

## **Hunter banks \$3M to study adolescent suicide risk**

Hunter College said on Tuesday that it has received a \$3 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to identify factors that increase the risk of suicide attempts in adolescents.

Researchers plan to recruit 200 12- to 17-year-olds with suicidal ideation from emergency departments and outpatient clinics. The public hospitals participating in recruitment are New York City Health + Hospitals/Bellevue and H+H/Metropolitan in Manhattan as well as H+H/Lincoln in the Bronx.

Those who agree to participate will be followed for a year. The study will take four years overall and factor in the brain and behavior, including clinical measures, the mobile assessment of thoughts and feelings, and sleep monitoring.

Researchers expect that a significant portion of participants will be Latina, a group often recognized as at greater risk of suicide attempts but underrepresented in studies.

"We hope that the current project is one step toward developing a more comprehensive cognitive model of adolescent suicide risk," said Regina Miranda, professor of psychology and one of the study's two investigators.

The funding represents the National Institute of Mental Health's prioritizing of research into suicide risk, she said. The findings are expected to improve risk assessment and intervention.

"Looking at teens from this broad perspective allows us to take research on the risks for suicide to a new level, with the prospects of identifying risks earlier, preventing suicide attempts and strengthening teens' resilience and mental well-being," added Tracy Dennis-Tiway, professor of psychology and the other study investigator, in a statement. "While this is not an intervention study, we hope our findings will help shape future interventional techniques."