Gender differences and characteristics in mental health care patients in The Hague: 1999 to 2013

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Who
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- Dutch suicides in mental Health in general
- Background
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Suicide rate in Netherlands

between 2007-2012
(male: female = 2.2:1)

2012: 16,754,961 citizens

2007: peak economy, lowest suicide rate since 1970

Centraal Bureau Statistiek (CBS), 2013
2012

- 1,753 suicides
- Increase 106 suicides (6.0% corrected)
Dutch men/female ratio since 2007
### Suicides in the Netherlands

- **Total population:** 10.5/100,000
- **Exclusive MH patients:** ≈6-7/100,000
- **MH Patients:** ≈80-90/100,000
Mental health population

- Of all Dutch suicides 40-44% in mental health
- High risk group
- Information is detailed described (inspectorate)
- Selection of a subgroup of suicides?
- General population male: female = 2.2:1
- Male: female more equal (49:51% in treatment)
- Taxation 20% “fail” in mental health

Ping Qin (2003) Am. J. Psychiatry
Huisman (2009) Psychiatric Services
Gilissen (2013) Epidemiologisch bulletin
Suicides in general population:
- Men more often single
- Men with job: protective.
- Unemployment en low income: increased risk for men
- Having (young) children protective for women vrouwen
- Female with “important job” and high income seem to have an increased risk
- Psychiatric illness by female: increased risk
Aim

- Gaining insight about suicides in mental
- Gaining insight about a high risk group
- Description general characteristics
- Developing a gender risk profile
Methods I

- In treatment Parnassia Groep region The Hague
- “Monopolist” in region
- January 1999 - January 2013
- Retrospective patient records and inspectorate reports (n = 314)
- Extensive database
Methode II statistics

- SPSS 20
- Chi-Square Test: categorical variables
- T-tests: continues variables.
- In case of small samples or poor distribution the Fishers's Exact test
## Results I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>0.149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>0.731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>0.196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>0.096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow(er)</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>0.062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>0.590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results I

- Married
- Unmarried
- Relationship
- Divorced
- Widow
- Children

Legend:
- Female
- Male
Male

- 2 times ↑ alcohol problem (p=0.002)
- 2 times ↑ drug problem (p=0.003)
- 2 times ↑ work-related problems (p< 0.001)
- 2 times ↑ living-related problems (p=0.030)
- 3 times ↑ problems with justice (p=0.038)
Results II

- Alcohol
- Substance/drugs
- Work
- Living
- Justice

Graph showing percentages for different categories with bars for female and male.
Female

- 3 times ↑ cluster B (p < 0.001)
- 2 times ↑ physical abuse (p=0.004)
- 7 times ↑ sexual abuse (p<0,001)
- 1,5 times ↑ emotional neglect (p=0.003)
- Treatment history (14 years vs 11 years) (p=0.007)
- ↑ suicide attempts (71% vs 53%) (p=0.001)
Results III

- Cluster B
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional n.
- Attempt
Conclusion

- Male:female ratio more equal in MH

- Male ↑ drugs/alcohol and/or axis IV problems

- Female ↑ traumatised and/or cluster B problems
Strength & limitations

+ Numbers
+ Detailed & controlled information for suicides in MH
+ Large MH region and exclusive in third city of

- Dutch Inspectorate for health (defensive)
- No controls general population
- Different regulations inspectorate from 2010
Discussion

- Men and Female gender ratio unknown (emergency P 51 vs 49%)

- During risk taxation, gender related risk assessment?

- Shift in taxation?
Thank you audience!!!!!!!

- And also

- Mathijs Deen M.Sc
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- Wilma Neumann MD
- Pauline Stokvis MD
- Remco de Winter MD, Ph.D
- Jolien Bueno de Mesquita MD, Ph.D
- Bert van Hemert MD, Ph.D
- Marieke de Groot Ph.D