

Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences

Turkish Journal

of

Medical Sciences

The characteristics of suicidal cases regarding the gender

Aysun BALSEVEN ODABAŞI¹

Nursel TÜRKMEN²

Recep FEDAKAR²

Ali Rıza TÜMER¹

¹ Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
Hacettepe University, Ankara - TURKEY

² Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
Uludag University, Bursa - TURKEY

 [Keywords](#)
 [Authors](#)



medsci@tubitak.gov.tr

[Scientific Journals Home Page](#)

Abstract: Aim: We studied the patterns of suicide in forensic autopsies performed in Bursa province of Turkey to determine gender differences, incidence of suicide, subgroups of the population most vulnerable to such deaths, and suicide methods used. Materials and methods: Nine hundred fifty-five death cases due to suicide underwent forensic autopsy between 1996 and 2005 in Bursa were included into the study. All of the cases were analyzed in terms of age, gender, and method of suicide, time of year, and alcohol use. Results were subjected to discriminant analyses using SPSS 11.0. Results: There were 955 cases, with 682 males (12-95 years; mean, 41.2 years) and 273 females (10-101 years; mean, 33.1 years). For both genders, the most common method was hanging, accounted for 51.6% of the cases. Firearm injuries were more frequent in males than in females while insecticide poisoning, falling from height, and drug poisoning were more commonly used methods in females compared to males ($P < 0.001$), following hanging. Conclusion: In our study there was a significant difference between men and women in terms of suicide age and suicide method. More research studies are needed on gender differences in suicidal behavior to develop prevention strategies.

Key words: Suicide, autopsy, gender, hanging, firearm injuries

Turk J Med Sci 2009; **39**(6): 917-922.

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Other articles published in the same issue: [Turk J Med Sci, vol.39,iss.6.](#)