

# Suicide Stigma in Jewish Communities in the United States

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## WHY IS THIS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

- Only a few studies focus on suicide stigma specific to ethnic groups with unique suicide-related needs that have prohibitions on suicide.
- Stigma towards suicide, particularly in specific ethnic groups, can affect one's attitude in seeking professional mental health, ultimately affecting the overall well-being and individual functioning.

## HOW WAS THIS RESEARCH CONDUCTED?

- A total of 242 Jewish community members completed an experimental vignette survey in a large urban center in the Southwestern United States.
- This research examined the relationship between public stigma and the gender of a person exhibiting suicidal ideation, the interaction effect between gender and age, and the effect of participant sociodemographics on stigma.
- The research also examined many demographic variables, including gender, age, marital status, number of children, education, urban vs. suburban locale, employment status, financial status, physical & mental health wellness, religious denomination, frequency of religious service attendance, and lifetime travel to Israel.
- Public and perceived stigma, as well as help-seeking attitudes toward mental health were examined.
- An analysis examined the link between certain demographic features, public/perceived stigma, and help-seeking attitudes.

## WHAT WERE THE KEY FINDINGS?

- Findings indicate that demographic characteristics affected dimensions of suicide stigma, including perceived hygiene, relationship disruption, and anxiety.
- Additionally, findings also indicate that participants experiences of discrimination and their attitudes toward seeking professional mental health care impacted stigma levels.
- Differences in how suicide is perceived across the life cycle by males showed adolescents receiving less suicide stigma than adults and 25-year-olds receiving the highest levels of suicide stigma.
- The Jewish community viewed females experiencing suicidality with lower levels of stigma and they had more positive attitudes toward female help-seeking behaviors.

## ACTION STEPS

Additional research is recommended to further examine what is normative for the impact of gender on suicide stigma across the stages of life. Perceptions and expectations of gender roles may be driving differences in stigma relative to gender and age.



## CONTINUE READING

### Full Article

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2022-80570-001>

### About Limor Smith

[https://www.uh.edu/socialwork/New\\_research/mh-ritesresearchcenter/people/researchaffiliates/](https://www.uh.edu/socialwork/New_research/mh-ritesresearchcenter/people/researchaffiliates/)

### About Dr. Robin E. Gearing

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