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Socio-demographic Characteristics of Suicides in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Northwestern Russia.

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Objective: To investigate suicide rates in the indigenous (Nenets) and non-indigenous populations of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO) in 2002-2012 with associated socio-demographic characteristics.

Design: Retrospective population-based mortality study.

Methods: Data from autopsy reports were used to identify 252 cases of suicide in the NAO in 2002-2012. Data on socio-demographic characteristics were obtained from passports and medical records and linked to population data from the Censuses. Suicide rates for the Nenets population and the non-indigenous population were calculated according to different socio-demographic characteristics. Corresponding relative risks for each population group were compared.

Results: The crude standardized suicide rates were 72.7 per 100 000 person-years in the Nenets and 50.7 per 100 000 person-years in the non-indigenous population. The highest suicide rates in the Nenets population were observed in the age group 20-29 years and in females aged 30-39 years. Socio-demographic characteristics associated with high suicide rates for the Nenets were 20-39 years of age, male gender, urban residence, having secondary school or higher education, being an employee or employer, and being single or divorced. Males aged 20-29 years and females aged 30-39 and aged 70 years or over had the highest suicide rates in the non-indigenous population. The higher suicide rates in the non-indigenous population were associated with male gender, rural residence, secondary school education, being an employee or employer, and being single or divorced.

Conclusions: Suicide rates in the NAO were higher among the indigenous Nenets population than the non-indigenous population, and were associated with different socio-demographic characteristics.