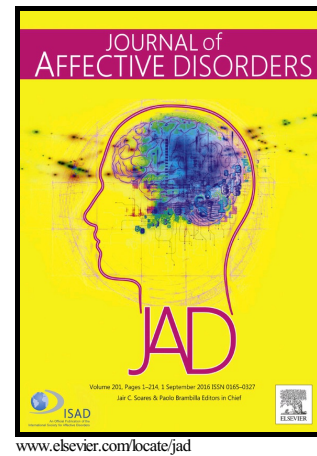


Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0165-0327(17)31722-6
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.10.043>
Reference: JAD9308

To appear in: *Journal of Affective Disorders*

Received date: 16 August 2017
Revised date: 23 October 2017
Accepted date: 27 October 2017

Cite this article as: Julie Lutz and Amy Fiske, Functional disability and suicidal behavior in middle-aged and older adults: A systematic critical review, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.10.043>

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Functional disability and suicidal behavior in middle-aged and older adults: A systematic critical
review

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Abstract

Background:

Middle-aged and older adults have elevated rates of suicide around the globe, but there is a paucity of knowledge about risk factors for suicide in these age groups. One possible risk factor may be functional disability, which is more common at later ages.

Methods:

The current systematic critical review examined findings regarding the associations between functional disability and suicidal behavior (suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and death by suicide) in middle-aged and older adults (i.e. age 50 and older).

Results:

Forty-five studies were found that examined these associations. The majority of studies supported a significant association between functional disability and suicidal ideation. In addition, findings to date strongly suggest that depression serves as a mediator of the association between functional disability and suicidal ideation, though most studies did not directly test for mediation.

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