

An Analysis of Secondary Students' Understanding of Farmer Suicide Drivers Following a State-Wide Essay Competition

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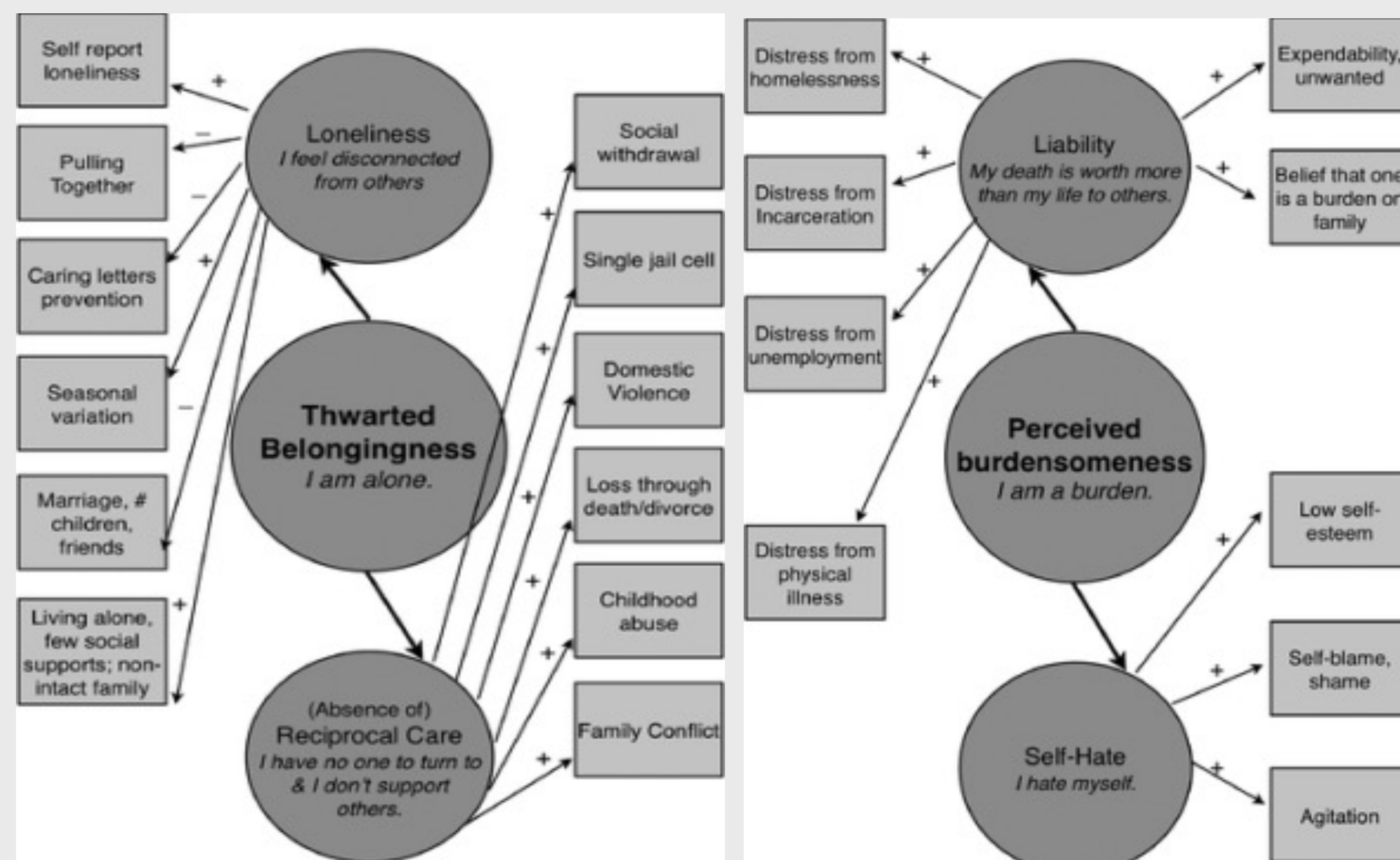
Research Question: How do secondary students express understanding of thwarted belongingness (TB) and perceived burdensomeness (PB)?

INTRODUCTION

- High rates of suicide among agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers (Kennedy et al., 2021; Klingelschmidt et al., 2022; Monrith et al., 2020)
- The suicide rate was 14.2% for individuals between ages 15 and 24 in 2020 (CDC, 2022).

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

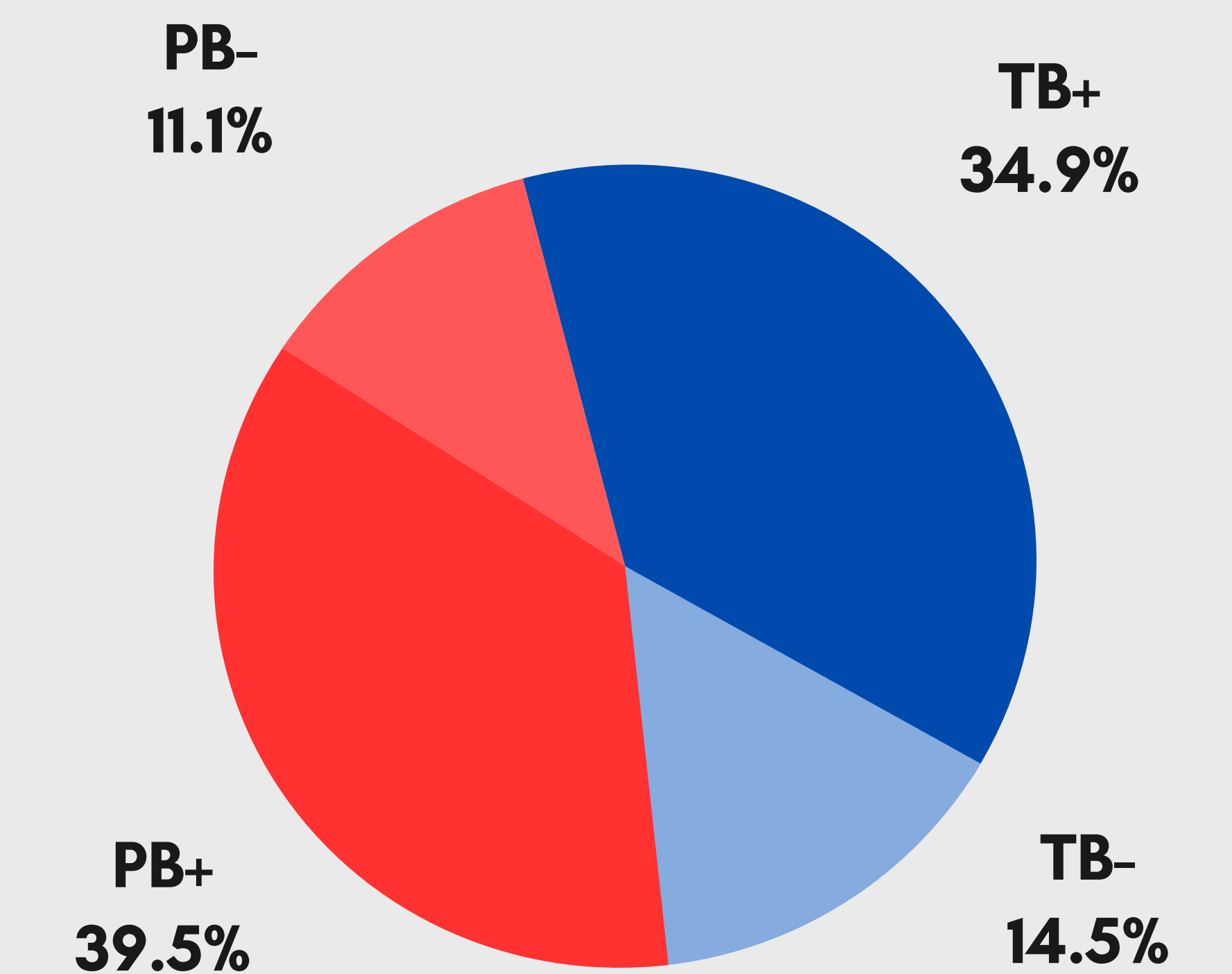
- The Interpersonal Theory of Suicide (2010)
- Thwarted Belongingness (TB) & Perceived Burdensomeness (PB) considered



METHODOLOGY

- 3 years worth of essay contest responses received. Those focusing on extending help to farmers in light of the mental health crisis were selected to analyze (n=105).
- Axial coding through the lens of the 2010 Interpersonal Theory of Suicide
- + and - dimensions
 - + : recognizing and/or providing needed supports
 - - : addressing factors which contribute to feelings of TB or PB
- 90.12% Interrater Reliability

RESULTS/FINDINGS



CONCLUSIONS

- Students were generally able to identify components of TB and PB
- Variation in scope and meaningfulness
- Help-giving advice for belongingness was generally more substantive than that for burdensomeness
 - Maturity and responsibility; social isolation and loneliness more relatable
- Training may increase effectiveness of help-giving
 - QPR Institute's Question, Persuade, Refer
 - LivingWork's SafeTALK

"Go out and socialize with people. Make new friends. Spend time with your loved ones. And try not too think of the farm when you're out having fun."

"Farmers spend long, 12-14 hour days on their farm by themselves. That would become extremely lonely."

"I DO know you are needed. You are appreciated."

"You feel like you[re] failing your family legacy."

"If you ever feel like there is no other option call me, your family, or the hotline and talk to someone about anything you feel is weighing you down."



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