

The Zetterqvist Lab at CSAN

child- and adolescent mental health research group addressing nonsuicidal self-injury and emotion regulation

lonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) is a significant mental health issue in adolescents and associated with impairments in emotion egulation. Effective methods for preventing and treating NSSI are needed. Our research group is dedicated to develop novel approaches for preventing and treating NSSI.



The research aims at improving child- and adolescent mental health and focuses on nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) and emotion regulation. NSSI includes behaviors performed intentionally to harm oneself, such as cutting, burning, or scratching skin, without suicidal intent. NSSI is a significant mental health issue in adolescents and is associated with impairments in emotion regulation. Effective methods for preventing and treating NSSI are needed. We are developing novel approaches for preventing and treating NSSI in adolescents, such as combining emotion regulation skills with real-time biofeedback using facial electromyography (EMG) and real-time neurofeedback with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Research nurses Professor PhD students

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Life-time prevalence of NSSI in Swedish high-school students

- 2011 (N = 3,060) 17.2 %
- 2014 (N = 5,743) 17.7 %
- 2020-2021 (N = 3,258) 27.6%

Have you ever engaged in nonsuicidal self-injury (that is, without wanting to die, by cutting...)?

(Zetterqvist et al., 2021)

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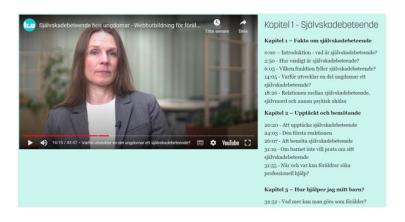
Addressing NSSI in schools - a whole school approach

- Adolescents
 - Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM; Wasserman et al., 2015).
 - NSSI-specific module KRAS (Baetens et al., 2020).
 - · Focus groups
- Teachers
 - · Online psychoeducation about NSSI
- Parents
 - Online psychoeducation about NSSI
- · School mental health staff
 - 2-day gatekeeper workshop (Brown et al., 2018; Groschwitz et al., 2017)
 - · Focus groups
- Adolescents and parents
 - · 5-session emotion regulation skills training



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Brief online psychoeducation on NSSI - for parents and teachers



2-day gatekeeper workshop

"Strong schools against suicidality and self-injury"



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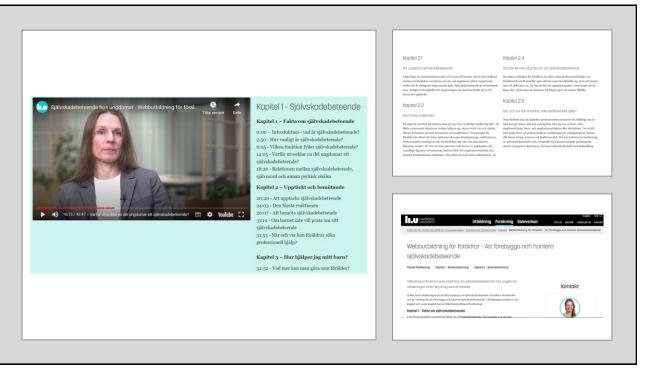
2-day gatekeeper workshop

- · Facts about suicidality and nonsuicidal self-injury
- Effectively reacting to NSSI and suicidality
- Validating communication style
- Emotions and emotion regulation
- Skills for coping with stress and distress
- Problem-solving
- Therapeutic assessment
- Risk assessment and legislation
- Suggestions for school protocols
- Working with parents

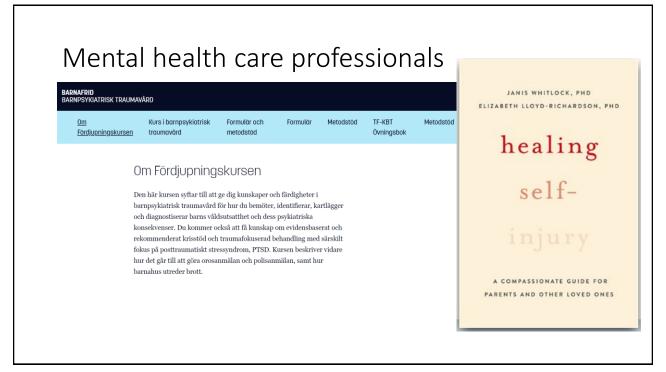


Knowledge dissemination

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<u>Maria Zetterqvist -</u> <u>Linköpings universitet (liu.se)</u>

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Example of challenges – discussion points

- Universal vs targeted prevention (primary, secondary or tertiary)
- Who should be targeted and when?
- Engagement
- Ethical issues related to consent
- Concerns about iatrogenic effects



