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words

Psychosocial influences on suicide

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Suicide may be influenced by a wide range of social and economic factors, including adverse economic circumstances, social fragmentation and isolation, and cultural attitudes towards suicide. Psychiatric disorders, especially depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and alcohol misuse, are present in most individuals dying by suicide. Key psychological factors are a sense of entrapment with no escape, hopelessness, shame and guilt. Risk can be increased by exposure to suicidal behaviour of others via social networks or the media (especially where reporting is dramatic and includes details of methods of suicide). Strong religious beliefs, having a partner and children may offer some protection.

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