



13th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour

Integrating Knowledge for an Interdisciplinary Approach to Suicidology and Suicide Prevention

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**ABSTRACT
BOOK**

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certain existential dimensions of the experience of suicide that might not have been explicitly addressed in suicidology so far. Therein lies the benefit of giving certain attention also to such research approaches to suicide from which a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon might emerge and such findings might be useful for psychotherapists as well as other professions dealing with the question of suicide.

P43. SUICIDE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND SARAJEVO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE CIVIL WAR 1992-1995 -WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ETHNICITY

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Aims: The study investigates suicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Sarajevo, before, during and after the war 1992-1995, with special reference to gender, age and ethnicity.

Methods Official suicide data was gathered for the periods, 1985-1991, and 1997-2006, for BiH and Sarajevo, and during 1992-1995 suicide data was collected only in Sarajevo through a special surveillance system.

Results: After the war there were significantly lower suicide rates for both men and women in BiH as compared to the pre-war period. In Sarajevo the rates were at about the same level before and after the war. During the war the absolute numbers were at about the same level as before the war. In Sarajevo there was a higher male to female ratio before the war compared to the mean ratio after the war. In BiH the highest total suicide rates were found among Serbs before the war as compare to Bosniaks and Croats. After the war there was an initial decline among Serbs followed by increasing rates. Bosniaks and Croats in Sarajevo disclosed higher suicide rates as compared to the ethnic specific suicide rates in BiH.

Conclusions: The lower rates in BiH after the war should mainly be explained by population changes. For Sarajevo the present study does not support the classical idea that suicide rates diminish during war time. Instead the war situation resulted in higher suicide rates. It was evident that different ethnic groups were affected during different periods and during the war especially young people in Sarajevo and some years after the war especially older people.

P44. SUICIDE IN GREECE (1980-2008): A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS BY MONTH AND SEASON OF THE YEAR

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Introduction: Every year in Greece 300-400 suicides are reported, a number that is equivalent with one suicide per day. Given the severity of the problem, Klimaka NGO operates since 2007 a Suicide Prevention Helpline (with the support of the Greek Ministry of Mental Health and Social Solidarity).

Purpose: Previous studies have found that suicide rates have a distinct annual rhythm with a peak in summer. The purpose of this study is to examine whether such effects are found in Greece from 1980 to 2008.

Method: Data on suicide mortality from 1980 to 2008 were obtained from the Greek National Statistical Service. We present a statistical analysis of these data by month and season of the year.

Results: We found that suicides in Greece have a seasonal rhythm (their pick is in summer, both for males and females). European studies have found that the effect of seasonality on suicide is smoothing over time. This finding is in contrast with our findings for males but not for females.

P45. THE EVOLUTION OF THE EPIDEMIC OF CHARCOAL-BURNING SUICIDE IN TAIWAN: A SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

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Background: An epidemic of carbon monoxide poisoning suicide by burning barbecue charcoal has occurred in East Asia in the last decade. We investigated the spatial and temporal evolution of the epidemic to assess its impact on the epidemiology of suicide in Taiwan.

Methods and findings: Age-standardised rates of suicide and undetermined death by charcoal burning were mapped across townships (median population aged 15 y or over = 27,000) in Taiwan for the periods 1999-2001, 2002-2004, and 2005-2007. Smoothed standardised mortality ratios of charcoal-burning and non-charcoal-burning suicide and undetermined death across townships were estimated using Bayesian hierarchical models. Trends in overall and method-specific rates were compared between urban and rural areas for the period 1991-2007. The epidemic of charcoal-burning suicide in Taiwan emerged more prominently in urban than rural areas, without a single point of origin, and rates of charcoal-burning suicide remained