

Arkadiusz Żukiewicz
University of the National Educational Commission, Krakow, Poland
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5064-4491>

**Ackerman, J.P. and Horowitz, L.M. (eds)
(2022) Youth Suicide Prevention and
Intervention: Best Practices and Policy
Implications**

**Cham: Springer International Publishing
(SpringerBriefs in Psychology).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06127-1>**

Review article

The title of the monograph mentioned in this review article refers to one of the important problems of contemporary youth. In particular, it refers to the current and extremely sensitive issue of suicides (King and Apter, 2003), the victims of which are both young people and their loved ones, parents, siblings, grandparents, peers, etc. The multi-authored work was edited by John P. Ackerman (Ackerman 2023) and Lisa M. Horowitz (Horowitz 2023), who combine theory with practice in their daily professional activities. This monograph combines the competences and practical experiences of 55 co-authors (Ackerman and Horowitz 2022, pp. XIII–XVI) who represent various academic centers and areas of professional activity focused on working with children and youth. The publication was published in 2022 by Springer Nature as part of the SpringerBriefs in Psychology – Advances in Child and Family Policy and Practice series.

The institutional affiliation and the resulting detailed competences of the co-authors of individual chapters allowed the creation of a publication combining contemporary theoretical (including methodological) and practical achievements in the field of suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, education, as

well as medical and therapeutic activities related to the issue of suicide among children, adolescents and selected social groups. The issue of suicide has become extremely topical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Zhu and Crawford, 2023, pp. 1–13; Jones *et al.*, 2022, pp. 16–21 and others). The intention to comprehensively develop issues focused on suicide among young people is reflected in the following fragment, which indicates the purpose and addressees of the monograph:

“This book is dedicated to the caring adults who seek to better understand and support youth at risk for suicide – may you be empowered to uncover answers that lead to better interventions and systems of care; may you initiate critical conversations and provide compassionate support when it is needed; and may you take every opportunity to foster resilience and help youth navigate life’s challenges so that more lives can be saved. This book is also dedicated to suicide attempt survivors, suicide loss survivors, and all those impacted by suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Your experiences and your voices guide our work. We hope that these chapters contribute to a better understanding of suicide for readers and encourage policies that advance innovative and effective suicide prevention efforts in all communities” (Ackerman and Horowitz 2022, p. VI).

The structure of the monograph includes 5 parts, which contain a total of 18 problematized articles. Individual detailed issues are considered from the perspective of theory and practical experience among North American children and adolescents (Ackerman and Horowitz 2022, pp. XI–XII). Individual parts were devoted to the issues of suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, as well as social and cultural conditions and improving the practice of suicide care. Part I ‘Foundations of Youth Suicide Prevention’ (pp. 1–27), addresses the theoretical foundations of the epidemiology and neurobiology of suicide. It also covers the methodology for applying Machine Learning (ML) for suicide prediction and prevention practice. Part II ‘Suicide Prevention and Postvention in School Settings’ (pp. 29–59), illustrates school suicide strategies and suicide prevention and postvention programs. Part III ‘Suicide-Specific Intervention’ (pp. 61–95), concerns the issues of good practices in intervention, prevention, safety planning and youth counseling (Youth Crisis Hotlines) etc. Part IV ‘Cultural Considerations and Specific Populations’ (pp. 97–132), refers to the cultural and social conditions that are the background for the theoretical explanation of the specificity of suicide phenomena among various groups of youth. Part V ‘Improving Quality of Suicide Care Across Systems’ (pp. 133–168) is a summary in which

the authors of individual chapters focus on systemic solutions for youth suicide care, prevention and intervention.

For readers in Poland, the analyzed monograph can be an inspiration both in the field of research and in practical activities addressed to children and adolescents experiencing crises related to suicide (thoughts, attempts, etc.). This book can expand the Polish library of the subject with a new and current issue related to the theory and practice of service addressed to young people experiencing the suicide crisis (Witulska, 2015, pp. 419–427; Nagórska, 2018, pp. 193–206; Stradomska and Harasim, 2019, pp. 102–112; Gmitrowicz, Makara-Studzińska and Młodożeniec, 2019; Rudnik, 2022; Szostakiewicz, 2022, pp. 53–69 and other). Open access to this monograph makes it widely available to any interested reader. In case of a language barrier, it is possible to use translators, the online versions of which enable translation of texts from English into Polish. References included at the end of each article are an additional advantage of this monograph. Numerous references to electronic publications will certainly facilitate readers' further analysis of detailed issues. For reflective readers, it will be a kind of inspiration in searching for further directions of theoretical and research activity as well as in practice in the prevention, intervention, support and therapy of children and adolescents experiencing suicide crises.

References

- Ackerman, J.P. and Horowitz, L.M. (eds) (2022) *Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention: Best Practices and Policy Implications*. Cham: Springer International Publishing (SpringerBriefs in Psychology). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06127-1>.
- Ackerman John P., CV: John P. Ackerman. Nationwide Children's Hospital (2024). Available at: <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/find-a-doctor/profiles/john-p-ackerman-2> (Accessed: 21 October 2023).
- Gmitrowicz, A.J., Makara-Studzińska, M. and Młodożeniec, A. (2019) *Ryzyko samobójstwa u młodzieży: diagnoza, terapia, profilaktyka*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Lekarskie PZWL.
- Horowitz Lisa M., CV: NIMH » Key Personnel. Nationwide Children's Hospital (2024). Available at: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/research-conducted-at-nimh/scientific-director/office-of-clinical-director/key-personnel> (Accessed: 21 October 2023).
- Jones, S.E. *et al.* (2022) 'Mental Health, Suicidality, and Connectedness Among High School Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021', *MMWR Supplements*, 71. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.su7103a3>.

- King, R.A. and Apter, A. (2003) *Suicide in children and adolescents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Cambridge child and adolescent psychiatry).
- Nagórska, M. (2018) 'Problematyka samobójstwa i profilaktyka zachowań suicydalnych wśród dzieci i młodzieży', in G. Ostasz, E. Moczuk, and J. Jedynak (eds) *Bezpieczeństwo młodzieży szkolnej w aspekcie zachowań suicydalnych: wychowanie, edukacja, profilaktyka*. Rzeszów – Tarnów: Oficyna Wydawnicza Politechniki Rzeszowskiej, pp. 193–206.
- Rudnik, A. (2022) *Prewencja ryzyka samobójstw wśród dzieci i młodzieży. Skąd mieliśmy wiedzieć?* Warszawa: Difin.
- Stradomska, M. and Harasim, K. (2019) 'Suicydologiczne wyzwania codzienności – rola rodziny i rodzeństwa w cywilizacji XXI wieku', in W. Walc (ed.) *Rola rodzeństwa w rozwoju dzieci i młodzieży*. Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, pp. 102–112.
- Szostakiewicz, Ł. (2022) 'Samobójstwo – problem transdiagnostyczny', in B. Remberk (ed.) *Postępowanie w wybranych zaburzeniach psychicznych u dzieci i młodzieży*. Warszawa: PZWL Wydawnictwo Lekarskie (W Gabinetecie Lekarza Specjalisty), pp. 53–69.
- Witulska, I. (2015) 'Samobójstwa młodzieży jako efekt kryzysu normatywności i anomii', in S. Jaronska (ed.) *Człowiek w sytuacji granicznej. Filozoficzne, kulturowe i historyczne wymiary refleksji i jej implikacje pedagogiczne*. Radom: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Instytutu Technologii Eksploatacji - PIB (Egzystencjalne Problemy Człowieka Współczesnego), pp. 419–427.
- Zhu, A.Y. and Crawford, M.H. (2023) 'Risk factors associated with adolescent suicidality before and during the COVID-19 pandemic', *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 53(6), pp. 981–993. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12997>.