**Supplementary Table 1. Sociodemographic and behavioural characteristics of patients by method of suicide, compared to all other methods, using chi-squares**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Hanging/ strangulation (*N*=12,112) | Self-poisoning (*N*=6,585) | Jumping (*N*=3,662) | Drowning(*N*=1,441) | Cutting/stabbing (*N*=850)  | Gas inhalation(*N*=641) | All methods (*N*=26,688) |
| Characteristic | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| **Sociodemographic**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age: median (IQR\*) | 44 (33-55) | 46 (36-56) | 44 (33-55) | 55 (42-67) | 50 (41-60) | 44 (34-52) | 45 (35-56) |
| Age group |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < 25  | 1,262 | 10.4 | 385 | 5.9 | 397 | 10.8 | 61 | 4.2 | 21 | 2.5 | 48 | 7.5 | 2,259 | 6.8 |
| 25-44  | 4,953 | 40.9 | 2,642 | 40.1 | 1,447 | 39.5 | 355 | 24.6 | 267 | 31.4 | 289 | 45.1 | 10,409 | 39.0 |
| 45-64  | 4,592 | 37.9 | 2,732 | 41.5 | 1,372 | 37.5 | 607 | 42.1 | 397 | 46.7 | 262 | 40.9 | 10,489 | 39.3 |
| ≥ 65  | 1,305 | 10.8 | 826 | 12.5 | 446 | 12.2 | 418 | 29.0 | 165 | 19.4 | 42 | 6.6 | 3,531 | 13.2 |
| Female  | 3,401 | 28.1▾ | 3,118 | 47.3▴ | 1,201 | 32.8 | 603 | 41.8▴ | 171 | 20.1▾ | 134 | 20.9▾ | 9,144 | 20.9 |
| Ethnic minority  | 757 | 6.5 | 290 | 4.6▾ | 376 | 10.6▴ | 119 | 8.5 | 45 | 5.5 | 30 | 4.8 | 1,720 | 6.7 |
| Unmarried  | 7,983 | 69.8▾ | 4,811 | 77.5▴ | 2,527 | 72.1 | 940 | 68.6 | 587 | 72.9 | 455 | 74.7 | 18,242 | 72.2 |
| Unemployed  | 4,978 | 44.5▾ | 3,169 | 51.6▴ | 1,679 | 48.4 | 546 | 40.1▾ | 353 | 44.2▾ | 229 | 38.8▾ | 11,471 | 46.2 |
| Living alone  | 4,874 | 24.9▾ | 3,536 | 56.9▴ | 1,586 | 45.2▾ | 666 | 48.5 | 452 | 55.4▴ | 291 | 48.3 | 12,024 | 47.7 |
| Homeless | 313 | 2.7 | 114 | 1.8▾ | 99 | 2.8 | 34 | 2.4 | 14 | 1.7 | 13 | 2.1 | 611 | 2.4 |
| **Behavioural**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| History of self-harm  | 7,416 | 64.3 | 4,482 | 71.1▴ | 2,122 | 60.2▾ | 797 | 58.5▾ | 502 | 62.0 | 421 | 68.5 | 16,552 | 64.9 |
| Recent (<3 months) self-harm  | 3,635 | 32.3▴ | 1,566 | 26.0▾ | 982 | 28.2 | 323 | 24.2▾ | 223 | 28.2 | 186 | 30.7 | 7,228 | 29.2 |
| History of alcohol misuse  | 5,484 | 47.7 | 3,446 | 55.0▴ | 1,408 | 40.1▾ | 564 | 4.9▾ | 379 | 47.1 | 258 | 42.7 | 12,044 | 47.4 |
| Recent (<3 months) alcohol misuse  | 3,470 | 31.2▴ | 2,003 | 33.3▴ | 875 | 25.4▾ | 346 | 25.9▾ | 249 | 31.4 | 167 | 27.7 | 7,404 | 30.1 |
| History of drug misuse  | 4,296 | 37.2 | 2,616 | 41.7▴ | 1,201 | 34.2 | 318 | 23.2▾ | 292 | 36.0 | 175 | 28.9▾ | 9,230 | 36.3 |
| Recent (<3 months) drug misuse  | 2,416 | 21.5▴ | 1,427 | 23.5▴ | 668 | 19.4 | 161 | 12.0▾ | 152 | 19.1 | 96 | 16.0 | 5,092 | 20.6 |

aIQR = interquartile range ▴positively associated (p<.0017)▾negatively associated (p<.0017)

**Supplementary Table 2. Clinical characteristics of patients by method of suicide, compared to all other methods, using chi-squares**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Hanging/ strangulation (*N*=12,112) | Self-poisoning (*N*=6,585) | Jumping (*N*=3,662) | Drowning(*N*=1,441) | Cutting/stabbing (*N*=850)  | Gas inhalation(*N*=641) | All methods (*N*=26,688) |
| Characteristic | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| **Clinical**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Schizophrenia & other psychotic disorders | 1,440 | 12.2▾ | 915 | 14.1▾ | 1,002 | 27.7▴ | 308 | 21.7▴ | 217 | 26.1▴ | 41 | 6.5▾ | 4,153 | 15.9 |
| Bipolar disorder  | 870 | 7.8 | 534 | 8.8 | 329 | 9.7▴ | 109 | 8.2 | 62 | 7.9 | 38 | 6.3 | 2,025 | 8.3 |
| Depressive disorder  | 3,979 | 35.8▴ | 1,771 | 29.3▾ | 1,011 | 29.7▾ | 451 | 33.9 | 223 | 28.3 | 223 | 37.1 | 8,045 | 32.8 |
| Alcohol dependence/misuse  | 1,022 | 8.6 | 641 | 9.9▴ | 201 | 5.6▾ | 132 | 9.3 | 73 | 8.8 | 347 | 5.9 | 2,224 | 8.5 |
| Drug dependence/misuse  | 670 | 5.7 | 471 | 7.3▴ | 125 | 3.5▾ | 36 | 2.5▾ | 25 | 3.0 | 19 | 3.0 | 1,392 | 5.3 |
| Personality disorder | 1,109 | 9.4▾ | 960 | 14.8▴ | 248 | 6.96▾ | 80 | 5.7▾ | 64 | 7.7 | 84 | 13.3 | 2,653 | 10.1 |
| Comorbid psychiatric diagnosis | 6,192 | 52.6▾ | 3,898 | 60.3▴ | 1,876 | 52.1 | 654 | 46.3▾ | 444 | 53.6 | 278 | 44.5▾ | 13,988 | 53.7 |
| Short history of illness (<12 months)  | 2,744 | 25.5▴ | 631 | 10.4▾ | 694 | 20.5 | 275 | 20.9 | 197 | 26.0▴ | 142 | 24.7 | 4,950 | 20.6 |
| Long history of illness (>5 years) | 5,134 | 47.7▾ | 4,080 | 67.5▴ | 1,831 | 54.1 | 741 | 64.2 | 446 | 58.8 | 275 | 47.9▾ | 13,169 | 54.7 |
| In-patient at time of death | 874 | 7.3 | 150 | 2.3▾ | 457 | 12.5▴ | 152 | 10.6▴ | 63 | 7.4 | 18 | 2.8▾ | 1,838 | 6.9 |
| Died within 3 months of discharge  | 1,799 | 15.1 | 817 | 12.5▾ | 668 | 18.5▴ | 216 | 15.2 | 129 | 15.4 | 87 | 13.8 | 3,903 | 14.8 |
| Died within a week of discharge  | 271 | 5.84 | 111 | 4.47▾ | 114 | 6.11 | 36 | 5.14 | 23 | 7.03 | 12 | 5.50 | 599 | 5.52 |
| Missed last appointment  | 2,631 | 22.4 | 1,656 | 25.8▴ | 648 | 18.1▾ | 295 | 20.9▾ | 164 | 19.9 | 160 | 25.4▴ | 5,810 | 22.3 |
| Non-adherence with medication | 1,388 | 12.8 | 615 | 10.7▾ | 536 | 15.7▴ | 165 | 12.4 | 120 | 15.3 | 73 | 12.6 | 3,035 | 12.7 |
| Recent (<1 week) last contact  | 5,629 | 46.9 | 2,473 | 38.0▾ | 2,169 | 59.6▴ | 718 | 50.4 | 466 | 55.5▴ | 249 | 39.2▾ | 12,321 | 46.6 |

▴positively associated (p<.0017)▾negatively associated (p<.0017)

**Supplementary Table 3. Effect of sociodemographic characteristics, primary diagnosis, clinical features and behaviour characteristics on suicide method – univariate results adjusted for sex and age using logistic regression**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Hanging/Strangulation (*N*=12,112) | Self-poisoning (*N*=6,585) | Jumping (*N*=3,662) |
| Characteristic | OR | AOR | OR | AOR | OR | AOR |
| **Sociodemographic**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age group |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < 25  | Ref |  | Ref |  | Ref |  |
| 25-44  | .72 [.64-.81]\*\* |  | 1.65 [1.41-1.93]\*\* |  | .76 [.65-.89]\*\* |  |
| 45-64  | .61 [.55-.69]\*\* |  | 1.71 [1.47-2.00]\*\* |  | .71 [.60-.83]\*\* |  |
| ≥ 65  | .46 [.40-.53]\*\* |  | 1.48 [1.24-1.77]\*\* |  | .68 [.56-.82]\*\* |  |
| Female  | .60 [.56-.64]\*\* |  | 2.10 [1.95-2.26]\*\* |  | .93 [.84-1.02] |  |
| Ethnic minority  | .95 [.83-1.08] | .88 [.77-.1.00] | .60 [.51-.71]\*\* | .61 [.51-.72]\*\* | 1.84 [1.57-2.15]\*\* | 1.79 [1.52-2.09]\*\* |
| Unmarried  | .80 [.75-.86]\*\* | .70 [.65-.75]\*\* | 1.44 [1.32-1.57]\*\* | 1.59 [1.45-1.74]\*\* | .996 [.90-1.11] | .94 [.84-1.05] |
| Unemployed  | .89 [.83-.95]\*\* | .75 [.70-.81]\*\* | 1.34 [1.24-1.44]\*\* | 1.44 [1.33-1.56]\*\* | 1.11 [1.01-1.22]\* | 1.08 [.97-1.19] |
| Living alone  | .70 [.66-.75]\*\* | .70 [.66-.75]\*\* | 1.63 [1.51-1.75]\*\* | 1.68 [1.55-1.82]\*\* | .89 [.81-.97]\*\* | .91 [.82-.997]\* |
| Homeless | 1.28 [1.04-1.58]\* | 1.08 [.87-1.34] | .69 [.53-.91]\*\* | .81 [.61-1.06] | 1.21 [.91-1.61] | 1.15 [.86-1.54] |
| **Clinical**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Schizophrenia & other psychotic disorders | .59 [.54-.65]\*\* | .52 [.48-.57]\*\* | .84 [.75-.93]\*\* | .90 [.81-1.00] | 2.36 [2.12-2.63]\*\* | 2.36 [2.11-2.63]\*\* |
| Bipolar disorder  | .90 [.80-1.02] | .97 [.86-1.10] | 1.11 [.96-1.27] | .99 [.86-1.13] | 1.23 [1.04-1.44]\*\* | 1.27 [1.08-1.50]\*\* |
| Depressive disorder  | 1.28 [1.19-1.37]\*\* | 1.45 [1.35-1.56]\*\* | .81 [.74-.88]\*\* | .76 [.70-.83]\*\* | .85 [.76-.94]\*\* | .88 [.79-.97]\*\* |
| Alcohol dependence/misuse  | 1.03 [.92-1.16] | .95 [.85-1.07] | 1.26 [1.11-1.43]\*\* | 1.36 [1.19-1.54]\*\* | .60 [.49-.73]\*\* | .59 [.48-.72]\*\* |
| Drug dependence/misuse  | 1.13 [.98-1.31] | .97 [.84-1.12] | 1.60 [1.37-1.86]\*\* | 1.82 [1.56-2.12]\*\* | .60 [.47-.77]\*\* | .57 [.44-.73]\*\* |
| Personality disorder | .86 [.76-.95]\*\* | .87 [.78-.98]\* | 1.85 [1.66-2.07]\*\* | 1.65 [1.47-1.85]\*\* | .62 [.52-.74]\*\* | .59 [.49-.71]\*\* |
| Comorbid psychiatric disorder | .92 [.87-.990]\*\* | .89 [.84-.95]\*\* | 1.43 [1.33-1.54]\*\* | 1.44 [1.33-1.55]\*\* | .93 [.85-1.02] | .92 [.83-1.01] |
| Short history of illness (<12 months)  | 1.72 [1.59-1.87]\*\* | 1.72 [1.58-1.88]\*\* | .37 [.33-.42]\*\* | .39 [.35-.44]\*\* | .995 [.88-1.12] | .992 [.88-1.12] |
| Long history of illness (>5 years) | .60 [.56-.64]\*\* | .61 [.57-.65]\*\* | 2.04 [1.88-2.21]\*\* | 1.92 [1.77-2.09]\*\* | .97 [.88-1.07] | 1.00 [.91-1.11] |
| In-patient at time of death | 1.08 [.95-1.23] | 1.11 [.97-1.26] | .25 [.20-.32]\*\* | .23 [.19-.29]\*\* | 2.38 [2.04-2.78]\*\* | 2.39 [2.05-2.79]\*\* |
| Died within 3 months of discharge  | 1.05 [.96-1.15] | 1.06 [.97-1.17] | .72 [.64-.80]\*\* | .69 [.62-.78]\*\* | 1.50 [1.32-1.70]\*\* | 1.51 [1.33-1.71]\*\* |
| Died within a week of discharge  | 1.16 [.93-1.44] | 1.14 [.91-1.42] | .63 [.48-.83]\*\* | .65 [.49-.86]\*\* | 1.29 [.97-1.70] | 1.29 [.97-1.70] |
| Missed last appointment  | 1.01 [.93-1.09] | .95 [..88-1.03] | 1.19 [1.09-1.30]\*\* | 1.22 [1.11-1.33]\*\* | .80 [.71-.91]\*\* | .78 [.70-.89]\*\* |
| Non-adherence with medication  | 1.02 [.92-1.13] | .98 [.89-1.09] | .78 [.69-.88]\*\* | .78 [.69-.89]\*\* | 1.34 [1.18-1.54]\*\* | 1.33 [1.16-1.52]\*\* |
| Recent contact (< one week) | 1.02 [.96-1.09] | 1.08 [1.01-1.15]\* | .63 [.58-.68]\*\* | .58 [.54-.63]\*\* | 1.83 [1.67-2.01]\*\* | 1.87 [1.71-2.06]\*\* |
| **Behavioural**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| History of self-harm  | .95 [.89-1.02] | .96 [.89-1.02] | 1.46 [1.35-1.59]\*\* | 1.37 [1.26-1.49]\*\* | .79 [.72-.87]\*\* | .77 [.70-.85]\*\* |
| Recent (<3 months) self-harm  | 1.32 [1.23-1.42]\*\* | 1.33 [1.23-1.43]\*\* | .81 [.75-.89]\*\* | .77 [.70-.84]\*\* | .95 [.85-1.05] | .93 [.83-1.03] |
| History of alcohol misuse  | 1.02 [.96-1.09] | .90 [.84-.96]\*\* | 1.49 [1.39-1.61]\*\* | 1.69 [1.56-1.83]\*\* | .71 [.64-.78]\*\* | .67 [.61-.74]\*\* |
| Recent (<3 months) alcohol misuse  | 1.10 [1.03-1.18]\*\* | .996 [.92-1.07] | 1.22 [1.12-1.32]\*\* | 1.31 [1.21-1.43]\*\* | .76 [.69-.85]\*\* | .74 [.66-.82]\*\* |
| History of drug misuse  | 1.07 [1.01-1.15]\* | .86 [.80-.93]\*\* | 1.35 [1.25-1.46]\*\* | 1.71 [1.57-1.87]\*\* | .90 [.82-.993]\* | .81 [.73-.90]\*\* |
| Recent drug misuse (<3 months) | 1.11 [1.03-1.21]\*\* | .92 [.84-.998]\* | 1.26 [1.15-1.38]\*\* | 1.51 [1.37-1.67]\*\* | .92 [.82-1.04] | .85 [.75-.96]\*\* |

\* p<.01 \*\*p<.0017; OR = odds ratios; AOR = odds ratios adjusted for sex and age

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Drowning (*N*=1,441) | Cutting (N=850) | Gas inhalation (*N*=641) |
| Characteristic | OR | AOR | OR | AOR | OR | AOR |
| **Sociodemographic**  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age group |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < 25  | Ref |  | Ref |  | Ref |  |
| 25-44  | 1.28 [.89-1.83] |  | 2.80 [1.56-5.04]\*\* |  | 1.32 [.88-1.98] |  |
| 45-64  | 2.21 [1.56-3.14]\*\* |  | 4.19 [2.35-7.49]\*\* |  | 1.18 [.78-1.78] |  |
| ≥ 65  | 4.84 [3.38-6.93]\*\* |  | 5.22 [2.86-9.52]\*\* |  | .55 [.32-.96]\* |  |
| Female  | 1.41 [1.22-1.62]\*\* |  | .47 [.38-.59]\*\* |  | .50 [.39-.64]\*\* |  |
| Ethnic minority  | 1.31 [1.01-1.69]\* | 1.61 [1.24-2.09]\*\* | .81 [.54-1.21] | .93 [.62-1.39] | .70 [.43-1.14] | .67 [.41-1.09] |
| Unmarried  | .83 [.71-.97] | 1.04 [.89-1.23] | 1.04 [.84-1.28] | 1.20 [.97-1.49] | 1.14 [.89-1.45] | 1.04 [.81-1.34] |
| Unemployed  | .77 [.66-.89]\*\* | 1.16 [.98-1.36] | .92 [.76-1.11] | 1.04 [.85-1.28] | .73 [.59-.92]\*\* | .60 [.48-.75]\*\* |
| Living alone  | 1.03 [.90-1.19] | .98 [.85-1.14] | 1.38 [1.14-1.65]\*\* | 1.25 [1.04-1.51]\* | 1.02 [.83-1.27] | .99 [.79-1.22] |
| Homeless | 1.02 [.64-1.61] | 1.46 [.91-2.32] | .70 [.35-1.41] | .72 [.36-1.46] | .88 [.43-1.83] | .73 [.35-1.52] |
| **Clinical**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Schizophrenia & other psychotic disorders | 1.51 [1.27-1.79]\*\* | 1.86 [1.56-2.22]\*\* | 1.92 [1.56-2.37]\*\* | 2.02 [1.63-2.49]\*\* | .36 [.24-.55]\*\* | .32 [.21-.48]\*\* |
| Bipolar disorder  | .99 [.76-1.29] | .94 [.72-1.22] | .95 [.67-134] | .97 [.68-1.37] | .75 [.48-1.15] | .80 [.51-1.23] |
| Depressive disorder  | 1.06 [.91-1.23] | .81 [.69-.95]\*\* | .80 [.65-.990]\* | .70 [.56-.86]\*\* | 1.22 [.98-1.52] | 1.38 [1.10-1.73]\*\* |
| Alcohol dependence/misuse  | 1.11 [.87-1.42] | 1.36 [1.06-1.74]\*\* | 1.04 [.75-1.43] | .997 [.72-1.38] | .67 [.43-1.03] | .58 [.37-.90]\*\* |
| Drug dependence/misuse  | .45 [.29-.70]\*\* | .66 [.42-1.03] | .54 [.32-.92]\* | .60 [.35-1.02] | .55 [.30-1.00]\* | .46 [.25-.84]\*\* |
| Personality disorder | .52 [.38-.70]\*\* | .62 [.46-.85]\*\* | .73 [.52-1.03] | 1.02 [.72-1.44] | 1.38 [1.01-1.87]\* | 1.53 [1.12-2.10]\*\* |
| Comorbid psychiatric disorder | .73 [.63-.84]\*\* | .82 [.71-.95]\*\* | .994 [.83-1.19] | 1.07 [.89-1.29] | .68 [.56-.84]\*\* | .65 [.53-.81]\*\* |
| Short history of illness (<12 months)  | 1.02 [.85-1.22] | .92 [.77-1.11] | 1.37 [1.10-1.70]\*\* | 1.24 [.998-1.55] | 1.28 [.992-1.65] | 1.29 [1.00-1.67]\* |
| Long history of illness (>5 years) | 1.06 [.92-1.23] | 1.11 [.96-1.29] | 1.19 [.98-1.44] | 1.21 [.991-1.47] | .76 [.61-.94]\*\* | .73 [.59-.92]\*\* |
| In-patient at time of death | 1.72 [1.35-2.18]\*\* | 1.71 [1.34-2.18]\*\* | 1.15 [.81-1.64] | 1.20 [.84-1.70] | .35 [.18-.67]\*\* | .36 [.19-.70]\*\* |
| Died within 3 months of discharge  | 1.07 [.87-1.32] | 1.07 [.87-1.32] | 1.08 [.84-1.40] | 1.09 [.84-1.42] | .82 [.60-1.13] | .83 [.60-1.13] |
| Died within a week of discharge  | .98 [.62-1.56] | .98 [.62-1.56] | 1.35 [.76-2.39] | 1.30 [.73-2.31] | .89 [.41-1.94] | .88 [.40-1.90] |
| Missed last appointment  | .97 [.78-1.22] | 1.16 [.97-1.39] | .86 [.68-1.09] | .92 [.73-1.17] | 1.12 [.88-1.43] | 1.04 [.82-1.33] |
| Non-adherence with medication | .98 [.83-1.16] | 1.07 [.86-1.34] | 1.25 [.96-1.62] | 1.31 [1.01-1.70]\* | .99 [.72-1.38] | .95 [.68-1.32] |
| Recent contact (< one week) | 1.17 [1.02-1.35]\* | 1.09 [.94-1.25] | 1.44 [1.20-1.73]\*\* | 1.45 [1.21-1.74]\*\* | .73 [.59-.90]\*\* | .77 [.62-.95]\* |
| **Behavioural**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| History of self-harm  | .75 [.65-.87]\*\* | .85 [.73-.99]\* | .88 [.73-1.06] | 1.04 [.86-1.26] | 1.18 [.94-1.48] | 1.22 [.97-1.53] |
| Recent (<3 months) self-harm  | .76 [.64-.90]\*\* | .86 [.72-1.02] | .95 [.77-1.17] | 1.10 [.89-1.35] | 1.08 [.86-1.36] | 1.11 [.88-1.39] |
| History of alcohol misuse  | .76 [.65-.87]\*\* | 1.02 [.87-1.19] | .990 [.82-1.19] | 1.02 [.84-1.24] | .82 [.66-1.02] | .68 [.55-.85]\*\* |
| Recent (<3 months) alcohol misuse  | .80 [.68-.95]\*\* | 1.05 [.89-1.25] | 1.07 [.88-1.31] | 1.12 [.91-1.37] | .89 [.70-1.13] | .77 [.61-.98]\* |
| History of drug misuse  | .51 [.41-.58]\*\* | .79 [.65-.95]\*\* | .990 [.81-1.19] | 1.20 [.97-1.49] | .71 [.56-.89]\*\* | .53 [.41-.68]\*\* |
| Recent (<3 months) drug misuse  | .51 [.43-.64\*\* | .80 [.63-1.00] | .91 [.72-1.15] | 1.08 [.84-1.39] | .73 [.55-.97]\* | .59 [.43-.79]\*\* |

\* p<.01 \*\*p<.0017; OR = odds ratios; AOR = odds ratios adjusted for sex and age