

CASE Study 2001 and follow-up 2007 in Denmark

Jensen BF, Zoellner L, Ph.D.
Centre for Suicide Research, Soendergade 17, 5000 Odense C, Denmark

The CASE-Study (Child and Adolescent Self-harm in Europe) has been initiated and carried out in Denmark and several other European countries in 2001-02. Rapid changes in youth culture outdate results and a repetition study was carried out in 2006-07.

Table 1. Percentage of pupils, being *vulnerable* (having serious problems and being in need of help from professionals) within the last year, ever having *serious thoughts of harming themselves*, or *ever having harmed themselves intentionally*.

After adjusting for age (class level) and school there was no statistical change in percentage from 2001 to 2006 for vulnerability and self-harm, but a decrease in serious considerations of self-harm.

Method: Questionnaire answered by 8,502 pupils at elementary school (lower secondary level) aged 14-16 years in two periods 2001-02 and 2006-07.

	Males		Females	
	2001	2007	2001	2006
Vulnerable	12 %	13 %	28 %	33 %
Thoughts o self-harm	19 %	13 %	47 %	35 %
Self-harm	5 %	5 %	17 %	22 %

Table 2. Risk and protective factors for serious considerations of self-harm indicated by odds ratios. OR < 1 signifies factors that protect against consideration of self-harm and OR > 1 signifies risk factors.

	Males		Females	
	2001	2007	2001	2007
Non-western background	0.65	1.01	0.57	0.54
Not living with both parents	1.67	1.21	1.82	1.70
Matter to one's family	0.14	0.24	0.20	0.28
Count on one's family	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.30

Those who consider harming themselves intentionally are predominantly girls of a Western background, who live with only one parent. They feel that they do not matter to or can count on their family.

Table 3. Circumstances surrounding the last time the pupils harmed themselves.

	Males		Females	
	2001	2007	2001	2007
Had spoken to anyone before self-harm	35%	43%	49%	49%
Someone discovered their self-harm	62%	66%	63%	75%
Someone helped them after their self-harm	30%	22%	35%	35%

The majority had not spoken to anyone about their considerations and problems before they harmed themselves.

Figure 1

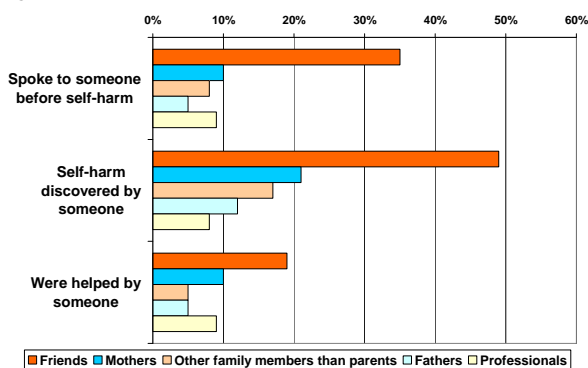


Figure 1. Percentage of different persons in contact with the the pupils the last time they harmed themselves.

Friends most often knew about the self-harm. The self-harmers spoke to friends before they harmed themselves, their friends discovered the self-harm and friends most often helped them afterwards. Mothers are more frequently involved than fathers.

Professionals are teachers, medical doctors, psychiatrist, psychologists and social workers.

