
THE ISLE OF WIGHT SUICIDE STUDY: A CASE STUDY OF 68 SUICIDES IN ONE HEALTH DISTRICT.

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AIM: The aim of the study was to identify sociodemographic, and clinical risk factors for suicide in the population of service-users (SUs) and non-service users (NSUs) and gender-related characteristics of suicidal behaviour in a limited geographic region.

METHOD: Data of 68 suicide cases (ICD-10 X60-X84) collected for residents on the Isle of Wight District between January 2006 and December 2009. All data were statistically analysed by using Pearson's chi-squared test and Yates' correction for continuity.

RESULTS: The mean annual suicide rates were 5.65 per 100.000 for women and 19.28 for men. Significantly ($p=0.0006$) more men than women (male/female ratio 3:1) died as a result of suicide. Relatively ($p=0.07$) more women (56.2%) than men (32.7%), and significantly more ($p=0.05$) SUs (45.3%) than NSUs (13.3%) were unemployed. Significantly more ($p=0.0006$) SUs (64%) than NSUs (20%) had a history of suicide and relatively ($p=0.06$) more (50.9%) SUs than NSUs (20%) had attended the A & E. Depression as the most common Axis-I illness was diagnosed in 36% of all; but significantly ($p=0.008$) more in women (66.6%) than men (17.3%). Relatively ($p=0.07$) more women (56.2%) than men (32.7%) have contacted services before their death. Suicide by hanging was the most common cause accounting for death of 71% of men and 50% of women.

CONCLUSIONS: 80% of all suicides were conducted by people suffering from mental disorders. Depressive disorders in women and stress-related disorders in men were the most common mental disorders. Treating mental disorders seem to be one of the key elements in suicide prevention.