

Gun shot fatalities : Suicide , homicide or accident ?

A series of 37 cases.

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION :

Fire arm death is the second leading cause of injury – related death .

This study is based on an investigation of gun shot fatalities that were autopsied by the Legal Medicine Organization in Kerman province from march 2004 to march 2005 .

METHODS :

Datas in this report are based on information from all fire arm death certificated files which presented by (age – sex – level of education – past history of psychological disease , crime or drug abuse – site of entrance wound , and cause (homicide – suicide or accident) .

RESULTS :

Cases at study comprise 37 fire arm death ; 28(75.7%) homicides – 23 males and 5 females – 6 (16.2%) suicides all were male , and 3(8.1%) accidental shootings all were male .

The age range in the study period was 9 to 70 years , The majority were in the group aged 15-25 years (62.1%) .

Most victims were low educated (81.8%) – 3 cases had a history of psychological disease (8%) – 8 cases had criminal history (22%) , and 7 cases were drug abuse (19%) .

In suicides single entrance wound was found , homicides showed both single and multiple entrance wound . The most common site of entrance wound were located in head (54%) and chest (22%) .

CONCLUSION :

These results suggest a possible association between youth aged individual and fire arm fatality . though we believe that due to the Iran's strict gun control regulation and cultural back ground the pattern of fire arm fatalities found in this series was not similar to that reported in earlier studies , this study showed the need for broader investigation and prevention efforts about violence related fire arm deaths on youth aged victims in Iran .