

Suicide

Types & Clinical Assessment

¹suicide *noun*

Merriam-Webster:

"THE ACT OR AN INSTANCE OF TAKING ONE'S OWN LIFE VOLUNTARILY AND INTENTIONALLY ESPECIALLY BY A PERSON OF YEARS OF DISCRETION AND OF SOUND MIND."

Oxford Dictionary:

"THE ACTION OF KILLING ONESELF INTENTIONALLY"

Dictionary.com:

"THE INTENTIONAL TAKING OF ONE'S OWN LIFE."



Each victim of suicide gives his act a personal stamp which expresses his temperament, the special conditions in which he is involved, and which, consequently, cannot be explained by the social and general causes of the phenomenon.

(Emile Durkheim)

TYPES OF SUICIDE

- ✦ Emile Durkheim classified different types of suicides on the basis of different types of relationship between the actor and his society.

1) Egoistic suicide:

According to Durkheim, when a man becomes socially isolated or feels that he has no place in the society he destroys himself. This is the suicide of self-centred person who lacks altruistic feelings and is usually cut off from mainstream of the society.

2) Altruistic suicide:

This type of suicide occurs when individuals and the group are too close and intimate. This kind of suicide results from the over integration of the individual into social proof, for example - hari-kari and Hindu wives' figurative suicide ritual.

3) Anomic suicide:

This type of suicide is due to certain breakdown of social equilibrium, such as, suicide after bankruptcy or after winning a lottery. In other words, anomic suicide takes place in a situation which has cropped up suddenly.

4) Fatalistic suicide:

This type of suicide is due to overregulation in society. Under the overregulation of a society, when a servant or slave commits suicide, when a barren woman commits suicide, it is the example of fatalistic suicide

The Werther Effect

Named after a German novel which influenced a number of copycat suicides, the Werther Effect describes a spike in suicides committed in a similar way.



10%

In the 5 Months following news of Robin Williams' Suicides, studies say there was a **10%** increase in suicides.

Even more significant was a 32.3% spike in suicides by hanging (the same method Williams' used)



32%

This likely affects people already contemplating suicide. It doesn't necessarily increase the amount of suicides, long-term, but simply encourages this "clustering".

ANOMIE

Anomie in individuals and society is a condition of instability and disintegration. It stems from the breakdown of previously shared norms and values that regulated social (inter)actions.

EXAMPLES

- 1 People living in high-rise residencies feel disconnected from one another and struggle with loneliness.
- 2 People engage in organized theft because they do not have other ways of accumulating wealth.
- 3 Individuals resorting to criminal activities (e.g., looting) during times of war or military occupation.

CAUSES OF ANOMIE

1. Loss of one's sense of social belonging
2. Breakdown of social norms that keep people united

Anomie

- Anomie is normlessness. if an individual or a group of people go against the socially accepted behavioral patterns, there can be an anomic situation.

Alienation

- Alienation can be defined as a situation where there is less integration among the people in a community and individuals do not feel connected to each other.



SUICIDE PACTS



The Importance of Sensitivity:

Responsible Reporting

on Suicide

RESPONSIBILITY



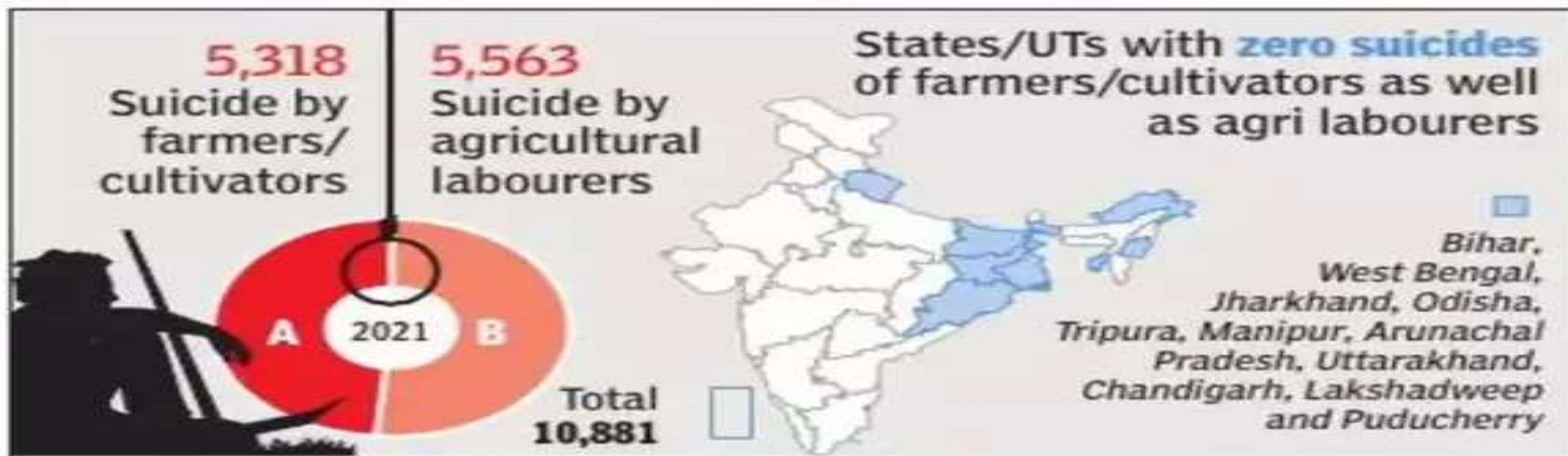
ON THE BLOG

 **giveanhour**
Mental Health. For Life.

DO NOT USE THESE IMAGES WHEN REPORTING SUICIDES IN THE MEDIA

- ✗ Photographs/ video footage of the scene of suicide**
- ✗ Photographs/ video footage of the person or the family from the scene of suicide**
- ✗ Suicide notes, final text messages, social media posts or emails from the deceased or their family members**
- ✗ Dramatic or insensitive representational images such as picture of a noose, person standing on a ledge etc.**

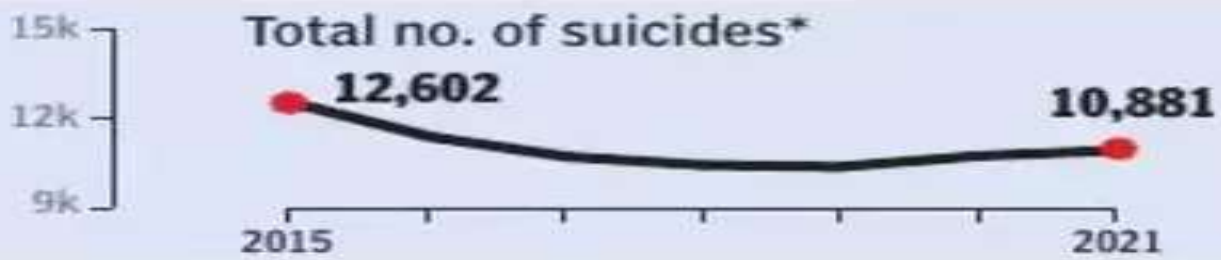
SUICIDE BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN FARMING OPERATIONS



TOP FIVE STATES



INDIA YEAR-WISE



STATES THAT SAW MOST SUICIDES

FARMER/CULTIVATOR SUICIDES

State	2019	2020	%Chg
Maharashtra	2,680	2,567	-4.22
Karnataka	1,331	1,072	-19.46
Andhra Pradesh	628	564	-10.19
Telangana	491	466	-5.09
Madhya Pradesh	142	235	65.49
Punjab	239	174	-27.20
Tamil Nadu	6	79	1,216.67
UP	108	87	-19.44
Total	5,979	5,579	-6.69

AGRI LABOURER SUICIDES

States	2019	2020	%Chg
Maharashtra	1,247	1,439	15.40
Karnataka	661	944	42.81
Madhya Pradesh	399	500	25.31
Tamil Nadu	421	398	-5.46
Kerala	128	341	166.41
Andhra Pradesh	401	325	-18.95
Total	4,324	5,098	17.90

Note: Total won't match as all states haven't been included

Source: Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2020 and 2019 report

"I've never seen anything like this in my life."

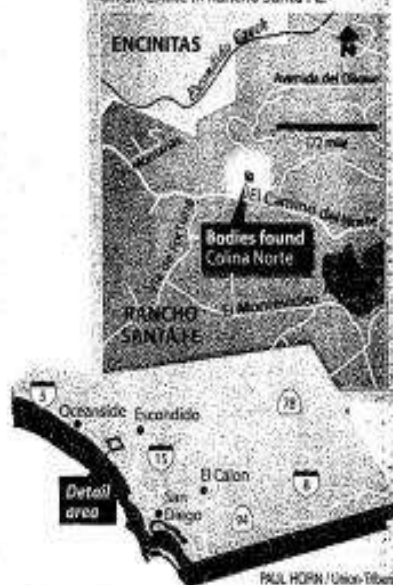
LT. JERRY LIPSCOMB, *homicide detective*

Mansion of death yields 39 bodies

- Members of religious group discovered dead in Rancho Santa Fe
- Deaths appear to be a mass suicide, according to sheriff's deputies

Mass deaths

Dozens of bodies were found yesterday on an estate in Rancho Santa Fe.



PAUL HORN / Union-Tribune



By Ruth L. McKinnie
STAFF WRITER

RANCHO SANTA FE — At least 39 members of a religious group, who referred to themselves as angels, were found dead yesterday inside a rented million-dollar-plus estate.

Sheriff's investigators, who began searching the house only late last night, said the deaths appeared to be a mass suicide. If so, it would be one of the largest such incidents in U.S. histo-

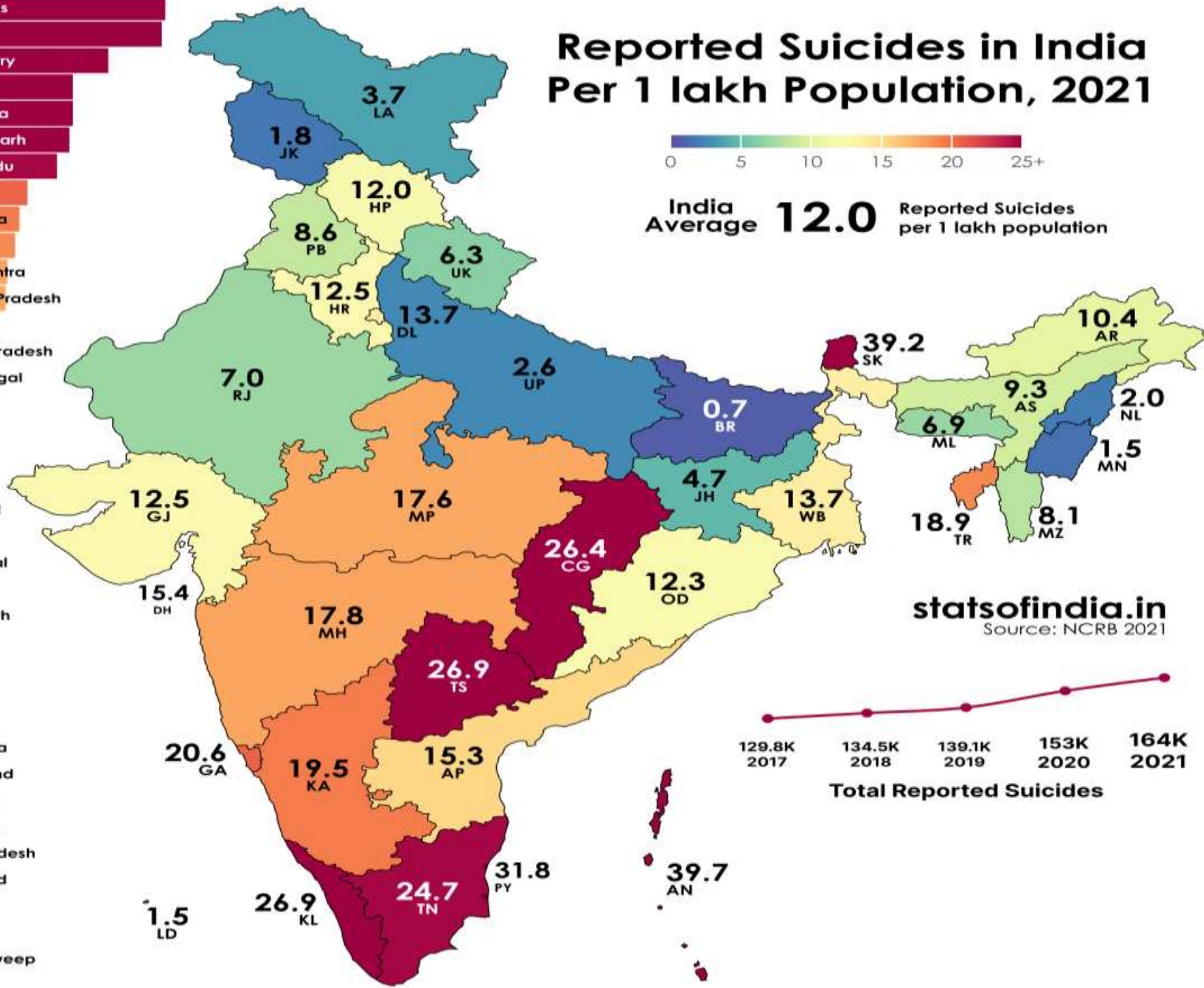


Reported Suicides in India Per 1 lakh Population, 2021

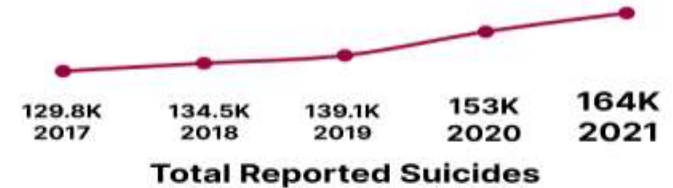


India Average **12.0** Reported Suicides per 1 lakh population

- 39.7 AN Islands
- 39.2 Sikkim
- 31.8 Puducherry
- 26.9 Kerala
- 26.9 Telangana
- 26.4 Chhattisgarh
- 24.7 Tamil Nadu
- 20.6 Goa
- 19.5 Karnataka
- 18.9 Tripura
- 17.8 Maharashtra
- 17.6 Madhya Pradesh
- 15.4 DNHDD
- 15.3 Andhra Pradesh
- 13.7 West Bengal
- 13.7 Delhi
- 12.5 Gujarat
- 12.5 Haryana
- 12.3 Odisha
- 12.0 Himachal
- 12.0 null
- 10.4 Arunachal
- 10.4 null
- 9.9 Chandigarh
- 9.3 Assam
- 8.6 Punjab
- 8.1 Mizoram
- 7.0 Rajasthan
- 6.9 Meghalaya
- 6.3 Uttarakhand
- 4.7 Jharkhand
- 3.7 Ladakh
- 2.6 Uttar Pradesh
- 2.0 Nagaland
- 1.8 J&K
- 1.5 Manipur
- 1.5 Lakshadweep
- 0.7 Bihar



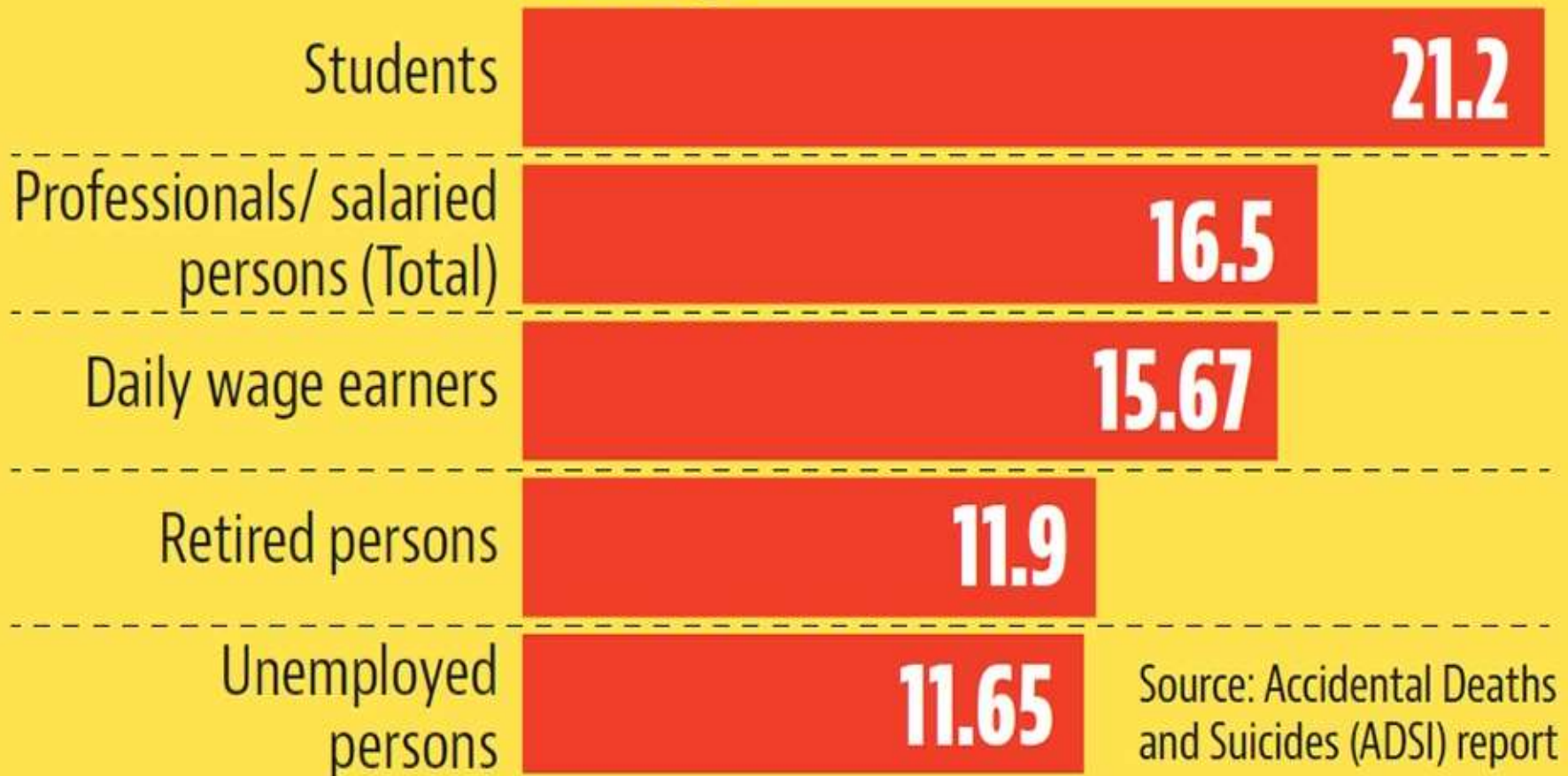
statsofindia.in
Source: NCRB 2021



In pandemic year

NCRB data shows big jump in deaths by suicide among students

% change



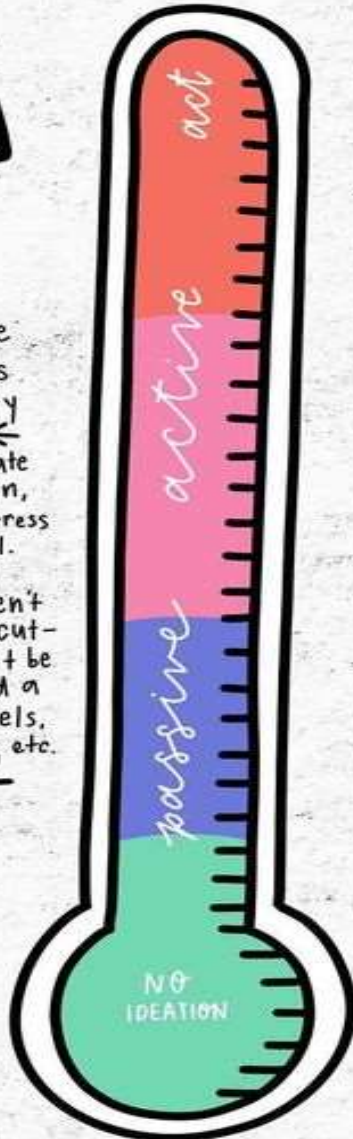
THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUICIDAL IDEATION



NOTE

ALL of these types + levels of suicidality are **VALID** & doesn't dictate the level of pain, intensity, & distress you may feel.

These also aren't always clear cut - someone might be moving around a few, "skip" levels, fall inbetween, etc.



SUICIDE ATTEMPT

attempts to kill self, either initiating made plan or impulsively

SUICIDAL with PLAN & INTENT

has a specific plan (how, when, where) and intends to carry it out → Ex. "I am going to overdose tomorrow at home."

SUICIDAL INTENT (no plan)

intends to kill self but doesn't have a specific plan → Ex. "I think I'm going to kill myself, but not sure when."

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS (method, no plan, or intent)

has an idea of how they would do it, but no specific plan or intent → Ex. "I've thought about overdosing, but I'm not going to."

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS (no intent/plan)

thinking about killing self, but no details & no intention to act → Ex. "I should just kill myself." "I wish I could just kill myself."

THOUGHTS OF MORBIDITY

thinking about own death & dying, but not specifically by self → Ex. "I wish I wouldn't wake up" "I wish I were dead."

RANDOM INTRUSIVE THOUGHT*

passing thought, curiosity → Ex. "What if I just jumped?" when waiting for train *different if person has chronic suicidality

NO THOUGHTS

Shneidman's Ten Commonalities of Suicide (1985)

1. The common **stimulus** is unendurable psychological pain (i.e., psychache).
2. The common **stressor** in suicide is frustrated psychological needs.
3. The common **purpose** of suicide is to seek a solution.
4. The common **goal** of suicide is cessation of consciousness.
5. The common **emotion** in suicide is hopelessness-helplessness.
6. The common **internal attitude** toward suicide is ambivalence.
7. The common **cognitive state** in suicide is constriction.
8. The common **interpersonal act** in suicide is communication of intention.
9. The common **action** in suicide is egression (i.e., escape).
10. The common **consistency** in suicide is with life-long coping patterns.



Suicide WARNING SIGNS

**MAKING
SUICIDE**
threats

**NEGATIVE
VIEW**
of **SELF**



A sense of
HOPELESSNESS
OR
NO HOPE
for the
FUTURE



ISOLATION
or
**FEELING
ALONE**



AGGRESSIVENESS
and
IRRITABILITY

SUBSTANCE
abuse

GIVING
things **AWAY**

Possessing
LETHAL
MEANS



Making **funeral**
ARRANGEMENTS

FEELING LIKE A
BURDEN
to others

ENGAGING
in "risky"
BEHAVIORS

**SELF-
HARM**
like
CUTTING
behaviours



FREQUENTLY
TALKING
about
DEATH



DRASTIC
changes in
MOOD
and
BEHAVIOUR



Classical Crisis
Concept



DSM
Concept

Suicidal Behavior
Associated with
Mental Disorders

Suicidal
Behavior
Disorder

Suicide-Specific
Syndromes

ASAD
Acute Suicidal
Affective Disturbance

SCS
Suicidal
Crisis Syndrome

ASAD

- A. A drastic increase in suicidal intent over the course of hours or days, as opposed to weeks or months
- B. One (or both) of the following: marked social alienation (e.g., social withdrawal, disgust with others, perceptions that one is a liability on others) and/or self-alienation (e.g., self-hatred, perceptions that one's psychological pain is a burden)
- C. Perceptions that one's suicidality, social alienation, and self-alienation are hopelessly unchangeable
- D. Two (or more) manifestations of overarousal (i.e., agitation, irritability, insomnia, nightmares)

SCS

- A. Persistent or recurring feeling of entrapment and urgency to escape or avoid a perceived inescapable and unavoidable life situation. Although death may appear as the only escape, explicit suicidal ideation need not be (though may be) present
- B. Affective, behavioral, and cognitive changes associated with the experience of entrapment, including at least 1 item from a to d:
 - a. Affective disturbance
 - b. Loss of cognitive control
 - c. Disturbance in arousal
 - d. Social withdrawal

Suicide as a symptom?

Suicide as a syndrome?

**Psychiatric
Disorders**

**Suicidality
Dimension**

Suicides

Past suicidal behavior
predicts future suicide risk
better than a psychiatric
disorder



Suicide as epiphenomenon of depression or of
a psychiatric disorder?



Biological changes or endophenotypes of suicidality in adolescents

Genotype

Phenotype

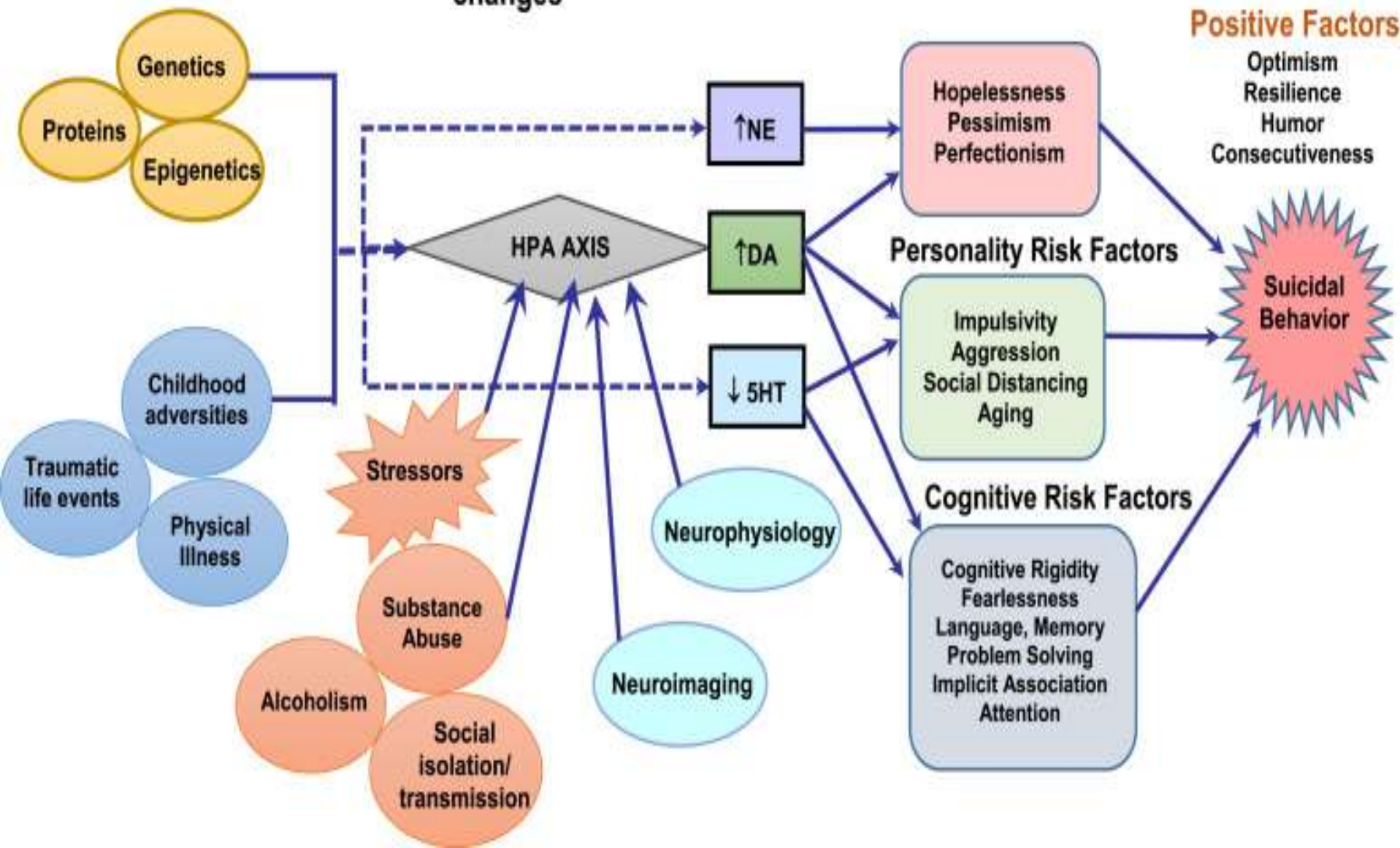
Neurodevelopmental

Neuroendocrine changes

Neurochemical


Clinical Features

Behavior



The modified SADPERSONS score

	Meaning	Points Assigned
S	Sex: Male	1
A	Age: <19 or >45	1
D	Depression or hopelessness	2
P	Previous attempts or psychiatric care	1
E	Excessive alcohol or drug use	1
R	Rational thinking loss	2
S	Separated/divorced/widowed	1
O	Organized or serious attempt	2
N	No social support	1
S	Stated future intent	2



Score \geq 6: high suicide risk, need psychiatry directed hospitalization

Table 1

Imminent warning signs of suicide: IS PATH WARM

I	Suicidal Ideation
S	I ncreased S ubstance abuse
P	P urposelessness
A	A nxiety, agitation, sleep disturbance
T	Feeling T rapped
H	H opelessness
W	W ithdrawal
A	A nger
R	R ecklessness
M	M ood changes

Source: Adapted from Reference 1

Universal interventions

- Restricting access to means
- Media strategies for better reporting
- Suicide awareness campaigns

Selective interventions

- Pharmacological interventions
- General practitioner education programmes
- Development of treatment guidelines

Indicated interventions

- Psychological interventions
- Social approaches
- Crisis services and helplines



Assessment of suicide risk

- Takes place in ED or primary care settings
- Computerized adaptive tests
- Analysis of electronic health records

Mental illness

- Affective disorder (such as MDD or BD)
- Substance use disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Cluster B personality disorder

Behavioural and psychological traits

- Anxiety
- Impulsivity and/or aggression
- Neuroticism
- Hopelessness

Risk factors**Protective factors****INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL**

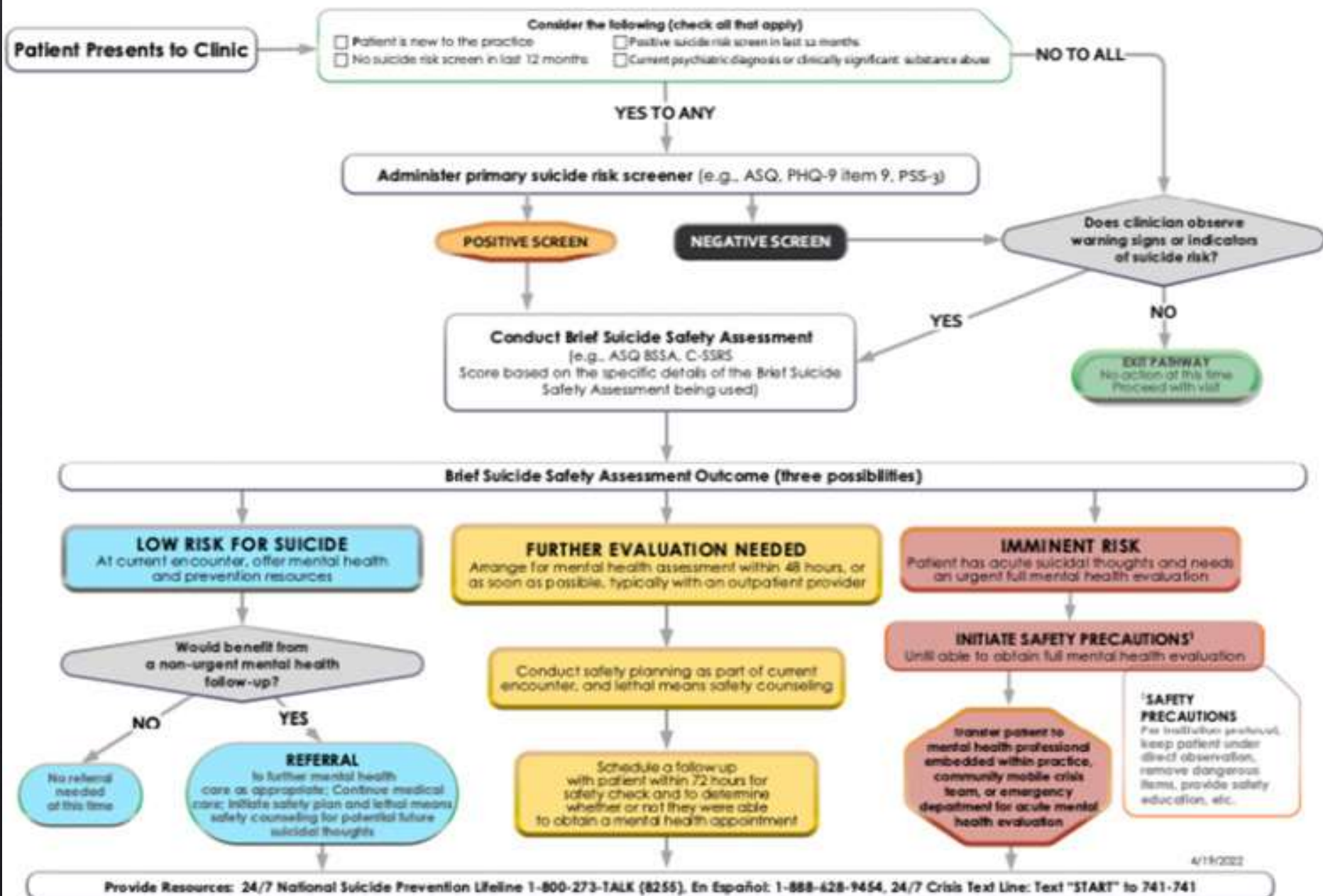
Prior suicide attempt(s)	Problem-solving skills
Mental disorders (Axis II diagnosis)	Frustration tolerance
Trauma or abuse history	Self-control
Hopelessness	Reasons for living and optimism
Stressful life events	Perceptions of positive health
Self-harm	Participation in sporting activities
Prior psychiatric hospitalization	–
Family history of suicide	–
Chronic illness and pain	–
Personality traits	–
Biomedical/physical determinants	–

SOCIAL-LEVEL

Job or financial loss	Family relationships
Socio-economic disadvantage	Partnership
Relationship conflict, discord or loss	Social relationships and social support
Disaster, war and conflict	Religious or spiritual beliefs
Acculturation stress	Employment

ADULT SUICIDE RISK SCREENING PATHWAY

OUTPATIENT PRIMARY CARE



Social context: lack of social cohesion and environmental factors

- Geographical location
- Sociocultural norms
- Disruption to social structure or values
- Economic turmoil

- Social isolation
- Media reporting
- Access to lethal means
- Poor access to mental health services

Distal factors

- Early-life adversity
- Epigenetic changes
- Genetics
- Family history

Lasting alterations to gene expression

Developmental factors

Personality traits

- Genetic and epigenetic factors
- Chronic substance misuse
- Impulsive aggression
- Negative affect
- Cognitive deficits

Increased vulnerability to stress

Proximal factors

- Life events
- Psychopathology
- Biological, psychological, genetic and epigenetic factors

Depressed and dysregulated mood
Hopelessness and entrapment

Acute substance abuse

Behavioural disinhibition

Thoughts about death

Acts of self-harm with intent to die

Death

Table 2. Questions to Ask in the Assessment of Suicidal Intent

Are you currently thinking about or have you recently thought about death or harming yourself?

Have you thought about how you would harm yourself? What is your plan?

Do you have access to the method (e.g., gun and bullets, poison, pills)?

What has kept you from acting on these thoughts?

Do you have any intention of following through with the thoughts of self-harm?

What are your plans for the future?

Have you or a family member ever attempted suicide in the past?

Have you or a family member ever been diagnosed with or treated for anxiety, depression, or other mental health problems?

Are you currently using alcohol or drugs (illicit or prescription)?

Have there been any changes in your employment, social life, or family?

Do you have friends or family with whom you are close? Have you told them about these thoughts?

Do you tend to be impulsive with your decisions or behavior?

Information from reference 10.

Questions to Ask in the Assessment of Suicidal Intent

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What has kept you from acting on these thoughts?

What are your plans for the future?

Have you or a family member ever been diagnosed with or treated for anxiety, depression, or other mental health problems?

Have there been any changes in your employment, social life, or family?

Do you tend to be impulsive with your decisions or behavior?

Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)

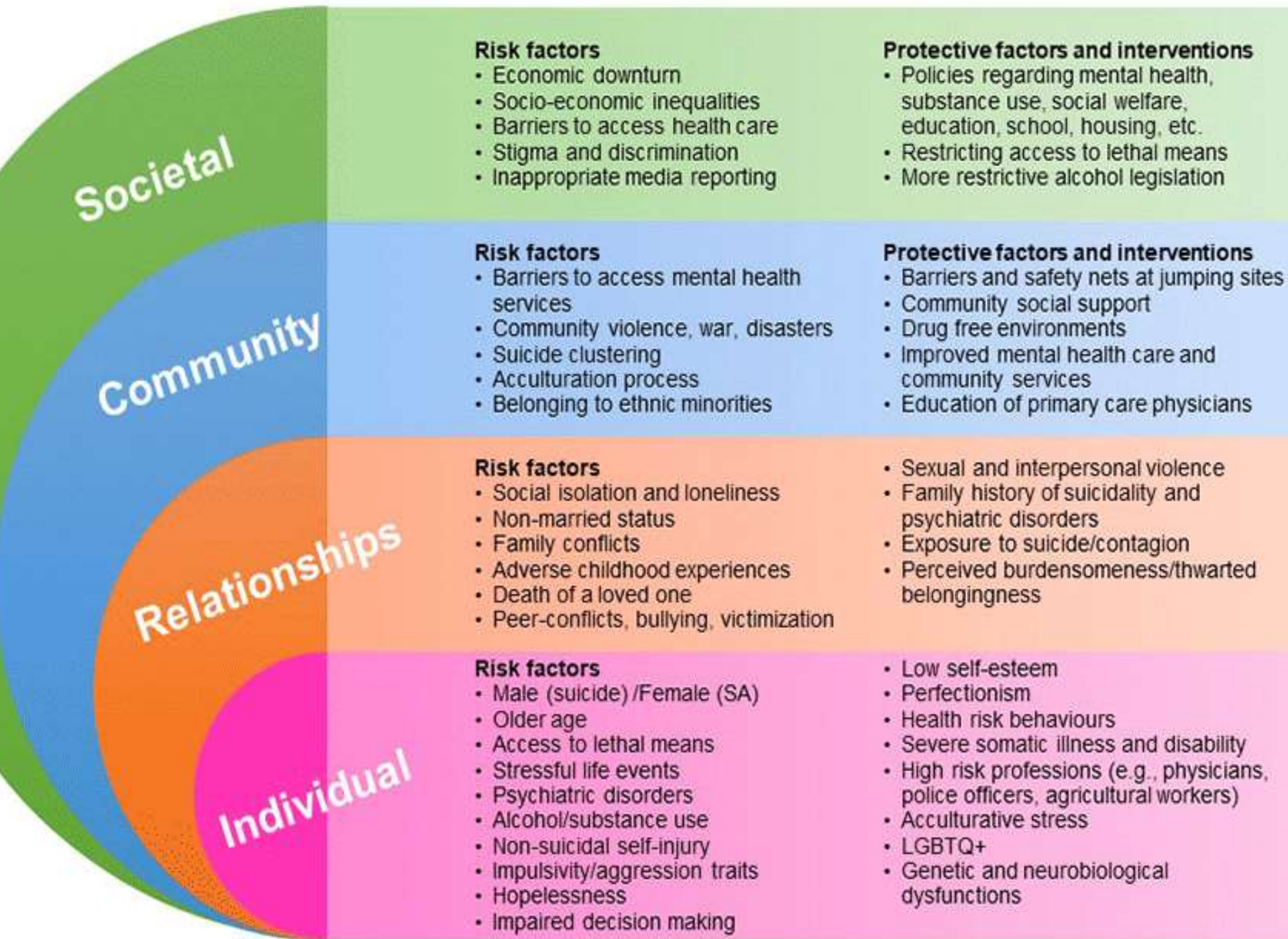
Name: Nathaniel Emery

SUICIDAL IDEATION		Since Last Visit
<p>Ask questions 1 and 2. If both are negative, proceed to "Suicidal Behavior" section. If the answer to question 2 is "yes", ask questions 3, 4 and 5. If the answer to question 1 and/or 2 is "yes", complete "Intensity of Ideation" section below.</p>		
<p>1. Wish to be Dead Subject endorses thoughts about a wish to be dead or not alive anymore, or wish to fall asleep and not wake up. <i>Have you thought about being dead or what it would be like to be dead?</i> <i>Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and never wake up?</i> <i>Do you wish you weren't alive anymore?</i></p> <p>If yes, describe: _____</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>2. Non-Specific Active Suicidal Thoughts General, non-specific thoughts of wanting to end one's life/commit suicide (e.g., "I've thought about killing myself") without thoughts of ways to kill oneself/associated methods, intent, or plan during the assessment period. <i>Have you thought about doing something to make yourself not alive anymore?</i> <i>Have you had any thoughts about killing yourself?</i></p> <p>If yes, describe: _____</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3. Active Suicidal Ideation with Any Methods (Not Plan) without Intent to Act Subject endorses thoughts of suicide and has thought of at least one method during the assessment period. This is different than a specific plan with time, place or method details worked out (e.g., thought of method to kill self but not a specific plan). Includes person who would say, "I thought about taking an overdose but I never made a specific plan as to when, where or how I would actually do it...and I would never go through with it." <i>Have you thought about how you would do that or how you would make yourself not alive anymore (kill yourself)? What did you think about?</i></p> <p>If yes, describe: _____</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. Active Suicidal Ideation with Some Intent to Act, without Specific Plan Active suicidal thoughts of killing oneself and subject reports having some intent to act on such thoughts, as opposed to "I have the thoughts but I definitely will not do anything about them." <i>When you thought about making yourself not alive anymore (or killing yourself), did you think that this was something you might actually do? This is different from (as opposed to) having the thoughts but knowing you wouldn't do anything about it.</i></p> <p>If yes, describe: _____</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5. Active Suicidal Ideation with Specific Plan and Intent Thoughts of killing oneself with details of plan fully or partially worked out and subject has some intent to carry it out <i>Have you decided how or when you would make yourself not alive anymore/kill yourself? Have you planned out (worked out the details of) how you would do it?</i> <i>What was your plan?</i> <i>When you made this plan (or worked out these details), was any part of you thinking about actually doing it?</i></p> <p>If yes, describe: _____</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

TABLE 2**ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR LATE-LIFE SUICIDE RISK IN OLDER ADULTS^a**

Assessment Tool	Explanation
Comprehensive psychosocial assessment form	This form should be adapted to the older adult and cover all areas of risk and protection.
Mini Mental State Exam (MMSE)	A widely used screening tool to assess cognitive functioning of older adults. It contains items that assess orientation, attention and calculation, immediate and short-term recall, and language and ability to follow simple written and verbal commands. The MMSE is designed to be administered by a clinician. It yields a maximum score of 30 and a minimum score of 0. A score of ≤ 23 indicates the presence of dementia. The MMSE has demonstrated high sensitivity and specificity (Folstein, Folstein, & McHugh, 1975). This tool is useful as dementia, especially newly diagnosed, is a risk factor for suicide.
Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA)	A widely used screening assessment for detecting cognitive impairment. It is a brief 30-question test that takes approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete. It was published in 2005 by a group at McGill University working for several years at memory clinics in Montreal, Canada. It was validated in the setting of mild cognitive impairment and has subsequently been adopted in numerous other clinical settings (Nasreddine et al., 2005).
Patient Health Questionnaire 2 (PHQ-2)	A two-item tool based on the PHQ-9 that asks two <i>yes/no</i> questions: During the last 2 weeks have you been bothered by: (1) having little interest in doing things? (2) feeling down, sad, or hopeless? If the client answers yes to either question, the provider should administer the full PHQ-9 (Pfizer, 2005).
Geriatric Depression Scale–Short Version (GDS-15)	A 15-item tool to assess presence of depression in older adults. The advantages of the tool are that it can be self- or clinician-administered and it is brief (usually taking less than 10 minutes to complete) (Sheikh & Yesavage, 1986).
Geriatric Depression Subscale for Suicide Ideation (GDS-SI)	A 5-item subscale of the GDS-15. Client scores of ≥ 1 on five selected items (3, 7, 11, 12, and 14) have been strongly correlated with positive suicidal ideation. All items are generally related to increased feelings or perceptions of hopelessness, worthlessness, emptiness, and reduced happiness in life (Friedman, Heisel, & Delavan, 2005; Heisel, Duberstein, Lyness, & Feldman, 2010; Heisel & Flett, 2006).
Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD)	Commonly used to detect depression in adults with mild to severe dementia. It is a 19-item instrument that relies on interviews with clients and nursing staff and is based on behavioral observation. It can be used in hospital, outpatient, and nursing home settings, and may be useful for assessing clients with dementia for depression (Alexopoulos, Abrams, Young, & Shamoian, 1988).
Nurses' Global Assessment of Suicide Risk (NGASR)	Can be used to augment the psychosocial assessment form and GDS-SI to further assess risk factors (Cutcliffe & Barker, 2004).

^a The clinician should start with a basic psychosocial assessment and follow up with more specific tools that assess depression, cognitive impairment, and suicide risk.



A wooden-framed blackboard with the words "Thank You" written in white, serif font. The blackboard is centered on a rustic wooden surface. To the left, a portion of a red rotary telephone is visible. To the right, a portion of a black typewriter is visible. A green leaf is in the top right corner.

Thank
You

avinashdes888@gmail.com