

SUICIDE RISK

of male forensic State patients with antisocial personality traits

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BACKGROUND

Suicide mortality rates are higher in people with personality disorders, especially those who have antisocial personality features.

These mortality rates are also higher in people who have committed offences.

Antisocial personality features are very common in populations who have committed offences and in forensic psychiatric patients.

We aimed to determine if male forensic State patients with strong antisocial personality features had a higher risk of suicide compared to patients with no antisocial personality features.

We attempted to identify other risk factors for attempted suicide in this population.

METHODS

The study was conducted at Weskoppies Hospital Forensic Unit, Pretoria, South Africa.

From 275 male forensic State patients, 37 had strong antisocial personality features and were included in the study.

From the remaining forensic State patients, we randomly selected 37 control group participants, who had no antisocial personality features.

For each participant, we completed a data capturing sheet and a Beck's Suicide Ideation Scale (BSIS).

We compared suicide risk and associated factors between study and control group participants.

RESULTS

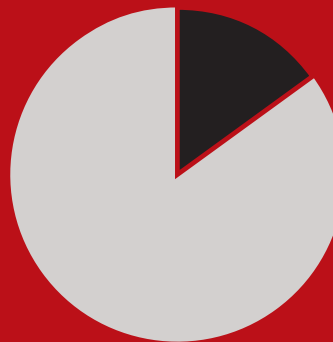
Study group and control group participants had the same current suicide risk.

Overall, 63 participants (85.14%) had no current suicide risk.

Of the 11 (14.86%) remaining participants with current suicide risk, 5 participants had strong antisocial personality features.

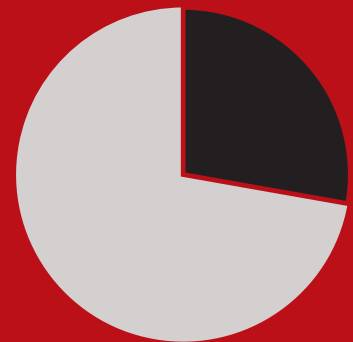
Eighteen participants had previous suicide attempts, 13 of whom had strong antisocial personality features.

Total Participants (n=74)



■ Suicidal ■ Non-suicidal

Participants with suicide risk (n=11)



■ Antisocial personality traits ■ No antisocial personality traits

CONCLUSION

Forensic State patients with and without antisocial personality features had similar current suicide risk.

Although antisocial personality disorder has been identified as a risk factor for suicide, it was not the case in this study.

Assessment of other, well known, risk factors for suicide should continue to be prioritised.

References available upon the request from the author.



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