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Editor

Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health

March 13, 2020

Dear Editor,

We are extremely pleased to submit this original research paper, *Suicide, overdose, and worker exit in a cohort of Michigan autoworkers*, for publication in your journal. The study was motivated by the rising rates of suicide and overdose among middle-aged Americans with no more than a high school diploma. We were able to take advantage of individual-level data from a large cohort of autoworkers to examine these rare outcomes during a period of decline in domestic automobile manufacturing. Recent plant closures in the Michigan automobile industry provide a striking case study.

The findings indicate that Michigan autoworkers who left work had substantially higher risk of suicide or overdose than active employees. Most events occurred within five years of leaving work among those who left well before retirement age, suggesting that worker exit without benefits may increase the risk of deaths of despair.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ellen A. Eisen, ScD

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