



Immigration Status and Suicide among Youths: A Systematic Review



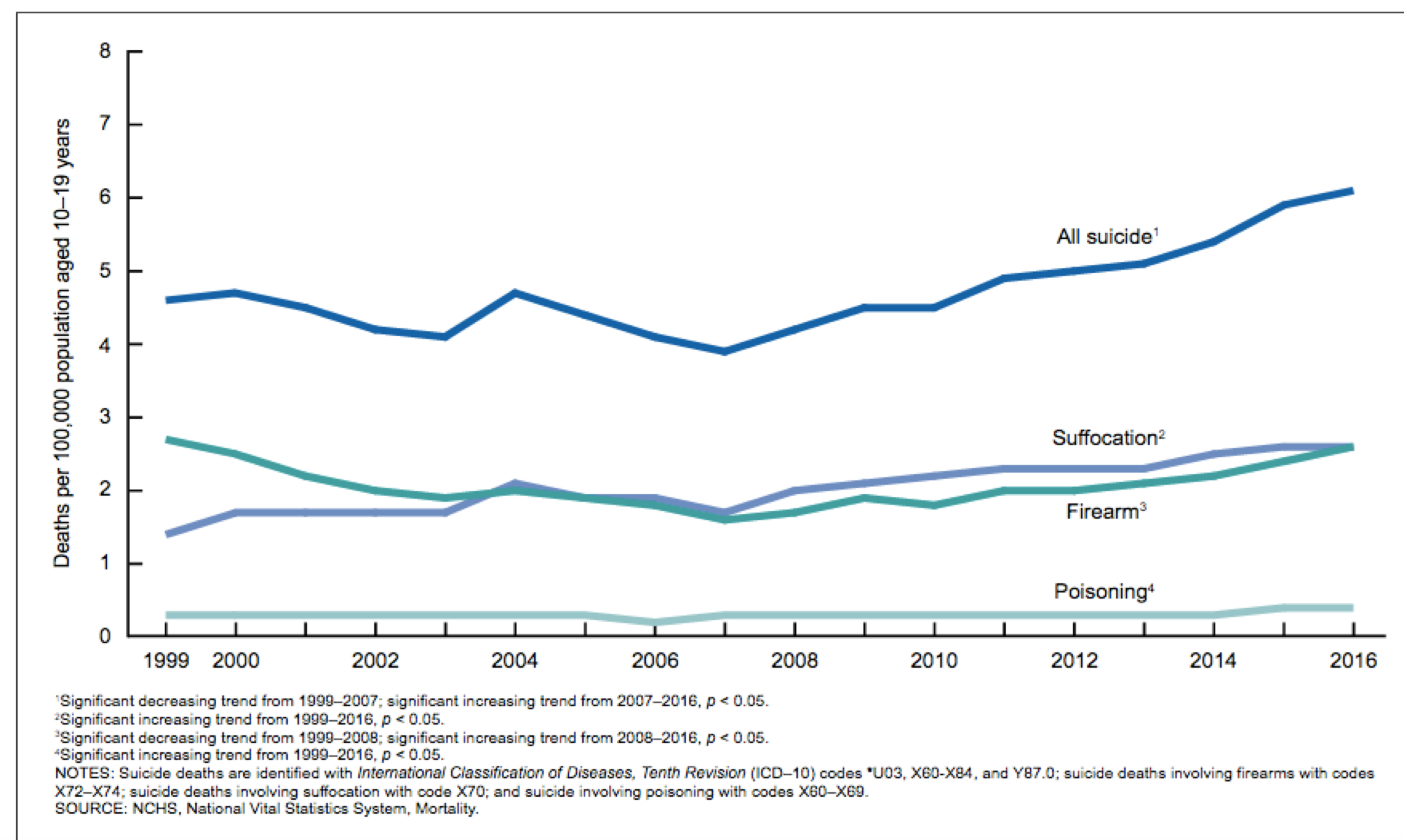
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Background

- **Suicide** is the **10th leading cause of death** in the U.S.
- With recent immigration actions and policies of detaining children in cages and separating them from their families, certain children might be at greater risk for suicidality.



Objectives

To identify and summarize literature reports on family immigration or child/adolescent citizenship status in relation to suicidality.

Methods

Study Design: Systematic review using Covidence Software

Search Databases: PubMed, PsychInfo, Google Scholar

Search Terms: Childhood/adolescent immigration status; undocumented status; suicide; suicidality; suicide ideation, suicide attempt, self-inflicted harm

Study Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:

Published in a peer-reviewed journal

Published in the English language, between 1990-2020

Observational studies including cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional

Study Selections: First we screened articles based on title and abstract; then we screened the full text of the identified articles based on eligibility criteria

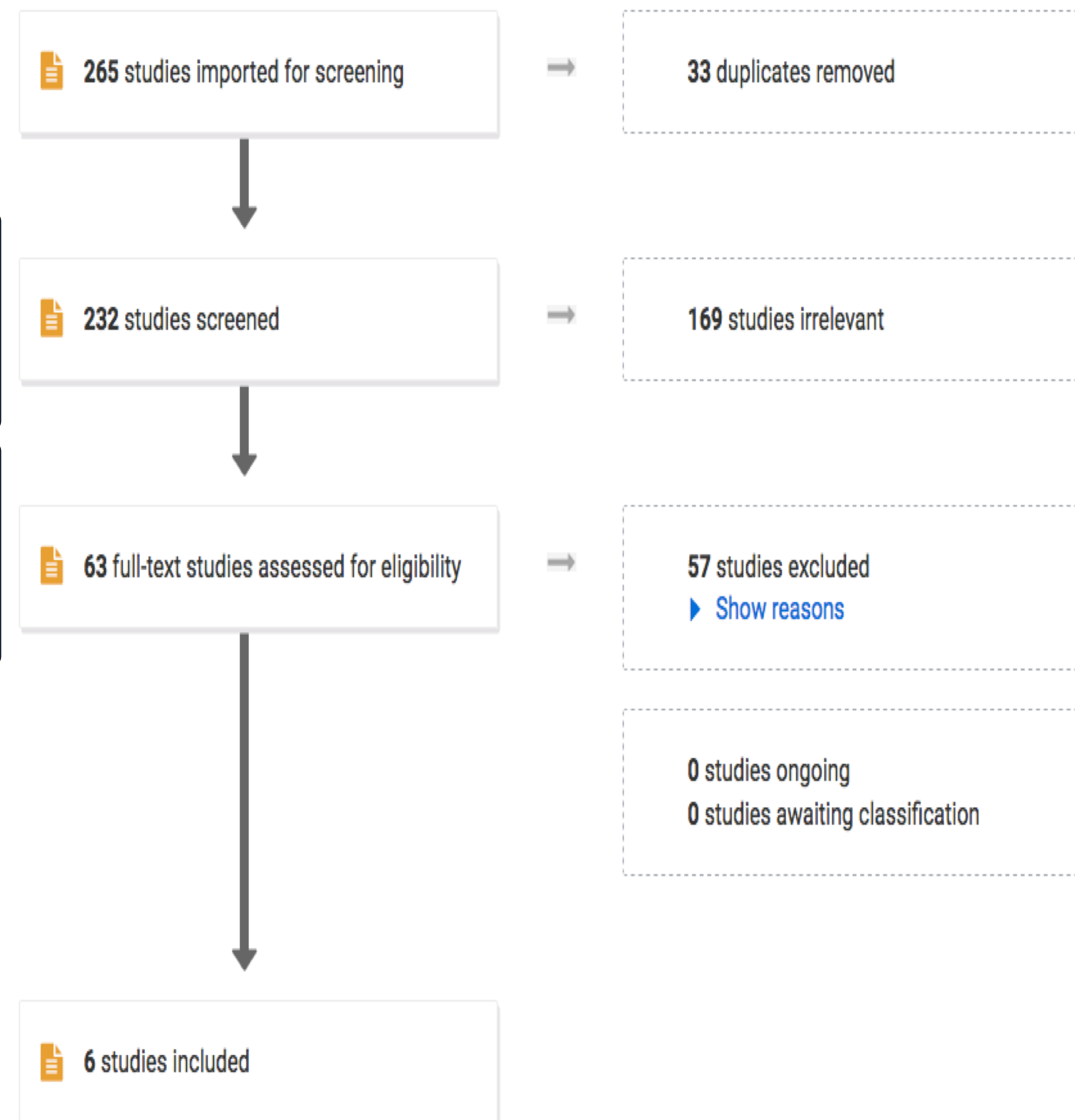
PRISMA Flowchart

Identification

Screening

Eligibility

Included



Results (Continued)

Borges et al., 2012

The prevalence of **suicide was higher among Hispanic adolescents who immigrated** to the US before the age of 12 compared to their white counter parts.

13.5%, SE 1.99 VS. 7.79%, SE 3.18

Martin-Gutierrez et al., 2017

Latinas compared to white females **had higher suicidal ideation**

OR 2.20 CI (1.07-4.51), $p < 0.05$

Roche et al., 2020

Suicidal ideation was higher in immigrant children compared to first generation children.

OR = 1.26; 95% CI 1.01- 1.51, $p < 0.05$

Conclusions

- Latinx adolescents who experience immigration are at higher risk for suicidal ideation.
- Latinx adolescents with parents who are not U.S. citizens are at higher risk for suicidal ideation.

Limitations

- Many articles reviewed here contained studies that were done in countries other than the U.S.
- Most of the studies focused on Latino adolescent immigrants and did not include other ethnic minority adolescents.
- Our search was limited to PubMed, PsychInfo, and Google Scholar, potentially limiting the total number of articles we identified.

Results

Hovey et al., 1996

There was a **significant association between suicide ideation and acculturative stress** in adolescent immigrants.

Pearson correlation was 0.38 $p < 0.001$

Cowell et al., 2005

38.0% of the 1st generation Mexican-American adolescents indicated suicidal ideation.

Borges et al., 2009

Suicidal ideation was higher in Mexican-born immigrants who arrived in the US at 12 years or younger.

OR = 1.84; 95% CI = 1.09, 3.09, $p < 0.05$