

P. Maksuti¹, V. Kola¹

¹Neroscience, University Hospital Center "Mother Tereza"-Tirana, Tirana, Albania

Aim:

Suicide is an increasing phenomenon in Albania. There is a lack of epidemiological studies on suicides, especially in Albanian capital city, Tirana. The broad aim of the study was the assessment of the morbidity of suicide victims in the district of Tirana over the period of time 2001-2010.

Methods:

This is a retrospective study. Data was collected from the records of the Prosecution Office of Tirana district. Medical data and the statements of the witnesses were studied.

Results:

A total of 254 people have committed suicide in the district of Tirana from 2001 to 2010. The prevalence of suicide was found 0.04% (95%CI 0.035 – 0.045). The mean age of the victims is 38.5 years old. Suicide is most frequent among males 65% and in individuals with a low socio-economical level. Suicides are more common during autumn 28% or during the months of April 13.8% and September 14.2%. The prevalence among married 52% is significantly higher compared to single individuals 41%. The most affected were workers, 25%, followed by housewives 16% and farmers 10%. The most frequent method was poisoning in 39.4%, followed by hanging in 20% of cases. 65% of cases were previously diagnosed with mental illnesses and 78% out of them were diagnosed with depression, while only 45% were treated before the suicide.

Conclusions:

A large number of the victims have had psychiatric disturbances (78% of them depression), but they have not sought medical help. A small number of cases were treated before the suicide.