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Self-harm among the homeless population in Ireland: a national registry-based study of incidence and associated factors.

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ABSTRACT**Self-harm among the homeless population in Ireland: a national registry-based study of incidence and associated factors.****Background**

Self-harm is a strong predictor of future suicide, but little is known about self-harm among the homeless population. The study aim was to estimate the incidence of self-harm among the homeless population and to assess factors associated with self-harm.

Methods

Data on self-harm presentations to 34 hospital emergency departments in Ireland were collected by the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI). Index presentations between 2010 and 2014 were included for the homeless and fixed residence populations. Incidence rates of self-harm were calculated using NSHRI data and census estimates. Factors associated with self-harm and repeated self-harm were analysed by multivariable-adjusted logistic regression.

Results

The age-standardised incidence rate of self-harm was 30 times higher among the homeless (5,572 presentations per 100,000) compared with those with a fixed residence (187 presentations per 100,000). Homeless people had significantly higher odds of being male (OR 1.86, 95% CI 1.56-2.23),

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