

## Suicidal behaviour among Sámi in Sweden: a cross-sectional study on risk factors

13. Vulnerable groups

**Jon Petter Stoor**<sup>1</sup>, *Anette Edin-Liljegren*<sup>1, 2</sup>, *Per Gustafsson*<sup>1</sup>, *Eva Henje*<sup>3</sup>, *Miguel San Sebastián*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Lávvuo-Research and Education for Sámi health, Umeå University, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Rural Medicine, Region Västerbotten, Storuman, Sweden

<sup>3</sup> Department of Clinical Science, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden

### Abstract text

No studies have investigated the prevalence or risk factors for non-lethal suicidal behaviour in the general Sámi population in Sweden. In this study, prevalence of lifetime suicidal ideation and suicide attempts were calculated, stratified by sex, using weighted data from the cross-sectional self-reported national Sámi Health on Equal Terms Study, collected in 2021. Log-binomial regression analysis was used to estimate associations between the two forms of suicidality, and sociodemographic, socioeconomic, discriminatory, social, violence and cultural indicators. The results highlight that more women than men reported lifetime suicidal ideation (33.8% vs 23.0%) and suicide attempts (7.5% vs 4.1%). Risk-factor patterns differed by sex but being poor, financially vulnerable or exposed to violence was consistently associated to suicidality. Young age was strongly associated to suicidality among women, but only to suicidal ideation among men. Among men, mid-education level, lack of Sámi language proficiency, weak social relations, and (to lesser extent) being a forest Sámi or living in Jämtland Härjedalen, were of relevance. Identifying as non-heterosexual was a risk factor among women. In conclusion, the results suggest Sámi suicide prevention strategies are warranted due to health equity concerns, and the risk-factor patterns may be used to improve prioritisation and support Sámi-specific approaches.