



Newsletter Vol.45 (July 2025)

Japan Suicide Countermeasures
Promotion Center



Thank you for subscribing to the newsletter of Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center (JSCP). This issue includes an overview of the “FY2024 Research Report on the Multidimensional Factor Analysis of Child Suicide,” published in June. It also features a report on the 33rd World Congress for the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), attended by four JSCP staff members, as well as an overview of the call for papers for academic journals.

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1. **[Investigations & Research]** Publication of the “FY2024 Research Report on the Multidimensional Factor Analysis of Child Suicide” (a project commissioned by the Children and Families Agency)

On June 23, 2025, JSCP published a report summarizing the results of its “FY2024 Research Report on the Multidimensional Factor Analysis of Child Suicide,” a project commissioned by the Children and Families Agency. As the Emergency Enhanced Plan for Child Suicide Countermeasures identifies the analysis of factors behind child suicide as its top priority, uncovering the reality of child and youth suicide, which is in a critical situation, is an urgent issue. This research report was produced by JSCP based on the results of its [FY2023 project commissioned by the Children and Families Agency](#). In FY2024, JSCP conducted research and analysis focusing on five key themes: the current situation and trends of child suicides and suicide attempts and other related behaviors; the backgrounds of children who died by suicide; the warning signs observed in those children; the backgrounds of children experiencing suicidal thoughts and related psychological distress; and the challenges and future outlook in analyzing the factors behind child suicide.

JSCP analyzed materials prepared and maintained by prefectural boards of education and related organizations based on the *Guidelines for Investigations on Background When a Child Suicide Occurred*, focusing primarily on the basic investigation results. In the analysis of 138 cases, an average of 3.1 instances of “circumstances in which the child had been placed” (referring to information such as conditions and events surrounding the child who died by suicide) were identified per case.

In addition, from these 138 cases, an average of 4.3 instances of “warning signs potentially linked to suicide” (referring to information such as various remarks, behaviors, and observable changes expressed by the children who died by suicide) were identified per case.

An analysis of chat consultation records from counseling services and post data from online forums related to suicide showed a higher proportion of children experiencing family-related issues or concerns, compared to the data and materials on children who died by suicide. This report also discusses challenges and future outlook related to the collection and organization of information in postmortem investigations, the identification of less-visible factors and other related conditions, and the elucidation of processes leading to suicide, among other relevant issues.

We hope that the findings of this research report will be widely used to promote the analysis of factors behind child suicide and the development of effective countermeasures.

■ Click [here](#) for more information on the report.

2. [Participation Report] Participation in the 33rd World Congress for the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)

The 33rd World Congress for the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) was held from June 10 to 13, 2025, in Vienna, the capital of Austria. IASP is an international organization that promotes suicide countermeasures, bringing together stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds, including researchers from universities and specialized institutions, psychiatrists, psychological professionals, educators, frontline professionals involved in suicide countermeasures such as administrative staff and telephone counselors, as well as media professionals and those bereaved by suicide. Four staff members from JSCP participated in the event.

Over the four-day congress, approximately 500 presentations were delivered, including symposia, research presentations, and poster sessions. JSCP gave presentations on the following themes, representing three distinct fields.

▶ **How to Engage the Head of Government in Suicide Countermeasures: The Case of Japan**
(Yasuyuki Shimizu, Representative Director)

▶ **Current Status and Challenges of Support for Suicide Attempters in Emergency Medical Centers: Based on Data from the JAPAN Registry of Self-harm and Suicide Attempts**
(Yudai Iwama, Deputy Head of the Office for Suicide Attempt Survivors)

▶ **Exploratory analysis of suicidal thoughts in Japanese children: a text mining approach to messages posted on an online bulletin board “Facing Suicide”**
(Yusuke Yagai, Analyst)

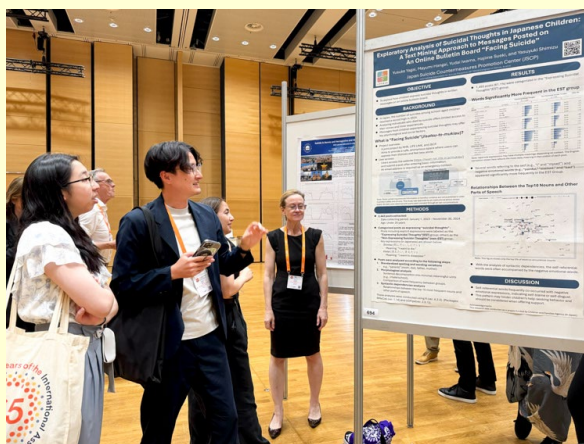
Japan’s efforts in suicide countermeasures have been drawing international attention for various reasons, including the existence of the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures, collaboration with local governments, and rapid data collection. In addition to sharing information from Japan, we aim to make use of the insights and connections gained through the congress to strengthen networks both domestically and internationally, and to further advance Japan’s suicide countermeasures.

■ Click [here](#) for more information on the participation report.

※Following this article, a staff interview with Iwama is also featured in this issue.



Iwama presenting on stage



Yagai explaining his work at the poster session

3. [Interview with JSCP Staff] Yudai Iwama, Deputy Head of the Office for Suicide Attempt Survivors —By “staying deeply aware of the people behind our work,” I find the strength to persevere.



〈Profile〉 Yudai Iwama

Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1995. Since 2018, engaged in human brain function research using optical topography, EEG, and other related methods in a physiology lab of the University of Toyama Graduate School. Licensed social worker; Ph.D. in Medicine. Participated in a suicide countermeasure NPO during graduate school, supporting consultation services and data analysis. Joined JSCP as an analyst in April 2024 and was appointed Deputy Head of the Office for Suicide Attempt Survivors in April 2025.

-----At the 33rd World Congress for the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), held in Vienna, Austria, from June 10 to 13, 2025, you presented the results of data analysis from the JAPAN Registry of Self-harm and Suicide Attempts (a case registration system). Could you share your impressions of the congress?

Iwama) This was my first time attending a world congress on suicide countermeasures, and I found it deeply engaging, not only in terms of sharing statistical data, but also in learning about the efforts of those working on the front lines of support. I was particularly interested in initiatives that incorporate digital technologies for risk detection and crisis intervention. Continuous support is essential for suicide attempt survivors and others in similar circumstances, but there are limits to what can be achieved through human effort alone. I felt that we need to explore approaches that incorporate digital technologies as part of the solution.

It's not always easy to immediately envision how research and analysis results can be applied to real-world suicide countermeasures. However, hearing about on-the-ground practices helped me see how research and practice can be connected.

▼ Other questions

- What left the strongest impression on you at the congress?
- What were you doing before joining JSCP?
- How did you become interested in suicide countermeasures?
- What kind of work do you do at JSCP?
- What are your thoughts on suicide countermeasures?

■ Click [here](#) to read the full article.

4. [Event Report] The 8th Study Meeting on Suicide Coverage Held

On June 27, 2025, JSCP held the 8th Study Meeting on Suicide Coverage online. This study meeting is held with the aim of engaging media professionals, including those from news organizations, as well as platform operators, in a shared dialogue on responsible approaches to suicide reporting.

This year's theme was "Latest Research Report: Changes in Domestic Suicide Reporting and the Werther Effect." As in the previous year, the session included an introduction to foundational topics in suicide reporting, such as an overview of the WHO guidelines ([Preventing suicide: a resource for media professionals](#)). Among other topics, it also featured a presentation of research findings on how suicide reporting in Japan has changed in recent years, and how these changes may have contributed to suppressing the Werther effect, a phenomenon in which media reports on suicide lead to an increase in the number of suicides. The presenters and their presentation titles were as follows:

▽ Overview of Suicide / Yasuyuki Shimizu (Representative Director, JSCP) ▽ WHO Suicide Reporting Guidelines: Dos and Don'ts / Kaoru Yamadera (Public Relations Officer, JSCP) ▽ Latest Research Report: Changes in Domestic Suicide Reporting and the Werther Effect / Yusuke Yagai (Analyst, JSCP) ▽ Challenges and Future Outlook of Suicide Reporting / Hajime Sueki (Professor, Wako University / Deputy Manager of the Department of Research and Analytics, JSCP). In addition, JSCP shared the results of a March survey on suicide reporting, conducted with the cooperation of selected news organizations.

More than 200 people registered for the event, with broad participation from newspapers, television, radio, and platform operators across Japan, over 70% of whom were first-time attendees. It seems to have served as a valuable opportunity for

many media professionals to gain foundational knowledge, the latest insights, and other related information on suicide reporting.

- A detailed report will be available on the JSCP website at a later date.



Presenters: Public Relations Officer Yamadera (top left), Analyst Yagai (top right), Deputy Manager of the Department of Research and Analytics and Professor at Wako University Sueki (bottom left), and Representative Director Shimizu (bottom right)

5. [Support for Those Bereaved by Suicide] Publication of the “Comprehensive Support Guide for Those Bereaved by Suicide (Revised Edition) [Summary]”

On June 30, 2025, JSCP released the “Comprehensive Support Guide for Those Bereaved by Suicide (Revised Edition) [Summary]” (20 pages in total) on its website.

This booklet is a summary version highlighting key points from the “Comprehensive Support Guide for Those Bereaved by Suicide (Revised Edition),” which JSCP published in September of the previous year. We encourage all those involved in supporting those bereaved by suicide to make use of this resource.

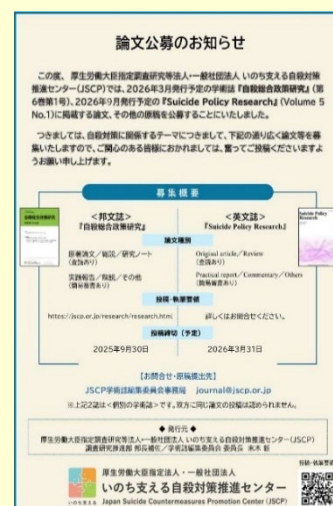
- Both the full version of the support guide for those bereaved by suicide and its summary are available for free download [here](#).



6. [Investigations & Research] Call for Papers for Research on Comprehensive Suicide Policy (Japanese original) and Suicide Policy Research (English original)

JSCP publishes two open-access journals, *Research on Comprehensive Suicide Policy (Japanese original)* and *Suicide Policy Research (English original)*, with the aim of advancing research on the realities of suicide and suicide countermeasures, and promoting such countermeasures through those research efforts. We are currently accepting submissions for the upcoming issues of both journals. Submissions may cover a wide variety of topics on suicide and suicide countermeasures. For details, please refer to the submission and writing guidelines at the link below. After reviewing the guidelines, please email your name, affiliation, manuscript category, and (tentative) title to the JSCP Journal Editorial Board Secretariat. The deadline for sending this information is Monday, September 1, 2025, for *Research on Comprehensive Suicide Policy* and Monday, March 2, 2026, for *Suicide Policy Research*. The final manuscript submission deadlines are Tuesday, September 30, 2025, for *Research on Comprehensive Suicide Policy* and Tuesday, March 31, 2026, for *Suicide Policy Research*.

- Click [here](#) to see the [submission guidelines](#) and other related information.



7. [Investigations & Research] Upcoming Call for Commissioned Research under the Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures in FY2025

JSCP implements the Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures, a commissioned research initiative that publicly invites researchers and professionals in fields related to suicide countermeasures to promote evidence-based policymaking and research that contributes to social impact. The purpose of this program is to promote comprehensive suicide countermeasures by conducting practical research (policy research) on suicide countermeasures and by collecting data and evidence that contribute to their promotion. Focusing on real-world (frontline) efforts in suicide countermeasures, this program aims to promote innovative research on suicide countermeasures. This research develops policies based on evidence and other outcomes generated through research, so that those policies further support real-world practice. It also strengthens the connection and coordination among “real-world practice,” “research,” and “policy.”

The call for proposals for commissioned research under this program for FY2025 is scheduled to begin on Friday, July 18. Details will be posted on the [Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures page](#) once preparations are complete. Please review the information carefully and consider applying.

▼ Call for Proposals Overview (Tentative)

Research Period : From the date of contract signing within FY2025, for a maximum of three fiscal years
(No later than the end of FY2027)

Research Funding : Up to 4 million yen per project per fiscal year (direct costs)
※ Indirect costs will, in principle, be granted at a fixed rate of 30% of direct costs

Application Categories : Three research domains plus a category for early-career researchers
※ Approximately four projects are expected to be selected in FY2025

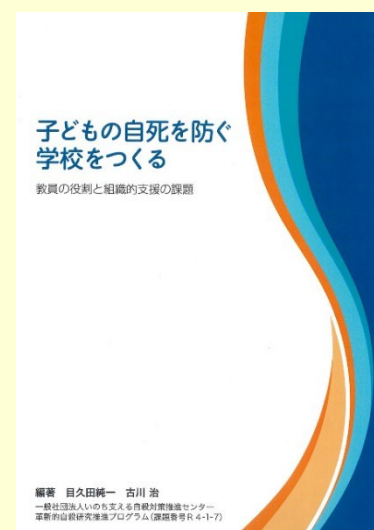
Application Period : From Friday, July 18, 2025, to Friday, August 15, 2025, by 17:30

8. [Reference Information] Introduction to the Book *Creating Schools That Prevent Child Suicide*

JSCP implements the Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures, a commissioned research initiative that publicly invites researchers and professionals in fields related to suicide countermeasures. We are pleased to introduce the book *Creating Schools That Prevent Child Suicide: The Role of Educators and Challenges in Organizational Support* (edited and authored by Junichi Mekuta and Osamu Furukawa, published by Kengakusha), which was produced as an outcome of the FY2024 commissioned research (Principal Investigator: Junichi Mekuta, Associate Professor, Baika Women's University).

In recent years, the situation surrounding suicide among young people in Japan has become extremely serious. In 2024, the confirmed number of suicides among students (elementary, junior high, and high school students) reached 529, the highest figure since statistics began in 1980. To address this situation, it is an urgent task to promote and strengthen suicide countermeasures for children and youth. One such effort involves implementing gatekeeper (GK) training programs for educators and others who interact with children and youth on a daily basis. These training programs aim to enhance the ability of educators and others to recognize signs of distress in children and to respond appropriately when such signs are observed. However, the effects of these training programs on the awareness and behavioral changes of educators and others have not been sufficiently examined.

Therefore, the commissioned research that formed the basis of this book began with the question: “What is necessary for educators to fulfill their role as GKs for students?” To explore this, interviews and surveys were conducted with educators, school counselors, and school social workers. Specifically, the research aimed to clarify the difficulties, barriers, and related challenges faced by these individuals in promoting suicide prevention for children in school settings, and to examine various factors that hinder them from effectively functioning as GKs for their students. Based on the findings, the book identifies three barriers that educators and related staff face in effectively functioning as GKs and proposes concrete strategies to address them.



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Principal Investigator : Junichi Mekuta (Associate Professor, Department of Child Education, Faculty of Psychology and Children's Studies, Baika Women's University)

Research Title : What does it take for teachers to be effective gatekeepers for students at high risk of suicide? A model of support & system in multi-level organization for suicide prevention as a team

Research Output : Book: *Creating Schools That Prevent Child Suicide: The Role of Educators and Challenges in Organizational Support* (Kengakusha)

■ For more details, please refer to [this](#) website.

**We're looking for new JSCP staff to join us
in working on suicide countermeasures.**

※Click [here](#) for more information.

■ Training videos are gradually being uploaded to the YouTube “JSCP_PR Office” channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNWP2O5zTuuI-j8GITeKzHQ>

■ JSCP shares articles on suicide issues and countermeasures via Yahoo! News Expert

(Written by Ms. Kaoru Yamadera, Public Relations Officer at JSCP)

<https://news.yahoo.co.jp/expert/authors/yamaderakaoru>

Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center (JSCP)

Designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, General Incorporated Association

Public Relations Office news@jscp.or.jp



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