

[HATCHER] - *Suicide among Public Safety Personnel compared to the General Population in Ontario: A case-control study*

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Priority Research Area:

Relevant PSP Population(s): Police, Firefighters, Paramedics and Corrections Officers

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What is the issue? First Responders probably have higher rates of suicide than the general population. When First Responders do die from suicide there is often media attention which is not given to other groups in the community.

What was the aim of the study? The main aim of the study was to find out if First Responders who died from suicide in Ontario were different from a matched group of the general population including in terms of the nature of the suicide and recent contacts with the health service. A secondary aim of the study is to see whether suicide deaths of First Responders meet media guidelines for reporting of suicides.

How was the study conducted? We have gathered a list of First Responder suicides in Ontario which includes to date 26 police, OPP, RCMP; 12 firefighters; 18 paramedics; and 8 corrections. We have ethics approval to proceed and data sharing agreements in place.

What did the study find? Due to the COVID pandemic we have not been able to access coroners records at The Chief Coroners building in Toronto as this is closed to researchers. We are waiting for it to reopen.

What are the implications of this study? Not applicable

What are the key messages? Not applicable

Provide a list of potential target audiences for this research: Not applicable