Methodology Section

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**Methodology**

**Target Population**

This data set describes the rates of suicide per 100,000 people for men and women, ages 18-24, the typically age range of college students. Suicide on college campuses has been a topic of research for several decades, examining prevalence through multicampus studies (Schwartz, 2006; Silverman, Meyer, Sloane, Raffel, & Pratt, 1997), risk factors and protective factors of suicide, risk assessment, and trainings and interventions (Heisel, Flett, & Hewitt, 2003; Chang, 1998; Schotte & Clum, 1982). According to the National Institute of Mental Health (2016), suicide is the second leading cause of death for those between the ages of 15 and 29. Including undergraduates and graduate students, it is the second leading cause of death in college students, with approximately 1,100 completed student suicides a year (Schwartz, 2006; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). According to the American College Health Association (ACHA) (2016), one in 12 college students have made a plan to end their life at some point in their college experience with 1.5 students out of 100 students actually attempting suicide.

**Method**

This data was collected using R Studio and functions of code to run statistical analysis. A t-test was used to compare the rates of suicide between men and women. A t-test was chosen because each sample of men and women was small (<30) and were approximately normally distributed. The outliers present are described by the standard deviations listed in the table. Recent findings state men complete suicide more than women, although women make more attempts (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 2013). The t-test will provide results eligible to compare to previous research.

This study also compares the rates of suicide per 100,000 people between whites, blacks, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American/Alaska Natives using an ANOVA test, followed by a Tukey test. An ANOVA test was chosen because multiple groups (5 groups) are compared to analyze the central tendencies and variance of each group. A Tukey test is used, based on the results of the ANOVA, to determine where the differences in the average rates of suicide between groups are significant. Previous research states American/Alaska Natives have higher rates of suicide compared to other race/ethnicities (Sue & Sue, 2008). The results of te ANOVA and Tukey test will either support or challenge these findings.

**References**

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