

# **A retrospective study on attempted suicide by drug overdose among young population in Tehran/Iran**

Abdolkarim Pajoumand<sup>1</sup>, Haleh Talaie<sup>1</sup>, Mahboubeh Zarei<sup>2</sup>, Reyhaneh Panahandeh<sup>1</sup>, Arezou Mahdavinejad<sup>1</sup>, Fatemeh Fereshteh Mehregan<sup>3</sup>, Babak Mostafazadeh<sup>1,2</sup>, Mohammad Abdollahi<sup>4</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Toxicological Research Center, Loghman-Hakim Hospital, School of Medicine Shahid Beheshti University of medical sciences, M.C. MD. Tehran, Iran.

<sup>2</sup> Poison Center, Loghman-Hakim Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of medical sciences, M.C. MD. Tehran, Iran.

<sup>3</sup> Pediatric Ward, Loghman-Hakim Hospital, School of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of medical sciences, M.C. MD. Tehran, Iran.

<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Pharm, PhD. Tehran, Iran

Correspondence: Haleh Talaie, Toxicological Research Center,

Loghman-Hakim Hospital, School of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of medical sciences, M.C.Tehran, Iran

Email:Talaie@sbmu.ac.ir

Tell Fax: +982155408847

## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** Suicide is a critical public health problem. In developing countries, the highest suicide rate is found in the young adults with remarkable increasing rhythm.

**Study design:** In this study we evaluated the epidemiology and characteristics of 8-16-year-old individuals with suicide attempt in Loghman Hospital in Tehran/Iran from 1997 to 2007.

**Methods:** A total of 6414 hospitalized patients in youth population with suicide attempt residing in Loghman Hakim Hospital were investigated. We performed a retrospective chart review to study the characteristic of cases in a 10-year period by review of psychiatric and medical records.

**Results:** Out of 1451 (22.6%) were male, 5978 patients were 12-16 years old and the rest were aged 8-12. During ten years period, suicides showed a rising trend among adults while in children no significant increase was detected. Communicative disorders were the most common underlying risk factors particularly in women. One patient out of five cases had psychiatric disorders and adjustment disorders were the most predominant. Remarkable peak in suicides observed in May and July, while winter had the highest suicide rate among seasons.

**Conclusions:** suicide rates among young females are high. This increasing trend is a psychiatric concern and should be resolved by improving mental and public health.

**Key words:** Suicide, Poisoning, Youth, Psychiatry