

Suicide of first-generation immigrants in Australia, 1974-2006

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Reference:

Key Words:

suicide, mental health, characteristics, years since arrival

Research aim:

This study analysed suicide rates among first-generation immigrants in Australia from 1974 to 2006, and compared their suicide risks against the Australian-born population. It also examined the associations between the suicide rates of immigrants from 23 selected countries of birth during 2001-2006, and in their home countries.

Results/Conclusion:

Suicide rates showed a decreasing time-trend among all COB groups for both genders in Australia. The lowest suicide rates were found during 2004-2006, compared to other year groups. Throughout the study period, males born in Eastern, Northern and Western Europe and New Zealand had the highest suicide rates in Australia. For females, the highest rates were among those born in Western Europe and the UK (including Ireland). Male and female migrants born in North Africa and the Middle East, Southern and Central Asia and South East Asia showed the lowest suicide rates. There was a significant correlation between male immigrant suicide rates by COB and the rates of their home countries.

Implications:

The patterns of suicide rates in immigrants were influenced by the social and cultural norms of their COB.

Cultural Group(s):

First generation immigrants to Australia

Location of study:

Australia (national)

Age group:

Not specific to older people (age standardised suicide rates)

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) suicide data

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: