

Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures in FY2021: Report on Commissioned Research Results

Field 2: Improving support tools for local governments

Topic number : 2-3

Research topic:

Development of New Method for Elucidating Suicide in Metropolitan Areas during New Coronavirus Epidemic

Principal Researcher:

Masashi Kizuki

Associate Professor, Department of Tokyo Metropolitan Health Policy Advisement, Tokyo Medical and Dental University

Summary:

The purpose of this study was to develop new indicators of suicide among children, young people, young women, and foreigners, which are more common in metropolitan areas than in rural areas, and to contribute to the further improvement of suicide prevention measures in metropolitan areas. The objective indexes were developed by evaluating the suicide death rate in each municipality using publicly available information on the number of suicides and the Basic Resident Registration population.

The suicide mortality rate among foreigners: Using the Vital Statistics, we analyzed the trends in the suicide mortality rate among foreigners, and showed that the suicide mortality rate among foreigners has not increased (or decreased for some nationalities).

Suicide mortality rates and related regional indicators: We analyzed the relationship between regional suicide mortality rates (total number, children/youth, and young women) and regional statistical data. The results showed that suicide mortality rates increased in regions with rising populations. We discussed the need to consider the influence of these variables in the evaluation of suicide prevention measures (analysis of the effect of regional suicide prevention measures at the national level).