

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to map self-harm characteristics of adolescents with personal history of traumatic experience including the purpose and development of self-harm over time. First, in the theoretical section of this paper, the developmental stage of adolescence and its risks for engaging in self-harm is portrayed. Then, the topic of trauma, its diagnostic background and neurobiological impact is described, followed by chapter about self-harming itself, its forms, frequencies, functions, etiology and its association with suicide. By the end of this section the role of adolescent resilience in coping with the impact of trauma and self-harm is discussed. The follow up empirical research project of qualitative nature conducted under Dětské krizové centrum includes a set of case studies that were holistically evaluated for all aspects of self-harm and its development over time.

Keywords

Adolescence; trauma; child abuse neglect; self-harm; suicide; resilience.