



RESEARCH POSTER SUBMISSION

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Poster Title

SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND COMPLETIONS IN CHRONIC PAIN: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Poster Abstract

Introduction/Aim: Little research exists on suicide completion rates in chronic pain. We aimed to describe attempts and completions in a population-based matched sample with and without chronic pain using administrative data.

Methods: Ontarians ≥ 18 years were identified from the Canadian Community Health Survey. Individuals with and without chronic pain were matched on age, sex, rurality and income using propensity methods and linked administrative data. They were followed from survey response to death or December 31, 2013. Suicide attempts and completions were identified using ICD-10 codes from emergency department records and Ontario death records, respectively. We also employed an accepted broader definition of suicide, which included accidental poisoning and death of undetermined intent. Suicide rates were expressed as number per 100,000 person years.

Results: There were 18,430 pairs of adults with (cases) and without (controls) chronic pain. Average age was 56 years and 61% were female. Mean (SD) follow-up was 6.9 (3.6) years. 128 people attempted suicide at least once among cases versus 61 among controls ($P < 0.01$). There were 16 suicides among cases compared to 10 among controls ($p > 0.05$), translating to 13 and 8 suicides per 100,000 person years. For the broad suicide definition, there were 35 and 16 suicides ($p = 0.01$) with rates of 28 and 12 per 100,000.

Discussion/Conclusions: Suicide attempts and completions (broad definition) occurred twice as frequently in people with chronic pain versus matched controls. There was no statistical difference in completions using the narrow definition. Our results suggest that chronic pain is associated with suicidal behavior.