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Suicide Attempts and Financial Crisis in Greece: Recorded Changes in a General Hospital

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Objectives: In the last years in Greece, one of the most controversial issues has been the probable increased rate of suicides in the middle of a financial and social crisis. The purpose of this study was to see the change of the profile (type and frequency) of suicide attempts referred to a big General Hospital in the years before and during the financial crisis.

Method: Data were collected both from the Emergency and the Outpatient Departments of the Psychiatric Sector of our Hospital between the years 2008 and 2013. Data were analyzed with a SSPS package using t-test, ANOVA and Multiple Regression analyses.

Results: The number of suicide attempts recorded didn't differ significantly in the years before i.e. 2008 and 2009 and during the financial crisis, between 2010 to 2013. During the deepening of the crisis (2012), a statistical difference was found as for the reason stated. This has been, as reported by the patient, financial difficulties, correlating ($p < 0.01$) with the degree of GDP decline. In the half of 2013 there was no correlation of the attempts with the financial difficulties.

Conclusions: The suicide rate change in Greece has been a topic for an ongoing discussion. These results are inconclusive regarding the change in the profile or in the number of suicide attempts before and after the 2010 debt crisis. The yearly number in suicide attempts didn't differ significantly between 2008 and 2013. The patients' reason of the suicide attempt was financial insecurity during the worst year of the crisis, i.e. 2012.