

# Attempted suicide by self-poisoning in a Danish Region

Jensen BF, Konieczna A, Andersen Ejdesgaard B  
Centre for Suicide Research, Soendergade 17, 5000 Odense C, Denmark

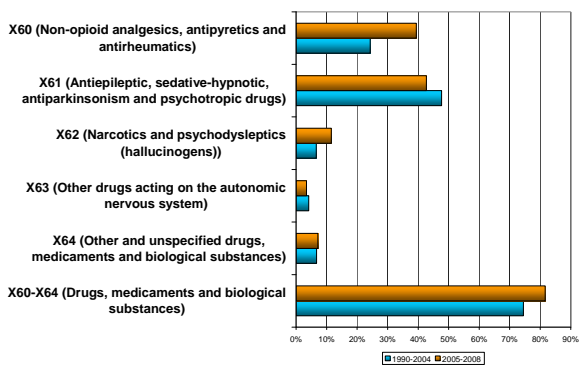


Fig. 1. Methods applied in suicide attempts with contact to a hospital from 1990 to 2008. Several methods were registered for each attempt.

Conclusion: Drug poisoning was employed in 75.8 % of all attempts. The percentage of drug poisoning was larger in the period 2005-08 than in the period 1990-2004 mainly due to an increase in self-poisoning with analgesics.

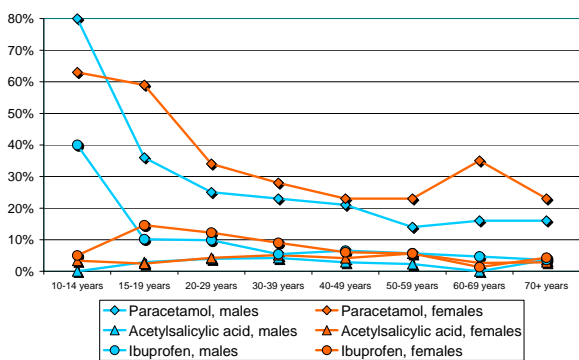


Fig. 2. Percentage of self-poisoning with non-prescription medical drugs (paracetamol, acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen) by sex and age groups from 2005 to 2008.

Conclusion: Employment of non-prescription drugs reflects the total sale of these products, except that paracetamol is more frequently applied by adolescents, 10-19 years old. The regional sale in defined daily doses (DDD) per 1,000 inhabitants per day is paracetamol: 63, acetylsalicylic acid: 10, and ibuprofen: 21.

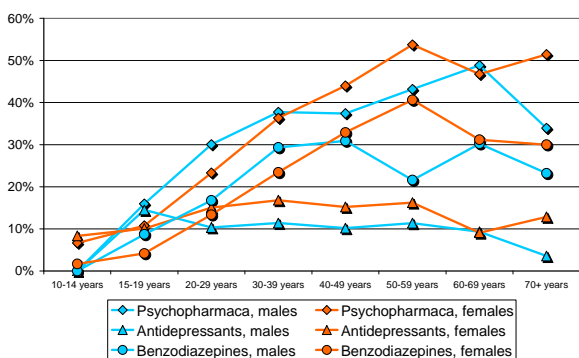


Fig. 3. Percentage of self-poisoning with prescription medication (psycholeptics (N05), anti-depressants (N06A), benzodiazepines) by sex and age groups from 2005 to 2008.

Conclusion: Adolescents 10-19 years old employed prescription medication to a lesser extent than 20+ year old persons, e.g. psycholeptics (among these benzodiazepines).

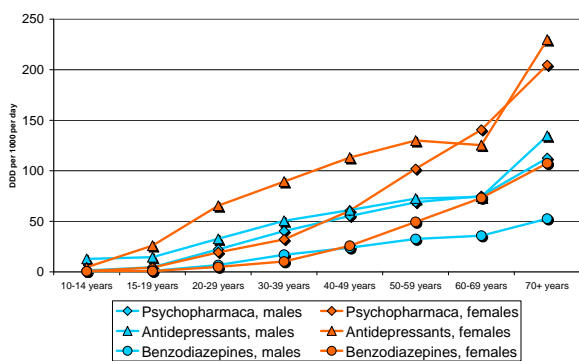


Fig. 4. Amount of prescription medication (in defined daily doses per 1,000 inhabitants per day) bought by various sex and age-groups

Conclusion: Compared to the amount of prescription medication bought by different sex and age groups, adolescents 10-19 year old persons have a greater risk of using psycholeptics (e.g. benzodiazepines).

General conclusion: Although adolescents have a relatively greater risk of employing prescription medication for self-poisoning than 20+ year old persons, they have limited accessibility to prescribed medicine. This seems to increase risk of using non-prescription drugs for suicide attempts.

