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Mohammed J Abbas, Nesif Alhemiary, Emad
Abdul Razaq, Shakir Naosh, Louis Appleby



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The Iraqi National Study of Suicide: Report on Suicide Data in Iraq in 2015 and 2016

Dr. Mohammed J Abbas^{a*}, Dr. Nesif Alhemiary^b, Dr Emad Abdul Razaq^c, Shakir Naosh^d, Professor Louis Appleby^e

^aMBCChB, MMed Sci, MRCPsych, Consultant Psychiatrist and Honorary Senior Lecturer, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Bradgate Unit, Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester, LE3 9EJ.

^bMBCChB, FIBMS, (Psych) Assistant Professor and Consultant Psychiatrist, Faculty of medicine, Baghdad University.

^cMBCChB, FIBMS, (Psych), Consultant Psychiatrist and Mental Health Advisor in the Iraqi Ministry of Health

^dBSc Sociology, Social worker, Baghdad Teaching Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq

^eFRCPSych, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Manchester; Chair, National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group for England

*Corresponding author: Mohammed.abbas@leicspart.nhs.uk

Abstract

Background:

Very little is known regarding the epidemiology of suicides in Iraq, given the lack of a national surveillance system. Therefore, the government initiated this project "The Iraqi National Study of Suicide

Methods:

The study covered 13 (out of 18) provinces in Iraq. A data collection form was designed by the researchers. The forms were completed by police stations in the 13 provinces. Data were extracted from the legal investigation (which include police investigation, family reports and postmortem reports) of cases of when there was no clear cause of death and where there was final verdict of suicide made by judge after examining these reports.

Results:

There were 647 cases of suicide. The crude rate of suicide per 100 000 population was 1.09 (1.21 for males, 0.97 for females) in 2015 and 1.31 (1.54 for males and 1.07 for females) in 2016. The majority of cases (67.9%) were aged 29 years or below. The most common method was hanging (41%) followed by firearms (31.4%) and self-burning (19.2%). 24.1% of cases were reported to have psychiatric disorders, of which the most common diagnosis was depression (53.9%). In the majority of cases (82.1%) there were no previous attempts. Only a small minority were reported to have had psychological trauma (15.5%), financial problems (12.4%) or childhood abuse (2.2%).

Limitations:

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