

INTRODUCTION

- Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a mental disorder that is over-represented within the criminal justice system, with 15%-29.5% of those incarcerated meeting diagnostic criteria (Mir et al., 2015).
- This disorder is characterized by patterns of instability in interpersonal relationships, mood, and self-image, and often involves severe parasuicidal or suicidal behavior (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).
- Suicidal behavior presents a management concern within jails/prisons (Marzano et al., 2016), highlighting the importance of understanding mechanisms that increase suicide risk for incarcerated people with BPD.
- Prior research has identified interpersonal factors, such as lack of perceived social support (Mendez et al., 2022) and loneliness (Hajfiroozabadi et al., 2022), as contributors to suicidal behavior among non-incarcerated people with BPD, but this has yet to be examined among incarcerated populations.
- The current study examines whether the presence of a BPD diagnosis was related to increased suicide risk through perceived social support and loneliness among incarcerated adults.

METHODS

- Participants
 - Participants (n=184) were adults incarcerated in 5 minimum and medium security prisons in the northeast. Participants were recruited through flyers and announcements made throughout the prisons. Participants were asked to complete structured interviews for DSM-IV Disorders and self-report measures. Participants received up to \$30 for completing all of the assessments.
- Measures
 - Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis II Disorders (SCID-II; First & Gibbon, 2004) was utilized to examine the presence of a Borderline Personality Disorder Diagnosis. Each criteria was rated as yes/no and people with 5 items endorsed met criteria for BPD.
 - Beck Scale for Suicidal Ideation is a 21-item self-report questionnaire assessing suicidal ideation over the past week (Beck & Steer, 1991). Responses range from 0 to 2. A total score was created by summing all items; higher scores indicated more suicidal ideation.
 - Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support is a 12-item measure of perceived social support from significant others, family, and friends (Zimet et al., 1998, 1990). Answers were scored on a Likert-scale ranging from 1 = very strongly disagree to 7 – very strongly agree. A total score was created by summing all items; higher scores indicated more perceived social support.

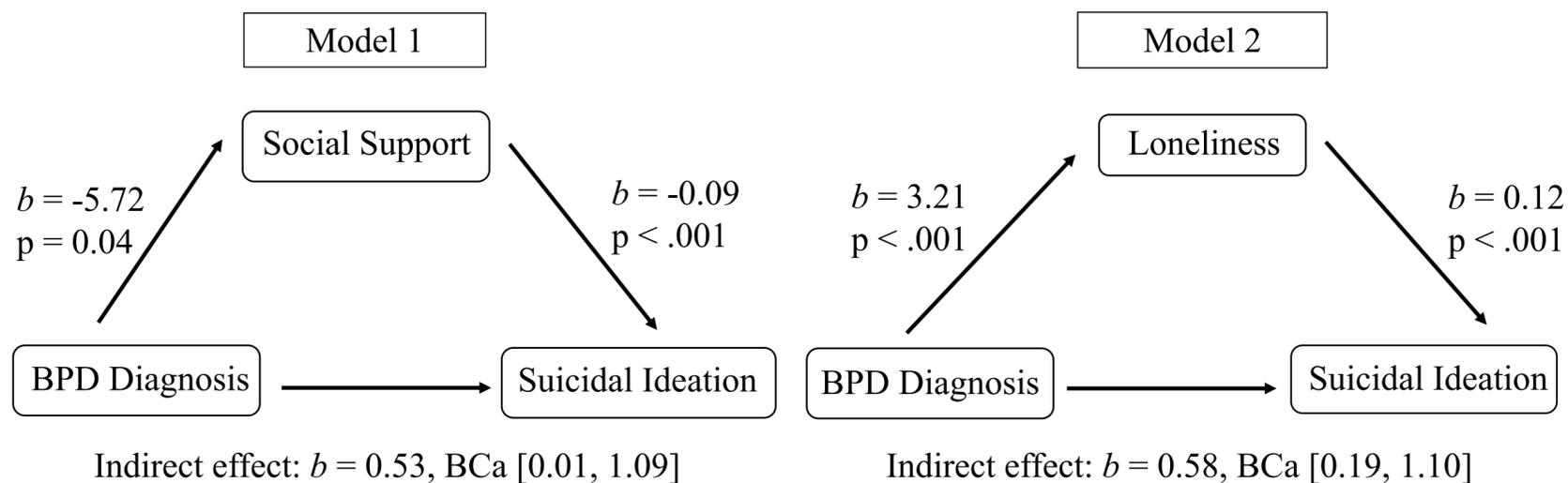
TABLES

Table 1. Correlations and Descriptive Statistics

	1. BPD Diagnosis	2. Perceived Social Support	3. Loneliness	4. Suicidal Ideation
2	-0.148*	1		
3	0.267***	-0.470***	1	
4	0.188*	-.401***	0.284***	1
N (%)	69 (37.7%)	-	-	-
M	-	52.98	29.60	2.71
SD	-	18.69	6.05	4.28
Min	0	12	15	0
Max	1	84	40	21

Note. *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Figure 1. Meditation Models



METHODS CONT.

- UCLA Loneliness Scale is a 10-item self-report measure examining loneliness (Russell, 1996). Responses are rated on a 4-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = Often to 4 = Never. A total score was created by summing all items; higher scores indicated more feelings of loneliness.

DATA ANALYSIS PLAN

- Analyses were conducted using SPSS version 27.
- Correlations examined relationships between perceived social support, loneliness, suicidal ideation and BPD.
- Two separate mediation models were conducted. The first model examined the mediating effect of perceived social support in the relationship between BPD and suicidal ideation. Relatedly, the second model examined the mediating effect of loneliness in the relationship between BPD and suicidal ideation.

REFERENCES

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5fuvgc8e2x65vsm/BPD-Social%20Support%20References.docx?dl=0>

RESULTS

- Results showed that 64 incarcerated adults met criteria for BPD.
- Correlations showed a significant negative relationship between BPD and perceived social support ($r = -.148$, $p = .046$), and significant positive relationships between BPD and loneliness ($r = .267$, $p < .001$), suicidal ideation ($r = .188$, $p = .012$).
- Mediation models evaluating the indirect effect of BPD diagnosis on suicide risk through perceived social support, $b = 0.527$, 95% BCa CI [0.013, 1.089] and loneliness $b = 0.576$, 95% BCa CI [0.185, 1.101] showed evidence of significant indirect effects. All indirect effects were based on bootstrapped samples.

DISCUSSION

- This study indicates that individuals with BPD who are incarcerated could benefit from interventions that address interpersonal relationships and loneliness.
- These interventions may help to reduce suicidal or parasuicidal behaviors among individuals with BPD who are incarcerated.
- Future research should examine other mechanisms to the relationship between BPD and suicide among individuals who are incarcerated.