

FC1 *Environmental psychiatry*

COMPLETED SUICIDES: PRE- AND POST-WAR DIFFERENCES

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The objective of this presentation will be to determine whether the rise in suicide rates in Vojvodina was influenced by dramatic events in former Yugoslavia.

A psychological autopsy was conducted for suicides committed in 1993 and 1994 in Vojvodina. The results were then compared to those of a similar study done in 1980. Three kinds of data were compared: socio-demographic (18 items), psychopathological (27 items) and suicide-related (9 items).

The results showed that in the post-war period there was a significant increase in the number of men and retired people in the age range of 50 to 70. For 48% of these their economic situation was barely adequate and for 21% totally inadequate. A significantly smaller number of subjects were psychopharmacologically treated. Among psychiatric disorders, there was a significant increase in cases of nontoxicomanic alcoholism and depressive reactions.

Contrary to expectation actual war experience contributed little to increased suicide rate, but socio-economic factors appeared to be dominant in generating suicide in the post-war period.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE BY CLIENTS IN REHABILITATION CENTRES

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At the beginning, the authors present their activities in the field of substance abuse, prevention and treatment at the Special Hospital for Neurological Diseases and Post-traumatic Conditions, Stari Slankamen. Patients in the hospital are casualties and invalid disabled veterans in the former Yugoslavia. The authors present their activities in the education of hospital staff in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) research, diagnosis and treatment of substance abuse and dependence. They describe the use of group psychotherapy in rehabilitation and give an evaluation of the first psychotherapy group work formed in 1993. The authors also present their programme of the psycho-social rehabilitation of invalid disabled veterans with substance abuse problems. The programme will develop into a network of specialised institutions whose staff will be trained to work with this specific population throughout Yugoslavia.