

MHRN NEWS

Treatment Utilization Before Suicide (TUBS)

Brian Ahmedani, PhD, lead investigator

A new study funded by NIMH will use electronic medical record data from 8 MHRN sites to optimize **suicide risk identification** in primary care and general medical settings. The new study is led by Dr. Brian Ahmedani at Henry Ford.

Over 80% of individuals make a health care visit in the year before suicide, yet over 50% of individuals do not have a mental health diagnosis. Since most suicidal patients do not have mental health conditions, finding other clinical factors that are associated with suicide risk is imperative. A newly study funded by NIMH will use electronic medical record data from eight MHRN sites will be used to optimize suicide risk identification in primary care and general medical settings. Electronic medical records already have extensive healthcare data for patients, can be tapped to detect risk factors, and can be used to implement automated algorithms to detect risk and trigger intervention. Suicide prevention directed only towards individuals with a mental health diagnosis, on whom most interventions are currently focused, can necessarily reach less than half of all healthcare patients before their death.

This project will be a comprehensive multisite investigation to fill this major gap. The sample will be drawn from over 5 million individuals who annually receive services from one of eight geographically diverse MHRN sites across the US. The results from this study can inform important suicide prevention efforts in healthcare and future research. For more information, contact Brian Ahmedani at BAHMEDA1@hfhs.org.