



## Suicide & the Older Adult

Last reviewed December 2019

### **The Risk of Suicide With Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors in the Elderly**

<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/ajp.2006.163.5.813>

The authors explored the relationship between initiation of SSRI antidepressants and completed suicide in older adults and found that there is an increased risk of suicide within the first month of therapy in comparison to the use of other antidepressants. (OPEN ACCESS)

### **Antidepressants and Suicidal Behaviour in Late Life: A Prospective Population-Based Study of use Patterns in new users Aged 75 and Above**

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs00228-017-2360-x.pdf>

The investigators examined the associations between antidepressant use patterns and the risk of fatal and non-fatal suicidal behaviours in older adults who had initiated antidepressant therapy. (OPEN ACCESS)

### **Predictors of Suicide Ideation Among Older Adults with Bipolar Disorder**

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0187632&type=printable>

The investigators sought to understand if older adults with bipolar disorder (BD) are at the same level of risk of death by suicide as younger adults. Their findings suggest that BD in combination with alcohol misuse, medication non-adherence as well as cognitive difficulties predict suicide ideation in older adults with BD. (OPEN ACCESS)

### **Medical Illness and the Risk of Suicide in the Elderly**

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/217074>

The authors explored the relationship between treatment for several illness and the risk of suicide in elderly patients using a population-based approach by analyzing records of Ontario residents aged 66 and over for a 8 year period. (OPEN ACCESS)

### **Association Between Cognitive Deficits and Suicidal Ideation in Patients With Major Depressive Disorder**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-12142-8.pdf>

This article describes a study investigating the association between cognitive function and suicidal ideation in patients with major depressive disorder. (OPEN ACCESS)

### **Risk Factors for Suicide in the Elderly: What do we Know? What do we Need to Find out?**

<https://journals.uio.no/index.php/suicidologi/article/view/2133/1996>

This information guide provides information for family, friends and others on risk factors and warning signs associated with suicide in older adults as a first step. It offers suggestions and recommendations on how to intervene in an appropriate way and seek professional help. (OPEN ACCESS)

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### Protective Factors for Older Suicide Attempters: Finding Reasons and Experiences to Live <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07481187.2019.1578303?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

This paper describes the nature and scope of protective factors that give older people reasons and experiences to live following a suicide attempt. (PAID ACCESS)

### Elderly Suicide: Risk Factors and Preventative Strategies

<https://www.jscimedcentral.com/Gerontology/gerontology-2-1028.pdf>

This paper reviews the evidence about the risk factors associated with suicidality among the elderly, mainly factors related with mental health illness and mainly depression, somatic illnesses, chronic pain and psychosocial factors, like social isolation, bereavement and financial problems. Interventions aiming to reduce suicide rates from a social policy and prevention perspective are included. (OPEN ACCESS)

### A Suicide Assessment of Elderly Military Veterans: Best Practice Guidelines in Long-Term Care <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/a-suicide-assessment-of-elderly-military-veterans-best-practice-guidelines-inlongterm-care-2471-9846-1000150.pdf>

This publication acts as a guideline for assessing suicide in elderly military veterans in long-term care based on the evidence available. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Screening for Suicide Ideation Among Older Primary Care Patients

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3138552/pdf/nihms301729.pdf>

The objective of this study was to assess whether brief screens for depression (GDS and GDS-SI) have acceptable operating characteristics in identifying suicide ideation among older primary care patients and to examine potential sex differences in the screens accuracy. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide Risk in Older Adults: The Role and Responsibility of Primary Care

[http://www.seminmedpract.com/pdf/jcom\\_apr17\\_suicide.pdf](http://www.seminmedpract.com/pdf/jcom_apr17_suicide.pdf)

This publication reviews a number of risk factors, appropriate screening and intervention in a primary care setting. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide in Older Adults: Nursing Assessment of Suicide Risk

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2864075/pdf/nihms192256.pdf>

The authors review the prevalence of suicidal behaviours in older adults and discuss the risk factors that contribute to completed suicide in these individuals. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Assessing Suicide Risk in Older Adults

[https://journals.lww.com/tnpj/fulltext/2016/10000/Assessing\\_suicide\\_risk\\_in\\_older\\_adults.6.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/tnpj/fulltext/2016/10000/Assessing_suicide_risk_in_older_adults.6.aspx)

This publication aims to describe risk factors, assessment areas to explore, and ways to improve treatment, primary care providers can help decrease the incidence of suicidal behaviours in older adults. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Screening for Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviours Among Older Patients Visiting the Emergency Department <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5073033/pdf/nihms802722.pdf>

The authors' findings support the need for more detailed screening for suicide risk among older adults presenting in the emergency department. (OPEN ACCESS)

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### Suicide Assessment & Prevention for Older Adults

[https://ccsmh.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/CCSMH\\_suicideBrochure.pdf](https://ccsmh.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/CCSMH_suicideBrochure.pdf)

This brochure overviews key points in regards to the assessment and prevention of suicide in older adults. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide Prevention for Older People

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/resources/Publications/suicide-prevent.pdf>

This training manual is designed for educators to improve the awareness of suicidal behaviour in older people. It aims to provide workers with information about early intervention and assessment strategies, and how to refer older people to appropriate services. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Centers

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Promoting-Emotional-Health-and-Preventing-Suicide/SMA15-4416>

This toolkit was prepared for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and includes strategies and tools to support seniors centres to promote emotional health among seniors. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities

<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma10-4515toolkitoverview.pdf>

This toolkit was prepared for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and includes strategies and tools to support seniors centres to promote emotional health among seniors. (OPEN ACCESS)

### The Role of Senior Living Community Professionals in Preventing Suicide

[https://www.sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/SrLivingCommunity\\_providers.pdf](https://www.sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/SrLivingCommunity_providers.pdf)

This information sheet contains highlights from the Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities resource. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide Later in Life: Challenges and Priorities for Prevention

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0749379714002608?via%3Dihub>

This study investigated strategies to decrease suicide deaths in later life. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide Prevention for Older Adults in Residential Communities: Implications for Policy and Practice

<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1000254&type=printable>

This publication overviews the problem of suicide in older adults and how healthy communities can be created using a variety of approaches. engage in hoarding behaviours. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Research to Reduce the Suicide Rate Among Older Adults: Methodology Roadblocks and Promising Paradigms

<https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/appi.ps.003582012>

This publication outlines recommendations made by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry including the identification of future research directions. (OPEN ACCESS)

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### Treatment of Depression and Suicide in Older Adults

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/4d9b/4f6304197d237b43e6575f3e084aff866cfa.pdf>

This article describes a cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) intervention for suicide prevention in older adults. Aspects of the treatment are described. The authors also review other behavioural and cognitive strategies such as activity scheduling and cognitive restructuring that are commonly associated with CBT interventions for depression. They illustrate the application of these strategies by using case studies. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians

[https://www.mcgill.ca/palliativecare/files/palliativecare/parliamentary\\_report\\_eng\\_dec\\_2011.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/palliativecare/files/palliativecare/parliamentary_report_eng_dec_2011.pdf)

This publication by the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care advocates for the implementation of a number of recommendations related to palliative and end-of-life care, suicide prevention and elder abuse. (OPEN ACCESS)

### A Systematic Review of Physical Illness, Functional Disability, and Suicidal Behaviour Among Older Adults

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13607863.2015.1083945#aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFuZGZvbmxpbmUuY29tL2RvaS9wZGYvMTAuMTA4MC8xMzYwNzg2My4yMDE1LjEwODM5NDU/bmVIZEFjY2Vzcz10cnVlQEBAMA==>

The investigators conducted a systematic review of studies which examined the relationship between physical illness/functional disability and suicidal behaviour (including ideation, nonfatal and fatal suicidal behaviour) among individuals aged 65 and older. (OPEN ACCESS)

### The Influence of Disability on Suicidal Behaviour

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1875067211000988>

This research paper investigated the extent of consequences of disability and the relationship to suicidal behaviour. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicide Ideation in Older Adults: Relationship to Mental Health Problems and Service Use

<https://academic.oup.com/gerontologist/article/50/6/785/629708>

The aim of this publication were to assess the prevalence of suicide ideation among community-dwelling older adults and the relationship between suicide ideation, major psychiatric disorder and mental health service use by analyzing data from the Canadian Community Health Survey 1.2. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Trauma Exposure and Risk of Suicidal Ideation Among Older Adults

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4949107/>

This study sought to determine if trauma exposure is associated with suicidal ideation in a nationally-representative sample of older adults. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Ready to Give up on Life: The Lived Experience of Elderly People who Feel Life is Completed and no Longer Worth Living

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953615002889>

The aim of this paper is to describe the phenomenon 'life is completed and no longer worth living' from a lifeworld perspective, as it is lived and experienced by elderly people. (OPEN ACCESS)

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### Sleep and Suicide in Older Adults: An Opportunity for Intervention

[https://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/article/S0149-2918\(16\)30738-X/fulltext](https://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/article/S0149-2918(16)30738-X/fulltext)

The authors investigate the treatment of sleep disorder in older adults as a suicide prevention strategy. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Associations Between Elder Mistreatment and Suicidal Ideation Among Community-Dwelling Chinese Older Adults in the USA

<https://www.karger.com/Article/FullText/437420>

This article describes the largest epidemiological study conducted among older Chinese adults in the USA investigating the relationship between mistreatment and suicidal ideation. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Attempted Suicide in Older People: A Review of the Evidence

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Attempted-Suicide-in-Older-People%3A-A-Review-of-the-Deuter-Procter/438d494ab22cafc093382fb4879616433d329e9>

This study aimed to identify and review research studies of suicide in older people published between 2005 and 2014. Content analysis investigated the relationship between biological, psychological and social factors in the context of the suicidal process. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Medically Serious and Non-Serious Suicide Attempts in Persons Aged 70 and Above

<https://www.mdpi.com/2308-3417/1/3/23/html>

The aim of this study was to compare clinical and psychosocial characteristics of older adults aged 70 and over who had attempted suicide. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Predictors of Suicide in Patients with Dementia

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3210437/pdf/nihms283863.pdf>

This article describes a national, retrospective cohort study using data collected from the Department of Veterans Affairs focusing on patients 60 years of age and over who had a diagnosis of dementia to identify predictors of suicide. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Dementia and Suicidal Behaviour: A Review of the Literature

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-psychogeriatrics/article/dementia-and-suicidal-behavior-a-review-of-the-literature/C2F9768ACFF94F627486053AC507726A>

The authors sought to investigate whether there was a relationship among higher rates of suicide among the elderly and the diagnosis of dementia. (PAID ACCESS)

### A Complex Relationship Between Suicide, Dementia, and Amyloid: A Narrative Review

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnins.2018.00371/full>

The investigators conducted a narrative review to identify links between suicidal behaviour, dementia and brain amyloid load while considering the role of depression in these relationships. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Suicidal Ideation and Behavior Assessment in Dementia Studies: An Internet Survey

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5644276/>

This article describes an online survey undertaken to understand the extent of suicidal ideation and/or suicidal behaviour exists among individuals diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia who were participating in clinical trials. (OPEN ACCESS)