

Trends in suicide mortality in Chile from 1998 to 2011 [Mortalidad por suicidio en Chile: Tendencias en los años 1998-2011]

Otzen T.

Sanhueza A.

Manterola C.

Escamilla-Cejudo J.A.

Background: Suicide is an important public health problem accounting for an important proportion of deaths in Chile. **Aim:** To describe trends in suicide mortality in Chile between 1998 and 2011, by year, region, sex and age. **Material and Methods:** A population survey study was conducted using suicide mortality data of Chile from 1998 to 2011, provided by the statistics department of the Ministry of Health, Coroners' offices and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). Age-adjusted suicide mortality rates were calculated per 100,000 habitants. Variables analyzed included year, age, sex, etiology and geographical distribution. An analysis of the average annual variation (AAV) was performed and the logarithm of the age-adjusted rates by year and region was fitted by applying linear regression models. Relative risks (RR) by sex, geographical distribution and age were also calculated. **Results:** The mean suicide rate in Chile, was 12.11 per 100.000 in the period 2000-2011. The rates were higher in men, with a higher AAV in women and a relative risk for men was 5.14 higher than in women. The rates were higher in the southern regions of the country. Atacama had the highest AAV. By age, the rates are consistently higher in subjects aged 40 to 59 years until 2006, when this pattern started to change. Between 2006 and 2009, subjects aged 25-39 years had the highest rates. Subjects aged 0 to 14 years, exhibit the highest AAV. **Conclusions:** The distribution of suicide rates by sex in Chile is similar to other countries, but it is different by age. The age range with the highest suicide rates changed over time.

Attempted

Cause of death

Chile

Mortality

Suicide

adolescent

adult

age distribution

aged

child

Chile

epidemiology

female

human

infant

male

middle aged

newborn

preschool child

sex ratio

statistics and numerical data

suicide

trends

young adult

Adolescent

Adult

Age Distribution

Aged

Child

Child, Preschool

Chile

Female

Humans

Infant

Infant, Newborn

Male

Middle Aged

Sex Distribution

Suicide

Young Adult