

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Cross-sectional Study on Suicide in People of Hungarian and Romanian Nationality in Bihor County, Romania

Andrada SCHWARZ-MADAR¹, Andreea CAMARASAN¹, Razvan OROS¹, Narcis VILCEANU¹, Claudia JUDEA-PUSTA², Camelia BUHAS¹

¹Department of Morphologic Disciplines, Medicine and Pharmacy Faculty, University of Oradea, Romania

²Bihor County Medico-legal Service, Romania

DOI [10.56082/annalsarscimed.2024.2.44](https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscimed.2024.2.44)

Correspondence: Andrada Schwarz-Madar, Department of Morphologic Disciplines, Medicine and Pharmacy Faculty, University of Oradea, Bihor, Romania; e-mail: schwarz_andrada@yahoo.com

Abstract. Introduction: Data provided by the “Mina Minovici” National Medico-Legal Institute Bucharest (Romania) demonstrate that most suicidal acts occur in Bucharest, followed by Satu Mare County and Harghita County. According to the 2021 census, more than one-fifth of Bihor County’s population is of Hungarian ethnicity. **Material and methods:** We conducted this study to compare suicidal acts between Romanians and Hungarians. Data were collected from the Bihor County Medico-Legal Service over a time interval from August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023. **Results:** We found that most suicidal behaviors occurred in men, with an average age of 52 years. More than half of those who committed suicide were Hungarian. However, most women involved in suicidal acts were Romanian. Hanging was identified as the most common method of suicide. **Conclusions:** Although Hungarians represent only one-fifth of the total population in Bihor County, the study indicates that this ethnic group is more susceptible to suicide compared to Romanians.

Keywords: Hungarians, hanging, nationality, Romanians, suicide.

1. INTRODUCTION

Suicide refers to a voluntary and intentional act in which the victim takes his/her own life [1,2]. While suicide can sometimes be prevented, it claims more than 800,000 lives worldwide each year, affecting both younger and older generations [1,3]. As such, suicide remains a significant societal issue, even as interest in mental health has grown across the European Union, including Romania [4].

According to data from the World Health Organization, in 2019, the suicide rate in Romania was 9.74 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants [5]. In comparison, Hungary had a higher suicide rate of 16.65 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in the same year [5]. Reports from the National Institute of Forensic Medicine “Mina Minovici” Bucharest, Romania, indicate that 2,401 suicides were recorded in Romania in 2019,

showing a decreasing trend compared to previous years [6]. In 2020, most suicides occurred in Covasna, Harghita, and Mures Counties, with Bihor County ranked 12th nationally [2].

The most common methods of suicide worldwide include hanging, followed by pesticide or other substance poisoning [7]. In Romania, hanging remains the most frequently used method [6].

According to the 2021 census, more than one-fifth of Bihor County's population is of Hungarian ethnicity [8]. This study aimed to evaluate the suicide rate in Bihor County, focusing on the two predominant nationalities in the region.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was retrospective and observational, analyzing data collected from