

Protective factors for thoughts of suicide and suicidal behaviour among people going through vulnerable phases in life

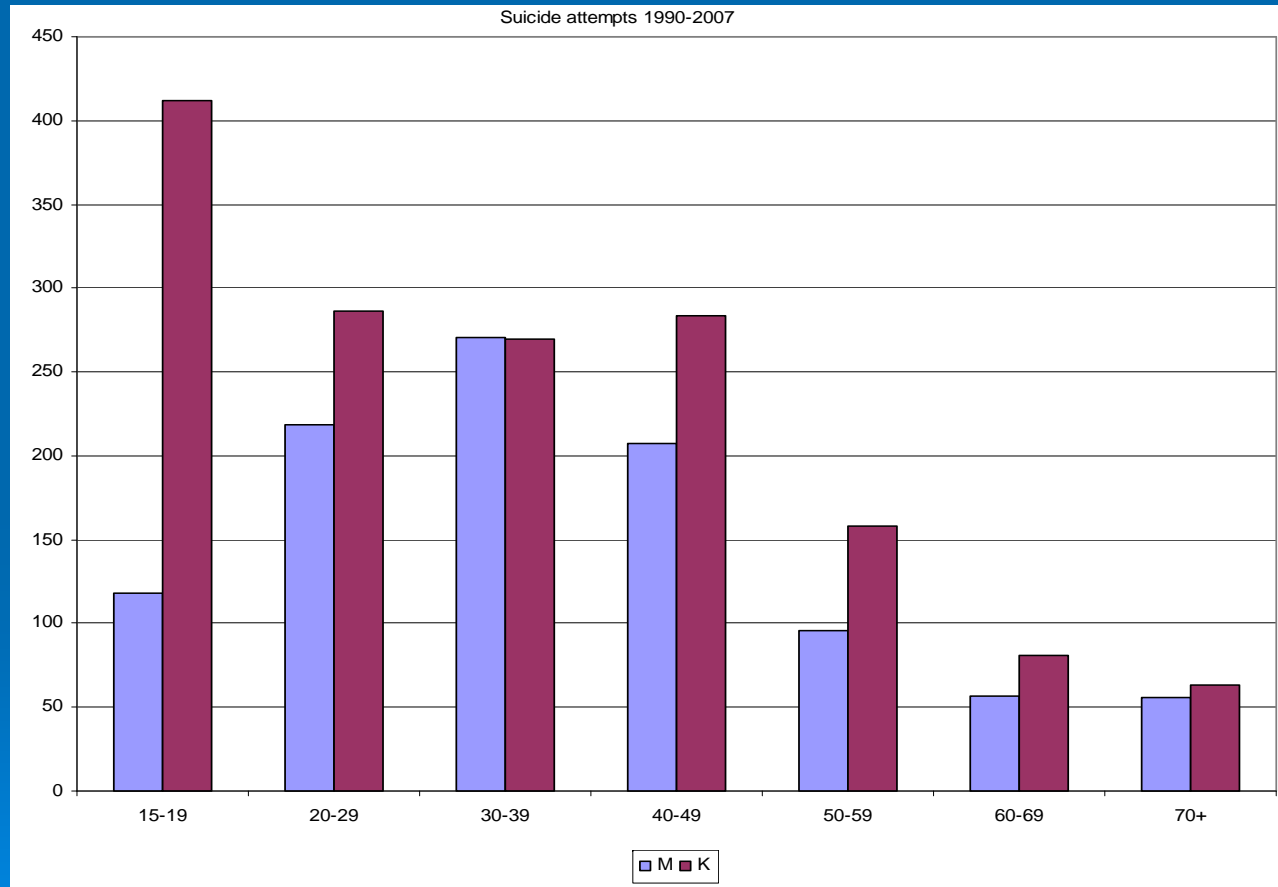
(Vulnerable Phases in Life)

Academic Associate, Iben Stephensen, Academic
Associate, Børge Jensen, Academic Associate,

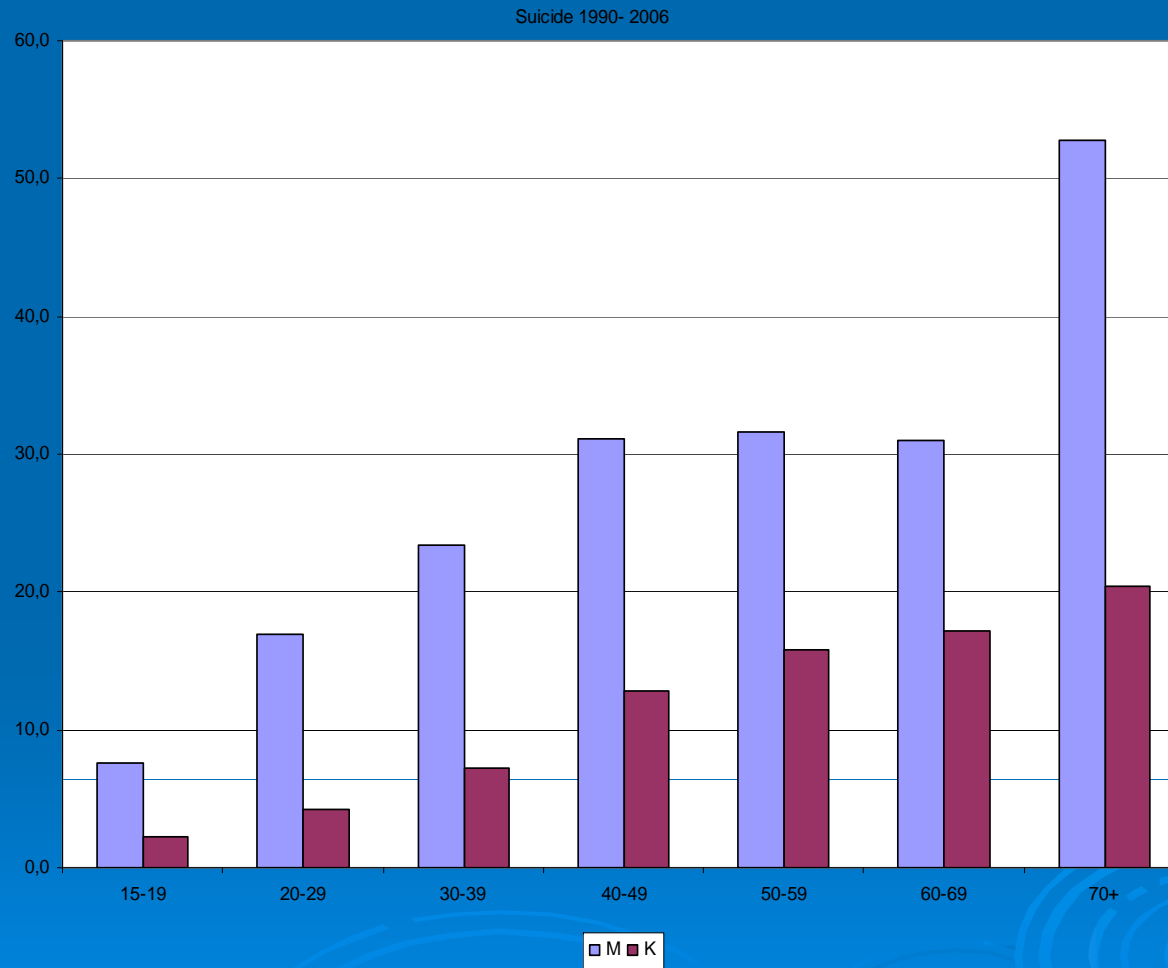
Erik Christiansen, Ph.D. Lilian Zøllner



Background

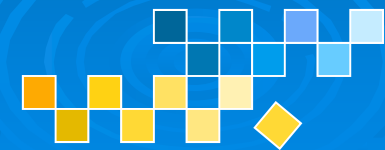


Background



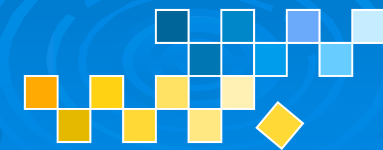
Background

- Nationally, as well as internationally, attention has been directed towards risk factors in relation to thoughts of suicide and suicidal behaviour among different groups of people in society. However, research in protective factors is most limited.



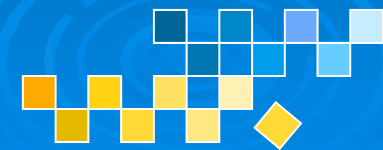
Objectives

- How do people overcome their suicidality?
- Which conditions/factors may be protective for thoughts of suicide being realized and attempts of suicide being repeated?



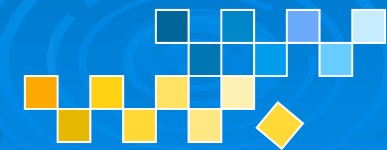
Definition of Suicide Attempts

- There are different definitions of attempted suicide to be found. Centre for Suicide Research uses the WHO definition: "Attempted suicide (parasuicide) is an act with a non-fatal outcome, in which an individual deliberately initiates a non-habitual behaviour that, without intervention from others, will cause self-harm, or deliberately ingests a substance in excess of the prescribed or generally recognized therapeutic dose, and which is aimed at realizing changes which the subject desired via the actual or expected physical consequences."



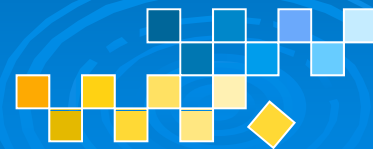
Definition of suicidal ideation

- Suicidal ideation includes a wide spectrum ranging from transitory thoughts of suicide to troublesome and more or less constant suicidal ruminations.



Study design

- Triangular research method
- Register-based (Study I)
- Survey based (Study II)
- Interview based (Study III)

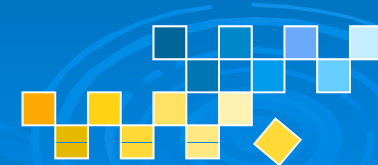


Interview study III

- Recruitment:
- Media – Television, Newspapers, Adds, Radio
- Clinic for Suicidal peolpe in Denmark

Inclusion criteria:

1. Seriously suicidal ideation
2. Suicide Attempts



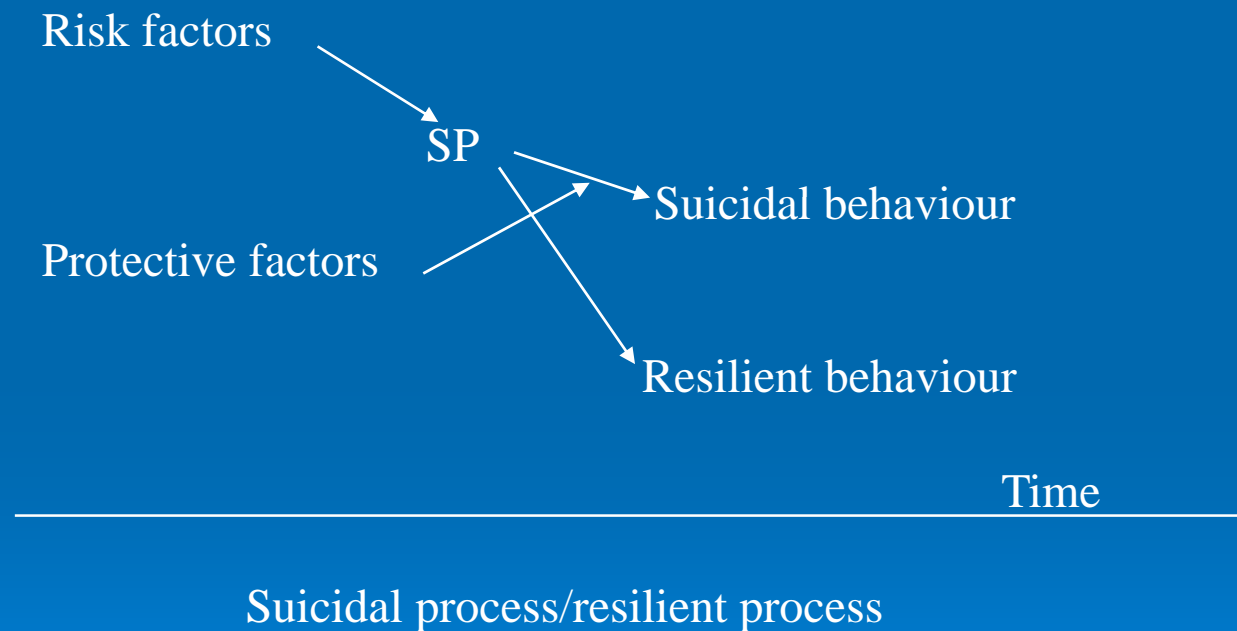
Study group

- 33 people were interviewed
- 18-29 år (10), 30-59 år (17), 60+ (6). (18-78)
- 21 Women / 12 men
- 20 with suicide attempts
- 13 with seriously suicidal ideation



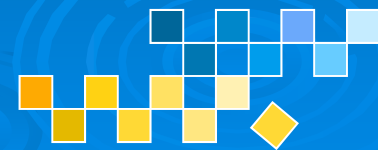
Theoretical Framework

➤ The suicidal process model (J. Beskow)



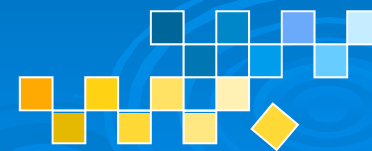
Themes

- Sociodemographic factors
- Suicidal behaviour in the family and/or nearest acquaintances
- Family background
- The last suicidal periode.....



Risk factors

- Mental disorders
- Interpersonal problems
- Lack of social support (weak social support systems)
- Interpersonal problem-solving
- Poor self-respect
- Bullying
- Hopelessness
- Loneliness
- Physical pain
- Finansiel problems
- Substance abuse



Precipitating factors

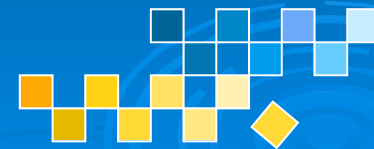
- Disharmony with "key other" people
- disharmony with relatives,
- anxiety about work/employment
- financial problems
- strong physical and mental pain
- admission or discharge from psychiatric hospital
- intoxication
-



Protective factors

Reasons for not attempting suicide (again)

- Treatment (medical and/or therapeutic)
- Social relations and social support
- Attitudes towards suicidal behaviour
- Education/occupation
- Involvement in activities/hobbies
- Fear of death
- A positive outlook of life
- Improved self-esteem
- Religion



Conclusion

- Especially treatment, social relations and attitudes towards suicidal behaviour were very often mentioned as factors which have promoted resilience towards suicidal impulses

