

The connection between economic distress, suicide

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If the United States follows the pattern that occurred after the economic crisis in Japan, public health officials should watch for a significant increase in suicides, particularly in the baby boom population, concluded a study scheduled for presentation at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting

The research was scheduled for presentation Sunday, May 15, at the 164th the [American Psychiatric Association](#) Annual Meeting, which is in Honolulu May 14-18.

Researchers looked at [suicide rates](#) in Japan in the late 1990s when that country experienced an [economic downturn](#) similar to recent trends in the United States and Europe. The study looked at suicides in Japan by age, gender and year in relation to a series of economic variables.

If the U.S. rates of increased suicide approximate those in Japan, the country would experience a yearly increase of deaths due to suicide estimated at 14,610 per year, the study concluded.

Details of this study, along with five other new research studies, will be presented at a media briefing from the APA Annual Meeting. Members of the media can attend in Room 307 of the Hawaii Convention Center at 8 am Hawaii time, Monday, May 16, or participate online at 11 AM PDT/2 pm EDT by registering at www2.gotomeeting.com/register/341505819.

Provided by American Psychiatric Association

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