

**A STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF DEPRESSION ON ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND THE
MODERATING EFFECTS OF LEISURE PARTICIPATION AMONG THE ELDERLY WHO LIVES
ALONE**

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Background: In Korean society, family system has played a significant role in supporting the elderly persons economically and emotionally. However, in the process of unprecedented social changes, family support has weakened rapidly. The suicide rate among Korean elderly persons reported higher than any other OECD nations. In particular, old people living alone are significantly more likely to report higher suicide rate than the elderly living with family. The purpose of this study is to examine the moderating effects of leisure participation in the relationship between depression and suicide among the elderly who lives alone. Method: The data were collected by face-to-face interview with the elderly living alone in the city of Seoul. The final sample consisted of 1,070 respondents aged 65 years or more. Depressive symptoms were measured with Short-form Geriatric Depression Scale. Results: Logistic regression showed that depression level is positively associated with the probability of suicide attempt. Also, leisure participation moderated the negative effects of depression on suicide attempt among participants in this study. Conclusion: The findings suggested that Korean policy makers and practitioners need to be aware of the relationship between depression and suicide among the elderly and to design suicide prevention program focused on leisure activities. Overall, this study lays a ground work for the suicide of the elderly who lives alone.