

Suicide Prevention in Podiatry; Albright, et. al. *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*, 2022, 21-194

DOI: 10.7547/21-194

Level of Evidence: 5

Reviewer: Salma Haider, PMS-III
California School of Podiatric Medicine

According to the CDC, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States under the age of 34 years. Having a prior history of depression also increases the risk of suicide. Moreover, individuals with diabetes are 2-3 times more likely to suffer from depression. According to this article, 45% of individuals who die by suicide have seen their primary care provider within 30 days of their death. Diabetics visit podiatrists frequently, sometimes more frequently than their primary-care providers especially when they have more acute pedal issues (neuropathic pain, ulcerations, vascular disease, etc.).

The purpose of this article is to educate podiatric physicians on the importance of recognizing and to help prevent suicide in out-patient settings. According to the article, this begins with identifying patients who are at risk utilizing screening tools in combination with clinical judgment. In JAPMA's recently published editorial, implementing suicide-screen questions during patient visits was shown to provide valuable information, which, in 5 minutes or so, lead to a positive impact on clinical decision-making and overall care for high-risk podiatric patients.



ACPM
American College of Podiatric Medicine
Education | Research | Advocacy