

# Suicide Prevention

Sep 2020

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## **Covid-19**

[The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-harm and suicidal behaviour: a living systematic review](#) There is thus far no clear evidence of an increase in suicide, self-harm, suicidal behaviour, or suicidal thoughts associated with the pandemic. However, suicide data are challenging to collect in real time and economic effects are evolving. A marked improvement in the quality of design, methods, and reporting in future studies is needed.

[Understanding our callers during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) This paper from the Samaritans, analysed calls received during the current pandemic and concluded that it's too early to know the effect of coronavirus on suicide rates, and it is important to remember that a rise in suicide rates is not inevitable. However, evidence shows us that, as well as affecting people's mental wellbeing, the pandemic is having an impact on factors which are known to be related to suicide risk.

## **Systematic reviews**

[Suicide prevention gatekeeper training and its long-term efficacy](#) This blog for the Mental Elf summarises a systematic review that explores the long-term efficacy of suicide prevention gatekeeper training.

[Is air pollution associated with poor mental health?](#) This post provides a summary of a systematic review and meta-analysis exploring the association between air pollution exposure and the risk of mental health difficulties such as depression, anxiety and suicide.

[Artificial Intelligence and Suicide Prevention: A Systematic Review of Machine Learning Investigations](#) This review paper examined currently published research on the applications of AI and Machine Learning in evaluating suicidal behaviours and enhancing risk detection. The review found that whilst reports varied in methodology and outcomes, the application of AI in risk detection shows high levels of risk clarification accuracy.

## **Statistics**

[ONS statistics](#) show that male suicide rate hits two-decade high in England and Wales.

## **Guidance**

[Samaritans launch world first guidance for the technology industry](#) The new guidelines set out how to safely manage self-harm and suicide content online.

[Tackling the topic of suicide with your child – a guide to having the conversation](#)

This post from the Black Dog Institute aims to give parents advice and guidance in broaching the topic of mental health and suicide with their child.

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## **Studies**

[Bisexual people up to six times more likely to self-injure](#) Bisexual people are up to six times more likely to engage in non-suicidal self-injury compared to other sexual orientations, according to University of Manchester researchers. It found that bisexual people had:

- 6.07 times greater odds of self-injury compared to heterosexual people in the past 12 months.
- 4.57 times greater odds of self-injury than heterosexual people over their lifetime.
- 4.37 times greater odds of self-injury than gay men over their lifetime.
- 2.13 times greater odds of self-injury than gay men and lesbian women over their lifetime.

[Repeat Self-Harm Following Hospital-Presenting Intentional Drug Overdose among Young People—A National Registry Study](#) This paper investigated young people repeat self-harming after presenting at hospital with intentional drug overdose.

[Suicide risk in young people who self-harm and visit emergency departments](#) This post reviews a prospective observational cohort study on mortality and suicide risk in young people after they present to hospital emergency departments following episodes of self-harm.

## **Resource**

[New Resource for Psychiatrists: Patient Suicide](#) A new resource aimed to support psychiatrists dealing with the death of a patient by suicide is now available from the Centre for Suicide Research at the University of Oxford.

## **News**

[TikTok suicide video: it's time platforms collaborated to limit disturbing content](#) A disturbing video purporting to show a suicide is reportedly doing the rounds on the popular short video app TikTok, reigniting debate about what social media platforms are doing to limit circulation of troubling material.