Twitter postings and suicide: An analysis of the postings of a fatal suicide in the 24 hours prior to death

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In the 24 hours prior to her death by suicide, a young girl made 145 posts on Twitter. In the posts, she outlines her history of incestuous sexual abuse, rape, and risky sexual behavior. These posts were analyzed using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC). Trends were found indicating an increase in positive emotions over the 24 hours and a change in focus from the self to others. This first study of posts on Twitter by a person about to commit suicide provides hypotheses for future studies of this medium for communication.

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faced six suicides in the 2009-10 academic year. In 2003-4, five New York University students leapt to their deaths. Advertisement.

Nationally, the suicide rate among 15- to 24-year-olds has increased modestly but steadily since 2007: from 9.6 deaths per 100,000 to 11.1, in 2013 (the latest year available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). An article on Page 14 this weekend about student mental health on campus misstated the suicide rate among 15- to 24-year-olds. It was 11.1 deaths per 100,000 in 2013 and 9.6 in 2007, not 11.1 percent and 9.6 percent. Julie Scelfo is a former staff writer for The Times who writes often about human behavior.

Automatically detect suicidal people in social networks is a real social issue. In France, suicide attempt is an economic burden with strong socio-economic consequences. In this paper, we describe a complete process to automatically collect suspects tweets according to a vocabulary of topics suicidal persons are used to talk. We automatically capture tweets indicating suicidal risky behaviour based on simple classification methods. An interface for psychiatrists has been implemented to enable them to consult suspect tweets and profiles associated with these tweets. The method has been validat...