Trend in the data

- The Poisson regression shows a *rate ratio of about 1.03* for the annual count of pediatric suicide deaths (age < 15) from 1999 to 2016.
    - This means that the number of deaths each year was, on average, **3.2% higher** than the previous year.
    - The trend is *extremely statistically significant* ($p \approx 2.6 \times 10^{-239}$), far below any conventional threshold.

Main findings

- Across 18 years the CDC dataset recorded **41,368** suicide deaths among children and adolescents, averaging roughly **2,300 deaths per year**.
- While the yearly totals fluctuate (e.g., 1,908 deaths in 1999 versus 3,432 in 2016), the overall trajectory is upward, with the 2016 count exceeding the 1999 count by more than 80%.
- Because the analysis uses *counts only*, we cannot say whether the true risk (deaths per population) is rising; the absolute numbers could partly reflect population growth or other demographic changes.

Cautious recommendations

- **Add population data**: Future studies should incorporate denominators (e.g., number of children in each age group) to calculate rates and determine if the *per-capita* risk of suicide is increasing.
- **Target prevention efforts**: The significant upward trend suggests a need to strengthen mental-health screening, access to care, and suicide-prevention programs in schools and pediatric settings—while acknowledging that further evidence is needed to identify the most effective interventions.

These points highlight that, based on the available count data, pediatric suicide deaths have increased steadily over the 1999-2016 period, but interpreting the magnitude of risk requires additional demographic context.