OVERVIEW

Self-inflicted injuries include environments where the suicidal intent of the person exceeds their desire to live. This historically and fundamentally has been due to the use of firearms, the most common method, followed by hanging and poisoning. However, in recent years, attention has focused on self-inflicted injuries involving sharp objects, such as knives and razors, which are increasingly being used as weapons.

In the U.S., self-inflicted injuries are the most common cause of injury death among young adults and the second leading cause of injury death among all ages. The rates of self-inflicted injuries are higher among males than females, with the highest rates occurring in the age group of 20-39 years.

HOW IS IT MEASURED

Self-inflicted injuries are measured using administrative data, such as hospital, emergency department, and police reports. These data are then used to calculate rates of self-inflicted injuries per 100,000 population.

REFERENCES