

Time-trends in method-specific suicide rates compared with the availability of specific compounds. The Danish experience



Coming soon to this journal

Authors: Merete Nordentoft^{abc}; Ping Qin^{abc}; Karin Helweg-Larsen^{abc}; Knud Juel^{abc}

Affiliations: ^a Bispebjerg Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, Copenhagen, NV, Denmark

^b National Centre for Register-based Research, University of Aarhus, Aarhus N, Denmark

^c National Institute of Public Health, København, Denmark

DOI: 10.1080/08039480600600169

Publication Frequency: 6 issues per year

Published in:  Nordic Journal of Psychiatry, Volume 60, Issue 2 March 2006, pages 97 - 106

Subjects: Psychiatry; Psychiatry & Clinical Psychology - Adult;

Formats available: HTML (English) : PDF (English)

Abstract

Restriction of means for suicide is an important part of suicide preventive strategies in different countries. All suicides in Denmark between 1970 and 2000 were examined with regard to method used for suicide. Overall suicide mortality and method-specific suicide mortality was compared with official information about availability of medical compounds (barbiturates, benzodiazepines, analgesics, antidepressants) and carbon monoxide in vehicle exhaust and household gas. Restrictions on the availability of carbon monoxide, barbiturates and dextropropoxyphen was associated with a decline in the number of suicides by self-poisoning with these compounds. Restricted access occurred concomitantly with a 55% decrease in suicide rate.

Keywords: Acetaminophon; epidemiology; overdose; poisoning; suicide