

P127. DRUGS RELATED SUICIDES IN UNITED KINGDOM

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Drug overdose is a common lethal method of suicide in the world (67%). The rapid rise in freely availability of the drugs to buy legally from shops throughout the UK has become a risk factor for suicide. Drug poisoning deaths involve a broad spectrum of substances, including legal and illegal drugs, prescription drugs (either prescribed or obtained by other means) and over-the-counter medications. Drugs most commonly used in overdose were (in order) heroin/morphine, amphetamines, paracetamol (and related compounds), benzodiazepines (diazepam), anti-depressants, SSRI and opiates. A total of 2.995 numbers of cases of drug-related deaths registered in 2013 in the UK, 2.032 male - 923 female deaths. Male drug misuse deaths (including illegal drugs) increased by 23%, from 1.177 in 2012 to 1.444 in 2013. Female drug misuse deaths increased by 12%, from 459 in 2012 to 513 in 2013. 56% of all deaths related to drug poisoning in 2013 were involved an overdose of opiates. Deaths caused by due to use of legal high increased by 15%, from 52 deaths in 2012 to 60 deaths in 2013. Present data indeed showed that antidepressants were identified in almost a quarter of suicidal victims. Therefore, drug misuse between accidental and deliberately self-harming deaths may confirm the possibility of depression as a risk factor for suicide. Antidepressants have been frequently reported as a major means of self-poisoning [>39 years of age]. The use of paracetamol and related compounds were also reported as most commonly consumed drug and identified in intentional death victims, with its use for suicidal purposes being a well-known phenomenon in the UK. Drug overdose in suicide is common in United Kingdom due to easily availability of the drugs. Drug users should be educated on the risk factors associated with overdose.