

PSIWORLD 2014

## Comparative study on the phenomenon of suicide based on gender and season

Nicu Ionel Sava<sup>a\*</sup>, Adrian Cristian Papari<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> "Andrei Şaguna" University, 13 Alexandru Lăpuşneanu, Constanţa 900196, Romania

<sup>b</sup> "Andrei Şaguna" University, 13 Alexandru Lăpuşneanu, Constanţa 900196, Romania

---

### Abstract

Suicide behavior has major implications on the collective mentality, being a serious public health threat. The main argument of this paper is that of bringing to light the aggressive presence of this phenomenon in our lives, since the total number of suicides in the last five years was worryingly high (N=12800). A comparative analysis based on the criteria of gender and season has highlighted significant differences between the sub-lots that were under scrutiny and led to proposals for a careful examination of the particularities of the two mediating variables (gender and season), taking into account the fact that this difference is maintained over time.

© 2015 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the Scientific Committee of PSIWORLD 2014.

*Keywords:* suicide; suicide behavior; gender; season.

---

### 1. Introduction

Suicide is a complex phenomenon, whose beginnings are lost in the mists of history. Deliberate suicide behavior has been researched throughout time, which led to various ideas and opinions, in different societies and cultures (Durkheim, 1993). Therefore, the explanation of the suicide phenomenon and the identification of the universally valid causes thereof are far from being final and it is generally accepted that the reasons for the suicidal behavior has variations from society to society, from women to men, from a season to another (Lille-Brahe, DeLeo, et al., 1996). Various hypotheses regarding the suicide phenomenon have been presumed, especially in fields of knowledge such

---

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [nicusava2004@yahoo.com](mailto:nicusava2004@yahoo.com)

as psychiatry, psychology, sociology, anthropology. This research aims to test the actuality of the current specialty literature affirmations, which maintain that suicide based on the criterion of season is ranked as follows: summer, spring, autumn and winter. For a long time and even nowadays people think that autumn is the season with the highest rate of suicide, whereas the reality is different, since people commit suicide precisely when life seems to be more favorable from the point of view of the season of the year they're in (Majaru, 2006). From a gender point of view, the situation is pretty clear, the number of men committing suicide is overwhelming, five times as big as that of women.

## 2. Definition of terms

The term "suicide" comes from the Latin *suicidium*, originating in *sui caedere*, „to kill oneself” and represents all the actions of a person aimed towards provoking one's own death (Chirișă, 2002).

The causes of the suicidal behavior are diverse, this behavior being attributed mainly to the psychological imbalance caused by a mental disease and/or by certain stress factors (Haines & Williams, 2003).

Depending on gender, the suicide rate is much larger in men than in women, which could be explained by the fact that men use more lethal means of ending their lives.

For a long time it was thought that autumn was the season with the highest suicide rate, but studies show that we can rank seasons in the following order: summer, spring, autumn and winter.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study was to acknowledge the existence of the suicidal phenomenon in our lives.

The specific objectives are to:

- Highlight the differences between seasons as far as suicide number is concerned during the last five years;
- Highlight differences regarding suicide based on a gender criterion for each of the seasons;

### 3.2. Research hypotheses

Based on the established objectives the following hypotheses were formulated:

Ip.1. – Starting with the conclusions taken from specific literature regarding the possible influence that the particularities of each season may have on the suicidal act we presume that there is a statistically significant difference between the number of suicidal acts depending on season;

Ip.2. - Belonging to a given gender makes us different in many respects, thus we presume there is a statistically significant difference between the number of suicidal acts based on gender.

### 3.3. Study participants

We have 12800 suicide cases, 10837 of which being male suicides and 1963 female suicides. Table 1 shows suicide acts based on year and gender.

Table 1. Gender/year association table

Count	Male	Female	Total
2009	2193	387	2580
2010	2294	460	2754
2011	2143	397	2540
2012	2143	353	2496
2013	2064	366	2430
Total	10837	1963	12800

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1110391>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1110391>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)