

H37 Female Suicides in Southern Marmara: A Retrospective Analysis of 8,048 Cases Between 2009 and 2014

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the importance of the prevention of female deaths due to suicides.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing results from a six-year retrospective study in the vicinity of Bursa, Turkey.

The high rates of suicide and attempted suicide which characterize this topic is a significant public health problem.¹ Hanging is the most common method of suicide in Turkey and worldwide.² Researchers investigated gender-specific association between risk factors and suicide, controlling for demographic factors. In this regard, suicide deaths for females were associated with mental health service use in both younger and older age groups.³ Additionally, female suicides have higher rates of depression than males in the literature.⁴ Menon et al. reported that certain differences were seen to be present between male and female suicide attempters with regard to baseline personality attributes.⁵

In the present study, 8,048 forensic autopsy cases performed in the Bursa morgue Department of the Council of Forensic Medicine, Turkey, from 2009 to 2014 were evaluated retrospectively for female suicidal death cases. Two hundred fifty-five suicide cases were analyzed for age, cause of death, time of year/month, hospitalization period, autopsy findings, putrefaction, toxicology results, medical history, marital status, cohabitation, death scenes, and detection of sperm on vaginal/anal swabs. The age classification was determined according to youth, young adult, middle adult, older adult to average retirement age, and retired (1-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, and 65 years and older). Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) statistics 20.0 was used for statistical analysis. The mean age of the cases was 42.08±19.66 years and ranged between 12 years and 87 years. The most common suicidal attempts encountered were hanging (69.4%), followed by drug intoxication (7.8%), firearms injury (7.1%), pesticide poisoning (5.9), and falls from height (5.5%). Only one case had self-inflicted stab wounds. Of the studied cases, 31.4% were under medical treatment and the most common cause of disease was psychiatric disorders. The most common age group for hanging was young adulthood and, when compared to other age groups, this data was statistically significant.

The hanging ratio shows that significant differences between suicide attempts and personality attributes such as age and psychiatric treatment were identified as important for female suicides. This research seeks to evaluate personality factors, differences in female suicides between suicide attempts, personality attributes, and the association of suicide risk.

Suicide-related deaths, especially female suicides, are still an important public health issue in society. All safety regulation measures must be taken by all related authorities and more comprehensive current studies must be undertaken for causes of female suicide.



Pathology/Biology Section - 2016

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Autopsy Results, Suicide, Hanging