# Chapter 32 Psychology of Suicide

D. Lester and J.F. Gunn

2 Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ, USA

1 The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Galloway, NJ, USA

Table 1

Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Risk factors | Protective factors |
| Mental disorders | Social support |
| Previous suicide attempts | Positive coping skills |
| Social isolation | Life satisfaction |
| Aggression and violence | Resiliency |
| Physical illness | Hopefulness |
| Unemployment | Self-efficacy |
| Family conflict | Effectiveness in obtaining helping resources |
| Family history of suicide |  |
| Impulsivity |  |
| Incarceration |  |
| Hopelessness |  |
| Time of year and season |  |
| Serotonergic dysfunction |  |
| Agitation or sleep disturbance |  |
| Childhood abuse |  |
| Exposure to suicide in others |  |
| Homelessness |  |
| Combat exposure |  |
| Low self-esteem |  |