|  |
| --- |
| **The role of Yogo teachers and school health room in promoting health and development of students Part 2 of 7 – Current situation of childhood suicide of a competitive society in Japan** |
| **Background**  Japan has a high mortality from suicide among the developed countries. The numbers of suicide in Japan peaked at 34,427 in 2003, however it is decreasing lately. Nevertheless, more than 20,000 suicides occurred even in 2016, and suicide is the leading cause of death among 15 to 39 year olds.  The number of suicides among children aged 10 to 14 years was the third highest cause of deaths at the beginning of the 2000s, but, it has become the second highest cause of death from 2013, after cancer.  The purpose of this study is to identify the current situation regarding the suicide of children and to consider strategies for childhood suicide prevention.  **Methods**  Mortality data of suicide provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the National Police Agency were used.  **Results**  There were 501 children under the age of 19 who committed suicide in 2016. Among them, the number of schools that reported their deaths as suicide was 245 in total, 4 elementary school children, 69 middle school children and 172 high school children.  The reasons for committing suicide were 27 people (11.0%) each with family discord and career problems (joint first), 17 (6.9%) trouble with friendships other than bullying. Ten people (4.1%) were reported as bullying problems, but more than half of the suicides -133 people had unknown reasons for suicide.  Therefore, it is difficult to analyze the real reasons of taking one’s life if they don’t write a suicide note, we need to identify their feelings and situation to reduce the number of childhood suicide in competitive society in Japan.  **Discussion**  **I**n Japan, education concerning "suicide" is a slightly taboo subject like "sex education". However, in recent years it is essential to give children the correct knowledge the preventative measures of suicide, including counselling with Yogo Teaches like the suicide prevention education which is taught in Europe and the United States.  It is necessary to change the school education system and society to create a bully free environment effective for suicide prevention.  **Keywords**  Health equity |