Letter to the Editor

Response to "COMMENT on Trend Analysis of Suicide Mortality and Years of Life Lost From 2016 to 2021 in Southern Iran"

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Dear Editor-in-Chief

We thank Jalilian for his valuable advice in the recent report published in Iranian Journal of Public Health. Because the language of the article is English and it is understandable for all readers, ICD-10 codes have been used. It is usually recommended to use ICD-10 codes in these articles. At the time of writing this article, we used the latest life table. Besides, for comparability and idealism, standard life expectancy has been used to calculate the years of life lost (YLL).

There are three formulas to calculate the YLL (1). We also used the most complete method (2).

$$LL= N\ Ce\ (ra)\ /\ (\beta+r)\ 2\ [e-(\beta+r)\ (L+a)\ [-(\beta+r)(L+a)-1] - e- (\beta+ r)\ a\ [-(\beta+r)\ a-1]].$$

Where N=count of deaths, r=the discount rate, C=the age-weighting correction constant, e=a constant, β=the parameter from the age-weighting function, a=the age at death and L=the rest of life expectancy at the age of death. The GBD applied a 3% time discount rate to YLL in the future to estimate the net present value of years of life lost.β determines the importance of age-weights. C is an adjustment constant, chosen so that the introduction of age-weights does not alter the total number of YLL.

To calculate the YLL, first, the analysis was done using 18 age groups. Then, age groups were merged for ease of comparison. Because suicide is usually rare in the age groups under 10 years old, we combined the age group 5 to 14 years old. Also, the number of suicide cases in people over 80 years old in our study was insignificant.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

References

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