

Sex difference in parental risk of suicide attempt during and after pregnancy: a nationwide register-based study

3. Epidemiology and surveillance

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Abstract text

Whether the risks of maternal and paternal suicide attempt during and after pregnancy differ remains unknown. We performed a nationwide register-based cohort study, including 2,196,276 births during 2001-2021 in Sweden. We defined three periods: the year before conception, pregnancy, and the year after birth. We used Poisson regression to estimate week-specific incidence rate ratios (IRR). In total, we identified 7,469 (1.39 per 1,000 person-years) suicide attempts among mothers and 8,338 (1.62 per 1,000 person-years) among fathers. Compared to the corresponding week in preconception period, mothers had, throughout pregnancy and postpartum period, a lower risk of suicide attempt; fathers had a decreased risk of suicide attempt around childbirth, but a higher risk in the later postpartum period. Compared to fathers, mothers had a lower risk of suicide attempt during and after pregnancy. We found a reversed sex difference in parental risk of suicide attempt during and after pregnancy compared to that in the general population. Pregnancy or childbirth may have a more pronounced effect among mothers than fathers.