Introduction

The suicide rate among male seniors is almost four times the nation's overall age-adjusted rate (Conwell, Orden, & Caine, 2011).

Disruption in interpersonal relationships has been proposed as a suicide risk factor (Baumeister & Leary, 1995; Joiner, 2005; Van Orden et al., 2010).

There is strong theoretical and empirical support that perfectionism is related to interpersonal difficulties and suicide behaviour (Hewitt & Flett, 1991b; Hewitt et al., 2003; O'Connor, 2007).

Multidimensional Personality Traits:

- Self-Oriented Perfectionism (SOP)
- Other Oriented Perfectionism (OOP)
- Socially Prescribed Perfectionism (SPP)

Perfectionistic Self-Presentational Style:

- Self-promotion
- Nondisplay of imperfection
- Nondisclosure of imperfection

Perfectionism Social Disconnection Model (PSDM)

The PSDM proposes that SPP leads to both objective and subjective social disconnection (Hewitt & Flett, 1991b).

The chain mediation effect was significant when CSW and PSS were both one standard deviation above the mean, d = .003 with CI95% = [.001, .001], and when CSW at the mean and PSS at one standard deviation above the mean, d = .0016 with CI95% = [.000, .001].

Discussion

The findings support the overall PSDM and suggest that failure to disclose is crucial in leading to subjective feeling of alienation.

Suicide ideation is significantly elevated when older adults with good physical and mental health feel subjectively disconnected.

The subjective social disconnection is facilitated by interpersonal sensitivity and perceived stress in producing suicide ideation.

The indirect effect size from SPP to suicide ideation is likely suppressed by inherent multicollinearity.

Interpersonal factors should be emphasized to explain and prevent senior suicide as baby-boomers are about to retire.

References


