



# Generational Risk Factors for Suicide Ideation, Plans, and Attempts in Ukraine

Alfonso J. Martinez<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Beckelhymer<sup>2</sup>, Nathan Tintle<sup>3</sup>, Luralyn Helming<sup>3</sup>, & Rachel Ulrich<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>California State University, Fresno, <sup>2</sup>Southwestern University, <sup>3</sup>Dordt University, <sup>4</sup>Montana State University



## Introduction

- Suicide is a pervasive public health issue in Ukraine, especially following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the 1990s
- Recent estimates place Ukraine among the top 15 countries with the highest suicide rates, with 23 deaths per 100,000
- Little is known about the epidemiology of the major precursors of suicide in Ukraine, namely suicide ideation, plans, and attempts
- **We aimed to provide novel insights into the epidemiology of suicidal behaviors in Ukraine by focusing on generational clusters within Ukraine to identify commonalities and generational-specific risk factors for suicidal behavior**

## Materials and Methods

- **Ukraine-WMH**
  - Representative survey of citizens age 18 and over from Ukraine's 24 oblasts (states) and Republic of Crimea
  - A modified version of the WMH-CIDI, a structured, modularized interview schedule that elicits DSM-IV psychiatric disorders along with general physical and mental health probes
  - Survey was administered to a total 4,725 respondents (78.3% response rate) who were randomly recruited via a multi-level, cluster sampling design (Feb 2002 - Dec 2002)

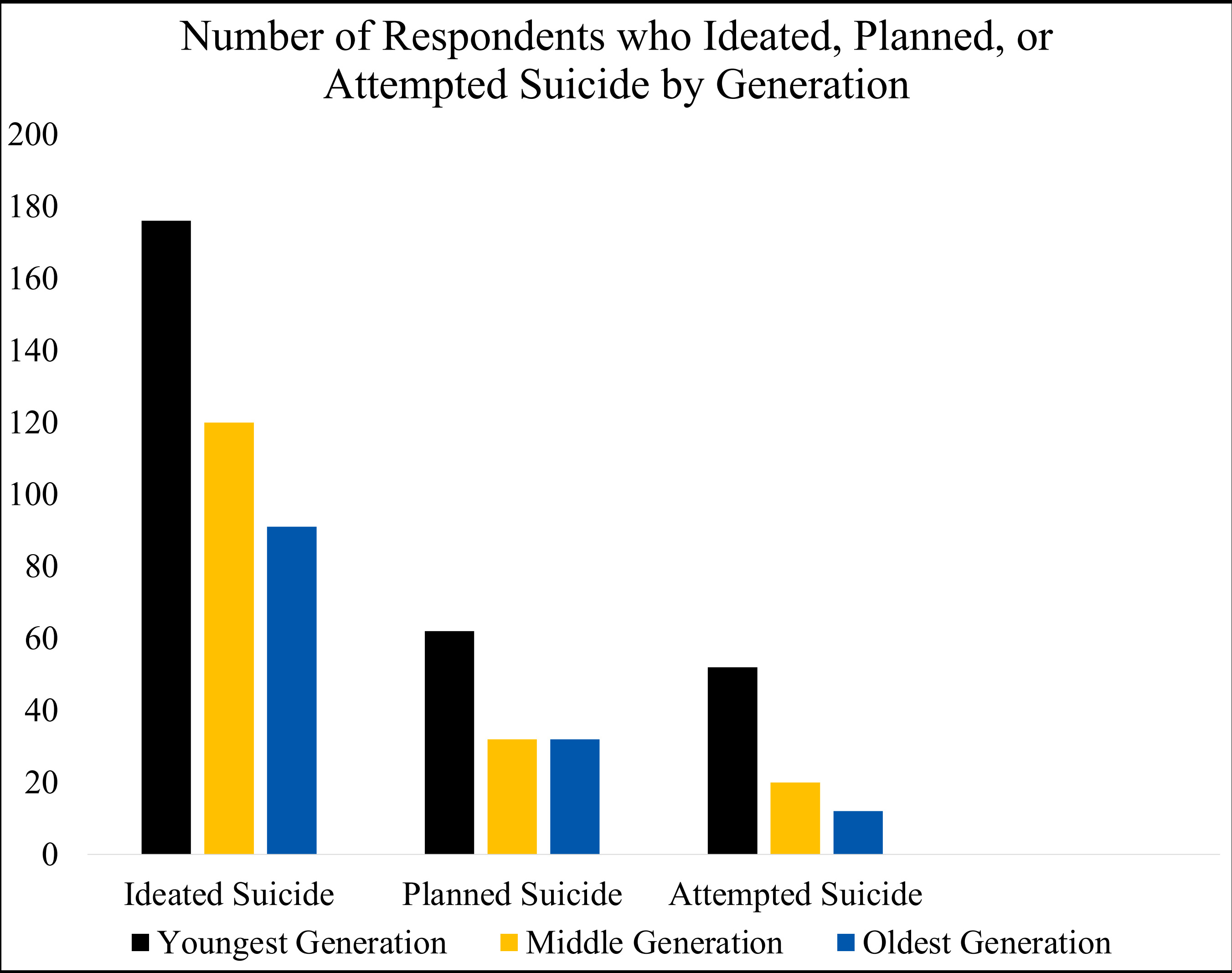
## Variables of Interest

Demographic Variables	DSM-IV Variables
Self-Rated Health	Agoraphobia (Anxiety Disorder)
Marriage Status	Generalized Anxiety Disorder (Anxiety Disorder)
Financial Status	Panic Disorder (Anxiety Disorder)
Education Level	Social Phobia (Anxiety Disorder)
Region	Dysthymia (Affective Disorder)
Urbanicity	Major Depression (Affective Disorder)
	Alcohol Abuse
	Intermittent Explosive Disorder

## Creating Generational Cohorts

Respondent age	Assigned to
Age ≤ 38	Youngest Generation (n = 1777)
39 ≤ Age ≤ 57	Middle Generation (n = 1574)
Age ≥ 58	Oldest Generation (n = 1373)

## Results

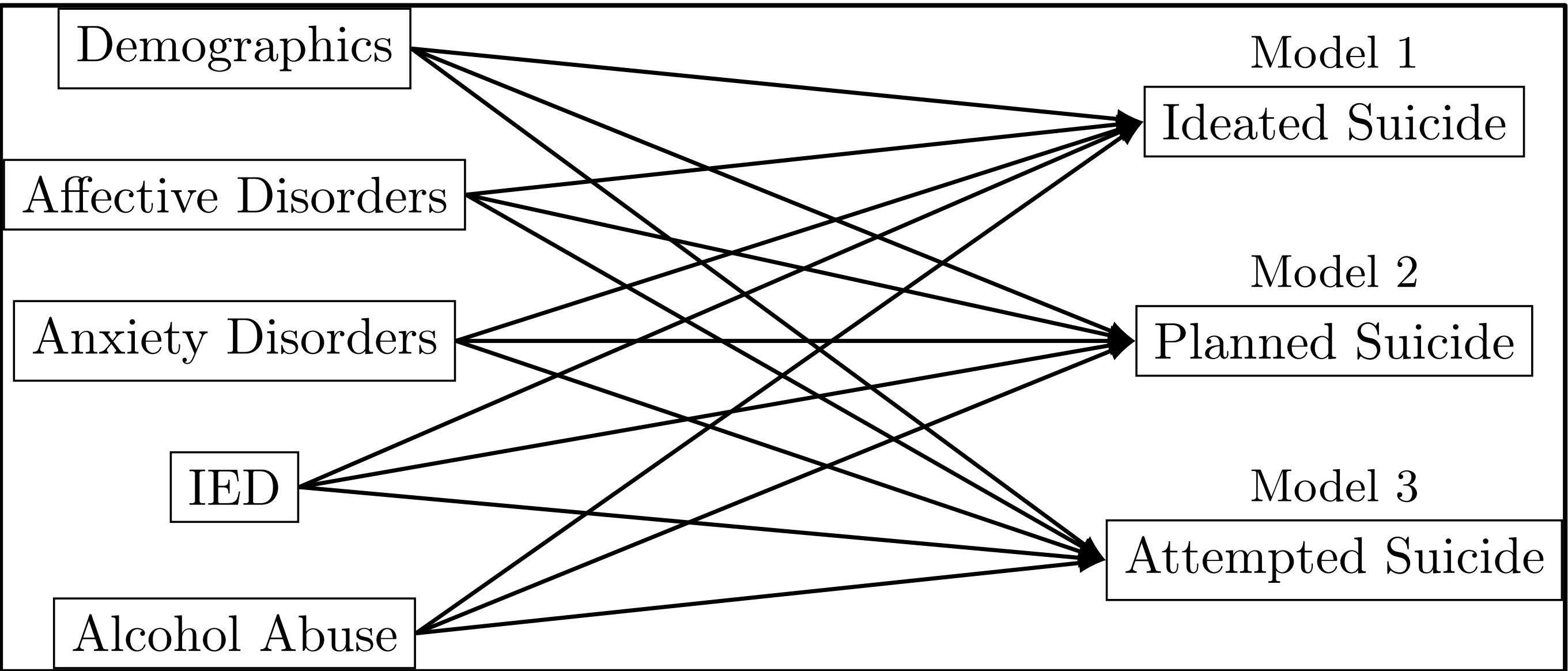


- Prevalence rates for suicide ideation were 9.9%, 7.6%, and 6.6% in the Youngest, Middle, and Oldest generation, respectively.
- 35%, 27%, and 43% of ideators made a suicide plan in each respective generation.
- 29%, 10%, and 13% of ideators attempted suicide in each respective generation.

Demographic Characteristics by Gender for Each Cohort

	Youngest Cohort (n = 1777)		Middle Cohort (n = 1574)		Oldest Cohort (n = 1373)	
	Men (n = 879)	Women (n = 898)	Men (n = 748)	Women (n = 826)	Men (n = 498)	Women (n = 875)
Self-Rated Health, n (%)						
Poor	47 (5.35)	71 (7.91)	120 (16.04)	159 (19.25)	167 (33.53)	447 (51.09)
Adequate	703 (79.98)	777 (86.52)	579 (77.41)	651 (78.81)	317 (63.65)	424 (48.46)
Excellent	129 (14.67)	50 (5.57)	46 (6.15)	15 (1.82)	14 (2.81)	4 (0.46)
Marriage Status, n (%)						
Not married	489 (55.63)	329 (36.64)	126 (16.84)	249 (30.15)	109 (21.89)	541 (61.83)
Married or living with partner	390 (44.37)	569 (63.36)	622 (83.16)	577 (69.85)	389 (78.11)	334 (38.17)
Financial Status, n (%)						
Financially unstable	132 (15.02)	128 (14.25)	132 (16.84)	193 (23.37)	173 (34.74)	363 (41.49)
Financially stable	57 (6.48)	37 (4.12)	26 (3.48)	13 (1.57)	3 (0.60)	1 (0.11)
Education Level, n (%)						
≤ High school education	318 (36.18)	263 (29.29)	255 (34.09)	215 (26.03)	221 (44.38)	381 (43.54)
> High school education	273 (31.06)	301 (33.52)	239 (31.95)	310 (37.53)	110 (22.09)	140 (16.00)
Region, n (%)						
West	391 (44.48)	395 (43.99)	316 (42.25)	337 (40.80)	211 (42.37)	374 (42.74)
East	488 (55.52)	503 (56.01)	432 (57.75)	489 (59.20)	287 (57.63)	501 (57.26)
Urbanicity, n (%)						
Rural	360 (40.96)	376 (41.87)	331 (44.25)	329 (39.83)	236 (47.39)	435 (49.71)
Urban	519 (59.04)	522 (58.13)	417 (55.75)	497 (60.17)	262 (52.61)	440 (50.29)

Hypothesized Models (each model evaluated separately for each generation)



## Conclusions

- Results indicated that the youngest generation had the highest rates of suicide ideation, plans, and attempts between the three generations.
- Among all three generations, significant risk factors for suicide ideation included poor self-rated health, being divorced, anxiety disorder, dysthymia, and major depression disorder.
- There was significant overlap in risk factors throughout the three generations, suggesting that risk factors affect individuals at all stages of life.

## References

