Data Science Approaches to Assess Suicide Risk: Can we use power tools safely?

Greg Simon Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute

Support from: NIMH: U19MH121738 FDA: HHS F223201810201C No other disclosures







How <u>powerful</u> would it be if a social media platform used an algorithm to identify risk and....

- Removed or added content for a group of users possibly at risk?
- Alerted a school or school system about possible increased risk?
- Served individuals information regarding mental health resources?
- Reached out to individuals via live chat or text?
- Alerted a school or health care system about individuals at risk?
- Alerted a 988-type crisis support program to reach out to people at risk?
- Alerted law enforcement about individuals to prevent firearm purchases?
- Alerted law enforcement about individuals at risk to prompt "welfare checks"?

What specific actions raise concern?

- Sharing private information without consent
- Prompting potentially intrusive or coercive interventions
- Perpetuating or increasing disparities



What concerns do health systems face?

- Sharing private information without consent
- Prompting potentially intrusive or coercive interventions
- Perpetuating or increasing disparities



Questions to consider

For any specific notification or action:

- What level of validation for an algorithm or prediction should be expected?
- What level of transparency (about processes or individual data) should be expected?
- What consent or notification should be expected?
- Who should monitor or evaluate benefits and harms?

