

China Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology Monthly

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Tracking China Healthcare

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Going Mental

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2007, the number one cause of death by injury in China was suicide at 28%, trumping traffic injury at 25% and drowning at 11%. Media reports have shocked the nation with tales of combination infanticide/suicides, and the increased attention may be helping to change attitudes on mental health. The China Daily reported that up to 90% of Chinese that committed suicide had never sought psychological care for their problems. The CDC estimates 100 million Chinese have mental disorders,

conditions that often require long-term treatment. The market for pharmaceuticals targeting mental disorders has been small due to a host of factors, but growth has begun to accelerate. Will China prove to be another “Prozac Nation?”

Mental disorders affect hundreds of millions of people around the world and, together with substance abuse,

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