

Proposal for Suicide Prevention in the United States Based on the Suicide Rates by Age Group in Recent Years

The Editor,

Sir,

There are reports (1, 2) concerning suicide from various fields in the United States of America (USA). It is necessary to discuss further suicide prevention measures based on detailed research regarding recent suicide rates by age group for each sex. In the present study, we researched suicide rates by sex and age group in the USA in 2000 and 2005, as reported by the Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics (3) and we compared the suicide rates by age group in 2000 and 2005.

Among men and women, ages 25 to 64 (25–34, 35–44, 45–54 and 55–64) years, the suicide rates in 2005 showed an increase or tendency to increase compared with those in 2000, with the rates especially increasing for ages 45–54 and 55–64 years. Among women age 15–24 years, the suicide rates in 2005 also increased over those in 2000. Among men age 75 years or over, the suicide rate in 2005 showed a decrease as compared with that in 2000, but the rates for age 75 years or over were high in both years.

With regard to the cause of suicide, there have been reports (4, 5) on the relation between psychiatric disorders and suicide. Some reports (6, 7) have shown that some social, industrial, occupational and economic factors are related to suicide risk. One report (8) has suggested that natural disasters and the suicide rate are related in the USA.

In conclusion, it is necessary to implement further specific suicide prevention measures in the USA.

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