IMPACT OF RACE ON PERCEPTION OF SUICIDE RISK AND DANGEROUSNESS

Saskia Jorgensen
Thesis Advisor: Kathryn Fox, PhD
2021
Figure 4. Age-adjusted death rates for the 10 leading causes of death in 2019: United States, 2018 and 2019

(Center for Disease Control, 2019)
MOST PEOPLE TELL SOMEONE WHEN THEY ARE EXPERIENCING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS

THE WAY OTHERS RESPOND MATTERS

(Fulginiti, 2016)
Taking autonomy away from the individual

- Reporting them to emergency services
- Taking them to the hospital against their will

Helping the individual help themself

- Encouraging them to speak to a professional
- Assisting in finding local resources
- Giving them the number/URL of a suicide/crisis hotline/textline/chatline

(Gould et al, 2012; Ward-Ciesielski & Rizvi, 2020)
IMPACTS OF RACE
RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN (MENTAL) HEALTHCARE

Access

Utilization

Quality

(e.g., Parker, Hunte, & Omid, 2017)
HYPOTHESIS

Self reported likelihood to call 911 to report individual as suicidal
Is this explained by differences in perceived suicide risk?

Self reported likelihood to call 911 to report individual as dangerous
Is this explained by differences in perceived danger to others?
METHODS

1. Open-Ended Free Response
2. Intentions Scale (Fox & Lloyd, under review)
3. Perceived Dangerousness Scale
RESULTS
LIMITATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH
Denver successfully sent mental health professionals, not police, to hundreds of calls
REFERENCES


