

A Report on the Importance of Further Liaison Between Relevant Organizations in Implementing Suicide Prevention Measures in Japan: A Summary along with a look at Areas of Future Study

The Editor,

Sir,

In Japan, the number of suicides increased sharply in 1998, and this trend has continued since. Promptly dealing with this issue is crucial and specific suicide prevention measures must be implemented. Based on reports of recent suicide prevention measures, the current study focussed on necessary components of and systems of cooperation as part of suicide prevention measures in Japan.

A report (1) noted the importance of establishing a network for liaison between relevant organisations and bodies not just at the prefectural or regional level but also at the local level. The report also stated that a continued approach is vital. We (2) have also noted the importance of relevant organizations implementing suicide prevention measures in order to decrease the number of suicides in Japan. A report (3) described the aims of suicide prevention efforts based on projects to prevent suicides in the form of “establishment of a network among local medical facilities as well as psychiatric facilities”, “outreach to local residents”, and “intervention by the medical establishment, administrative bodies and the community as a whole”. Another report (4) noted the importance of cooperation by numerous organisations in implementing suicide prevention measures. The report (4) also noted that true suicide prevention measures were not simply one-sided lectures but instead were opinions on and efforts to implement preventive measures naturally arising from the community. In terms of medical care, a report (5) stated that cooperation between psychiatry and non-psychiatric departments was crucial to decreasing the number of suicides, and the report described establishment of a suicide prevention network consisting of psychiatrists and physicians.

In conclusion, preventive measures by individual organisations in various areas are a key component of suicide prevention measures, but coordinated implementation of those measures by relevant organisations and various experts in related fields is also important.

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