

Study ID (author name and year)	Type of media	Celebrity	Results	Key conclusions	TOTAL RoB
Bakst et al. (2019)	Mass media	No	There were no statistically significant changes to the suicide rates after the media reporting of suicides in non-celebrities. Suicides that occurred post-reporting were independent of media coverage.	There is no evidence for the copycat effect of suicide following media reporting of publicised suicides.	Serious
Chang et al. (2015)	Newspaper	No	Every 10% increase in Google search for charcoal-related suicide was associated with a 4.3% and 3.8% increase in method-specific suicide in weeks 1 and 2, respectively. Every additional article published in united daily was associated with a 3.6% increase in method-specific suicide (CB) in the same week. Non-charcoal-related deaths were associated with reports from Apple daily, and it has no association with Google search volume. Every 10% of Google search volume was associated with 1.7% and 11.3% rise in suicide for male and female, respectively.	Higher internet search and media reports of specific suicide was associated with method-specific suicides.	Moderate
Chen et al. (2010)	Mass media	Yes	Among those who encountered celebrity suicide news, 37% answered that the media influenced their suicide attempt. Individuals who were male and younger were more likely to be affected.	Exposure to the media reporting of celebrity suicide can lead to higher suicide attempts. Male and younger age groups were more susceptible.	Serious
Chen et al. (2011)	Newspaper	No	The reporting intensity of suicide increased in a traditional newspaper upon the entry of the new tabloid paper which was significantly associated with actual suicide rates in Taiwan ($P < 0.0001$) even after controlling for confounders. A mutual causation between media reporting and suicides was noted.	Introduction of a new tabloid daily created competitive media reporting that had an impact on actual suicides in the country.	Moderate

Chen et al. (2012)	Newspaper	Yes	A significant increase in suicide rates using the same method (CB) was noted 2 weeks after the media reports of the celebrity suicide. The suicide risk increased with media reports and especially among younger age groups (<35 years), in both genders, more prominently in females. The risk was higher for CB-related deaths in younger age groups.	Celebrity suicide resulted in a significant increase in method-specific copycat suicide in young women after the media reporting.	Moderate
Chen et al. (2013)	Mass media	No	Newspaper reporting of CB suicide was associated with higher copycat suicides during the study period. Every report of CB deaths increased subsequent suicides by 16% on the next day ($P<0.0001$). In contrast, the reporting of other methods of suicide did not have the effect.	Extensive media reporting of CB suicides led to a rapid rise in copycat suicides in Taiwan.	Moderate
Cheng et al. (2011)	TV, newspaper	No	(1) There was a temporal clustering of Foxconn suicides. (2) Media reporting of Foxconn suicides did not contribute to subsequent Foxconn suicides. (3) Occurrence of Foxconn suicide on a specific day contributed to a subsequent suicide 3 days later.	Suicide incidents, but not media reporting, contributed to subsequent suicides among Foxconn workers.	Serious
Cheng et al. (2007a)	Newspaper	Yes	There was a marked increase in suicide attempts 3 weeks following the media report of a celebrity death. 124/139 suicide attempters were exposed to the media reports and 23.4% reported media influence on their suicide attempts. Imitation, rationalisation, hopelessness and learning the method of suicide were the reasons cited by the participants. Men were more likely to be influenced by the media reports than women. Those with a history of suicide attempts in the past year showed higher risk of being influenced by the media reporting.	Media reporting of celebrity suicide could increase subsequent suicide attempts especially among those with a history of previous attempts.	Moderate

Cheng et al. (2007b)	Mass media	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was an increase of suicides during the 4-week period after exposure to suicide news. 2. There was an increase in suicides by the same method (i.e. hanging) during the 4-week period after exposure to suicide news but no differences were seen for other suicide methods. 3. There was an increase of male suicides, especially for the <35 age group 4 weeks after exposure to suicide news, but no marked differences for females or other age groups. 	Extensive media reporting of a celebrity suicide can cause a copycat effect in the population.	Moderate
Cheng et al. (2017)	Newspaper	No	<p>19.8% and 23.1% of the suicides and reports were CB-related, respectively. CB suicides increased after the media reporting; however, non-CB suicides predominated in 2003-2004. Data fitting model showed a method specific increase in suicides following the reports (0.562 CB versus 0.504 other methods). There was no mutual self-excitation between CB and non-CB reports. Higher divorce and lower property price index affected both modes of suicides.</p>	Media reporting can elicit copycat suicides regardless of the method which is influenced by the socioeconomic conditions.	Moderate
Cheng et al. (2018)	Mass media	No	<p>(1) Student suicidal intensity did not always align with media-reporting intensity. (2) Student suicide rates increased while overall suicides and youth suicides decreased.</p> <p>(3) High intensity in descriptive reporting of student suicide was followed by an increase in student suicide rates, while high intensity in preventive reporting of student suicide was followed by a decrease in student suicide rates.</p>	Characteristics of media reports of suicide can influence subsequent suicide rates.	Serious
Choi et al. (2016)	Newspaper	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Korean celebrity suicide resulted in an increase in suicide rates by 20.55% but no significant increase for non-Korean celebrity suicide reporting. 2. Media exposure of celebrity suicide increases the suicide rate by 41.51%. 	Copycat suicides are prevalent following media coverage of celebrities in South Korea for Korean celebrities but not for foreign ones.	Moderate

			3) The copycat effect is larger for females than for males.		
Fu et al. (2009)	Newspaper	Yes	<p>1. There was a 25% increase in suicide rates following the media reporting of celebrity suicide, with a 43% increase in the first week, 29% increase in the second week and 25% increase in the third week.</p> <p>2) Suicide risk increased among groups of the same gender, same age group, and those who died by the same suicide method as the celebrity.</p>	Copycat suicides following media reporting of celebrity deaths is prevalent in the 3 Asian countries, especially among specific vulnerable subgroups.	Moderate
Ha and Yang (2021)	Newspaper, TV	Yes	Highly publicised celebrity suicide had an impact on public suicides that increased 16.1% and 28.8% by next day and Day 4, respectively. The contagion effect was high in younger adults (10-29 years) showing an increase of 34.7% and 69.6% on Days 1 and 4 post-celebrity suicide. The contagion effect was lower in magnitude for older age groups. Women showed higher Werther effect than men (46.6% vs 20.1%), while men had higher suicide rates (daily) than women (25.3% vs 11.8%). The suicide method showed a strong copycat effect (53.9% on Day 1 for hanging). A higher number of reports was related to the number of daily suicides.	Media reporting of celebrity suicide has a significant effect on copycat suicide and choice of suicide methods with women and younger age groups showing higher susceptibility.	Moderate
Hagihara et al. (2007)	Newspaper	No	<p>(1) The number of newspaper articles reporting suicide in the previous month was a significant predictor of suicidal behaviour among females and males after controlling for extraneous factors.</p> <p>(2) For males, the prevalence of internet in the previous month use was also a significant predictor of suicide but this relationship was not seen in females.</p>	Newspaper reporting of suicide can cause an increase in population suicide.	Serious

Hagihara et al. (2012)	Mass media	No	Compared to males, females were more likely to be influenced by media reporting of suicide and stopping of sales of hydrogen sulphide products.	Media reports of suicide are associated with copycat suicide among females, but not in males.	Moderate
Hagihara et al. (2014)	Mass media	No	(1) Newspaper reports of hydrogen sulphide suicides were positively associated with subsequent suicide attempts using hydrogen sulphide. (2) The effect was bigger when the report was on the front page and when the report violated a higher number of media reporting guidelines. (3) Newspaper articles about suicide using hydrogen were not associated with subsequent suicide attempts when 4 out of 7 media reporting guidelines were violated. However, when 5 or more guidelines were violated, this association was significant.	Copycat suicide attempts following newspaper reporting of suicide by hydrogen sulphide is prevalent in Japan.	Moderate
Jang et al. (2016)	Newspaper	Yes	(1) There was an increased risk of suicide in the subgroups in which all factors (sex, age and method of suicide) were the same as the celebrity. (2) Females in their 20s and 30s were mainly affected by celebrity suicides.	Copycat suicides following Korean celebrity suicides are prevalent with individuals who identified and had similar characteristics being at more risk.	Serious
Jang (2021)	Newspaper	Yes	There was an increase in suicides among public following celebrity suicide (pre: 38.4% vs post: 44.7%). Each celebrity suicide was associated with an increase by 6.27 suicides per day within 30 days' post-reporting. A strong copycat effect was seen with celebrity suicides (68% increase in suicide after the death of Ms. Choi, a popular actress). Average number of suicides post-reporting increased by 14% and 9% for entertainers and non-entertainers, respectively compared to pre-reporting period. There was a significant reduction in copycat suicide after the enactment of the suicide prevention law and the revision of media reporting guidelines ($P<0.05$).	Media reporting of celebrity suicide can trigger an increase in copycat suicides while suicide prevention laws and tighter control of media reporting through guidelines can reduce these effects.	Moderate

Jeong et al. (2012)	Newspaper	Yes	<p>(1) Suicide attempt ED visits increased from 0.1 in the reference week to 0.695 in the second post-event week following a celebrity suicide ($P<0.05$), with significantly higher visits observed in 1-3 weeks post-event.</p> <p>(2) Suicide attempt ED visits increased for at least 3 weeks after reports on a celebrity suicide.</p>	Media reporting leads to significantly higher number of ED visits post-reporting for suicide attempts.	Moderate
Ju Ji et al. (2014)	Mass media	Yes	<p>(1) Suicide rates and risk of suicide significantly increased during the 4 weeks after celebrity suicide, especially among subgroups with similar characteristics to the celebrity (i.e. females, younger age, hanging method). Number of suicides by hanging increased by 145.8% after media coverage on celebrity suicide. A higher relative risk of suicide noted in young women who used the same method as the celebrity. The incidence of copycat suicide increased in both genders and all age groups who employed the same method of suicide as the celebrity.</p> <p>(2) Content analysis of 220 celebrity suicide-specific articles found that the majority contained inappropriate reporting.</p>	Intensive and indiscriminate media coverage of celebrity suicide can lead to an overall increase in suicides and copycat suicides.	Moderate
Kim JH et al. (2013)	Mass media	Yes	<p>(1) Incidence of suicide during the 3 weeks after the celebrity suicide increased for both the entertainer (162.3%) and politician (104.8%).</p> <p>(2) A significant increase in suicide rates among both males and females was observed during the 3 weeks after the suicide of the entertainer but not for the politician. In particular, female suicide rate more than doubled after the entertainer suicide.</p> <p>(3) Suicides of similar age group and by the same method as the celebrity increased significantly for the entertainer but not for the politician.</p> <p>(4) The Werther effect band was 6 weeks for the entertainer and 4 weeks for the politician.</p> <p>(5) Suicide risk for all age groups, both genders,</p>	<p>(1) A Werther effect was noted that lasted longer after the suicide of an entertainer than a politician which could be due to the greater media coverage and positive framing of the entertainer's suicide.</p> <p>(2) Age, gender and use of the same suicide method are significant risk factors after both celebrity suicides.</p>	Moderate

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Kim WJ et al. (2013)	Newspaper	Yes	<p>(1) The number of suicide attempt pre- and post-celebrity suicide was 158 and 161, respectively.</p> <p>(2) There was a significant increase in suicide by hanging (method of suicide of the celebrity) after the reporting ($P=0.009$).</p> <p>(3) A higher rate of suicide attempts with multiple methods and greater intensity was noted during the follow-up period.</p> <p>(4) After the celebrity suicide, discharge against advice decreased significantly ($P=0.02$) from 67.7% to 59.6% and hospitalisation to a psychiatric or medical unit increased from 32.3% to 39.8%, whereas follow-up compliance did not significantly change.</p> <p>(5) Age group of 21-40 years and hanging were independently associated with suicide attempt after celebrity suicide.</p>	A copycat effect was noted among suicide attempters presented to the ED. Suicide attempts by those of similar age and used the same method as the celebrity increased after the celebrity suicide.	Critical
Lee SY (2021)	TV	Yes	<p>(1) Number of suicides increased by about 60 cases during the 2 weeks after media coverage of a celebrity suicide as compared to when there was no such coverage.</p> <p>(2) Suicide rates varied according to the suicide reason reported by the media. Suicide rates were higher when the reported reasons were "depression", "financial problems" and "life despair."</p> <p>(3) Frequency of web searches on suicide methods increased when there was media</p>	The media coverage on celebrity suicide has a significant impact on subsequent suicides in South Korea.	Serious

			<p>coverage on a celebrity suicide and when the reported reason was "depression", "financial problems", or unreported.</p> <p>(4) Suicide rates increased when there was higher frequency web searches on suicide methods.</p>		
Lirng-Jing (2008)	Newspaper	Yes	<p>(1) 5.6%-26.3% of adolescents rated themselves as negatively influenced by the media suicide reports on 3 dimensions of mental health, including depressed and anxious mood, suicidal thoughts, and negative attitudes towards life.</p> <p>(2) 5%-9% of adolescents reported an increase of suicide ideation and attempts resulting from media reports of suicide.</p> <p>(3) Multiple regression analyses identified multiple factors relating to such vulnerability. These included attendance at a vocational high school, having less educated parents, and the degree of familiarity with the actor who committed suicide.</p> <p>(4) Logistic regression analyses revealed the factors most related to suicidal ideations or attempts following such reports were: being male, having a negative attitude towards life, greater life stress, and a history of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in the recent year.</p>	Intensive reporting of suicides by the media negatively influenced the mental health of adolescents, leading to an increasing suicide ideation and attempts.	Moderate
Menon et al. (2021)	Newspaper (online)	Yes	<p>(1) 5.6% of newspaper articles mentioned the link with celebrity suicide.</p> <p>(2) An average of 28 articles on celebrity suicide was reported daily.</p> <p>(3) The number of daily reports on suicide deaths decreased one month after the celebrity suicide.</p> <p>(4) News articles which mentioned links to the celebrity suicide were more likely to be about individuals 24 years or younger, females, unemployed, those without inciting life events, death by hanging, and having a suicide note.</p>	A celebrity death by suicide resulted in an increase in news reports of copycat public suicides linked to the celebrity suicide.	Critical

Park et al. (2016)	Mass media	Yes	<p>(1) 6 celebrity suicides have a significant influence on suicide rates during the 30 days after the event, of which 4 events continued to have significant influence on suicide rates during the second 30 days after the event.</p> <p>(2) 4 celebrity suicides have a significant influence on suicide rates in both male and female subgroups during the 60 days after the event.</p> <p>(3) A number of celebrity suicides have a significant influence on suicide rates in 2 or more age subgroups, including the same age group as the celebrity.</p> <p>Extent and duration of impact of a celebrity suicide differs across celebrities. Apart from celebrity type, non-entertainer celebrity suicides can have significant influence on suicide rates.</p>	There is significant impact of celebrity suicide on subsequent suicides across gender and age groups which was time dependent. This effect was observed in the 2000s, suggesting the strong role of technology in accessing the suicide-related information.	Serious
Suh et al. (2015)	Newspaper	Yes	There was a significant correlation between number of media reports of celebrity suicide and number of copycat suicides.	Media reports of celebrity suicides were associated with subsequent copycat suicides.	Critical
Ueda et al. (2014)	Mass media	Yes	<p>(1) The average number of daily suicide counts increased by 4.6% on the first day of media reports of the celebrity suicide and remained about 6% higher than baseline for about 9 days.</p> <p>(2) Media reports of politicians' suicides had the largest impact on suicide rates.</p>	Media reports of celebrity suicides caused an increase in daily suicide counts in the general population, and there was an effect of celebrity occupation on the increase in suicide rates.	Moderate
Ueda et al. (2017)	Mass media	Yes	<p>(1) Media reports of celebrity suicide were associated with a surge in related Twitter posts.</p> <p>(2) Twitter posts focused more on suicides of younger entertainers compared to traditional media.</p> <p>(3) Celebrity suicides were associated with an increase in actual suicide rates, but only for those that generated >10,000 Twitter posts.</p>	There was a copycat effect of celebrity suicide which depended on the social media coverage of the suicide.	Serious
Yang et al. (2012)	Mass media	Yes	(1) Media reporting of major suicide events was synchronised with increased suicide deaths; the	Media reports of major suicide events can lead to an increase in	Serious

			<p>effect lagged by 1 month when there were no major suicide events.</p> <p>(2) Media reports of suicide had a greater association with actual suicide deaths in urban than in rural areas.</p> <p>(3) Media reports of CB suicide were associated with an increase in CB suicides.</p>	actual suicide rates, especially in urban areas and for CB suicides.	
Yi et al. (2019)	Newspaper and electronic media (unspecified)	Yes	<p>(1) Females aged 20-29 years had the highest magnitude of copycat effect and highest copycat suicide mortality rate; males aged 50-59 years had the second highest copycat suicide mortality rate.</p> <p>(2) The copycat effect magnitude and copycat suicide mortality rates were higher among females when the celebrity was female, and among those of the same age group as the celebrity.</p>	There exists a copycat effect of celebrity suicide following media report with younger females being the most susceptible group.	Moderate

CB: charcoal-burning; ED: emergency department; RoB: risk of bias