

Types of Functional Impairment as Correlates of Social Connectedness

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MEDICINE *of* THE HIGHEST ORDER

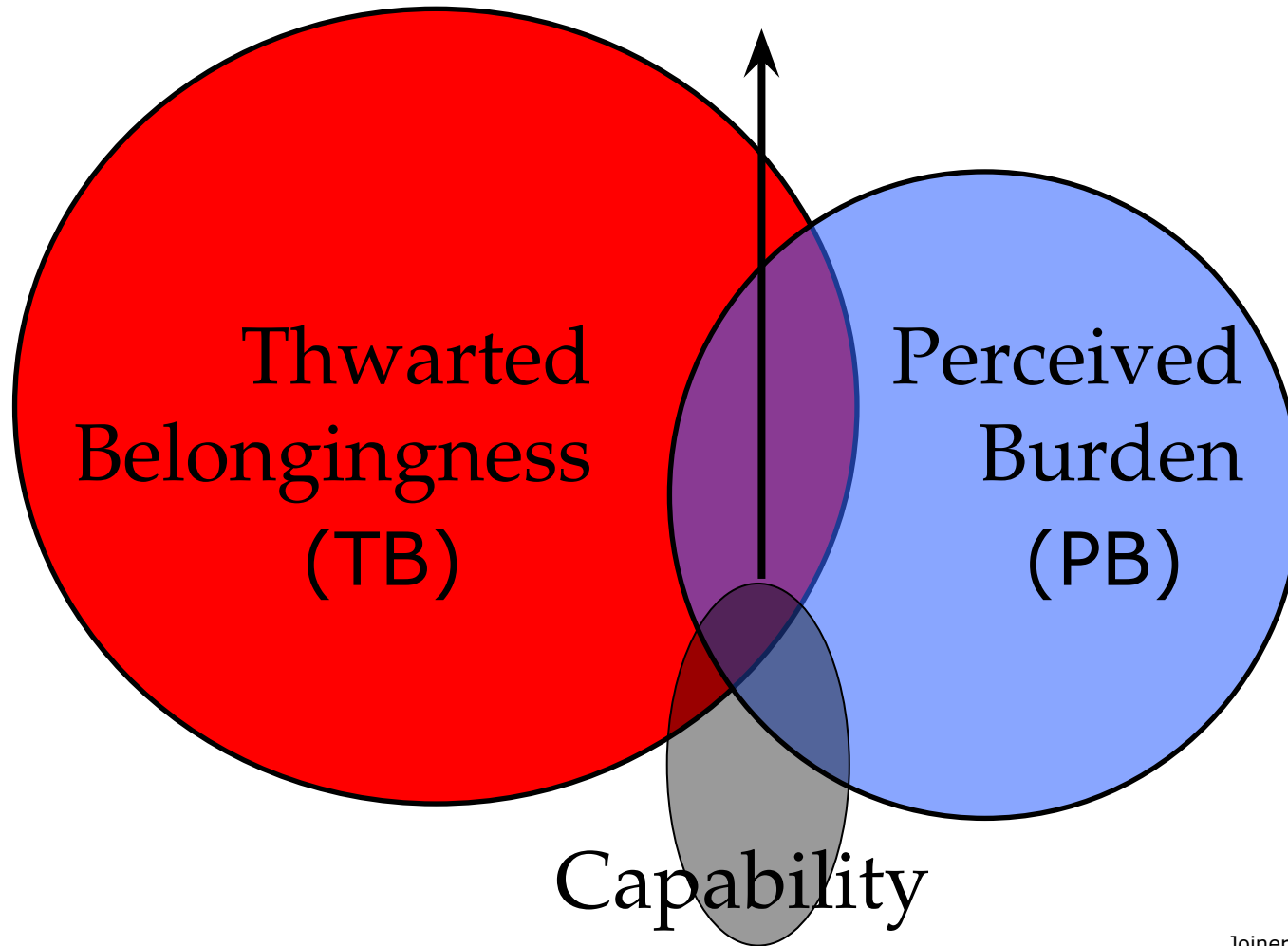


Significance

- Older adults are the most rapidly growing segment of the population.
- Older adults have higher rates of suicide and disability than other segments of the population.
- The link between functional impairment and social connectedness is currently understudied in this high risk sample.

INTERPERSONAL THEORY OF SUICIDE

Suicide



Joiner (2005); Van Orden et al. (2010)

Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire

- 17-item Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire (INQ-R; Van Orden et al., 2011) scored using a 3-point Likert scale, from 0 (*not at all true for me*) to 2 (*very true for me*)
- “I think I am a burden on society”
- “I feel like I belong”
- “I think the people in my life wish they could be rid of me”

WHO Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS 2.0)

- *Self-care* - activities of daily living (ADLs)
- *Life activities* - instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)
- *Getting along with others* - ability to interact with other people
- *Participation* - taking part in community activities and being involved in society.
- *Mobility* - moving around and getting places
- *Cognition* - ability to understand and communicate

WHO (2010)

In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in:

Understanding and communicating

D1.1	<u>Concentrating</u> on doing something for <u>ten minutes</u> ?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.2	<u>Remembering</u> to do <u>important things</u> ?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.3	<u>Analysing and finding solutions to problems</u> in day-to-day life?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.4	<u>Learning a new task</u> , for example, learning how to get to a new place?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.5	<u>Generally understanding</u> what people say?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.6	<u>Starting and maintaining a conversation</u> ?	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do

WHO (2010)

ENGAGE Baseline Demographics

N = 65 (67.68% female)

Mean age = 72.05, SD = 9.18

Living alone = 70%

Education: 70% at least some college

Race: 6% non white

Marital status: 23% married, 31% divorced, 31% widowed

Hypotheses

- ↑ perceived burden associated w/ ↑ impairments for mobility, cognition, self care, and life activities
- ↑ thwarted belonging associated w/ ↑ impairments for getting along with others and participation in society

Self-care (ADLs)

- ↑ self-care impairments associated with ↑ perceived burdensomeness ($\beta = .34$, $p < .02$), but not thwarted belongingness ($\beta = -.14$, $p = .37$).
- Self-care impairments require hands on assistance - may have feelings of being a burden due to requiring daily hands on care

Life activities (IADLs)

- ↑ life activities impairments associated with ↓ thwarted belongingness ($\beta = -.33$, $p < .02$) and increased depression symptom severity ($\beta = .56$, $p = .000$), but not with perceived burdensomeness ($\beta = .23$, $p = .073$).
 - A follow up test at different levels of depression showed that this relationship only existed at mild levels of depression

Getting along with others

- ↑ getting along with others impairments associated with ↑ thwarted belongingness ($\beta = .30$, $p < .04$), but not with perceived burdensomeness ($\beta = .15$, $p = .286$).
- Individuals with difficulties maintaining/forming friendships and interacting with people also feel an unmet desire to belong.

Additional Results

- ↑ depression symptom severity associated with ↑ impairments in models for domains of participation ($\beta = .40$, $p = .003$), mobility ($\beta = .33$, $p < .03$), and cognition ($\beta = .27$, $p < .07$).
 - No significant associations found with thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness in the models for these domains.
- Past research shows that depression is linked to both cognition impairments and social participation.

Discussion

- Unique relationships between types of impairments and the constructs of social connectedness.
- Knowledge of which areas of impairment are correlated with TB and PB reveal types of impairments to target intervention programs.
- Research needed to address IADL impairment and belonging at levels of depression severity.

Thank you

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