


 View PDFAccess through **your institution**[Purchase PDF](#)

Medical Hypotheses

Volume 73, Issue 4, October 2009, Pages 587-590

The possible effect of altitude on regional variation in suicide rates

Charlotte A. Haws^{a, b}, Douglas D. Gray^a, Deborah A. Yurgelun-Todd^{a, b, c}, Michelle Moskos^a, Laurence J. Meyer^{d, e}, Perry F. Renshaw^{a, b, c}  

[Show more](#) [Outline](#) | [Share](#) [Cite](#)<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2009.05.040>[Get rights and content](#)

Summary

In the United States, suicide rates consistently vary among geographic regions; the western states have significantly higher suicide rates than the eastern states. The reason for this variation is unknown but may be due to regional elevation differences. States' suicide rates (1990–1994), when adjusted for potentially confounding demographic variables, are positively correlated with their peak and capital elevations. These findings indicate that decreased [oxygen saturation](#) at high altitude may exacerbate the [bioenergetic](#) dysfunction associated with affective illnesses. Should such a link exist, therapies traditionally used to treat the [metabolic disturbances](#) associated with [altitude sickness](#) may have a role in treating those at risk for suicide.

[Previous](#)[Next](#)[FEEDBACK](#) 



View **PDF**



Access through **your institution**

[Purchase PDF](#)



ELSEVIER

[About ScienceDirect](#)

[Remote access](#)

[Shopping cart](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Contact and support](#)

[Terms and conditions](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

We use cookies to help provide and enhance our service and tailor content and ads. By continuing you agree to the **use of cookies**.

Copyright © 2021 Elsevier B.V. or its licensors or contributors. ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.

ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.



FEEDBACK