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## Child Abuse & Who Kill Children: The missing psychiatric preventative interface

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The study compares Mental-Disorder-Related (MDR) suicide rates with Child-Sex-Abuse-Related (CSAR) suicide of 'Victims' and 'Perpetrators' of child sex abuse, based upon an examination of all Coroners' inquest files over a six-year period (n = 1,017). Census data, psychiatric case register and police records were used to calculate the potential MDR and CSAR populations. There were five main findings: (i) male and female CSAR victim suicide rates were 2.2 and 2.5 times the General Population Suicide Rate (GPSR), respectively; (ii) every female, and 80 per cent of male CSAR victim suicides, also had a mental disorder but none of the CSAR perpetrator suicides; (iii) male and female MDR suicide rates were 5 and 6 times the CSAR Victim rates; (iv) the sex abuser perpetrators' suicide rate was more than 3 times the male MDR rate; (v) the intra- and extra-familial perpetrator suicide rates, were 25 and 78 times the GPSR, respectively. Possible explanations for these surprising results are briefly discussed. They confirm the over-representation of people with mental disorder amongst suicides, and identify an over-

representation of CSAR suicides, particularly perpetrators. The results have implications for suicide prevention programmes, whilst highlighting the importance of the child protection-psychiatric interface and indicates the futility of simple explanations in an area of practical and moral complexity.

### Speaker Biography

After 15 years in practice, ending as Principal Psychiatric Social Worker, Prof Pritchard became a Lecturer 1970, Dept Psychiatry, University Leeds. He gained a Senior Lectureship at the University of Bath 1976-80 before moving to the Foundation Chair in Social Work Studies at University of Southampton 1980-1998. From 1998-2001 he was Research Professor in Psychiatric Social Work, Dept of Psychiatry, University of Southampton since which he has been Emeritus Professor, School of Medicine, University of Southampton and Visiting Professor at Dept Psychiatry, 2001 to present. From 2003, Prof Pritchard has been Research Professor in Psychiatric Social Work, Bournemouth University. He has enjoyed a distinguished career in academia. Including: Prime Minister's Strategy Group (Education) 2006 to 2008. Member of Post-Graduate Centre for Medical Education and Research 2007 to present. Appointed Royal College of Surgeons (England) Specialist Recertification Board April 2008. (Outcome and Peer Review sub-committee).

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