





Community and Mental Health Services

6 March 2023

***Please visit https://www.evidentlybetter.org/bulletins/suicide-prevention/
to view our webpage featuring key links and emerging reports about
suicide prevention.***

Studies

Media coverage and speculation about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on suicide: a content analysis of UK news

As the longer-term consequences of the pandemic develop, and other national and global events unfold, it is increasingly important that the media, and the wider community of experts shaping its narratives, strive for a positive and evidence-informed approach to news coverage of suicide.

Temporal and spatial trends in suicide-related visits before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, 2018–2021

This study found significant and disproportionate increases in suicide related visits over the COVID-19 stages. To prevent the next storms of suicides, future interventions shall accommodate needs among vulnerable groups during and after periods of crisis.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on suicide mortality in Spain: Differences by sex and age Between April and December 2020, the number of suicides in Spain was 11 % higher-than-predicted. Monthly suicide counts were lower-than-expected in April 2020 and peaked in August 2020 with 396 observed suicides. Excess suicide counts were particularly salient during the summer of 2020 – largely driven by over 50 % higher-than-expected suicide counts among males aged 65 years and older in June, July, and August 2020.

Suicide Attempts in Children Aged 10-14 Years During the First Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic Suicide attempt rates decreased for children aged 10-14 years during the first wave. However, rates increased sharply during the second wave for girls, without changing for boys. Girls aged 10-14 years had an excess of 5.1 suicide attempts per 10,000 at the start of wave 2, with rates continuing to increase by 0.6 per 10,000 every month thereafter. Compared with the prepandemic period, the increase in the proportion of girls aged 10-14 years hospitalized for a suicide attempt was 2.2% greater than that of boys during wave 2. The pattern seen in girls aged 10-14 years was not present in girls aged 15-19 years.

<u>Body modifications in borderline personality disorder patients: prevalence rates, link with non-suicidal self-injury, and related psychopathology</u>

This study provides evidence on the prevalence of BMs in BPD patients, and on the link between BMs and NSSI in this population, suggesting a role of emotion regulation in the link between both constructs. These results also suggests that tattoos and piercings may be differentially linked to specific underlying psychological mechanisms. This calls for further considerations of body modifications in the assessment and care of BPD patients.

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<u>Deficits in psychological resilience and problem-solving ability in adolescents with suicidal</u> ideation

This study profiled the characteristics and differences in psychological resilience and problem-solving ability between adolescents with and without suicidal ideation. The data suggested adolescents with SI might have deficits in psychological resilience and problem-solving ability, which may serve as potential targets for suicide intervention.

<u>Association of Recent Violence Encounters With Suicidal Ideation Among Adolescents With Depression</u>

In this cohort study of 24 047 adolescents with new depression diagnoses, more than a quarter (27.5%) of adolescents who experienced past-year violence encounters documented suicidal ideation within 1 year. Recent violence encounters were associated with 1.7 times higher risk for documented suicidal ideation among adolescents with depression.

<u>The Brief Adolescent Depression Screen: A Brief Screening Tool for Depression and Suicidal Behavior in Inpatient Adolescents</u>

Analyses first determined the duration of depressive symptoms on the BADS that optimally screened for the presence of Major Depressive Disorder and Persistent Depressive Disorder. Findings indicated that, using these optimal screening cut-ofs, the BADS showed a strong screening utility, resulting in a sensitivity and specificity for identifying full depressive diagnoses and a positive history of suicidal behavior with similar or greater accuracy than an established rating scale.

Reasons for Suicide in Black Young Adults: a Latent Class Analysis

Culturally grounded clinical treatments and interventions are needed to meet the specifc mental health needs of Black young adults. A particular focus on identifying factors that drive feelings of hopelessness and failure is warranted.

Report

Multidimensional variability in ecological assessments predicts two clusters of suicidal patients

In summary, approximately one third of suicidal patients present high SI variability and a general pattern of instability in several domains during their follow-up, which is generally shorter. This pattern can be easily detected in early stages by assessing the severity of SI and depression, as well as impulsivity traits and other factors, and it might be associated with a higher risk of clinical events during follow-up. EMA protocols should be adapted to optimize suicidal risk assessment and preventive interventions in high- and low-variability groups.

Statistics

Sociodemographic inequalities in suicides in England and Wales

A population level analysis comparing the risk of dying by suicide across sociodemographic groups in adults in England and Wales.







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News

Ensuring LGBTQI+ people are treated fairly in mental health data

Outlines a new participatory study aimed at improving AI to take account of LGBTQI+ people so that their needs are better met by mental health services. Mental health difficulties such as self-harm and suicidal distress are more prevalent among LGBTQI+ people; for example, in the UK government's equality survey, 3% of gay and bisexual men (compared with 0.4% of men in the general UK population) attempted to end their life by suicide in 2013; over 80% of transidentifying young people have self-harmed at some point in their lives (compared to around 10% in the general population) and 24% of trans-people had accessed mental health services in the preceding year.

Women who suffer domestic abuse three times as likely to attempt suicide

Women who suffer domestic abuse are three times more likely than their peers to try to take their own life, new research reveals. Those who have experienced sexual abuse within a relationship have an even higher risk of suicide, and are seven times more likely to have attempted to end their life.

<u>TikTok 'acting too slow' to tackle self-harm and eating disorder content</u>

TikTok has been urged to strengthen its content moderation policies around suicide and eating disorder material by organisations including the NSPCC and the Molly Rose Foundation.

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