Loneliness is a common feeling experienced by one in five people throughout their lifetime. However, little is known about when loneliness becomes pathological and leads to depression or suicide.

In a sample of 6,531 adolescents, research showed that those who reported being lonely were 3.25 times as likely to have ideations of suicide. This research also showed that adolescents who reported being lonely were 3.63 times more likely to report a suicide attempt than those who did not report a suicide attempt (Pengpid & Peltzer, 2020).

Similar studies found that loneliness at age fifteen was associated with a 1.94 greater odds of suicide ideation and a 1.86 greater odds of suicide attempt compared to teenagers who were not lonely at age 15 (Schinka et al., 2012).

In a sample of 33,004 middle-school age children, adjusted analysis showed that children who reported a suicide attempt were 1.86 times more likely to report feeling lonely than those who did not report a suicide attempt. This analysis also showed that children who reported a suicide attempt were 2.5 times more likely to report having no close friends than those who did not report a suicide attempt (Pengpid & Peltzer, 2020).

Mean loneliness scores of adolescents who had a suicide attempt in the last year were significantly higher, among males and females, than those who did not have a past suicide attempt. In a sampled youth, the mean loneliness score for those with attempts was 45.05, compared to 39.94 in non-attempters (Page et al., 2006).

I expect to observe higher mean scores of loneliness among orphaned Guyanese youth who report recent suicide ideation and lifetime suicide attempt.

**Methods and Materials**

**Independent Variable**

Loneliness was measured using 6 questions: 4 questions from the Child Depression Inventory (CDI) and 2 questions from the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC).

- CDI items (N = 31):
  - I feel lonely, like I don’t have friends (CDI 20), which may indicate that the sampled youth consider those around them to be friends, but lately they have not been friendly with them.
  - CES-DC Q14: I felt lonely, like I didn’t have any friends, and CES-DC Q15: I felt like kids I knew were not friendly to them or that they didn’t want to be with me (CESD 15, M=1.28).
  - None of the youth reported having a large number of friends, which may represent the youth’s life in an orphanage surrounded by other youth who could give a sense of friendship.
  - 83.9% of the sample responded, “I am sure that somebody loves me” and 0% responded “Nobody really loves me” (CDI 25).

**Dependent Variable**

DSM-5 Self-Rated Level 1 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measure (DSM-5) item (N = 82): Recent suicide ideation was measured by asking, “In the last two weeks, have you thought about killing yourself or committing suicide?” Lifetime suicide attempt was measured by asking, “Have you EVER tried to kill yourself?”

**Analyses**

Mean score reports will represent average youth sample response to determine the average feelings of loneliness and social relationships among Guyanese orphans.

I will compare the frequencies of the lowest and highest rated responses to observe the number of youth who have exhibited feelings of loneliness versus those that have not. Comparing the frequencies of these responses will allow us to get a sense of the loneliness present among the sample. These frequencies will allow us to see which members of the sample are most lonely and use this to understand its effect on suicidal behavior.