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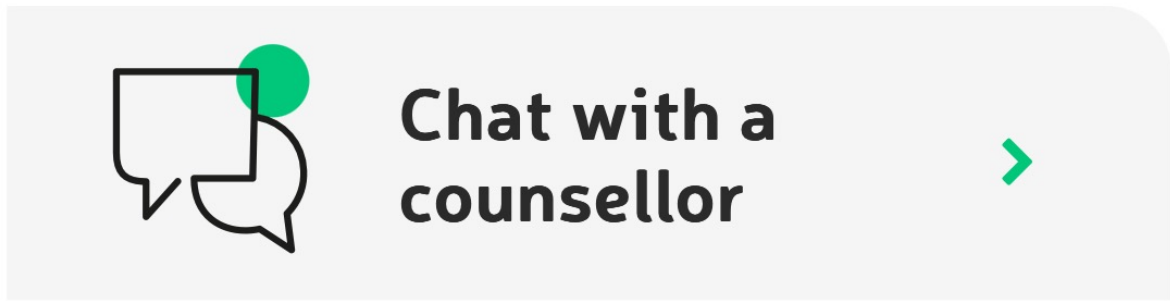
INTRODUCTION.

Research problem

Since 2020 Quebec adopted a digital suicide prevention program named :



In order to prioritize chat users depending on their level of emergency, the SIDAS-FR is routinely used in the screening process.



Our study aims to assess the extent to which SIDAS-FR meets the triage needs of a crisis chat intervention service.

OBJECTIVES.

- 1 To evaluate the psychometric properties of the SIDAS-FR in an ecological context
- 2 To assess SIDAS-FR predictive validity as a triage risk screening tool for a suicide prevention chat service



Download SIDAS-FR



METHODS.

Procedure

During the triage, a pre-intervention questionnaire was systematically proposed to users. The questionnaire included the SIDAS-FR, questions on age, gender, and imminent suicide risk.

During the intervention, the counsellor assessed the user's suicidal risk (low/moderate vs high risk).

Participants

We collected triage data from N = 1278 users who completed the SIDAS-FR and participated in a crisis chat ($\bar{x}$ duration = 98 min) by a trained suicide risk prevention worker.



Instruments

The **SIDAS** (van Spijker et al., 2014) is a web-based scale designed to assess the severity of suicidal ideation. This self-report questionnaire (10 pts Likert) investigates 5 attributes of suicidal ideations over the last month:

1. Frequency
2. Controllability
3. Closeness to attempt
4. Distress
5. Interference with daily activities

RESULTS.

1 A confirmatory factor analysis (MLE) replicated the unifactorial structure of the SIDAS-FR. All items showed satisfactory factor loadings, except for item 2. The internal consistency of the instrument was good (see table 1).

Table 1
SIDAS-FR CFA, loadings and reliability (N = 1278)

	SIDAS-FR 5 items	SIDAS-FR No item 2
1 - Frequency	.88	.88
2 - Control	-.18	
3 - Closeness	.66	.66
4 - Distress	.92	.93
5 - Interference	.79	.79
CFI	.953	.983
TLI	.906	.950
RMSEA	.155	.143
SRMR	.046	.022
Cronbach α	.70 [.67, .72]	.88 [.87, .89]
McDonald ω	.80 [.77, .81]	.87 [.86, .89]

Note. Both χ^2 were significant < .001 but considered not reliable due to big sample size

2 Cutoff score of ≥ 32 seemed optimal to discriminate between individuals estimated to be at low/moderate vs high imminent suicide risk.

The ROC curve analysis showed a low sensitivity (68%) and low specificity (60%) of the SIDAS-FR (AUC = 0,67; 95% IC = 0.64–0.70, $p < .001$)

A binary logistic regression ($\chi^2(2) = 200.93$; $p < .001$) showed that the triage's question : "Do you intend to make a suicide attempt in the coming minutes or hours?" ($B = 1.37$) better predicted the suicidal risk than the threshold at the SIDAS-FR ($B = 0.72$).

DISCUSSION.

Conclusions

➡ **Structure:** The analyses replicated the unifactorial structure of the SIDAS. As expected, its psychometric properties are weaker in an ecological setting.

➡ **Loadings:** The low loading of item 2 was also found in other validation studies and stems probably from its reverse-scored nature (Menold, 2020).

➡ **Cutoff:** The initial cutoff ≥ 20 proves to be not discriminating enough, a cutoff of ≥ 32 at the SIDAS-FR is better suited to support the triage.

➡ **Predictive value:** The SIDAS-FR appears to perform poorly in predicting suicidal emergency in an online triage setting.

Limits

- The SIDAS was filled pre-intervention, but the validity criterion used was estimated post-intervention.
- The counselors had access to the SIDAS results, so this may have influenced their suicidal risk assessments.
- The use of SIDAS-FR was not fully conformed since question 1 was not configured to filter out users with no ideation (skip the 4 next items).