

Review of: "Child and adolescent self-harm in a pandemic world: Evidence from a decade of data"

Dusan Kuljancic¹

¹ University of Novi Sad

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear colleagues, first of all I want to say that I am very glad that I got the opportunity to comment on this paper. I would like to say that the topic is extremely topical, especially that the pandemic is still ongoing and that we live in this way that we live as a civilization that very likely leads us to a new public health threat with the emergence of new infectious diseases through deforestation, melting glaciers and contact with different animals. In addition to threats to physical health, mental health is also threatened by the emergence of such large-scale public health crises. Vulnerable individuals and social groups such as young people are especially at risk. Knowing their usual problems they go through growing up and the fact that they have no one to complain to and ask for support, young people in turbulent times are very exposed to mental health disorders that unfortunately quickly and often progress to suicide attempts and self-harm. Therefore, efforts to preserve mental health and improve programs and resources for this, both in times of crisis and in times of crisis, are of key importance for the mental health of vulnerable groups, especially children, who, even in everyday life, represent a group where social and mental health support is lacking.

As for the work itself, I must say that in addition to the topicality of the topic and the large number of works on the given topic around the world, this particular text is rather short, lacking in data and analysis. More needs to be done on the statistical processing of the data, so that more valid conclusions can be drawn. Not a single variable from the group of sociodemographic characteristics was considered and was not correlated with suicidality. Let's say why only one year before the pandemic was not compared to the first year of the pandemic. Or why not all the average values for the last 10 years of patients who came to the hospital due to self-harm were calculated and then such data were compared with those from the year of the pandemic. To see what the distinction is and if there is one. In this way, it will be more precisely determined which subgroup of adolescents and young people most needs support in some other public health crises. The discussion should be supplemented with data from a cross-section of the literature for an area close to Canada, but also to compare the data with some relevant data from the rest of the world. Thus, the conclusions will be more relevant and clearer. There are also many works on suicidality in children and adults in the age of pandemic, so I recommend that you supplement the list of literature with the most relevant ones for your work. I hope you find my comments useful and improve your work.

Sincerely, Dr. Dušan Kuljančić

