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Review

# Suicide in Children: A Systematic Review

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## Abstract

The objective of this study was to provide a review of studies on suicide in children aged 14 years and younger. Articles were identified through a systematic search of Scopus, MEDLINE, and PsychINFO. Key words were “children, suicide, psychological autopsy, and case-study.” Additional articles were identified through manual search of reference lists and discussion with colleagues. Fifteen published articles were identified, 8 psychological autopsy studies (PA), and 7 retrospective case-study series. Suicide incidence and gender asymmetry increases with age. Hanging is the most frequent method. Lower rates of psychopathology are evident among child suicides compared to adolescents. Previous suicide attempts were an important risk factor. Children were less likely to consume alcohol prior to suicide. Parent-child conflicts were the most common precipitant.

Keywords:

## Additional information

### Notes on contributors

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#### Related Research Data

[Firearm Availability and Unintentional Firearm Deaths, Suicide, and Homicide among 5-14 Year Olds](#)

Source: Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery

[Suicide in young people under 15 years: Problems of classification](#)

Source: Nordic Journal of Psychiatry

[Psychiatric Diagnosis in Child and Adolescent Suicide](#)

Source: Archives of General Psychiatry

[Limited evidence that bullying behaviour in children may be linked to later suicidal behaviour](#)

Source: Evidence-Based Mental Health

[Psychodynamic and family aspects of youth suicide](#)

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