Abstract from Original Article

Cumulative Rates of Potential Life Lost due to Suicide in Different Administrative Areas in Taiwan

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Objectives: Important information about the societal impact of suicide death can be obtained using an index of years of potential life lost (YPLL). Although previous studies have reported the YPLL of suicide in Taiwan, there has been no report regarding the differences of suicidal impacts in different administrative areas in Taiwan. The present study used the "cumulative rate of potential life lost" (CRPLL) to examine the social impacts of suicide in different administrative areas in Taiwan. Methods: The age-specific population numbers and suicide death numbers were abstracted from vital statistics in Taiwan, 1982-1991. The CRPLLs of suicide in different administrative areas in Taiwan were calculated. Results: Our results show that low level of administrative area was associated with the impact of suicide. Aborig-inal townships suffered the greatest impact from suicide, with an average male losing an estimated 321.9 days due to suicide during his lifetime and an average female losing 213.2 days, if he or she doesn't succumb to other diseases. In contrast, the male residents of the metropolitan cities lost an estimated 39.9 days, and females, 28.7 days. Conclusions: With the use of the CRPLL index, it is possible to gauge and compare the suicidal impacts between different administrative areas in Taiwan. Such quantitatative comparison as done in this paper constitutes an important first step for health policy making. (Full Text in Chinese)

Key words: suicide, years of potential life lost, cumulative rate of potential life lost, geographical distribution
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