

G. M. (1965), *Society and the adolescent*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

THOMAS, M. R., & COOK, A. (1984). A family affair. *Headache Quarterly*, 17, 1-7.

C. F., FINCH, A. J., HAAS, LOR, C. B., DARNELL, G., & W. (1988). Children's Depression Inventory: A procedure and correlates. *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 23, 626-628.

D., GARLAND, A., GOULD, M., RAUTMAN, P. (1988). Preventing suicide: A critical review. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 27, 103-114.

D., GOULD, M., FISHER, P., MOREAU, D., KLEINMAN, M., & W. (1988). Psychiatric diagnosis in child and adolescent suicide. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 45, 1061-1064.

M., CARRIGAN, S., & WHITTINGTON, S. (1985). Psychological autopsy of completed suicide in children and adolescents. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 55, 1061-1064.

M., STELTZ-LENARSKY, J., DEROGATIS, C., & WHITTINGTON, S. (1985). Comorbidity of mental disorders in adolescents with a diagnosis of completed suicide. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 27, 227-233.

R, H. A. (1987). Self report instrument for assessing suicidal ideation. In T. Jacob (Ed.), *Suicide and psychopathology* (pp. 428-440). New York: Plenum.

R, H. A., STEINHAEUER, P. D., & RAUTMAN, J. (1983). The Family Assessment Model. *Canadian Journal of Community Psychology*, 2(2), 91-105.

STEINHAEUER, P. D. (1984). Clinical application of the Family Assessment Model. *Journal of Psychiatry*, 29, 98-111.

W, E. A., & STANSFIELD, S. A. (1988). Children who poison themselves. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 145, 127-135.

L, P., & REZNIKOFF, M. (1982). Perceived family relationships, hopelessness, and control as factors in adolescent suicide. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 12, 145-151.

HUES, A., & COHEN, J. (1990). Prevention of special-needs adoptions. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 31(2), 141-155.

Manuscript Received: October 29, 1998  
 Revision Accepted: August 1, 1999

## Cultural Orientation, Family Cohesion, and Family Support in Suicide Ideation and Depression among African American College Students

TRENIECE LEWIS HARRIS, PhD AND SHERRY DAVIS MOLOCK, PhD

This study extends previous research by examining the role of communalism, family cohesion, and family support in suicide ideation and depression in African American college students. Participants were 188 African American introductory psychology students (126 female, 61 male) from a historically black college. Results showed that communalism, family cohesion, and family support were positively associated with each other. Higher levels of family cohesion and family support were associated with lower levels of suicide ideation and depression. Linear regression analyses showed a main effect for communalism and family support. Having strong communal values was positively related to suicide ideation and depression. Having strong family support was associated with fewer experiences of suicide ideation and depression. Stepwise regression analyses indicated that family support explained more variance in suicide ideation and depression than family cohesion. Implications of these results for future research and practice are discussed.

Over the past 20 years, suicide among 15-24-year-olds has increased by more than 200%, making it the leading cause of death in this age group (Garland & Zigler, 1991). The problem is particularly acute among African American college students, college

For a copy of the full article go to ~~www.psychology.org~~ Send a request via email.

This article is part of the Special Issue on Health, Preparation, and Underrepresentation of African Americans. We wish to thank TRENIECE LEWIS HARRIS, School of Education, Boston State University, Boston, MA, for her contribution to this Special Issue.

Address correspondence to T. Lewis Harris, School of Education, Boston State University, 3 Blackstone Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

1. The number of males and females do not sum to 188 due to missing data.

For others, particularly those who are not in the home, the college experience is a time of existing stressors and a sense of isolation from family. It is estimated that 25% of African American college students experience suicidal thoughts (Garland & Zigler, 1991).

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to Dr. Sherry Davis Mollow.

Correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Sherry Davis Mollow, School of Psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22031.

© 2000 The American Association of Suicidology

0893-3200/00/3004-0000\$05.00/0