# Article information:

Religion and Suicide Risk: a systematic review - PMC  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7310534/>

# Article summary:

1. The relationship between religion and suicide is complex and inconsistent, with some studies reporting religion as protective against suicide while others find it to be a risk factor.

2. Religious affiliation does not necessarily protect against suicidal ideation, but it does protect against suicide attempts.

3. The association between religion and suicide risk may vary depending on cultural implications and social support measures, and further qualitative studies are needed to clarify these associations.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Religion and Suicide Risk: a systematic review" provides a comprehensive review of the literature on the relationship between religion and suicide. While the article presents valuable information, there are several potential biases and limitations that need to be considered.

One potential bias in the article is the selection of studies included in the review. The authors conducted a search on PubMed using specific keywords, which may have resulted in the exclusion of relevant studies that did not use those specific terms. Additionally, the decision to limit the search to articles published within the last 10 years may have excluded older studies that could provide important insights into the topic.

Another potential bias is related to the definition and measurement of religious affiliation and spirituality. The authors acknowledge that these concepts are difficult to define and operationalize, but they include any characteristic described as religious or spiritual in their review. This broad definition may lead to inconsistencies in how different studies measure and report on these variables, making it challenging to draw definitive conclusions.

Furthermore, the article primarily focuses on two dimensions of religion - religious affiliation and religious service attendance - while other dimensions such as religious beliefs, practices, and experiences are mentioned briefly in supplementary materials. This limited focus may overlook important aspects of religion that could influence suicide risk.

The article also makes unsupported claims about the protective effects of religious affiliation against suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. While some studies reviewed support this claim, others find no significant association or even suggest an increased risk among certain religious groups. The inconsistent findings highlight the complexity of this relationship and caution against making definitive statements without considering all available evidence.

Additionally, there is a lack of exploration of counterarguments or alternative explanations for the observed associations between religion and suicide risk. For example, social support has been identified as a potential mediator between religion and suicide risk, but this factor is only briefly mentioned without further analysis or discussion.

Moreover, there is a potential for promotional content or partiality towards religion as a protective factor. The article emphasizes the potential protective effects of religious affiliation and service attendance, while downplaying or not fully exploring the potential risks associated with religion, such as feelings of rejection by God or the community.

Overall, while the article provides a systematic review of the literature on religion and suicide risk, it is important to critically evaluate its content and consider potential biases and limitations. Further research is needed to fully understand the complex relationship between religion and suicide risk, taking into account various dimensions of religion and considering alternative explanations for the observed associations.

# Topics for further research:

* Religious beliefs and suicide risk: a comprehensive analysis
* Social support as a mediator between religion and suicide risk
* Negative effects of religious affiliation on suicide risk
* Religious experiences and suicidal ideation: a literature review
* Religion and feelings of rejection by God or community
* Alternative explanations for the relationship between religion and suicide risk

# Report location:

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