**Title**: Neurodivergence and Adolescent Suicidality: Autism, ADHD, and Their Co-Occurrence

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**Introduction**: Amidst a growing adolescent mental health crisis (U.S. Surgeon General, 2021), neurodivergent teens are at high risk for experiencing mental health issues (Accardo et al. 2022). Particularly serious, suicidal ideation (SI) is more common in both autistic adolescents (O’Halloran et al., 2022) and adolescents with ADHD (Balazs & Kereszteny, 2017) than in the general adolescent population. Although limited, some data also suggest that autistic individuals with co-occurring ADHD have higher rates of suicidal ideation than autistic individuals without ADHD (Hirvikoski et al., 2019). Research in this area has largely been siloed by diagnosis, limiting understanding of how different forms of neurodivergence may be differentially associated with and/or accumulate risk for suicidality. Given that suicide rates for adolescents have doubled between 2000 and 2017 (Miron et al, 2017), it is critical to examine contributing factors. The current study aims to compare the prevalence of SI in autistic adolescents, adolescents with ADHD, and adolescents with co-occurring autism and ADHD.

**Method**: Participants included 189 adolescents (*Mage*=13.9, *SD*=1.9; 75.1% male) who presented for programming at the UCLA PEERS Clinic, an evidence-based friendship skills program (Laugeson & Frankel, 2010). Per parent report, 45.5% of participants were diagnosed with autism without ADHD, 27% had ADHD without autism, and 27.5% were diagnosed with both ADHD and autism. Suicidality was assessed prior to their first session via self-report on the Children’s Depression Inventory, 2nd Edition (CDI-2; Kovacs, 2010).

**Results**: Across the full sample, 27.1% of neurodivergent adolescents endorsed SI, including 25.6% of autistic adolescents, 23.5% of adolescents with ADHD, and 33.3% of adolescents with both diagnoses. A chi square analysis revealed no significant difference in reported SI for participants by diagnosis, *X2*(2)=1.43, *p*=.489.

**Discussion:** Findings suggest that in this treatment-seeking sample, neurodivergent participants had similar rates of SI across diagnostic presentations. As previous research has shown that loneliness predicts depression and suicidality in autistic samples (Hedley et al., 2018), it’s possible that the social struggles commonly experienced by neurodivergent teens are a more potent predictor of suicidality than neurodevelopmental diagnosis itself. Future research may examine this relationship further in a population-based sample, including both neurotypical and neurodivergent teens with and without social difficulties.

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