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Co-morbidity of suicide in Australia

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Abstract

Impaired health, in particular mental health conditions, is often considered to be a proximate cause of suicidal behaviour. Persons suffering from a mental condition or from a terminal or very painful disease are presumed to be more likely to end their own life, in particular if they are of advanced age. The recent introduction of multiple-cause of death coding by the Australian Bureau of statistics provides an opportunity to examine the extent mental conditions and chronic and terminal conditions are reported with suicides.

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