A blurred, close-up photograph of a person's face, likely a woman, serves as the background for the slide. The image is out of focus, showing soft features and a neutral expression. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the colors are muted, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

Is There an Association Between Disordered Eating Behaviors & Suicide Ideation Among Females Sampled in the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health – Wave II?

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Statement of the Problem

➤ Youth suicide:

- 3rd leading cause of teen deaths¹
- 2004, 39% of 6th graders reported feeling depressed or sad most days in the year²

➤ Disordered eating:

- 1/12 HS females report vomiting or taking laxatives to control wt³
- 15% do not meet DSM criteria for ED³

➤ Healthy People 2010

Literature

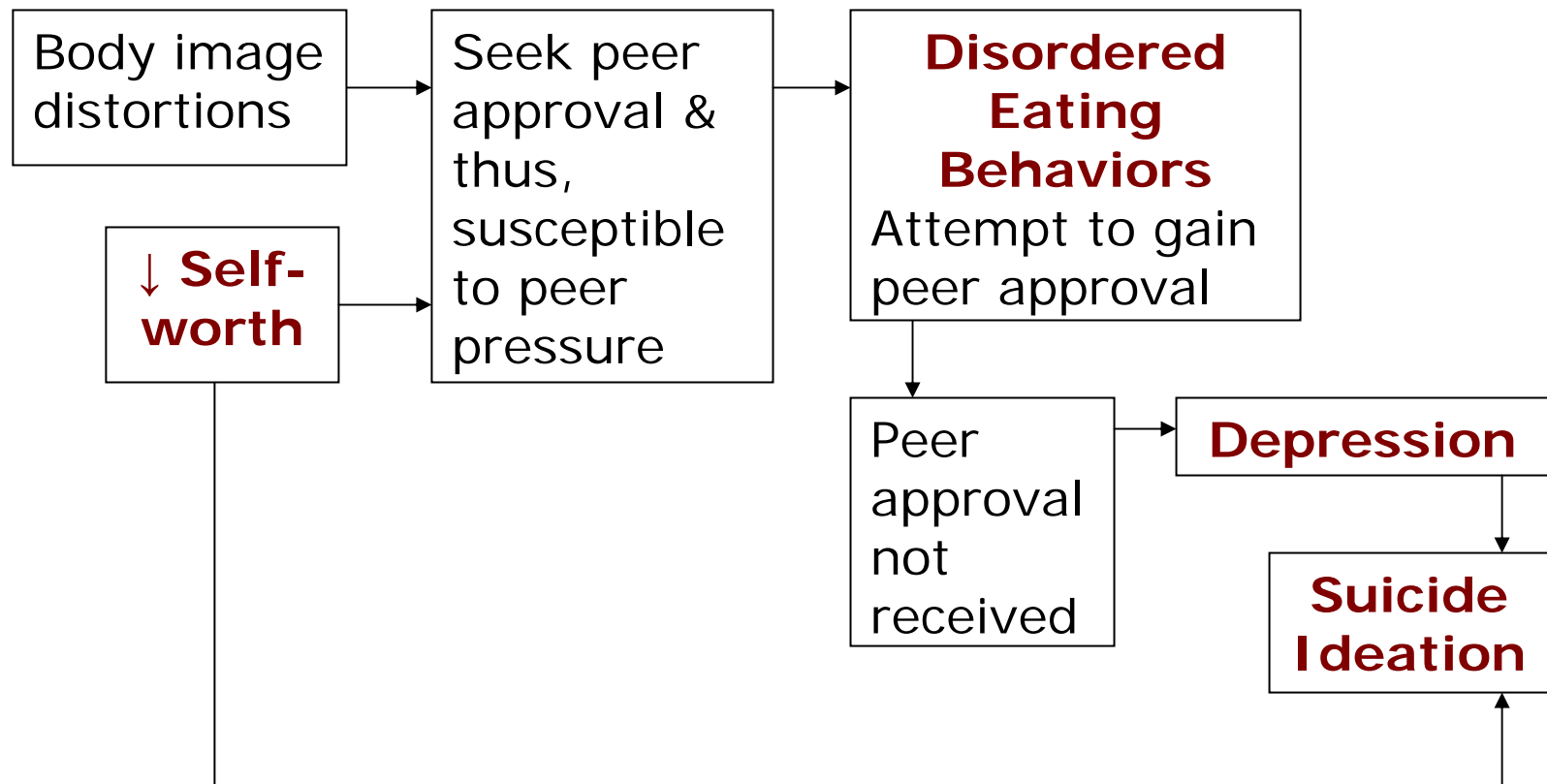
- Eating disorders greater risk of suicide ideation (SI)^{1,2,3}
- Suicide attempts more prevalent among females with abnormal eating behaviors & strongly correlated with impulsiveness³
- Strong associations between disordered eating behaviors (DEB), SI, & suicide attempts⁴

Study Aims

- Primary - Association between SI & DEB among adolescent females?
- Secondary - Association between an index of suicide & DEB among adolescent females?

Empirical Model

Based on Jessor's Problem Behavior Theory¹



¹Costa, 2006

Data Source

- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)
- Health-related behaviors of adolescents & their outcomes in young adulthood
- Data collection: Wave I, II, III
- Representative sample of 7th to 12th graders
- Weighted data set

Add Health Participants

- Wave II = 13,568 (females & males)
- Data collected 1995-1996
- Enrolled in public schools
- In-school Q's & in-home interviews
- Audio-CASI software – suicide & other sensitive questions

Study Participants

- Wave II
- 6,963 adolescent females
- 15-17 years of age
- Have all Wave II weights available
- Linked Wave I & Wave II variables for:
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Parental education

Design

- Cross-sectional
- Wave II data
- Association between SI & DEB among adolescent females

Suicide

➤ Suicide ideation

- “During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously think about committing suicide?”
- Responses: yes, no, don't know

➤ Index of suicidal behaviors

- Based on a range of suicide behavior questions that reflect increasing risk (ideation, # of attempts, medical attention sought out for attempt).¹
- Score range: 0-5 (5 = most severe)

¹Thompson & Eggert, 1999

Disordered Eating

- Trying to lose wt:
 - Lose wt, or stay the same wt
- Wt controlling behavior:
 - Made self vomit, took diet pills, or took laxatives
- Extremely low body fat:
 - BMI < 17 + diet and/or exercise^{1,2}

Statistical Analysis

- Statistical software Stata 9 & SPSS 14
- Correlation coefficients & odds ratio
- Multivariate logistic regression
- Correction for sample selection & design effects¹
- Frequencies, ANOVA, & t-test

¹Harris et al., 2003

Statistical Analysis cont.

➤ Covariates:

- Depression, self-worth, race/ethnicity, parental education, age, ht, & wt

➤ Comparison groups:

- Group I = SI & DEB
- Group II = SI only
- Group III = DEB only
- Group IV = neither SI nor DEB

Results – Overall sample of females

- Mean age – 16 years
- Mean ht – 64 inches (5ft. 4in.)
- Mean wt – 132 pounds
- SI – 13%
- Mean index suicide behaviors – 0.22
- Trying to lose/keep gaining wt – 46%
- Diet – 78%
- Exercise – 49%

Results – Comparison Groups

- Age:
 - Oldest females – DEB only (Group III)
 - Youngest females – SI only (Group II)
- Highest depression score –SI & DEB(Group I)
- Lowest self-worth score – Group I

Results – Associations

- No significant association between SI & DEB
- SI & DEB – strongest prior to controlling for depression
- Significant correlations:
 - Depression
 - Self-worth
 - African American

Discussion

- Adolescent females who exhibit DEB were not at an increased risk for SI when depression, self-worth & other covariates were controlled for.
- Females who reported SI & DEB had
↑depression & ↓self-worth scores
- Unique role: depression & self-worth

Discussion cont.

- Possible weak association – DEB not severe enough
- Unexpected finding – African American
- Professionals – should incorporate screening for depression into their assessment & care plans
- Informing policy & prevention models addressing adolescent suicide & DEB

Limitations

- Self-reported – susceptible to information & interviewer bias
 - Decreased somewhat – Audio-CASI to collect sensitive data
- Not be generalized to non-surveyed home-schooled adolescent females

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