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European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

February 2002, Volume 11, Issue 1, pp 31-37

The Youth Self-Report (YSR) and the Depression Self-Rating Scale (DSRS) as measures of depression and suicidality among adolescents

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Abstract

Two hundred and thirty-seven adolescents from a junior high school in a small community outside Göteborg, Sweden, completed the Youth Self Report (YSR) and the Depression Self Rating Scale (DSRS). Self-reported suicidality and biographical data were also recorded. The school doctor and nurse assessed the adolescents' somatic, psychological and behavioural problems using school health-records. The convergent validity of the YSR total problems scale and syndrome scales were tested against the DSRS. Discriminant validity was assessed by the two measures' ability to predict suicidality and school health problems. The Internalising ($r = 0.65^{**}$) and Anxious/Depressed ($r = 0.61^{**}$) syndrome scales of the YSR had the highest correlations with the DSRS. However, all YSR syndrome scales were significantly, though more modestly, correlated with the DSRS. Using stepwise logistic regression analysis, four YSR sub-scales [Social Withdrawal, Anxious/Depressed, Attention problems and Delinquency] predicted mild-severe self-reported depression (DSRS scores 12 and above). The YSR syndrome scales Anxious/Depressed and Delinquency predicted suicide ideation whereas the Self-destructive/Identity problem and Social Withdrawal (low scores) scales predicted Suicide attempts. The YSR Anxious/Depressed sub-scale and the DSRS total score seem to measure a similar dimension. However, the Anxious/Depressed and Self-destructive/Identity problem scales were superior in predicting suicidality.