

<i>ECHIM Indicator name</i>	<b>B) Health status</b> 32. Suicide attempt
<i>Definition</i>	To be developed: Proportion of persons having ever attempted suicide.
<i>Key issues and problems</i>	No consensus yet on best type of data source; special mental health surveys or administrative sources? There are no prospects that suitable international data collections will be developed in the future.
<i>Preferred data type and data source</i>	Preferred data type: ? Preferred data source: ?
<i>Data availability</i>	Hospital discharge data are available but these are considered not appropriate by experts. Some interview-based data are available from the Mental Health Indicators pilot survey 2001: DE, FI, FR, GR (Korkeila et al., 2001). These data are available in the MINDFUL database.
<i>Rationale</i>	Suicide is an important public health issue and highlights mental health priority. Data on suicide attempts supplement the information already provided by mortality data (see indicator 13 disease-specific mortality).
<i>Remarks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health information surveys (HIS) will probably underestimate the number of suicide attempts due to small sample sizes and reporting bias. Therefore it is preferable to have a special survey such as CIDI (The Composite International Diagnostic Interview):             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Percentage of those who gave a positive answer to the CIDI question: "Have you ever attempted suicide?" (variant 1a is preferred)                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) question about suicide attempts asked from all respondents</li> <li>b) question about suicide attempts asked only if depression sieve is passed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>             Question about suicide attempt asked from every respondent is more widely used.           </li> <li>- Indicator of mental health of children in Child Health Indicators of Life and Development (CHILD) project: Annual incidence of attempted suicide, defined by inpatient hospital stays with a discharge diagnosis of attempted suicide, per 100,000 population, by male, female, and total, in age-groups 10-14 and 15-17, and by socio-economic group when available.</li> <li>- In the ongoing multinational WHO/Euro parasuicide epidemiological monitoring studies, parasuicide is defined as "an act with nonfatal outcome, in which an individual deliberately initiates a non-habitual behaviour that, without intervention from others, will cause self-harm, or deliberately ingests a substance in excess of the prescribed therapeutic dosage, and which is aimed at realizing changes which the subject desired via the actual or expected physical consequences".</li> <li>- Not all attempters do intend to die, should population surveys therefore also measure intent to die? Some experts however object to having a question on intention to die in general Health Interview Surveys, as they deem such a question inappropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>References</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MINDFUL project (2004-2006): <a href="http://www.stakes.fi/mindful">http://www.stakes.fi/mindful</a></li> <li>- Korkeila J et al: Piloting a minimum data set of mental health indicators for Europe. 2001</li> <li>- CIDI: The Composite International Diagnostic Interview <a href="http://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/wmhcredi/">http://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/wmhcredi/</a></li> <li>- Child Health Indicators of Life and Development (CHILD) project: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/fp_monitoring_2000_frep_08_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/fp_monitoring_2000_frep_08_en.pdf</a></li> <li>- Bille-Brahe et al. Background and introduction to the WHO/EURO Multicentre Study on Parasuicide. Crisis. 1995;16(2):72-8, 84.</li> <li>- De Leo et al. Definitions of suicidal behavior: lessons learned from the WHO/EURO multicentre Study. Crisis. 2006;27(1):4-15.</li> <li>- Welch SS. A review of the literature on the epidemiology of parasuicide in the general population. Psychiatr Serv. 2001 Mar;52(3):368-75. Review.</li> <li>- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP): <a href="http://www.iasp.info/">http://www.iasp.info/</a></li> </ul>
<i>Work to do</i>	Contact experts to discuss and solve key issues and problems.