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## IS AFRICAN ANCESTRY A PROTECTIVE FACTOR AGAINST SUICIDE?

V. De Luca, C. Teo, C. Zai, A. Assadzadeh, J.L. Kennedy

Camh, Toronto, ON, Canada

Suicide officially is causing approximately 30,000 deaths annually in the United States. Despite persisting socioeconomic and health disparities, African-Americans register suicide rates less than half that of Whites.

This cross-sectional genetic study uses a sample of schizophrenia patients evaluated for presence of lifetime suicide attempt to assess whether African Ancestry self-reported and determined using informative SNP markers were associated with suicide attempt. Subjects were 233 White, African-American and Asian psychotic patients, whose suicidal behaviour was recorded at the time of the SCID.

The African-American ancestry was estimated using the program STRUCTURE 2.1 using 102 HapMap markers across the genome including subjects from the HapMap Phase 3 in the analysis as reference populations. There were 51 suicide attempters and 182 non-attempters in the sample the estimated African ancestry considering three genetic clusters ( $k=3$ ) was 23% in the attempters and 24% in the non-attempters. This difference was not significant ( $p=0.635$ ). Genetic data disparities might not explain much of the Black-White suicide rate gap. This simple study supports the hypothesis that different rates in suicide between African-Americans and White Caucasians are due to cultural and social differences rather than genetic differences.