Abstract

Objective: To identify the prevalence and correlates of suicidal behavior in adolescents from Metropolitan Lima y Callao. Methods: We used the database of the Metropolitan Epidemiological Study on Mental Health 2002. Our study population comprised residents aged 12 to 17 years. Subjects completed face-to-face interviews using a demographic and socioeconomic questionnaire; the Mental Health Questionnaire of Colombia; and the M.I.N.I International Neuropsychiatric Interview - ICD-10. Relational statistical analyses and adjusted multiple logistic regression models were conducted. Results: The lifetime prevalence, 12-month prevalence and point prevalence of the wish to die were: 29.1%, 15.2% and 6.8%, respectively. The final model of multivariate analysis show statistically significant associations with: female gender (OR: 2.3, 95%CI: 1.6-3.3), nothing or little satisfaction with his intelligence (OR: 2.0, 95%CI: 1.2-3.4), principles and values different from those of their family (OR: 3.0, 95%CI: 2.0-4.7), having a confident friend (OR: 1.6, 95%CI: 1.1-2.5), having a girlfriend or boyfriend (OR: 1.9, 95%CI: 1.4-2.8), difficulties in functioning as a son/ daughter (OR: 1.8, 95%CI: 1.1-2.9), social phobia (OR: 4.0, 95%CI: 2.1-7.4) and depressive episode (OR: 2.8, 95%CI: 1.5-5.2). In regard to the suicide attempt, the lifetime prevalence, 12-month prevalence and point prevalence were: 3.6%, 2.4% and 0.4%, respectively. The final model of multivariate analysis show statistically significant associations with: feel none or little respect from family (OR: 4.8, 95%CI: 1.9 -12.0), having a girl or boyfriend (OR: 2.7, 95%CI: 1.2-6.0) and depressive episode (OR: 8.5, 95%CI: 3.7-19.4). Conclusions: The presence of depression and social phobia, but also family dynamic aspects appear as important factors to consider in the prevention of suicidal behaviors in adolescents.

Keywords

Prevalence, Associated factors, Suicidal behaviour, Wish to die, Suicide attempt.