks and immediate consequences of interpersonal stress (Franklin et al., 2017). In addition, although research predicting suicide attempts is relatively rare, more work is needed to validate these findings with bigger sample sizes of suicide attempters. Future work examining specific life stressor categories also may benefit from further assessments regarding the intent or motive of aggressive provocateurs, noting that these factors may be difficult for adolescent victims to report. Future work also may consider examining other types of interpersonal stressors (e.g., death, conflict, etc.) that may be relevant predictors of suicide and possibly conducting factor analyses from checklist measures to validate the categories of interpersonal stress used in this study. Finally, participants in the present study were female and at an elevated risk for experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviors; therefore, further work on male individuals and subtypes of suicide attempters (i.e., chronically depressed vs. impulsive) is needed.

In sum, this study represents a new direction for suicide research by examining specific types of acute, interpersonal life events that are most relevant for female adolescents' suicidal ideation and attempts. Findings suggest that practitioners may consider early screening for relational victimization to better identify clients at high risk for suicide attempts.

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ORCID

Maya Massing-Schaffer  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9663-3958>

Karen D. Rudolph  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6190-3356>

George M. Slavich  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5710-3818>

Paul D. Hastings  <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-2978-7364>

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