

Common Mistakes and Problems in Suicide Research

Invited lecture · Kairi Kõlves

Prof. Kairi Kõlves work as a Professor at the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) and she is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Suicide Prevention, School of Applied Psychology at Griffith University. She has been working in suicide research and prevention since 1998. Between 1999 and 2008, she worked at the Estonian-Swedish Mental Health and Suicidology Institute and joined AISRAP team as a researcher in 2008. She has been involved in several Australian, Estonian and international projects and has been a member of a number of advisory committees including the Queensland Advisory Group on Suicide, the Advisory Board of 'Lifeline Research Foundation' and others. She has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers, and numerous book chapters and reports. Her work has been acknowledged and in 2010 she was the recipient of the Australian LIFE Award in Emerging Researcher category, in 2017 the Griffith Health Pro Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award (Mid-Career Researcher) and the Publication Award.

Abstract. Research is the underlying feature of the public health model in suicide prevention. It plays a vital role in improving our knowledge about suicidal behavior, and developing and evaluating suicide prevention interventions. Therefore, advancing high quality suicide research is essential for success in suicide prevention. The aim of the presentation is to give a short overview of common mistake and misconceptions in suicide research, which should help to overcome them in the future. Epidemiology is one of the public health tools and can be used in different ways, which has been frequently misunderstood. Common problems with the epidemiological measures and study designs in the context of suicide research will be addressed. The main misconcepts about the nature of the qualitative and mixed methods research will be discussed. A debate about utilising psychological autopsy as a quantitative or qualitative tool will be examined.