

INTERPARENTAL CONFLICT AND ADOLESCENT SUICIDALITY

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Introduction: High rate of suicidal behavior during adolescence draws the research attention. Numerous motives of suicide attempts were previously described; nevertheless most adolescents reported disturbed relationships with peers and parents. Family background seems to be important, especially the relationship between parents.

Objective: To examine suicidality in adolescents and recognize the risk factors, especially adolescents' perceptions of interparental conflict.

Aim: To explore risk factors associated with suicidality in adolescents, with regard to relationships within family, with friends and personality characteristics.

Methods: The sample consisted of 161 Czech students (14-16 years old) who anonymously completed four questionnaires: CPIC (Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale), IPPA (The Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment), PAQ (Personality Assessment Questionnaire), CASPI (Child-Adolescent Suicidal Potential Index).

Results: Very high level of psychosocial distress was found in 45 % of respondents, 25 % admitted suicidal ideation or a history of suicidal attempt. The perceived interparental conflict, not the divorce, was confirmed as the important aspect for higher suicidal risk in adolescents. The perceived threat (higher feelings of danger resulting from the conflict situation and inability to influence the conflict) is the main feature of interparental conflict responsible for child maladjustment. Statistically significant differences between suicidal and non-suicidal adolescents were also found in the level of felt security in relationship with their mother, father and with peers. These groups differed in some personal characteristics too (aggressivity level, negative self-perception, emotional instability, and pessimism).

Conclusion: Results highlight potential targets for intervention among adolescents. Further research is needed to find sensitive predictors.