



## Epidemiological profile of suicide in the macro-region of the great west of Santa Catarina, Brazil: An update

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### **ABSTRACT**

Suicide is an evident public health problem, ranking among the ten leading causes of death in all age groups (WHO, 2014). In a previous study (Schmitt et al., 2008), the macro-region of the Great West of Santa Catarina had the highest prevalence rate of suicides in the state, about 10 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. in the period between 1995 and 2008, and Santa Catarina also has a high rate of 7 cases, mainly in comparison with the Brazilian average of 4 cases.

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Mortality, Mental health.

### **1 INTRODUÇÃO**

Suicide is an evident public health problem, ranking among the ten leading causes of death in all age groups (WHO, 2014). In a previous study (Schmitt et al., 2008), the macro-region of the Great West of Santa Catarina had the highest prevalence rate of suicides in the state, about 10 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. in the period between 1995 and 2008, and Santa Catarina also has a high rate of 7 cases, mainly in comparison with the Brazilian average of 4 cases. **OBJECTIVE:** To analyze the epidemiological profile, methods used and the prevalence of suicide in the Great West of Santa Catarina. This is an observational, quantitative, and descriptive study based on DATASUS data, analyzing deaths from external causes from ICD-10 (X60-X84) and mean coefficients by age and gender between 2001 and 2020. The average suicide rate in the Great West of Santa Catarina between 2001 and 2020 was 11.43 cases per year

100,000 inhabitants. The ratio of 4:1 suicides between genders stands out, representing 1381 cases (80.1%) in males and 383 cases (19.9%) in females. The region continues to have the highest suicide rate in Santa Catarina. The most affected populations are men and the elderly, with the coefficient increasing



with age. There was a 1.43 increase in suicidal prevalence in the Great West compared to the previous study. Hanging continues to be the main means in all groups analyzed, totaling 1,399 cases (81.15%), followed by the use of firearms in 163 cases (9.46%). The Great West continues to have the highest state coefficient, above the national and state average. The demographic profile remained similar to previous studies. Older adults and adults between 40 and 59 years of age have the highest suicide rates, requiring targeted public policies.