

Suicide Prevention, Part 1: Identifying and Predicting Risk, Vulnerable Populations, Public Perceptions, and Priority Settings

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The topic of suicide prevention has long been a priority among mental health services researchers. A search of the key term "suicide prevention" in the *Psychiatric Services* archives yielded 445 articles published since 1967, including 190 in the past 15 years alone. It also revealed a remarkable breadth of scholarship on a subject as complex as it is elusive; despite clinicians' best efforts at prevention, suicide rates continue to rise year after year, and many experts fear this trend may be exacerbated by the stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant economic collapse.

In this two-part *Editor's Choice*, we aim to represent this multifaceted body of work while acknowledging that this is just a sliver of the complete literature on the topic. Part 1 begins with research articles that explore tools for identifying people who may be at increased risk of suicide and for predicting which individuals may engage in self-harm. These tools include the nine-item Patient Health Questionnaire, psychiatric diagnosis, and self-report. Next, we look at populations particularly vulnerable to dying by suicide, including adolescents, college students, active duty soldiers, veterans, and older adults. Some of the most-read articles in *Psychiatric Services* are in the section on public perceptions of suicide. Finally, as demonstrated in the subsequent group of articles, many studies examine specific clinical settings for suicide prevention, such as outpatient mental health and primary care appointments, emergency department visits, and follow-up after discharge from inpatient psychiatric units.

Part 2 of this collection will focus on evidence-based practices, cost-effectiveness, and future directions in suicide prevention.

IDENTIFYING AND PREDICTING RISK

Articles

Does Suicidal Ideation as Measured by the PHQ-9 Predict Suicide Among VA Patients?

Louzon SA, Bossarte R, McCarthy JF, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2016; 67:517–522

Brief Reports

Coping With Suicidal Thoughts: A Survey of Personal Experience

Simon GE, Specht C, Doederlein A
Psychiatr Serv 2016; 67:1026–1029

Articles

Diagnosed Mental Health Conditions and Risk of Suicide Mortality

Yeh H-H, Westphal J, Hu Y, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:750–757

Articles

Self-Reported Suicidal Ideation as a Predictor of Suicidal Behavior Among Outpatients With Diagnoses of Psychotic Disorders

Simon GE, Yarborough BJ, Rossom RC, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:176–183

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Columns

Best Practices: The Utah Youth Suicide Study: Best Practices for Suicide Prevention Through the Juvenile Court System

Gray D, Dawson KL, Grey TC, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2011; 62:1416–1418

Articles

Mental Health Service Use Among Suicidal Adolescents: Findings From a U.S. National Community Survey

Wu P, Katic BJ, Liu X, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2010; 61:17–24

Articles

Suicide Risk Assessment and Prevention: A Systematic Review Focusing on Veterans

Nelson HD, Denneson LM, Low AR, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2017; 68:1003–1015

Open Forum

Research to Reduce the Suicide Rate Among Older Adults: Methodology Roadblocks and Promising Paradigms

Szanto K, Lenze EJ, Waern M, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2013; 64:586–589

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

Articles

Public Awareness Campaigns About Depression and Suicide: A Review

Dumesnil H, Verger P
Psychiatr Serv 2009; 60:1203–1213

Articles

13 Reasons Why: Viewing Patterns and Perceived Impact Among Youths at Risk of Suicide

Hong V, Ewell Foster CJ, Magness CS, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:107–114

Brief Reports

Increases in Demand for Crisis and Other Suicide Prevention Services After a Celebrity Suicide

Ramchand R, Cohen E, Draper J, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:728–731

SETTINGS FOR PREVENTION

Articles

Service Use in the Month and Year Prior to Suicide Among Adults Enrolled in Ohio Medicaid

Fontanella CA, Warner LA, Hiance-Steelesmith DL, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2017; 68:674–680

Articles

Critical Periods for Increased Mortality After Discharge From Inpatient Mental Health Units: Opportunities for Prevention

Katz IR, Peltzman T, Jedgele JM, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:450–456

Articles

Understanding Why Patients May Not Report Suicidal Ideation at a Health Care Visit Prior to a Suicide Attempt: A Qualitative Study

Richards JE, Whiteside U, Ludman EJ, et al.
Psychiatr Serv 2019; 70:40–45

Articles

Mental Health Service Use Among Adults With Suicide Ideation, Plans, or Attempts: Results From a National Survey

Stanley IH, Hom MA, Joiner TE
Psychiatr Serv 2015; 66:1296–1302