

VII. Future Research Directions

It is hoped that in the future an accurate prevalence rate of suicide among CSOs can be obtained in order to evaluate the likelihood a CSO will commit suicide. A comparison of the suicide CSO sample and a sample of offenders who chose not to commit suicide could assist investigators, attorneys, mental health professionals, correctional officers, and probation/parole in identifying risk factors for suicide among this unique population. In addition, the authors hope that this study will prompt additional research in other pertinent areas to include the following: (1) examining the degree that personality disorder symptoms increase risk for suicide among CSOs, (2) how the presence of cognitive distortions impact a CSO's decision to commit suicide, and (3) further examination of suicide notes written by CSOs.

The future for the FBI's BAU study will include completing interviews with the CSO's family members and/or close associates for the remaining cases. In addition, further analyses will be conducted to obtain potential typological information indicating more salient risk factors for this population. The authors will also be drafting volume two of a law enforcement handbook that will focus on conducting a risk interview with the CSO during the initial investigation.