



Université  
de Toulouse



# Acculturation and Suicidal Ideation in Immigrant youth in France

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# Plan

**Background**



**Study 1**  
Quantitative



**Study 2**  
Qualitative

**Conclusion**

# Suicide: National statistics

Instituts  
thématiques



**Inserm**

Institut national  
de la santé et de la recherche médicale

## Among the 15-24 years old

- 2<sup>nd</sup> cause of death in France  
⇒ 16% of the mortality
- 522 suicides in 2009  
♂ 401 ♀ 121

**CépiDc**

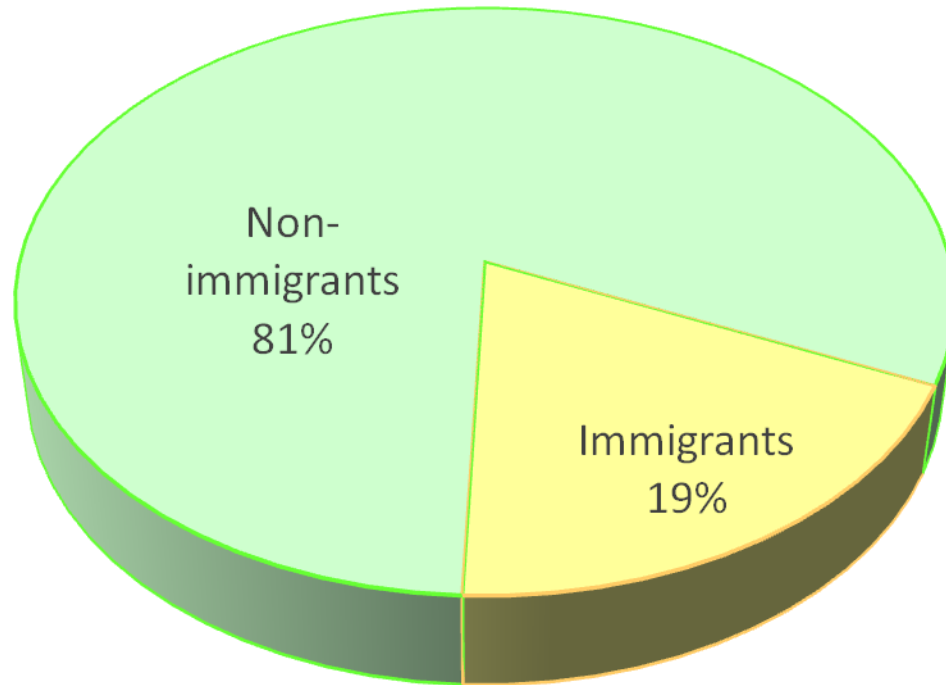
Centre d'épidémiologie  
sur les causes médicales de décès

## Among the 15-19 years old\*

- 35% ♀ 23% ♂ reported suicidal ideation
- 13% ♀ 8% ♂ reported thinking frequently about suicide  
⇒ 41% of them attempted suicide

Source : enquête nationale auprès de 12 000 adolescents scolarisés. Inserm. U 169 (Choquet & Ledoux. 1993)

# Immigration in France

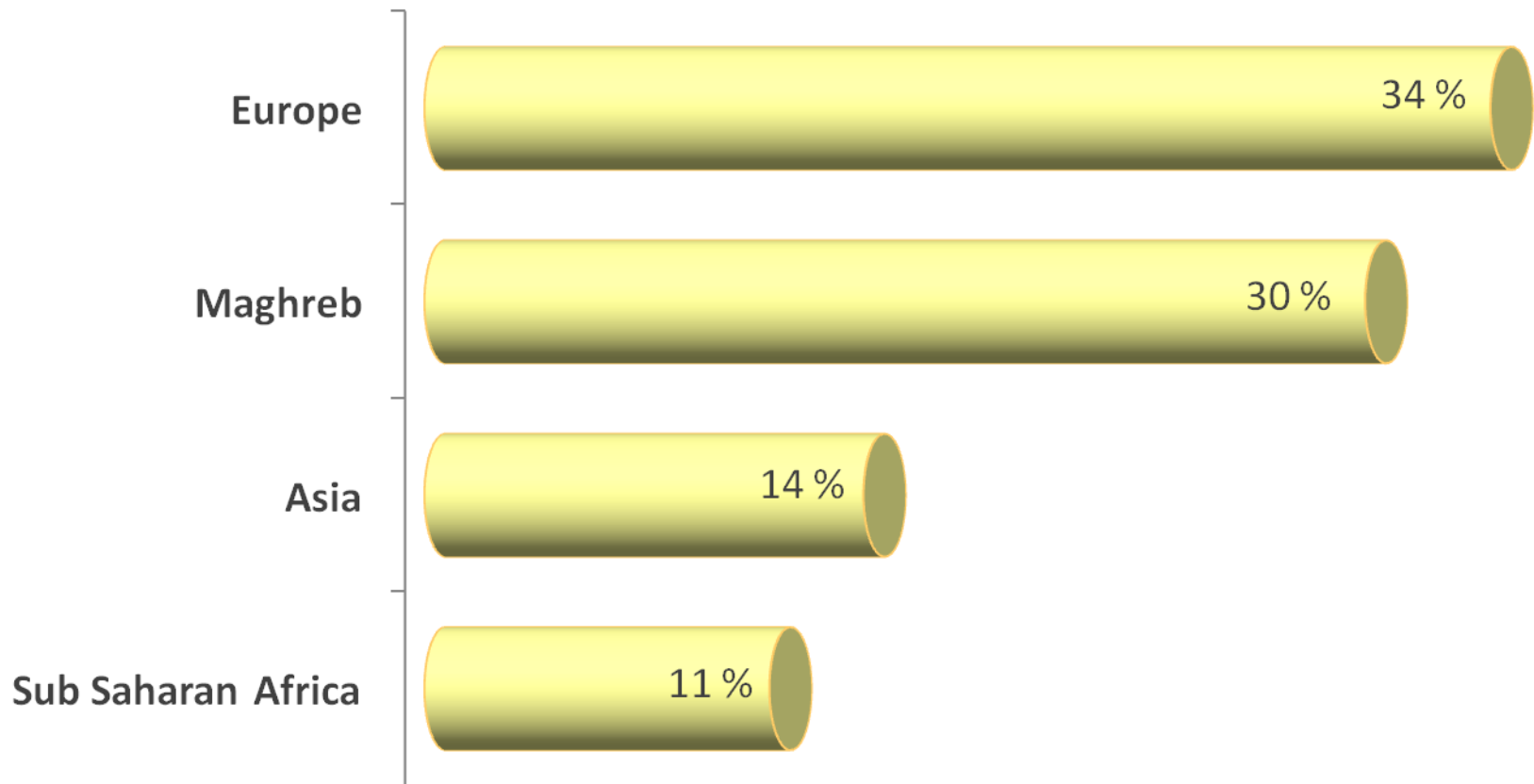


➤ **11.5 millions of people are immigrants or have at least one immigrant parent in France**

⇒ **1 to 5 habitants is an immigrant or an immigrant descendant.**



# Origin of Immigration in France



Background

Study 1

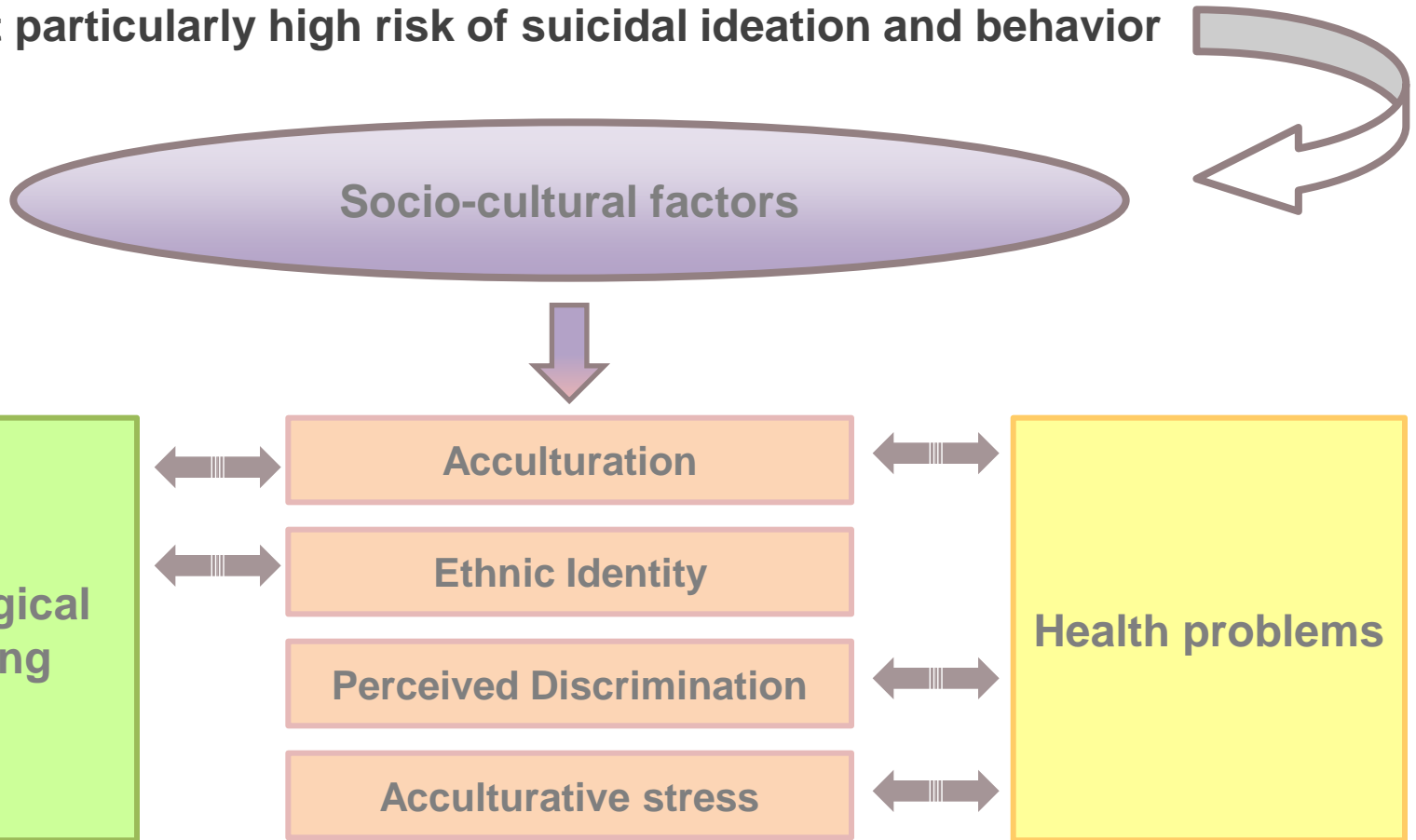
Study 2

Conclusion



# Findings

In many countries and within Europe, immigrant population seems to be at particularly high risk of suicidal ideation and behavior



Background

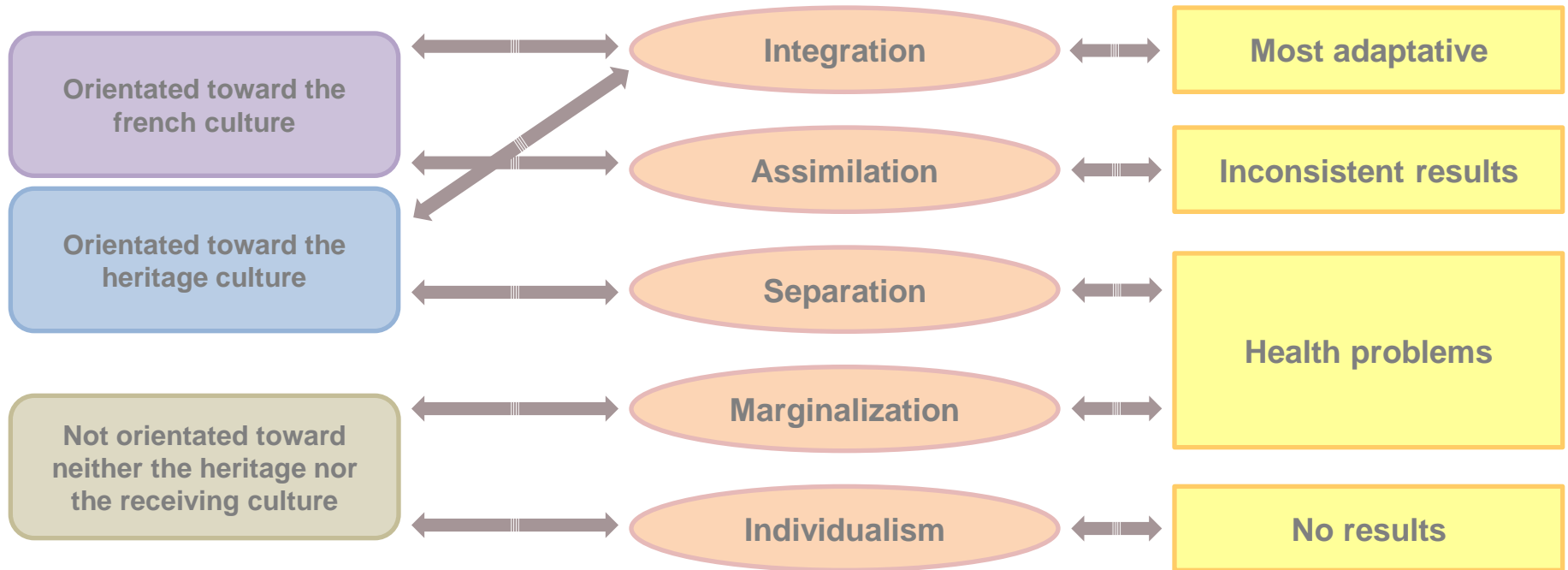
Study 1

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# Main Findings - Acculturation Orientations



Acculturation refers to the process of changes in beliefs, attitudes, values, and behaviors resulting from intercultural contact – generally as a result of international migration (Berry. 1980).

Background

Study 1

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# Findings

Rates of suicidal behaviors across minorities group of immigrant and descendants have not been reported yet in France.

To our knowledge, no explorations of the relationship between acculturative profiles and suicidal behaviors have been conducted.

These findings within Europe emphasize the importance to study suicidal behavior among immigrant population in France.

Which are the relations between the socio-cultural variables, suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms?

2  
Questions

Which are the cognitive and behavioral aspects which underlined suicidal behavior among adolescents with an immigrant background ?

Quantitative study

Qualitative study

Background

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion





**Cultural Profiles in a Non-Clinical  
Sample of Adolescents with an  
Immigrant Background and their  
Association with Suicidal Behavior**

**Study 1**

**QUANTITATIVE STUDY**



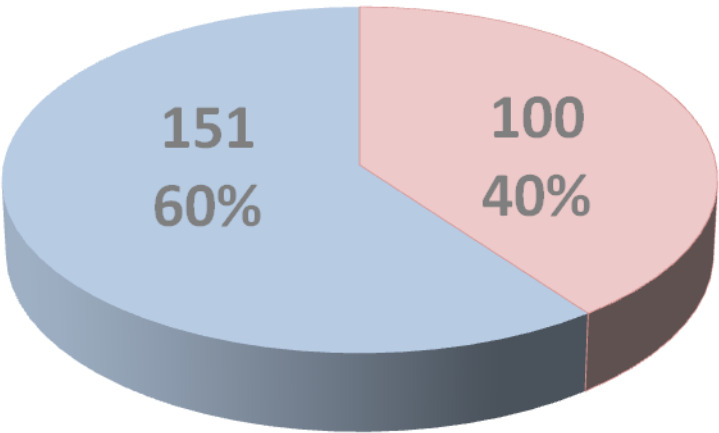
# Objective of the Study: 4 aims

- 1 Exploring the significant predictors of suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms in the whole sample
- 2 Identifying acculturative profiles within our sample
- 3 Appraising the profiles in terms of their relationship to suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms
- 4 Examining the severity of suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms among the different categories of acculturative profiles.



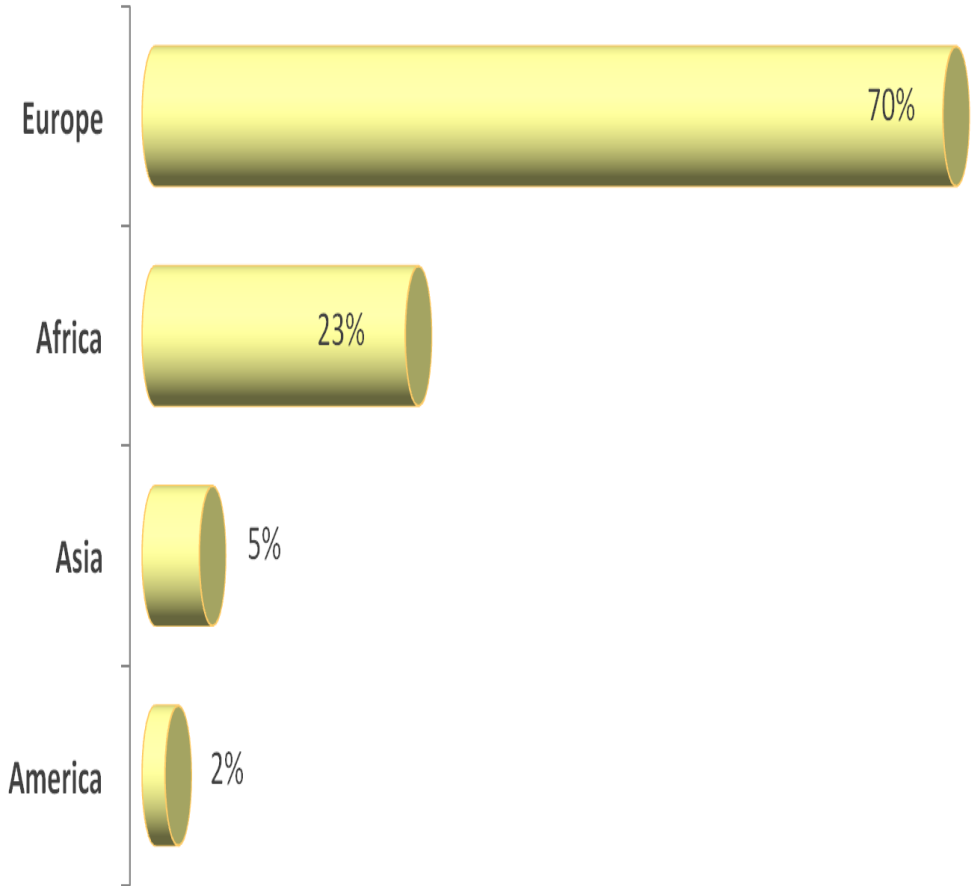
# Characteristics of the sample

**N=251**



 **Females**  
 **Males**

## Ethnic origin of the sample





# Method: Assessment

## Suicidal Ideation Scale

(SIS; Rudd, 1989)

10 Items

### Suicidal Ideation

8 Items

*I have been thinking of  
ways to kill myself*

### Suicidal Behavior

2 items

*I have made attempts  
to kill myself*

Context

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion



# Method: Assessment

## Depressive Symptoms

Center for Epidemiological  
Studies-Depression scale  
(CES-D; Radloff, 1977)

### 23 Items

depressed mood, feelings of  
worthlessness, feelings of  
hopelessness, feelings that others are  
hostile or rejecting, psychomotor  
retardation, loss of appetite, sleep  
disturbance, and suicidal ideation

*I felt life was not worth living*

*I felt sad*

*People were unfriendly*

*I felt that everything I did was an  
effort*

Context

Study 1

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Conclusion



# Method: Assessment

## Immigrant Acculturation Scale

(Berry, 1980, 1997;  
Bourhis, Moïse,  
Perreault, & S  n  cal,  
1997)

20 Items

### Integration

4 Items

*I wish to maintain my immigrant customs and also adopt key features of French customs*

### Separation

4 Items

*I wish to maintain my immigrant cultural heritage rather than adopt mainstream French culture*

### Assimilation

4 Items

*I prefer to use French rather than use my immigrant language and this both at home and outside my home*

### Marginalization

4 Items

*[...] I feel uncomfortable with both types of values*

### Individualism

4 Items

*[...] It is my personal needs and aspirations which count most to me*

Context

Study 1

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# Method: Assessment

## **Ethnic Identity – 12 Items**

Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure  
(MEIM; Phinney, 1992)

*I have spent time trying to find out  
more about my ethnic group.  
such as its history, traditions, and  
customs.*

## **Perceived Discrimination – 8 Items**

Perceived Racism Scale-Adolescent  
(PRS-A; McNeilly et al., 1196)

*I have been made to feel  
uncomfortable in a classroom  
because of my cultural origin.*

## **Acculturative Stress – 16 items**

The Social Attitudinal, Familial, and  
Environmental Acculturative Stress Scale  
(SAFE; Hovey & King, 1996)

*I prefer to use French rather than use  
my immigrant language and this both  
at home and outside my home.*

Context

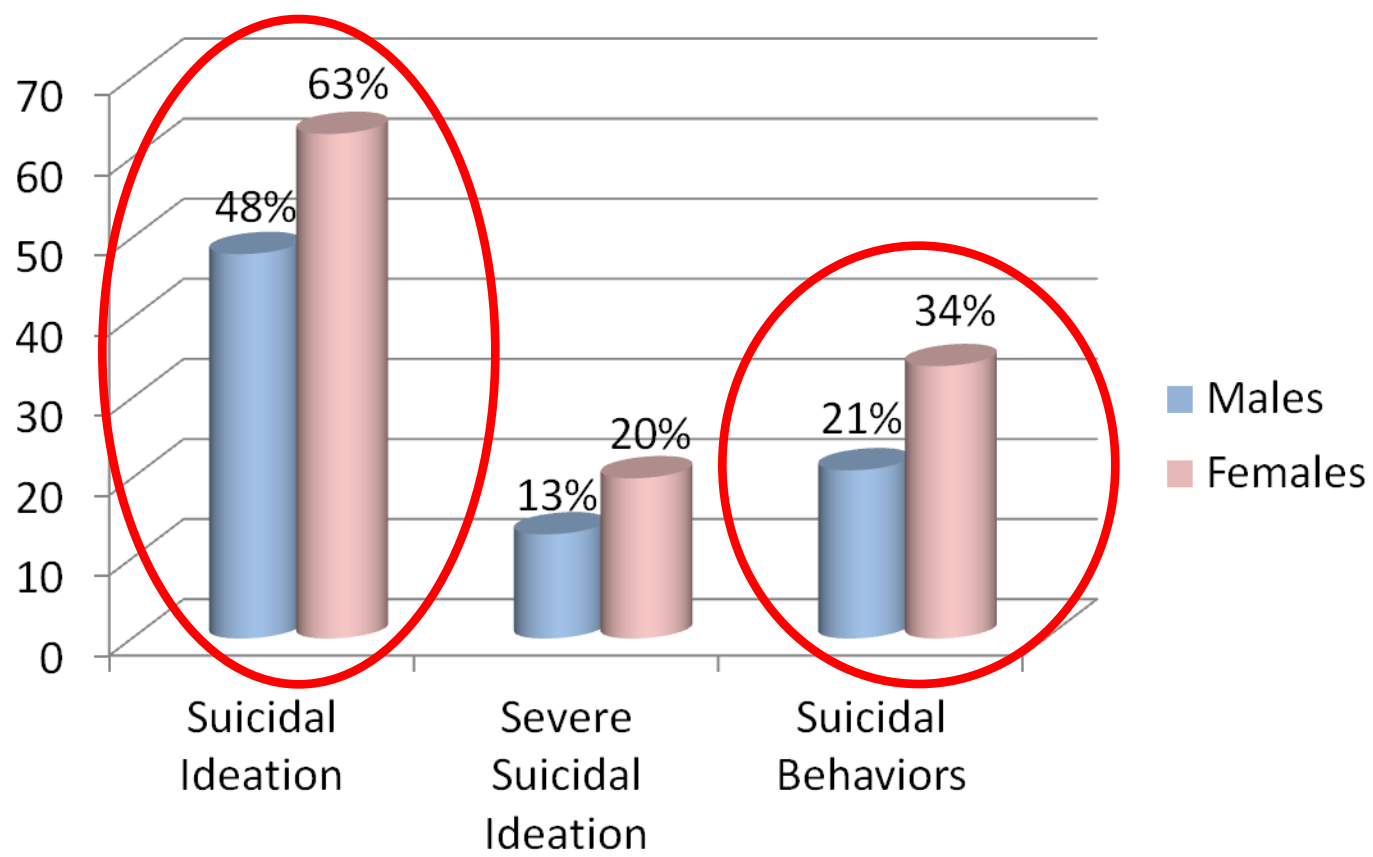
Study 1

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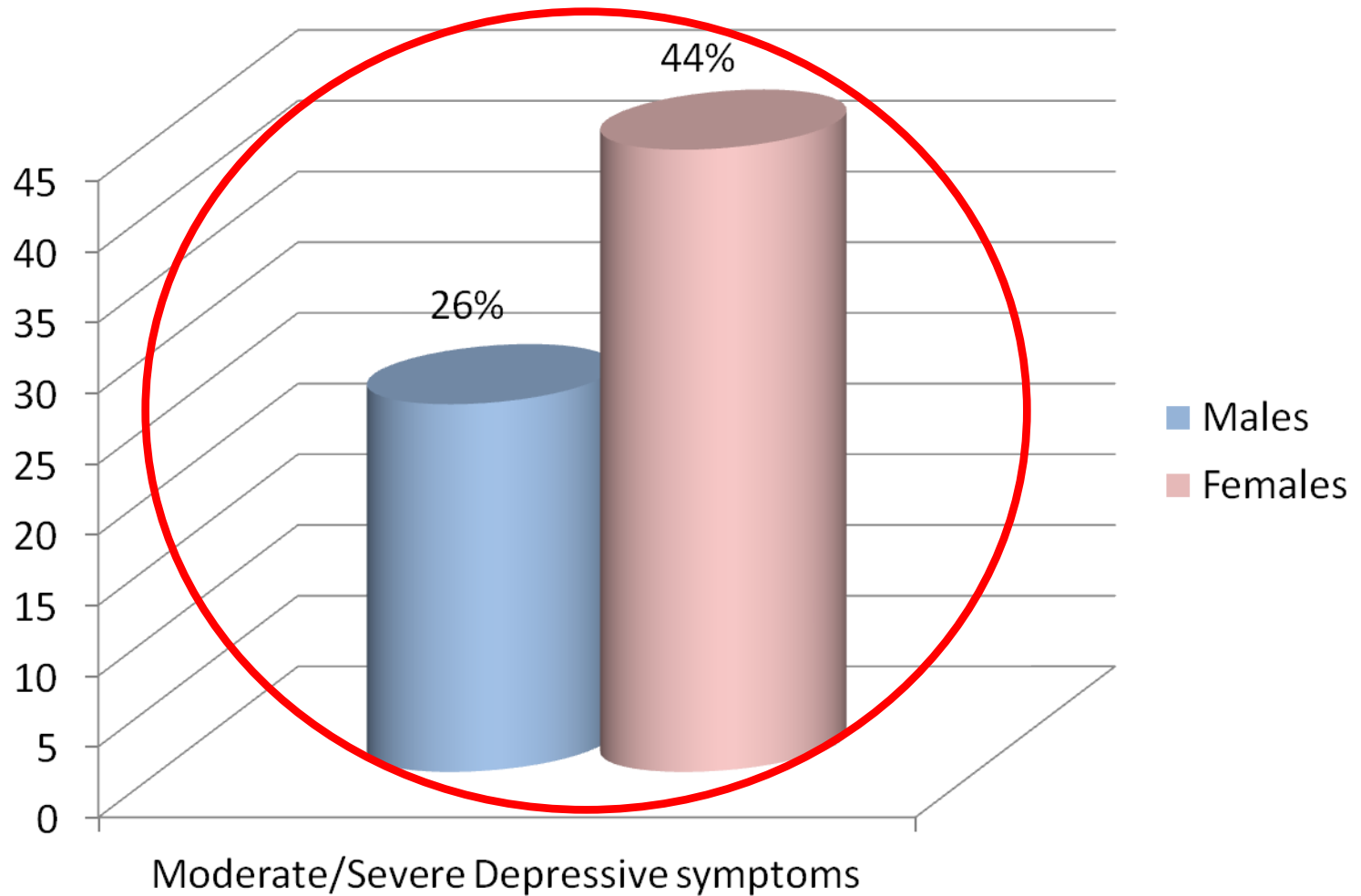
# Results: Rates of Suicidal Behaviors by Gender







# Results: Rates of Moderate/Severe Depressive symptoms



Context

Study 1

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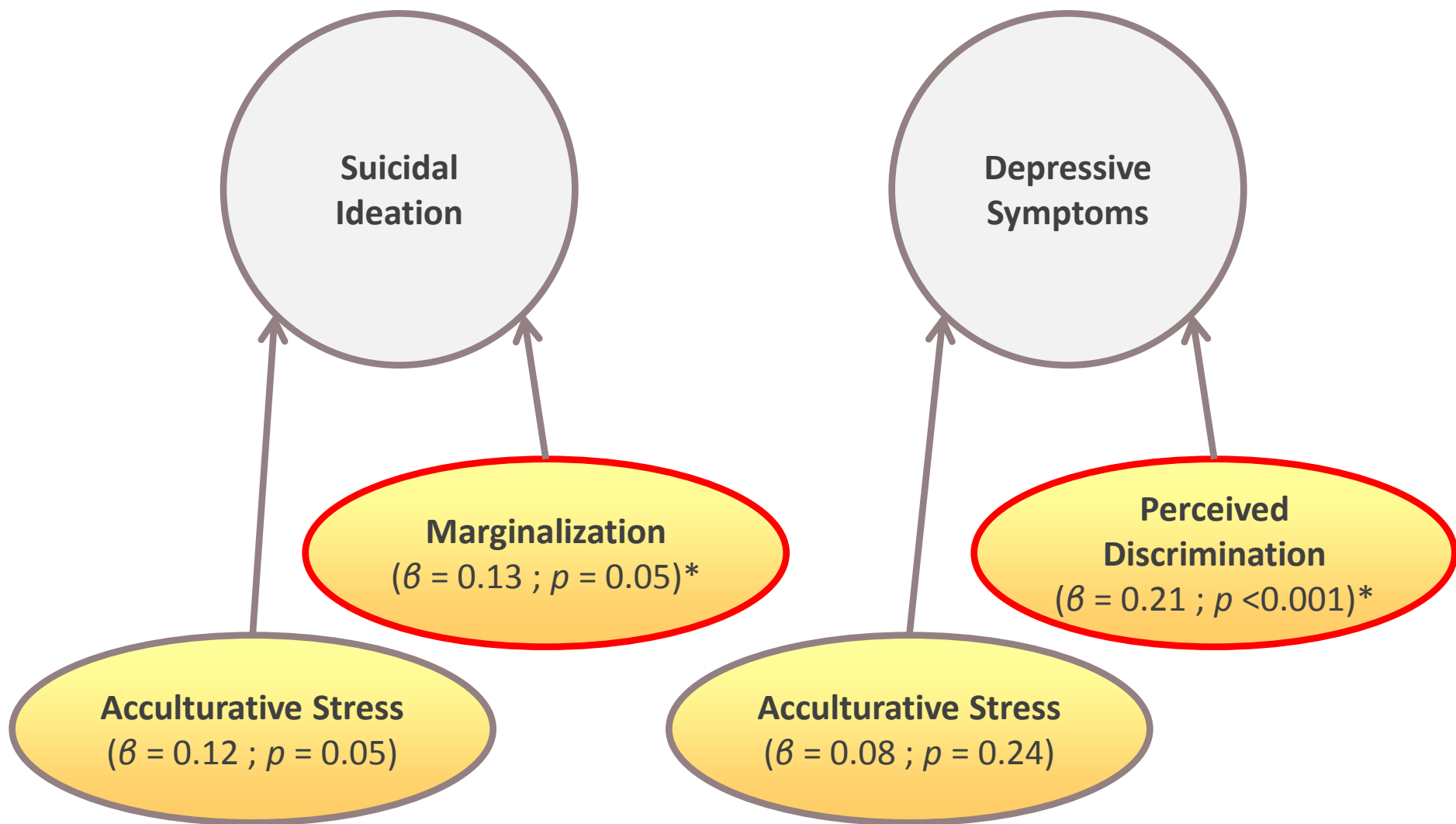
# Results: Correlations

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Suicidal Ideation	—									
2. Depressive symptoms	0.58***	—								
3. Separation	0.02	0.03	—							
4. Integration	-0.09	0.02	0.32***	—						
5. Assimilation	0.10	-0.01	-0.43***	-0.26***	—					
6. Marginalization	0.15*	0.10	0.07	-0.09	0.30***	—				
7. Individualism	0.07	-0.03	-0.28***	-0.20*	0.39***	0.15*	—			
8. Ethnic Identity	-0.06	0.02	0.56***	0.49***	-0.43***	-0.15*	-0.33***	—		
9. Acculturative stress	0.14*	0.18**	0.40***	0.11	-0.24***	0.15*	-0.15*	0.30***	—	
10. Perceived Discrimination	0.09	0.24***	0.26***	0.14*	-0.11	0.18**	-0.04	0.15*	0.46***	—

\* $p < 0.05$  \*\* $p < 0.01$  \*\*\* $p < 0.001$



# Results: Multiple Regression Analyses



Context

Study 1

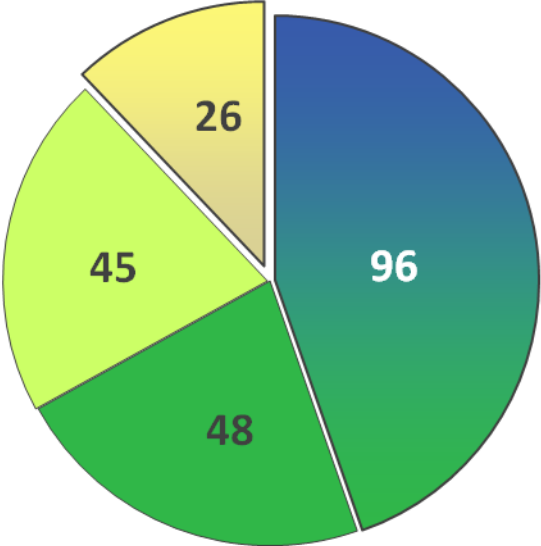
Study 2

Conclusion



# Results: Cluster Analysis

## 4 Cultural Profiles

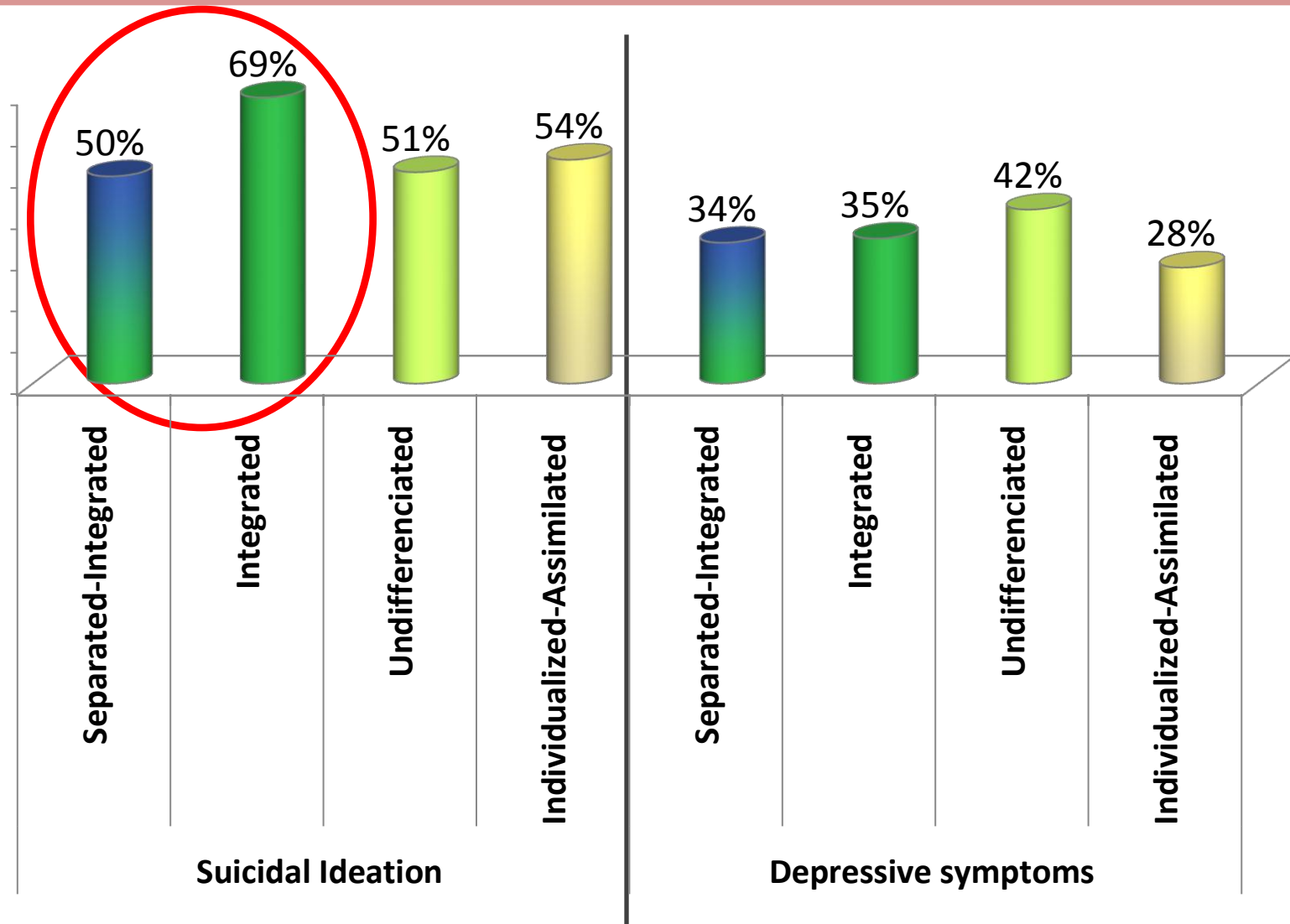


- Separated-Integrated  
♂ 67% ♀ 33%
- Integrated  
♂ 52% ♀ 48%
- Undifferentiated  
♂ 67% ♀ 33%
- Individualized-Assimilated  
♂ 65% ♀ 35%

MANOVA	Separated-Integrated		Integrated		Undifferentiated		Individualized-Assimilated			
Variables	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	F ratio	η2
Suicidal Ideation	14.14a	6.31	15.60a	8.22	15.93a	9.49	12.96a	5.91	1.29	0.02
Depressive symptoms	22.05a	10.59	23.52a	13.26	23.29a	11.34	19.23a	8.08	0.98	0.01



# Results: Frequency comparisons



Context

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion



**Qualitative Study:  
Functional Analysis of Suicidal Ideation  
Among a Sample of Adolescents with an  
Immigrant Background**

**Study 2**

**QUALITATIVE STUDY**

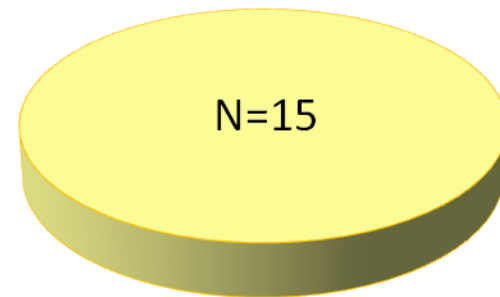


# Objective of the Study

Identifying cognitive and behavioral aspects which underlined suicidal behavior among adolescents with an immigrant background

## Inclusion Criteria

- immigrant or have at least one immigrant parent
- reported suicidal behavior during the past 12 month
- gave their willingness to participate through a consent form



□ Sample

♂ 40% ♀ 60%



# Method

## **Semi structured interviews**

- **Projective scenario**
- **Interview Guide**



## **Cottraux's SECCA Functional Analysis**

- **Situation**
- **Emotions**
- **Cognitions**
- **Behaviors**
- **Anticipation**

Context

Study 1

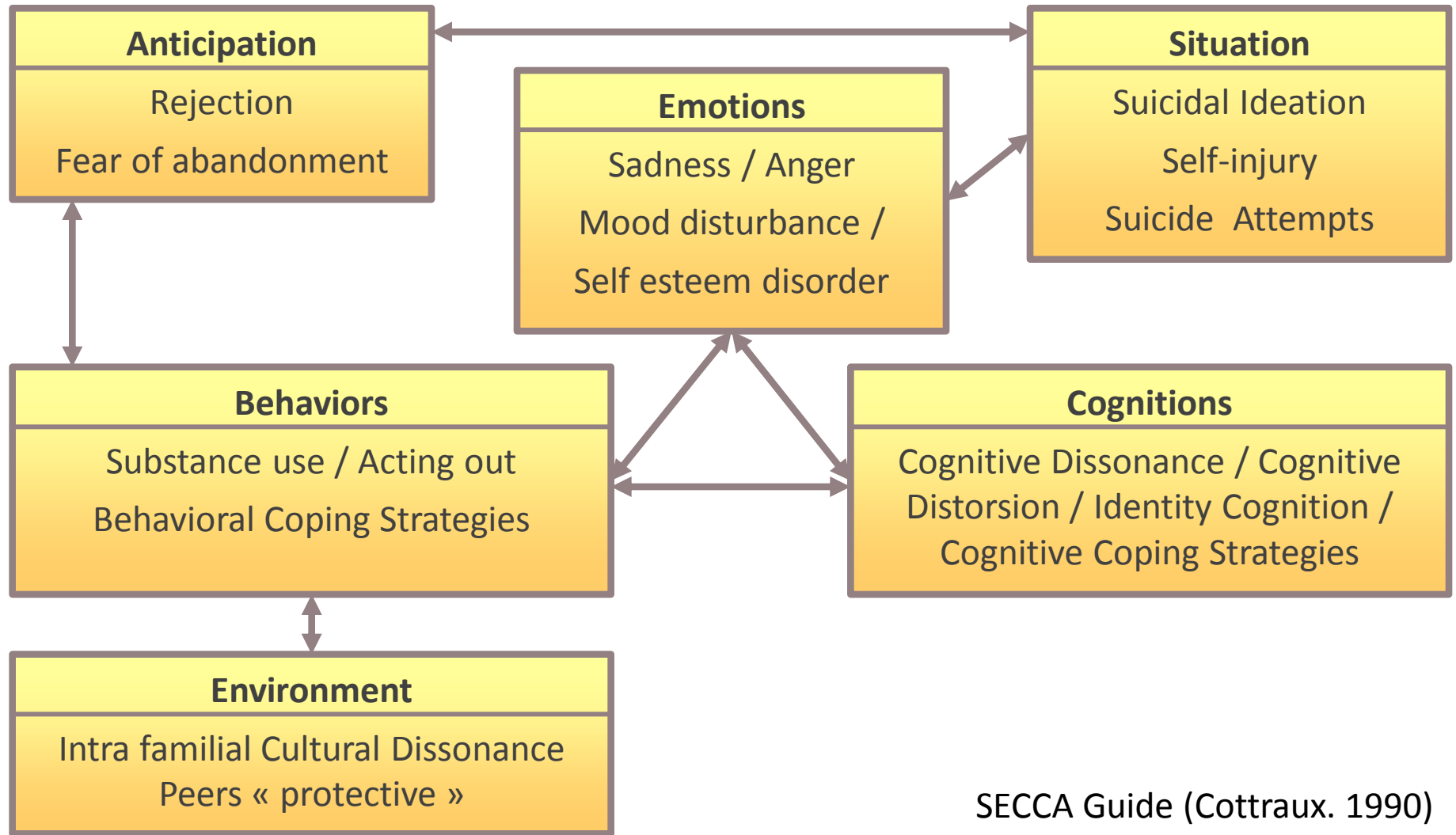
Study 2

Conclusion





# Results of the Qualitative Analysis



SECCA Guide (Cottraux. 1990)

Context

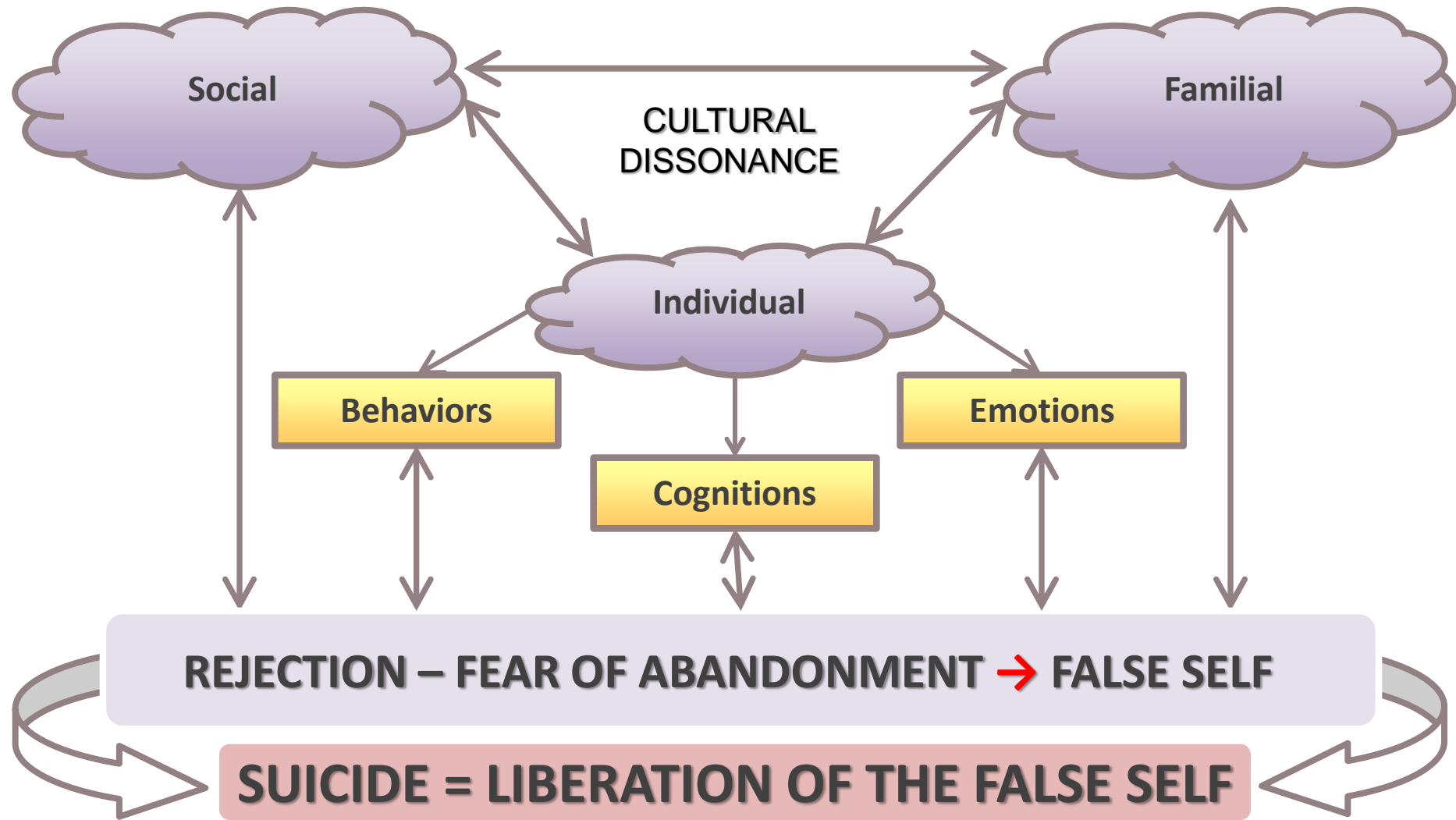
Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion



# Results of the Qualitative Analysis



Context

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion

# Suicidal Behavior of Immigrants and their Descendants in France



## CONCLUSION



# Summary Study 1

Rates of suicidal ideation, severe suicidal ideation, suicidal behaviors, and moderate/severe depressive symptoms were high among immigrant and descendants in France

➡ ♀ Suicidal ideation, suicidal behaviors, and moderate/severe depressive symptoms

SUICIDAL IDEATION

➡ Acculturative stress

➡ Marginalization

➡ Marginalization

DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS

➡ Acculturative stress

➡ Perceived discrimination

➡ Perceived Discrimination

## 4 acculturative profiles

Immigrants and descendants in France were most likely to endorse:

➤ Integrated and Separated acculturation orientations

No significant difference between these 4 profiles:

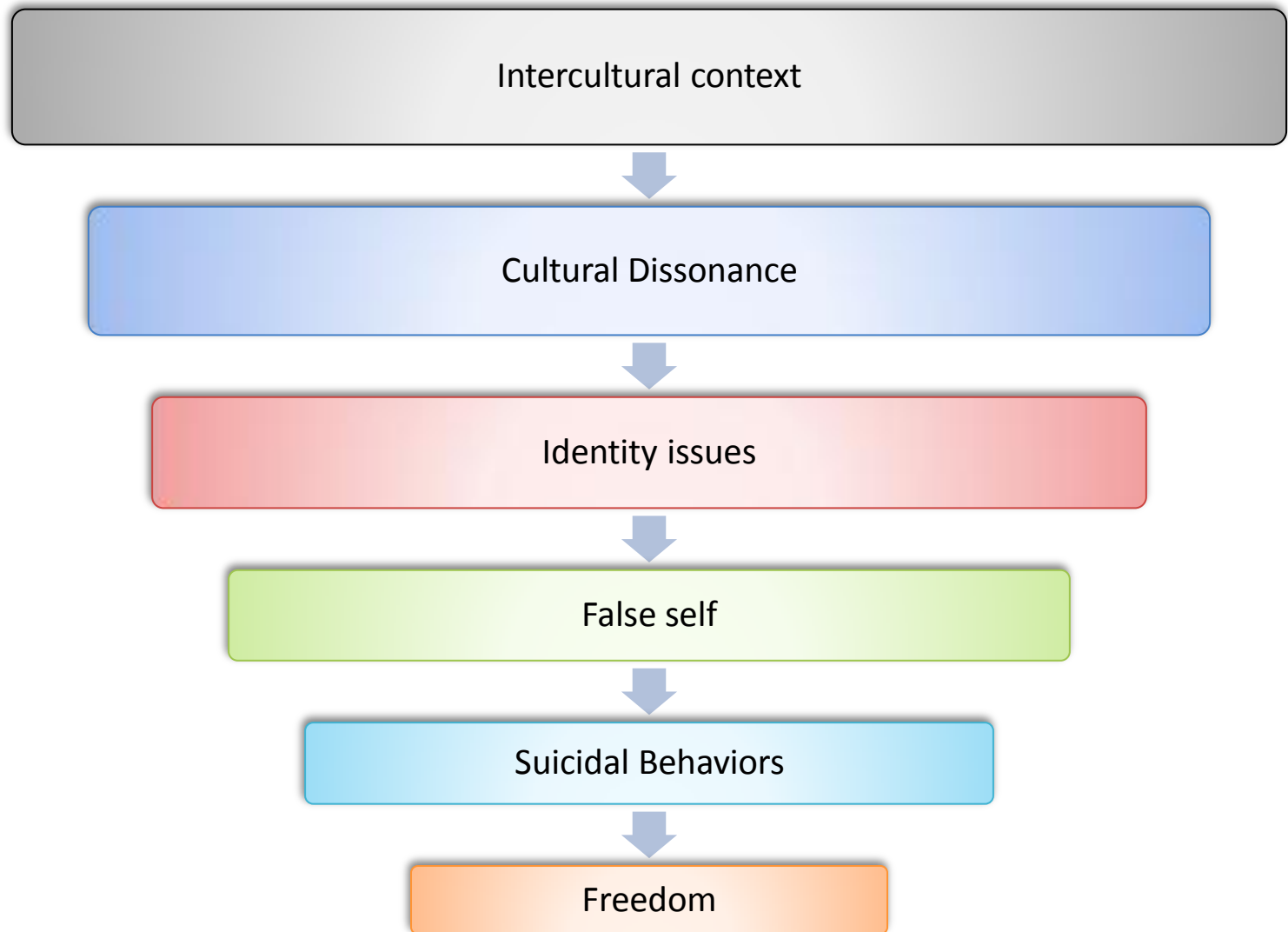
➤ Suicidal behavior and depressive symptoms

Frequencies of suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms were high among all the cultural profiles

➤ Suicidal ideation: ➡ Integrated profile / Separated-integrated



# Summary Study 2



Context

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion



# Limits of the studies

**Ethnic origin – Homogeneous - Cultural gap**

**Adolescents' immigration generation**

**Parents' acculturation strategies**

**Type of immigration: professional. political. economical. familial. personal....**

**Familial history of immigration**

**An exploration of the perception of the native peers counterparts could be interesting**

**To provide additional evidence of reliability of content coding, thematic analyses might be more recommended than the Cottraux's SECCA's Guide**

Context

Study 1

Study 2

Conclusion

# Clinical Implications

## Marginalization and perceived discrimination prevention

### SOCIAL

Promote group cohesion. improve the inter and intra cultural knowledges

- *Acculturative stress*
- *Ethnic Identity*

### FAMILIAL

Family Mediation and/or Systemic therapy

- *Reduce the misunderstandings linked to cultural dissonance*

### INDIVIDUAL

Cognitive behavioral Therapy.

Dialectical behavior Therapy, Psychodynamic therapy...

Merci pour votre attention

Bedankt voor u attentie

Thank you for your attention

感谢您的关注！

أشكركم على اهتمامكم

Gracias por su atencion

Obrigada pela vossa atenção