

D. Erbuto¹, F. Ricci¹, M. Migliorati¹, G. Serafini¹, P. Girardi¹, M. Pompili¹

¹Department of Neurosciences Suicide Prevention Center, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

INTRODUCTION

The Lifeline 'Talk With Us' was founded in 2008 by Suicide Prevention Center, Sant'Andrea Hospital, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, to provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis.

Objective

In this study we evaluated the socio demographic profile of individuals who used the helpline during last year (2012-2013) and caller's intent to die at the end of the call.

Aim

To investigate suicide risk factors among the callers and the association with the socio-economic status.

Method

Using a standardized form, we assessed suicide risk in a sample of 228 callers (120 female) focusing on Suicidal Desire, Suicidal Capability, Suicidal Intent..

Results

The mean age of our sample was 41±14,8; most callers (52%) were female from north and central of Italy. Suicide risk factors in our sample were the following: feeling alone, loss of a significant relationship, economic problems, loss of a significant loved one by suicide. Suicide attempts were reported by 27% of participants whereas 16,8% of them referred suicidal ideation. Unemployment was found in 22% of the callers whereas 42% of them referred suicide attempts, and 25% suicidal ideation.

Conclusion

This study shows the importance to provide an accessible volunteer service for people who are in crisis, present suicidal ideation or reported prior suicide attempts. In particular, our service was very important for those who were in economic crisis, as demonstrated by our data. Improving the quality of the existing services, and promoting awareness that suicide prevention is possible are highly recommended.