

INPLASY

A Systematic Review of Attitudes Toward Suicide Among University Students (2014-2024)

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - N/A.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Risk of bias assessment.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY2024100016

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 5 October 2024 and was last updated on 5 October 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The objective of this systematic review is to synthesise existing literature on attitudes toward suicide (ATS) among university students. The review aims to identify factors associated with ATS and its association with suicide outcomes among university students.

Condition being studied Suicide.

METHODS

Participant or population University students.

Intervention N/A.

Comparator N/A.

Study designs to be included Qualitative and quantitative studies.

Eligibility criteria In this systematic review, inclusion criteria were established to ensure a comprehensive selection of studies relevant to ATS among university students. Studies had to be published in the English language and focused primarily on university students as the population of interest. The primary or secondary outcome of the studies had to be ATS among university students. Only studies published in peer-reviewed journals were included, and there were no restrictions based on geographic location. Various study designs were considered, including cross-sectional, longitudinal, qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, and intervention studies. To ensure the review's relevance to current attitudes, only studies published within the last 10 years (2014 to 2024) were included. Additionally, studies were required to have established ATS measures, covering stigma, acceptance, knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions.

Information sources Relevant articles were systematically searched in February 2024 across

four key databases: MEDLINE, Web of Science, Scopus, and PubMed.

Main outcome(s) Factors Associated with Attitudes Toward Suicide.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis

Quality assessments were conducted using the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) checklist and the Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research (COREQ) checklist.

Strategy of data synthesis A standardised data extraction form was created using Microsoft Excel to ensure consistency and thoroughness in extracting relevant information from the articles. The extracted data included details such as author, year, title, country, study design, study setting, participant characteristics (i.e., age and study background), measures used, and major findings. Two reviewers, SLMH and SCS, independently conducted the data extraction process. Any discrepancies between the two sets of data were identified, reviewed, and resolved through discussion between the reviewers. If a consensus could not be reached, a third reviewer, SEZ, was consulted to resolve the discrepancies.

Subgroup analysis N/A.

Sensitivity analysis N/A.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Malaysia.

Keywords Attitudes; suicide; university students.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Shirlyn Ming Hui Lee - Author 1 drafted the manuscript.

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