

Organised by :

Sole Funder :

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant



香港賽馬會慈善信託基金
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

The 9th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

“SMARTER HEALTHY CITIES BEYOND COVID-19”

3-5 November 2021

Effectiveness of follow-up care on the reduction of suicidal attempts in patients with OUD during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tainan.

Cheng-Chan Shih, Hsiu-Chin Wu, Yueh-Yin Chen, I-Lin Hsu, Edward Chia-Cheng Lai



Mental Health Under and Beyond COVID-19
4 November 2021

Background

- The follow-up care could be the mainstay strategy for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).
 - the patients with OUD may more likely to loss follow up during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - the patients under stressful conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic may more likely to cause suicidal behavior.



Two strategies during COVID-19 pandemic

- **BSRS-5** (5-item Brief Symptom Rating Scale)
 - using (BSRS-5) to identify high suicidal risk patients

- **“Parallel-track Case Managers”** program
 - performing program to facilitate a better connection of patients between hospitals and district health centers.



BSRS-5 scores

Year	2018	2019	difference	2019	2020	difference
BSRS-5 scores	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
0-5	327 (54.1%)	363 (60.1%)	+36 (+6%)	345 (57.4%)	370 (61.5%)	+25 (+4.1%)
6-9	144 (23.8%)	141 (23.3%)	-3 (-0.5%)	145 (24.1%)	138 (23.0%)	-7 (-1.1%)
10-14	110 (18.2%)	78 (12.9%)	-32 (-5.3%)	80 (13.3%)	78 (13.0%)	-2 (-0.3%)
15-20	23 (3.8%)	22 (3.6%)	-1 (-0.2%)	31 (5.2%)	15 (2.5%)	-16 (-2.7%)

N=604

N=601

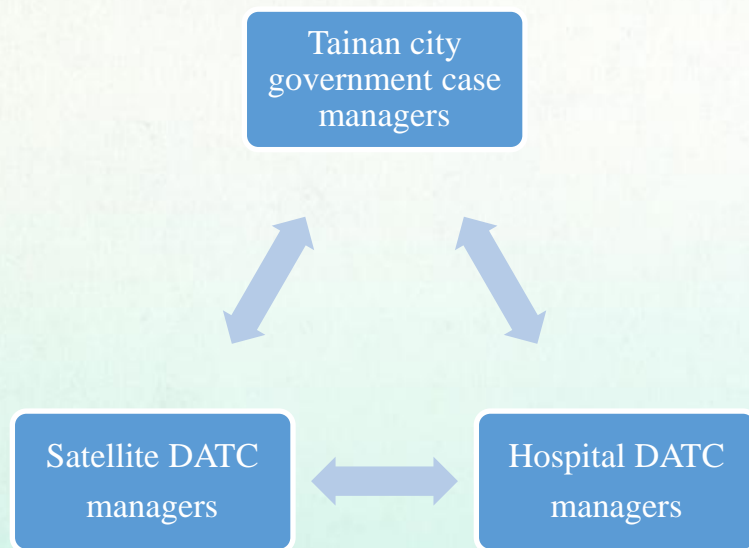
Scores and Recommendations :

- 1) **Lower than 5 : Congratulations ! You are very well adjusted.**
- 2) **Within 6 to 9 : You have slight mental stress. We recommend that you seek emotional support by talking to your friends or families.**
- 3) **Higher than 10 : You are under great mental stress. We recommend that you seek psychological counseling and medical service.**



“Parallel-track Case Managers”

- Case management
 - **the first in the country**
 - facilitates a better connection of patients between hospital and public health bureau, helping to dispel suicide ideation.



Data sources

- National Suicide Prevention Reporting System (NSPRS)
- Drug Abuse Case Management System (DACMS)
 - Enrollment types

輔導模式	服務對象(個案來源)	服務頻率
第一類	緩起訴	服務期間至少2年。 1. 前6個月：每個月電訪2次及家訪1次。 2. 第7至14個月：每個月電訪1次；每2個月訪視1次。 3. 第15至24個月：每個月電訪1次；每3個月訪視1次。
	遭警查獲3次以上施用毒品個案	
	出矯正機關之少年	
第二類	緩刑	服務期間至少2年。 1. 前6個月：每個月電訪2次及每2個月家訪1次。 2. 第7至14個月：每個月電訪1次及每3個月訪視1次。
	少年法院(庭)裁定保護處分及保護管束個案	
第三類	期滿出監所、勒戒所、戒治所	服務期間至少半年。 6個月間每個月電訪1次。
	假釋期滿	
	自行求助個案	

- followed-up care duration
 - home visit, telephone interview



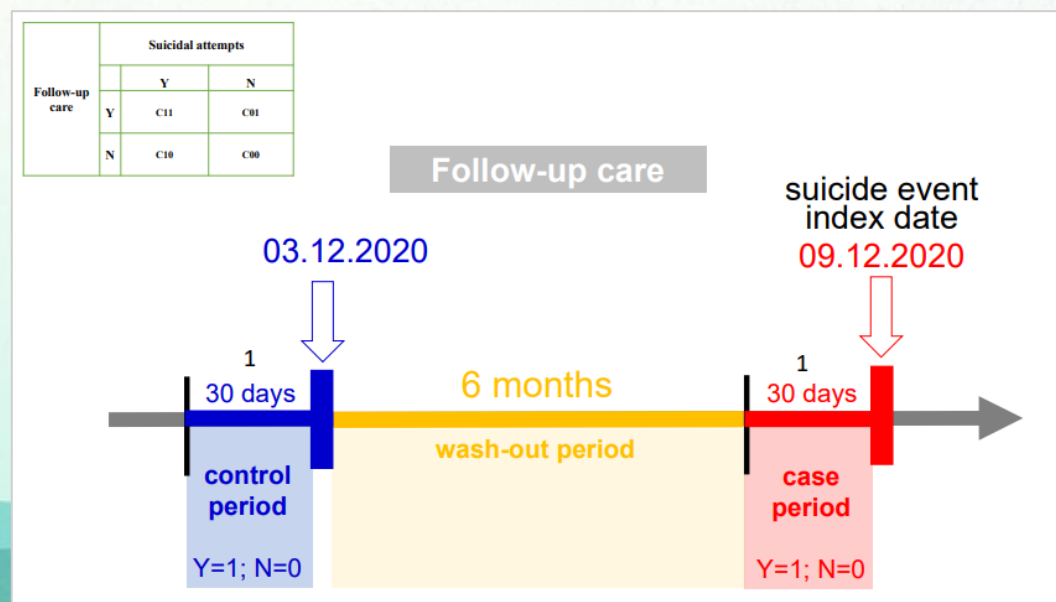
Study Design

➤ case-crossover study

- The first date of suicide attempt were considered as event date.
- The dates 3, or 6 months (i.e., the wash-out period) prior to the date of suicide attempt/suicide were considered as reference dates, respectively.

➤ Statistical analysis

- We performed conditional Poisson regression to obtain the odds ratios (OR) and the confidence intervals (CI) to evaluate the risk of suicidal attempts between exposure and non-exposure group



Results-1

Characteristics	Before the COVID-19 pandemic	During the COVID-19 pandemic
	Year 2019	Year 2020
ODD popular	1295	1326
Cases of suicidal attempts	51	23
Patients of suicidal attempts	40	22
Incidence rate (%)	3.1	1.7
Age (yr)	44.8 ± 7.8	47.3 ± 8.9
Gender (%)		
Male	22 (55%)	14 (63.6%)
Education status(%)		
Less than high school	4 (10%)	5 (22.7%)
High school grad	36 (90%)	16 (72.7%)
Some college/Associate Degree	0	0
Unknow	0	1 (4.5%)
Married status(%)		
Married	7 (17.5%)	9 (40.9%)
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	20 (50%)	7 (31.8%)
Never been married	13 (32.5%)	6 (27.3%)
Unknow	0	0
Employed (%)	9 (22.5%)	10 (45.5%)
Suicide attempts (%)		
1	34 (85%)	21 (95.5%)
2	3 (7.5%)	1 (4.5%)
≥3	3(7.5%)	0

Table 1. Baseline characteristics demographics of OUD in the suicidal attempts.



Results-2

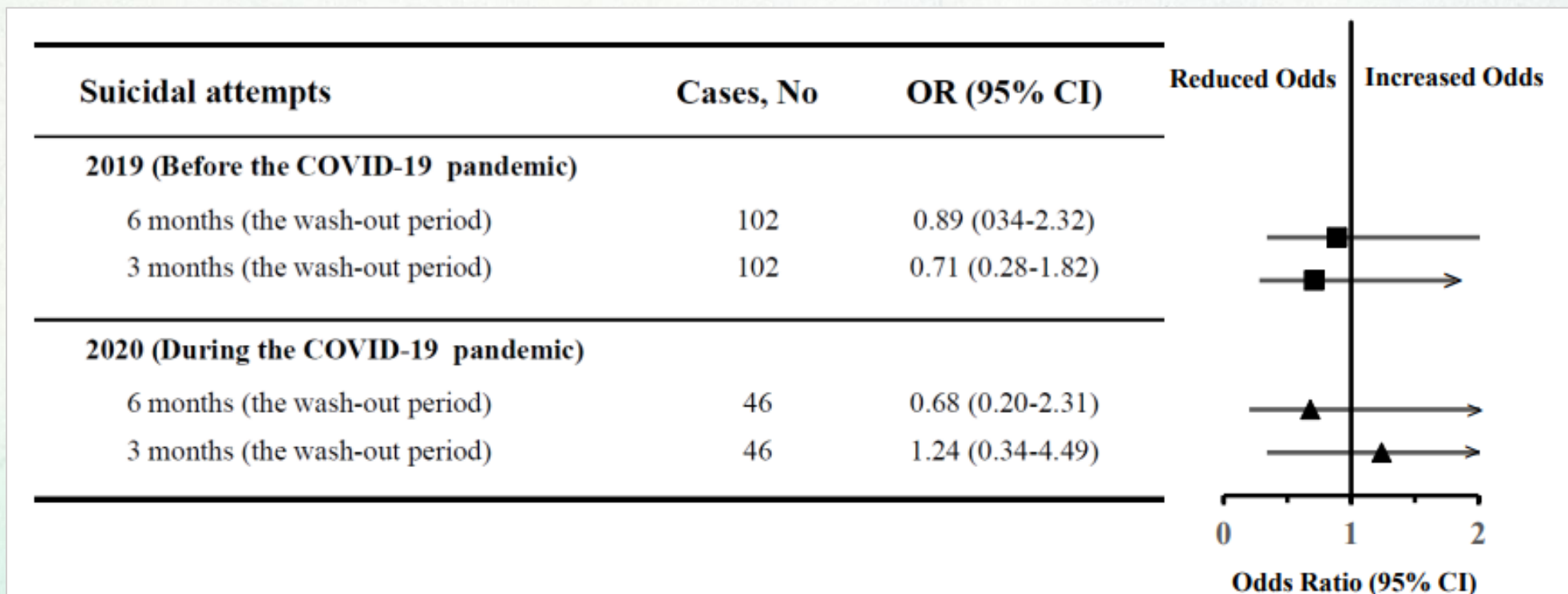


Table 2. The Odds ratio for suicidal attempt events.



Discussion and Conclusion

- Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, the incidence rate of suicide attempts during the COVID-19 pandemic was decreased.
- We found the follow-up care was associated with reduced risk of suicidal attempts in patients with OUD whatever during the COVID-19 pandemic, although no statistical significance.

Thanks for your attention

