Inter-generational cohesion and suicidal thoughts and behavior
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Background

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults.
- Inter-generational cohesion, having connection to trusted adults, is known to be protective.
- Improved positioning in peer networks is a candidate explanation.

Method

- Sample: n = 1,115 high school students identified their friends, as well as trusted adults, as part of a broader school-wide prevention trial.
- Network Measures:
  - Transitivity - how many of one’s friends know each other?
  - Betweenness - How often is one a bridge between two people?

Results

Adolescents with at least one trusted adult had **higher levels of transitivity and betweenness** in their peer networks, compared to adolescents who had no trusted adults.

Discussion

Intergenerational cohesion is associated with differences in peer-level networks for adolescents. This is one potential mechanism by which nearby trusted adults may indirectly facilitate suicide preventative effects.