

Suicides in the UK

Deaths and rates

A total of 5,981 deaths of persons aged 15 and over were registered as suicide in the UK during year 2012, 4,590 male (76.7% of the total) and 1,391 female. The proportion of male deaths was similar for each of the home countries – about three quarters of the total. See Table 1. Suicide is defined as death with an underlying cause of intentional harm.

Table 1 Suicides registered in the UK in 2012

	Male	Female	Total	% Male
England and Wales ⁽¹⁾	3,773	1,108	4,881	77.3
Scotland ⁽²⁾	608	222	830	72.9
Northern Ireland ⁽³⁾	215	63	278	77.3
UK ⁽⁴⁾	4,590+	1,391+	5,981+	76.7

References: (1) ONS ref Tables. Table 7 - Age-specific suicide rates by sex and five years age groups, England and Wales, 1981 to 2012

(2) General Register Office (GRO) for Scotland. New coding rules

(3) Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency, Provisional figures

(4) ONS Publication 18 February 2014

+ Small numerical inconsistency in totals

However, the rates per 100,000 population varied considerably, the overall rate for the UK being 11.6, but ranging from 8.0 (England and Wales) to 18.6 (Scotland). Male rates ranged from 19.5 per 100,000 population (England and Wales) to 28.4 (Scotland), with an overall rate of 18.2 deaths per 100,000. Female deaths ranged from 4.5 (England and Wales) to 9.6 (Scotland), with an overall rate of 5.2 per 100,000 population. Rates per 100,000 population were thus significantly higher for both sexes in Scotland than in England and Wales, with corresponding rates for both sexes in Northern Ireland in between. See Table 2.

Table 2 Suicide rates in the UK per 100,000 population

	Male	Female	Total
England and Wales	19.5	4.5	8.0
Scotland	28.4	9.6	18.6
Northern Ireland	24	7	15
United Kingdom	18.2	5.2	11.6

References as for Table 1

(a) Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over

(b) Figures include deaths of non-residents

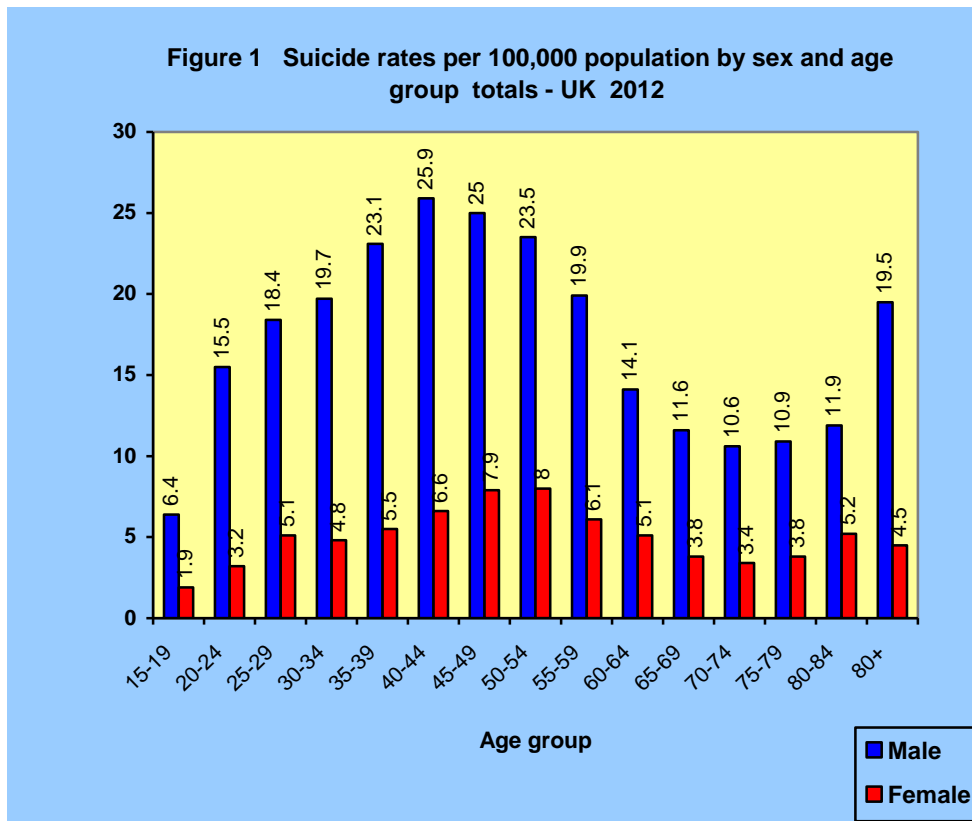
Rates per 100,000 population for males in each 5-year age group ranged between 25.9 (age 40-44) and 6.4 (age 15-19). For females, the rates ranged between 8.0 (age 50-54) and 1.9 (age 15-19). The proportion of male suicides of total male and female in each age group exceeded 70% in all age groups, except for those of 80 and over. See Table 3.

Table 3 Suicide numbers and rates in the UK in 2012 by sex and age group

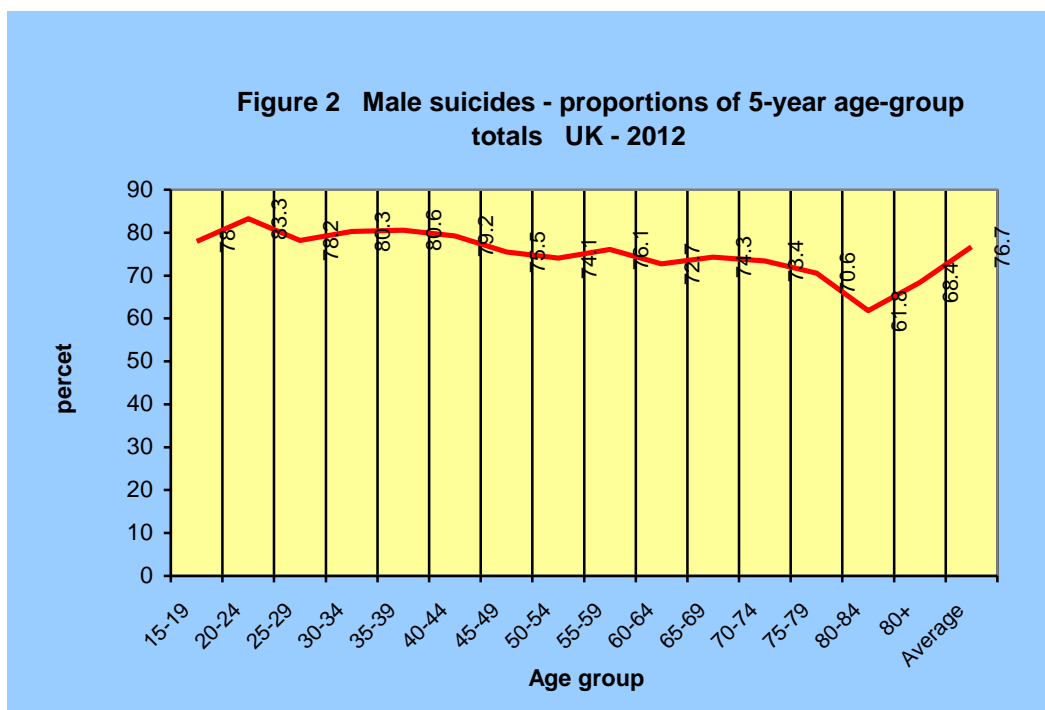
Age group	Male deaths		Female deaths		Total deaths		Total deaths % male
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
15-19	128	6.4	36	1.9	164	4.2	78.0
20-24	339	15.5	68	3.2	407	9.4	83.3
25-29	395	18.4	110	5.1	505	11.7	78.2
30-34	415	19.7	102	4.8	517	12.2	80.3
35-39	465	23.1	112	5.5	577	14.3	80.6
40-44	584	25.9	153	6.6	737	16.1	79.2
45-49	578	25.0	188	7.9	766	16.3	75.5
50-54	492	23.5	172	8.0	664	15.7	74.1
55-59	362	19.9	114	6.1	476	12.9	76.1
60-64	250	14.1	94	5.1	344	9.5	72.7
65-70	188	11.6	65	3.8	253	7.6	74.3
70-74	124	10.6	45	3.4	169	6.8	73.4
75-79	101	10.9	42	3.8	143	7.0	70.6
80-84	76	11.9	47	5.2	123	8.0	61.8
85 and over	93	19.5	43	4.5	136	9.4	68.4
Totals	4,590		1,391		5,981		76.7

Source: ONS ref Tables. Table 6. Age-specific suicide rates by sex and five-year age group, United Kingdom, 1981 to 2012

Suicide rates by sex and 5-year age group per 100,000 population in 2012 are shown in Figure 1 and rates for male suicides by age group in Figure 2..



Source: ONS Ref Tables, Table 6



Source: ONS Ref Tables, Table 7

Such suicide numbers and rates far outweigh, particularly for males, deaths from road traffic accidents. A total of 1,754 deaths from road accidents were recorded in Great Britain in 2012, approximately three quarters of them male, ie. about 1,315. This compares with 4,375 male suicides in Great Britain, some 3.3 times higher. For female suicides, the proportion was some 3.0 times higher.

Suicide is therefore a bigger killer than road accidents for both sexes. However, there is a glaring disparity between the numbers of males and females involved, with males comprising about three quarters of all deaths from each cause.

Such disparity, provoked the following comments by Stephen Platt, Samaritans' Trustee and Professor of Health Policy Research at the University of Edinburgh, following the release of the year 2011 suicide figures by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 23 January 2013.

“It’s worrying to see that the suicide rate for the UK [in 2011] appears to be at its highest since 2004 and that there seems to have been a significant increase from 2010 to 2011 from 11.1 to 11.8 per 100,000. It may be that the impact of the economic downturn is now being seen in the suicide rate. However, it is important for us to be mindful of several changes in the way the suicide statistics were calculated in 2011*.

"The most important issue raised by these figures is the urgent need to tackle the many difficulties faced by men in their middle years. The ONS has specifically referenced the Samaritans' report on this crucial area. The research investigated why disadvantaged men in this age group are especially vulnerable to suicide. The rate for men aged 30-44 of 23.5 deaths per 100,000 remains the highest of all groups, and the rate for men aged 45-59 has increased significantly over recent years, with the 2011 rate of 22.2 being almost as high as for those aged 30-44. Meanwhile the suicide rate for younger men aged 15-29 has decreased over the past decade and has remained relatively stable since 2006.

“Suicide is a social, as well as mental health, issue. Samaritans research shows that disadvantaged men in mid-life today are facing a perfect storm of challenges - unemployment, deprivation, social isolation, changing definitions of what it is to be a man, alcohol misuse, labour market and demographic changes have had a dramatic effect on their work, relationships and very identity.

“We also found that men judge themselves against a gold standard of masculinity set by society and when they can't meet these expectations they can feel worthless, unvalued, a deep sense of shame and that there is no reason for them to live.

“Employment is still central to the masculine role, so the increase in unemployment experienced by this group of men due to the decline of heavy industries as well as in the context of the economic downturn may be particularly devastating.

“Unemployment can also contribute to relationship strain and breakdown and social isolation for men.

“It is high time that national suicide prevention strategies address suicide as a health and social inequality at both national and local levels.

* In 2011 the ONS adopted a change in the classification of deaths in line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) new coding rules, which has potential to impact upon suicide data, affecting deaths

registered as an event of undetermined intent which are included in the National Statistics suicide definition. Also, improvements to the process for coding narrative verdicts were made, which also may have affected the overall suicide rate. Therefore, as advised by the ONS, figures and apparent increases should be treated with caution when making comparisons with previous years' data.

Suicide deaths and rates for England and Wales

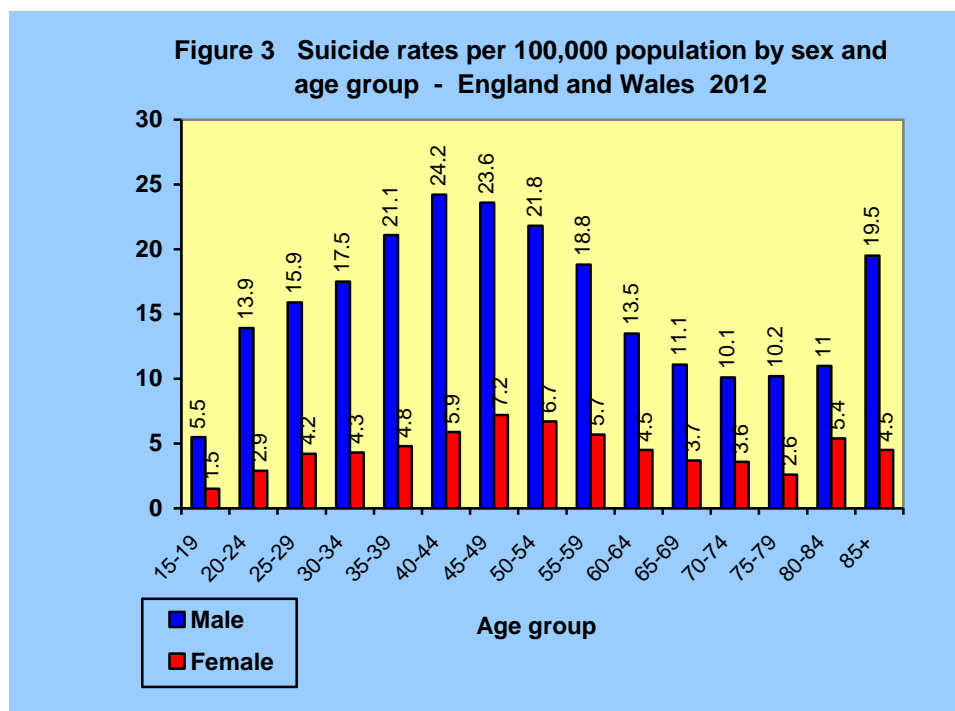
Suicide deaths and rates follow a similar pattern to those for the United Kingdom. The rates per 100,000 population in 2012 for males ranged from 24.2 for the 40-44 age group to 5.5 for the youngest age group of 15-19. For females, the rates ranged from 7.2 for the 45-49 age group to 1.5 for the 15-19 age group. See Table 4.

Table 4 Suicide numbers and rates in England and Wales in 2012 by sex and age-group

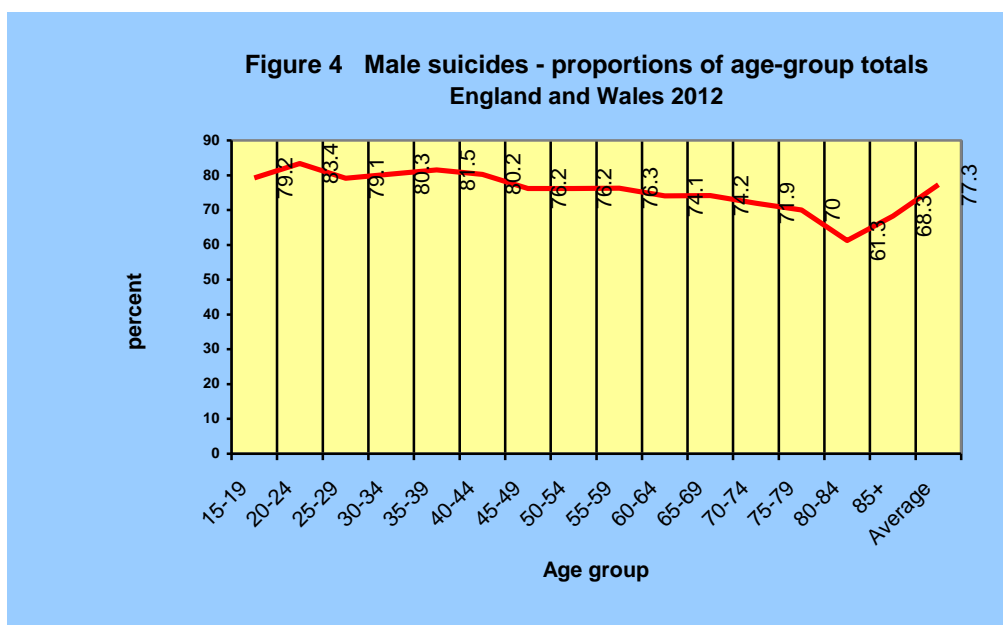
Age group	Male deaths		Female deaths		Total deaths		Total deaths % male
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
15-19	99	5.5	26	1.5	125	3.6	79.2
20-24	271	13.9	54	2.9	325	8.5	83.4
25-29	306	15.9	81	4.2	387	10.1	79.1
30-34	330	17.5	81	4.3	411	10.9	80.3
35-39	379	21.1	86	4.8	465	12.9	81.5
40-44	485	24.2	120	5.9	605	14.9	80.2
45-49	484	23.6	151	7.2	635	15.3	76.2
50-54	403	21.8	126	6.7	529	14.2	76.2
55-59	302	18.8	94	5.7	396	12.2	76.3
60-64	212	13.5	74	4.5	286	8.9	74.1
65-69	161	11.1	56	3.7	217	7.3	74.2
70-74	105	10.1	41	3.6	146	6.7	71.9
75-79	84	10.2	36	2.6	120	6.6	70.0
80-84	68	11.0	43	5.4	111	8.1	61.3
85 and over	84	19.5	39	4.5	123	9.5	68.3
Totals	3,773		1,108		4,881		77.3

Source: ONS Ref Tables. Table 7. Age-specific suicide rates by sex and five-year age groups, England and Wales, 1981 to 2012

Suicide rates by sex and 5-year age group per 100,000 population in England and Wales are shown in Figure 3 and rates for male suicides by age group in Figure 4.



Source: ONS ref Tables, Table 7



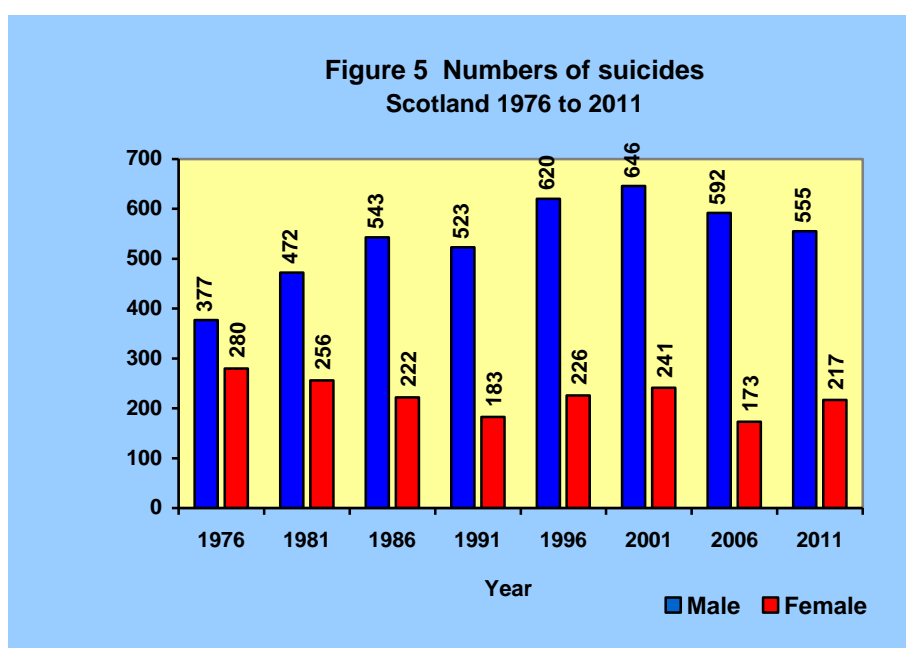
Source: ONS Ref Tables, Table 7

Suicide deaths and rates for Scotland

A total of 830 suicides were registered in Scotland in 2012 under the new coding rules, 608 males (73.3% of the total) and 222 females (26.7%). 569 deaths out of the total were regarded as ‘intentional self-harm’ and 26 as ‘undetermined intent’.

Based on estimated mid 2012 populations for Scotland, these represented rates per 100,000 population of 28.4 for male suicides and 9.6 for female suicides, both much higher than the UK average figures of 18.2 and 5.2 respectively. See Table 2.

The numbers and pattern of suicides from 1976 up to year 2011, based on the old system of coding rules before the new rules were introduced, are shown in Figure 5, for males and females.

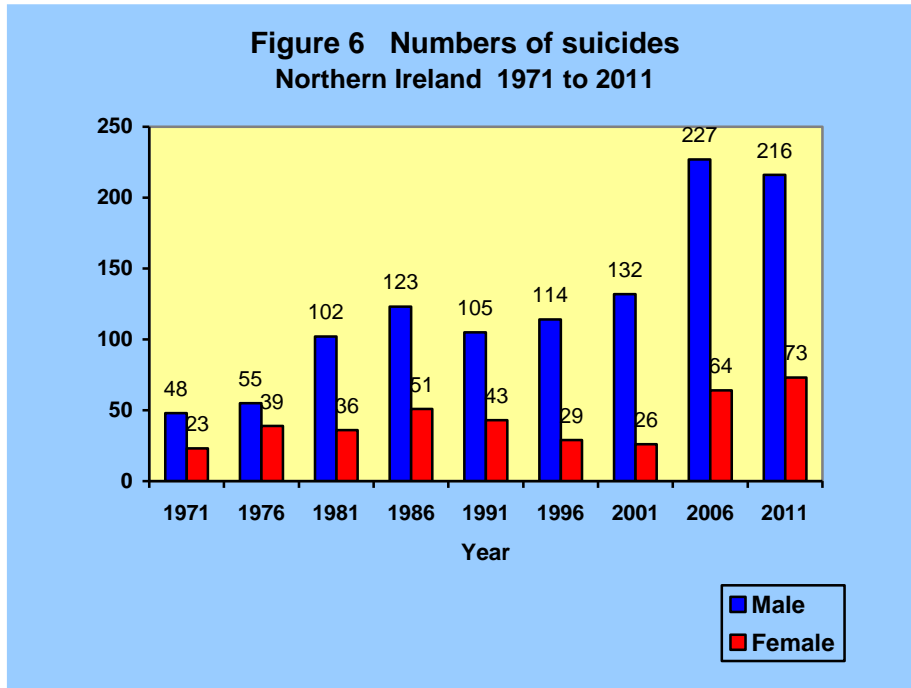


Source: GRO Scotland, Suicides in Scotland, Table1

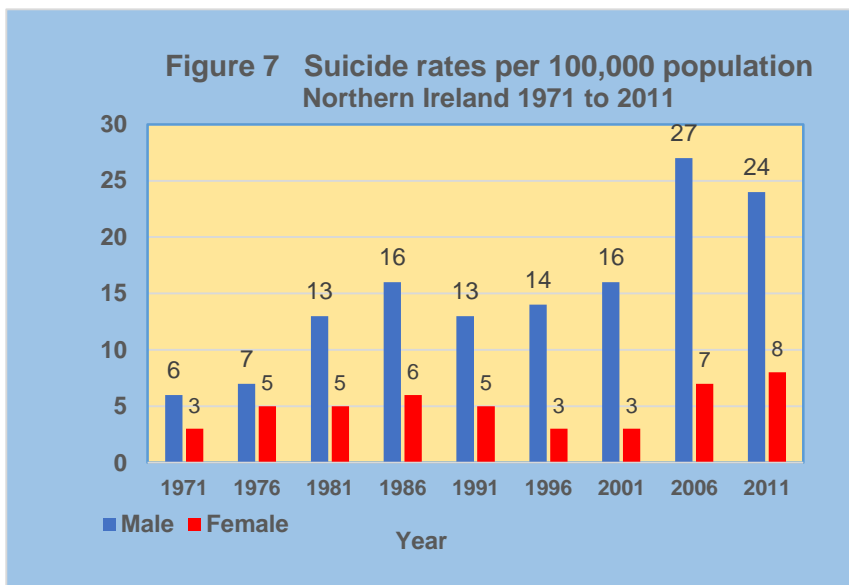
Suicide deaths and rates for Northern Ireland

Based on provisional estimates prior to the publication of the Registrar General official figures, there were a total of 278 suicide deaths in Northern Ireland in 2012, 215 male (77.3% of the total) and 63 female. These represented rates per 100,000 population of 24 for males and 7.0 for females, and an overall rate of 15, each of these being just below the Scotland figures, but well above the figures for England and Wales. See Table 2.

The numbers and pattern of suicides from 1971 up to year 2011, based on the old system of coding, are shown in Figures 6 and 7.



Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency



Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

Method of death

Overall in the United Kingdom in 2012, suffocation was the most frequent method of death for males (58.3%), and poison and suffocation for females (42.6%) and (36.2%) respectively. See Table 5. Suffocation (41%), by hanging or strangulation, was also the main method in Scotland in 2012, followed closely by poison (37%).

Table 5 Proportion of suicide deaths by method and sex, 2012 registrations, United Kingdom

Method	Men	Women
Drowning	3.7	6.12
Fall and fracture	3.2	4.2
Poison	19.7	42.6
Suffocation	58.3	36.2
Other	15.1	10.9

Source: ONS Ref Tables. Table 16

- 1 Suicide is defined in the UK as deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm.
- 2 Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over
- 3 Deaths of non-residents are included in figures for England and Wales
- 4 Figures are for deaths registered in 2012

Table 6 Proportion of suicide deaths by method. Scotland 2012

Method	% of total	
	New coding	Old coding
Hanging, strangulation & suffocation	41	45
Poison	37	31
Drowning or immersion	7	
Falling	6	
Firearms or explosives	1	
Other	8	

Appendix 1

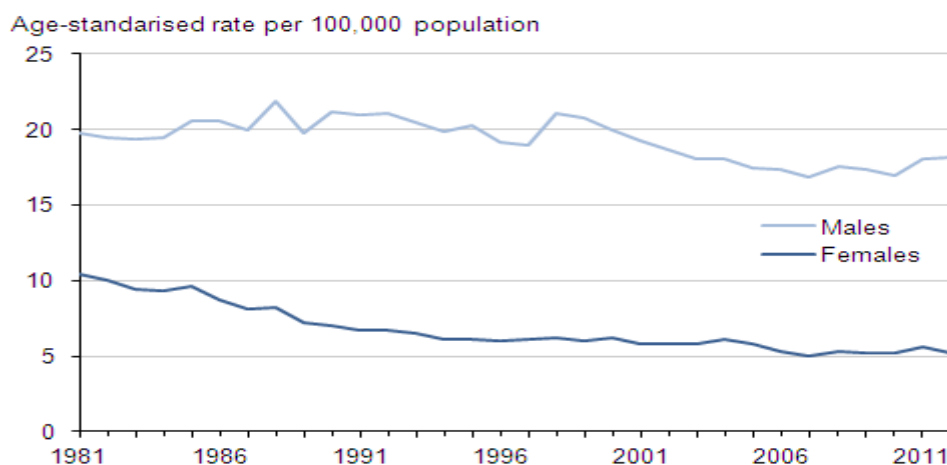
Suicides in the United Kingdom 2012

ONS publication 18 February 2014

Key Points

- In 2012, 5,981 suicides in people aged 15 and over were registered in the UK, 64 fewer than in 2011.
- The UK suicide rate was 11.6 deaths per 100,000 population in 2012, but there are significant differences in suicide rates between men and women. Male suicide rates were more than three times higher at 18.2 male deaths compared with 5.2 female deaths per 100,000 population.
- The highest suicide rate was among men aged 40 to 44, at 25.9 deaths per 100,000 population.
- The most common methods of suicide in the UK in 2012 were hanging, strangulation and suffocation (58% of male suicides and 36% of female suicides) and poisoning (43% of female suicides and 20% of male suicides).
- In 2012 in England, the suicide rate was highest in the North West at 12.4 deaths per 100,000 population and lowest in London at 8.7 per 100,000 population.
- The median registration delay for deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death was 155 days in England and Wales and 144 days in Northern Ireland. In Scotland, the time taken to register a death did not exceed the allocated eight days.

Figure 1: Age-standardised suicide rates: by sex, deaths registered in each year from 1981 to 2012, United Kingdom

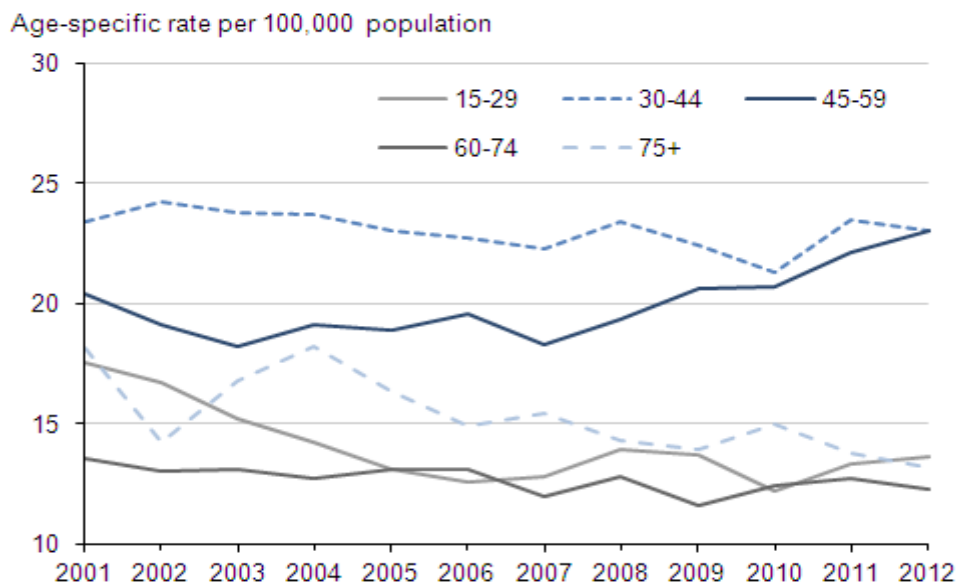


Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. The National Statistics definition of suicide is given below under 'Suicide definition'.
2. Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over.
3. Rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the 1976 European Standard Population.
4. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
5. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Figure 2: Age-specific suicide rate: males, deaths registered each year from 2001 to 2012 United Kingdom

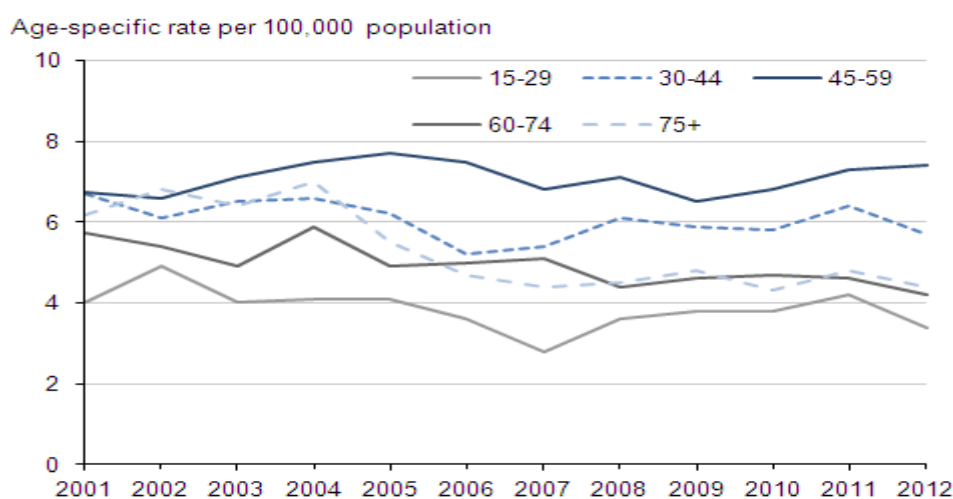


Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. The National Statistics definition of suicide is given below under 'Suicide definition'.
2. Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over.
3. Age-specific suicide rate per 100,000 population.
4. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
5. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Figure 3: Age-specific suicide rate: females, deaths registered in each year from 2001 to 2012, United Kingdom

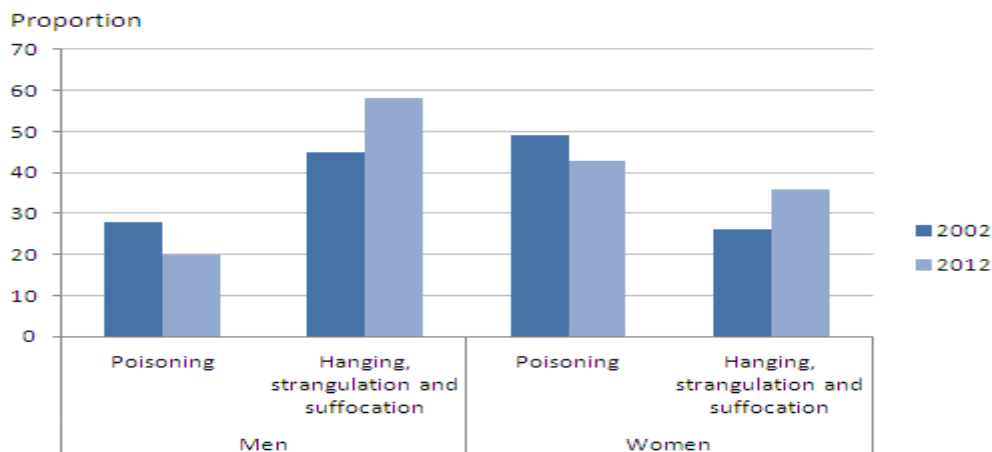


Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. The National Statistics definition of suicide is given below under 'Suicide definition'.
2. Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over.
3. Age-specific suicide rate per 100,000 population.
4. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
5. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Figure 4: Proportion of suicide deaths: method and sex, deaths registered in 2002 & 2012, United Kingdom

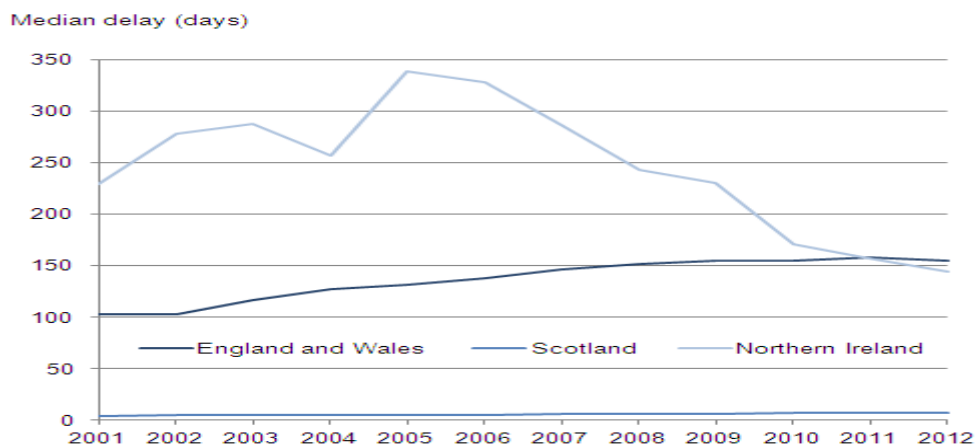


Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. The National Statistics definition of suicide is given below under 'Suicide definition'.
2. Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over.
3. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
4. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Figure 5: Median registration delay for suicides: deaths registered in each year between 2001 and 2012, United Kingdom



Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. The National Statistics definition of suicide is given below under 'Suicide definition'.
2. Figures are for persons aged 15 years and over.
3. The registration delay is calculated as the difference between the date each death occurred and the date it was registered, measured in days. Additional information on the calculation of registration delays is provided Background Note 7 of the UK suicides bulletin.
4. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
5. Figures include deaths of non-residents.

Suicide definition

The National Statistics definition of suicide includes deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm or an injury/poisoning of undetermined extent. In England and Wales, it has been customary to assume that most injuries and poisonings of undetermined extent are cases where the harm was self-inflicted, but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves (Adelstein and Mardon, 1975). This convention has been adopted across the UK. However, this cannot be applied to children due to the possibility that these deaths were caused by unverifiable accidents, neglect or abuse. Therefore, only persons aged 15 years and over are included in the UK suicide figures.

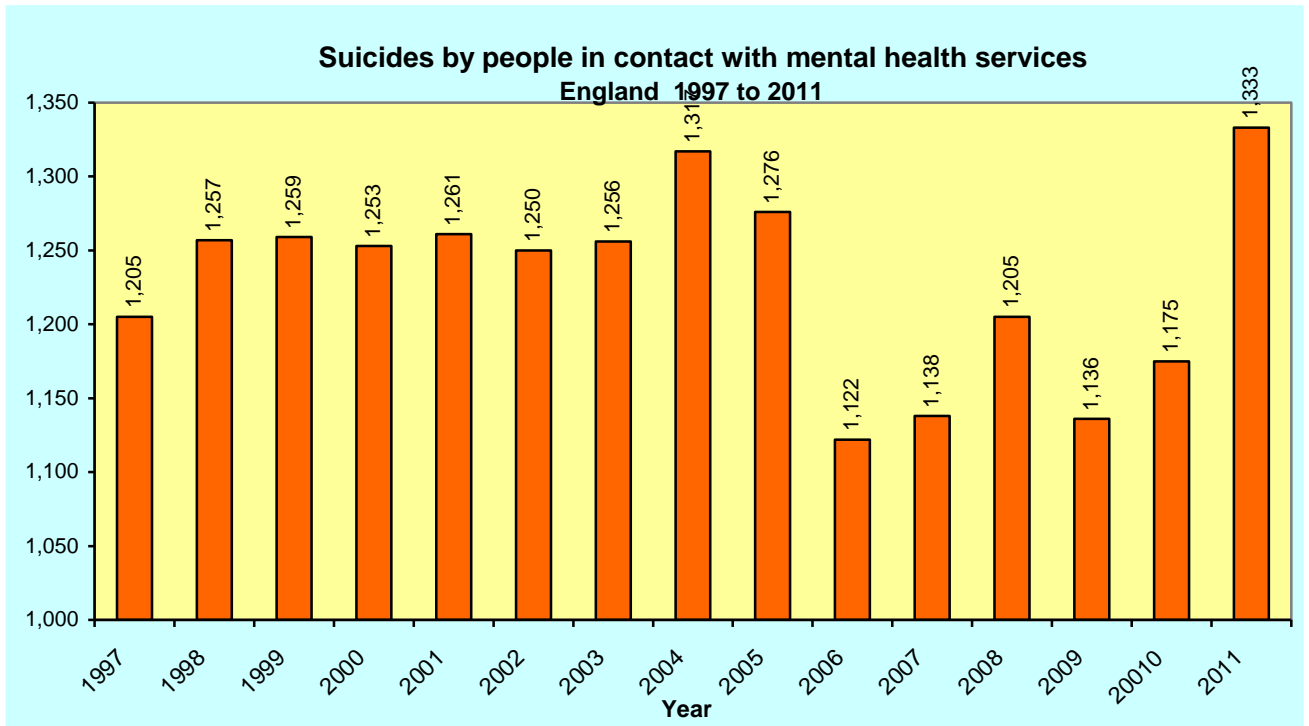
ICD-10 code	Description
X60-X84	Intentional self-harm
Y10-Y34 ¹	Injury/poisoning of undetermined extent
Y87.0 / Y87.2 ²	Sequelae of intentional self-harm/injury/poisoning of undetermined extent

1. Excluding Y33.9 where the coroner's verdict was pending in England and Wales, up to 2006. From 2007, deaths which were previously coded to Y33.9 are coded to U59.9.

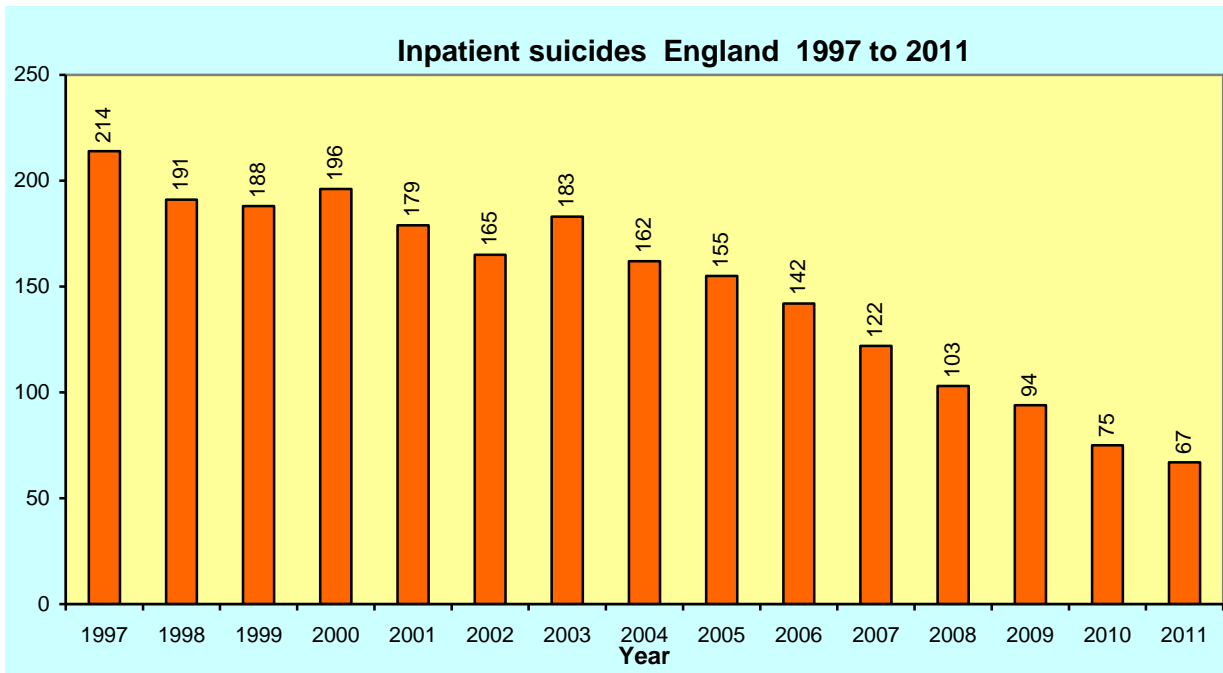
2. Y87.0 and Y87.2 are not included for England and Wales.

Appendix 2

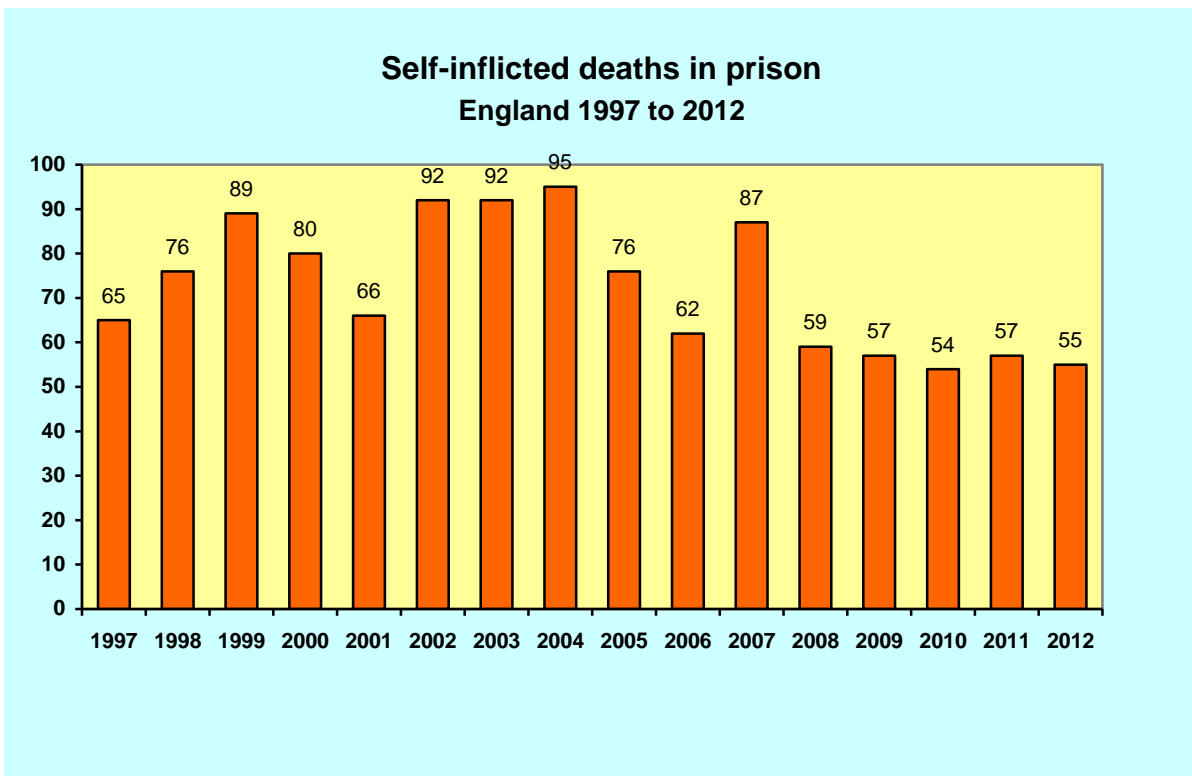
Suicides in England 1994 to 2012



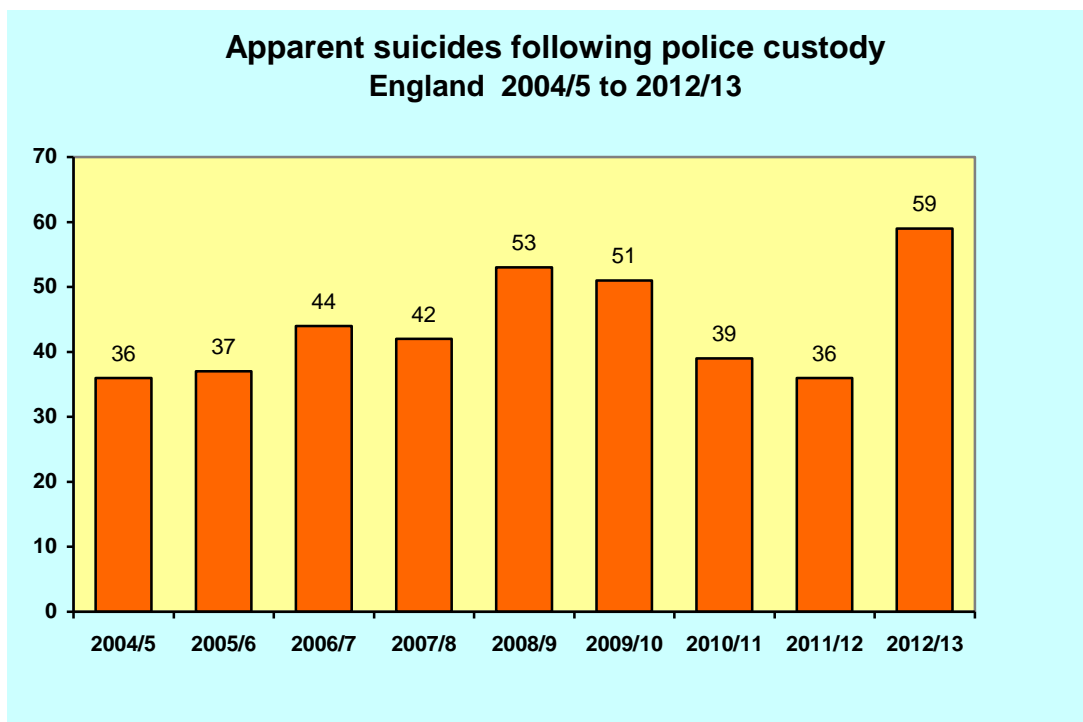
Source: DoH, Statistical update on suicide, Jan 2014, Fig 4



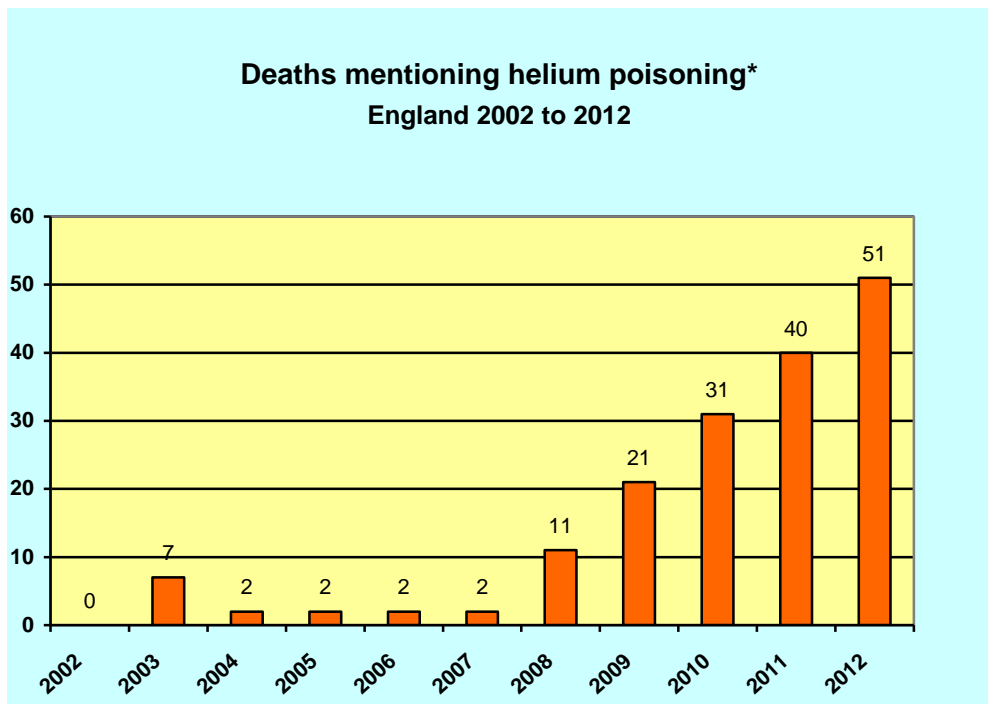
Source: DoH, Statistical update on suicide, Jan 2014, Fig 5



Source: DoH, Statistical update on suicide, Jan 2014, Fig 6



Source: DoH, Statistical update on suicide, Jan 2014, Fig 7



Source: DoH Statistical update on suicide, Jan 2014, Fig 8

- Cause of death was defined using ICD-10 codes relating to drug poisoning. Deaths were included where helium was mentioned on the death certificate.

Appendix 3

Suicides in Scotland

gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics

Probable Suicides: Deaths which are the Result of Intentional Self-harm or Events of Undetermined Intent

Main points

- There were 830 probable suicides registered in Scotland in 2012, 59 (7%) fewer than in the previous year. These figures are based on the new coding rules that apply in Scotland with effect from 2011 (further information below). It is estimated that only 762 of these deaths would have been counted as probable suicides under the old coding rules: 10 (1%) below the corresponding estimate for 2011.. The difference between the falls of 59 (7%) and 10 (1%) is due to a drop in the number of deaths that were counted using the new rules but would not have been counted using the old coding rules.
- The number of probable suicides may fluctuate from year to year. Chart 1 shows the 5-year moving average (as an indication of any overall trend) and the likely range of statistical variability around it. The overall total has not changed greatly in recent years: the latest ten years' figures (including the 'old basis' estimates of 772 for 2011 and 762 for 2012) have all been around 800-or-so (ranging from 746 to 843), and the latest seven 5-year moving averages have all been between 781 to 811. However, the latest few years' figures give the impression of a slight downward trend.
-
- Over the longer-term, broadly speaking, the annual number of probable suicides (on the old basis) was roughly 650 in the mid-1970s, rose during the rest of the decade, was around 700-750 during the 1980s, increased in the 1990s to almost 900 at the start of the new century, and then declined to about 800 in recent years. Again, Chart 1 shows that there were many year-to-year fluctuations: over the period covered by the figures, they have ranged from 642 in 1974 to 912 in 1993.
- Around three-quarters of all probable suicides are men: 73% in 2012 (for the figures on both bases), and between 72% and 77% in every year since 1990 (further information can be found in Table 1).
- In 2012, using the figures on the new basis, the most common method of suicide was 'hanging, strangulation and suffocation' (41%) followed by 'poison' (37%). In addition, 7% killed themselves by drowning or submersion, 6% by jumping or falling from a high place, and 1% used firearms or explosives. However, using the figures for 2012 on the old basis, there is a greater gap between the percentages for 'hanging, strangulation and suffocation' (45%) and 'poison' (31%). Methods of suicide have changed over the years: in the 1970s, over half took poison, on average only about 13% hanged themselves, and almost a fifth drowned.

- Only a couple of percent of the probable suicides in Scotland each year are people whose usual residence was outwith Scotland.
- The likelihood of suicide varies with age. In 2012, using the figures on the new basis, the 45-49 year old age-group had the largest number of probable suicides (110, or 13%), followed by 40-44 year olds (105, or 13%) and people aged 50-54 (98, or 12%). However, the number of suicides by age fluctuates from year to year. Using the figures on the old basis, the largest numbers of suicides over the latest five years have been in the following age-groups: 40-44 (103 per year, on average); 45-49 (92 per year, on average); 35-39 (86 per year, on average); 50-54 (81 per year, on average); and 30-34 (77 per year, on average). The pattern has changed over the years. In the second half of the 1990s the largest numbers were in the following age-groups: 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39, with annual averages of 108, 106 and 93, respectively. The corresponding figure for 40-44 year olds was only 78.

The change to the coding rules for deaths which were registered from the start of 2011

- As indicated earlier, new rules for coding the causes of death mean that the overall total numbers of probable suicides for 2010 and 2011 are not directly comparable. How 'drug abuse' deaths from 'acute intoxication' are coded has changed: in 2010 and earlier years, they were counted under 'mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use'; now they are classified as 'poisoning', so some of them will be counted as probable suicides. This follows a World Health Organisation (WHO) update to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which National Records of Scotland (NRS) implemented at the start of 2011.. Examples of the cases concerned are people who were known or suspected habitual drug abusers, for whom the cause of death was certified as 'adverse effects of heroin', 'methadone toxicity' or 'morphine intoxication'. Unless NRS has been informed that the overdose was believed to be accidental or deliberate, it classifies such deaths as being due to 'poisoning by ..., undetermined intent', which means that they will be counted as probable suicides.
- NRS has estimated what the figures for 2011 and 2012 would have been, had the data been coded using the old rules, in order that users of these statistics can see the underlying changes between 2010 and 2011 and the longer-term trends without the break in series caused by the introduction of the new coding rules. NRS hopes to continue to estimate the number of probable suicides on the basis of the old coding rules for at least a few more years.
- Of the deaths that were registered in 2011, it appears that 117 more were counted as probable suicides under the new coding rules than would have been counted under the old coding rules. The corresponding figure for 2012 is 68, which is 49 fewer - so the number of deaths which are only counted under the new coding rules fell by 49 between 2011 and 2012. That is why the drop between 2011 and 2012 in the number of probable suicides is 49 greater for statistics on the new basis than for figures on the old basis.

Table 1: Deaths for which the underlying cause was classified as 'intentional self-harm' or 'event of undetermined intent' ¹ by sex and by type of cause: registered in Scotland, 1974 to 2012

Year	All such deaths		Sex		Type of cause ²	
	Number registered in year	5-year moving average ³	Males	Females	Intentional self-harm	Undetermined intent
1974	642		378	264	437	205
1975	688		375	313	427	261
1976	657	674	377	280	430	227
1977	659	698	382	277	422	237
1978	723	716	439	284	439	284
1979	764	730	433	331	494	270
1980	777	745	479	298	515	262
1981	728	735	472	256	517	211
1982	735	719	477	258	563	172
1983	669	715	453	216	505	164
1984	688	723	469	219	519	169
1985	756	717	513	243	569	187
1986	765	738	543	222	568	197
1987	708	744	497	211	522	186
1988	774	743	553	221	598	176
1989	718	731	506	212	527	191
1990	749	748	566	183	535	214
1991	706	776	523	183	525	181
1992	793	799	576	217	569	224
1993	912	816	679	233	615	297
1994	834	844	611	223	624	210
1995	836	860	625	211	623	213
1996	846	854	620	226	597	249
1997	874	862	655	219	599	275
1998	878	870	650	228	649	229
1999	874	878	663	211	637	237
2000	878	883	674	204	648	230
2001	887	866	646	241	609	278
2002	899	859	676	223	636	263
2003	794	836	578	216	560	234
2004	835	811	609	226	606	229
2005	763	799	549	214	547	216
2006	765	809	592	173	542	223
2007	838	791	620	218	517	321
2008	843	795	630	213	569	274
2009	746	796	549	197	568	178
2010	781	781	581	200	569	212
2011 - old coding rules (estimated)	772		555	217	527	245
2012 - old coding rules (estimated)	762		557	205	569	193
2011 - new coding rules	889		639	250	527	362

2012 - new coding
rules

830

608

222

569

261

Footnotes

1) Following a World Health Organisation update to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which National Records of Scotland (NRS) implemented for 2011, 'drug abuse' deaths from 'acute intoxication' that would previously have been counted under 'mental and behavioural disorders' are now counted under 'poisoning' - so some of them will be counted as 'probable suicides'.

A note on the changes to the coding is available at the deaths section of the NRS website.

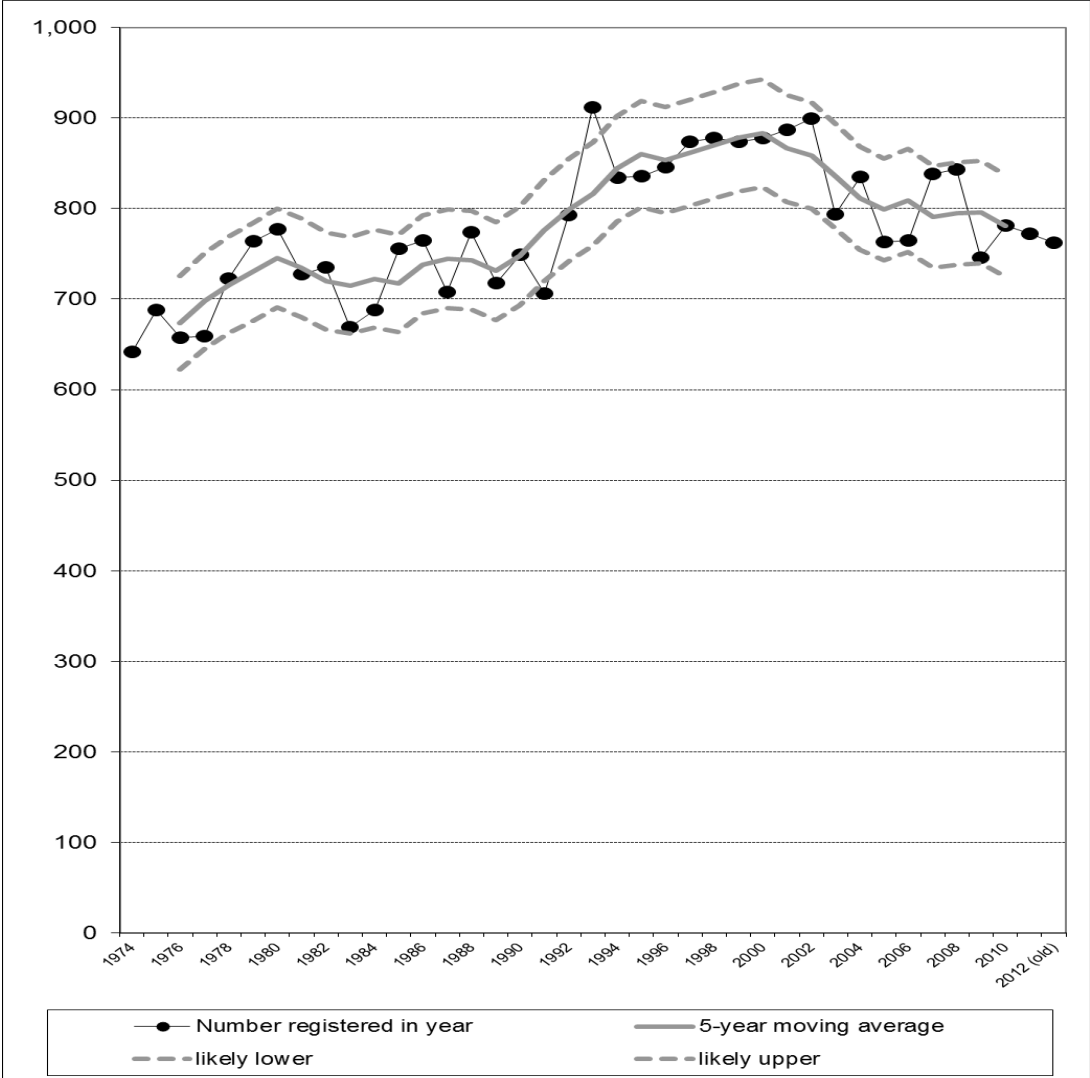
2) In mid-2009, the balance between 'intentional self-harm' and 'undetermined intent' was altered by a change in how Crown Office and Procurator Service provides information about suicides - refer to the deaths section of the NRS website.

3) Calculated using the 'old coding rules' figures for 2011 onwards.

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Chart 1: Deaths for which the underlying cause was classified as 'intentional self-harm' or 'event of undetermined intent' registered in Scotland, 1974 to 2012, with five-year moving average and showing the likely range of values around the moving average

NB: the figures for 2011 onwards are estimates on the 'old coding' basis (refer to the footnote), and the moving average is calculated using those estimates for 2011 onwards



Footnotes

1) Following a World Health Organisation update to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which National Records of Scotland (NRS) implemented for 2011, 'drug abuse' deaths from 'acute intoxication' that would previously have been counted under 'mental and behavioural disorders' are now counted under 'poisoning' - so some of them will be counted as 'probable suicides'.

A note on the changes to the coding is available at the deaths section of the NRS website.

For 2011 onwards, NRS has estimated what the figure would have been under the old coding rules.

Appendix 4

Suicides in Northern Ireland

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp31.htm>

KEY STATISTICS 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2011 there were 14,204 deaths registered in NI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of these, 289 were suicides, 24 fewer than the 313 recorded in 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were 216 suicides among men in 2011 (24.3 per 100,000 population)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Among women there were 73 suicides in 2011 (7.9 per 100,000 population)

Context of Suicide Statistics

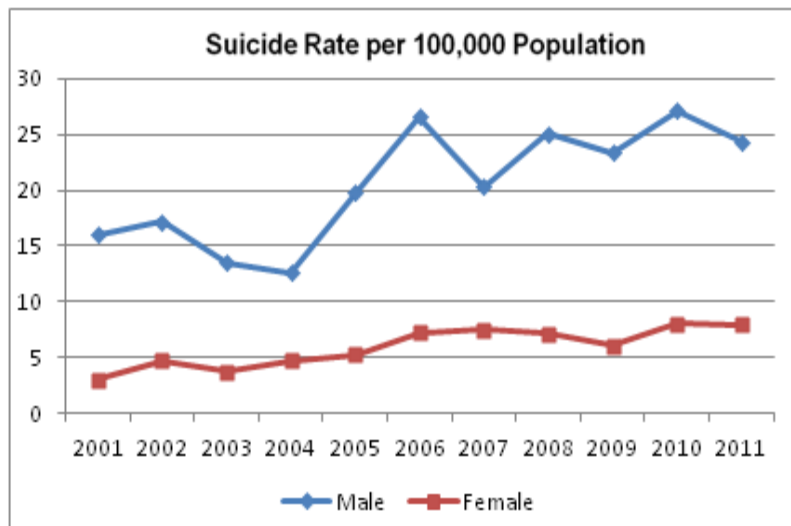
Suicide statistics provide an indicator of mental health and are important for monitoring trends in deaths resulting from intentional (and probable) self-harm. The statistics are widely used to inform policy, planning and research in both the public and private sector and they enable policy makers and support services to target their resources most effectively. Key users include the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Public Health Agency, academics, and charity organisations. There is a period of time between when a suicide occurs and when the death is registered.

Definition of Suicide

Suicide deaths in Northern Ireland are defined using the UK definition which includes deaths from Self-inflicted Injury as well as Events of Undetermined Intent. The codes used to define the suicide figures are shown below:

ICD-10	Description
X60-X84, Y87.0	Self-inflicted Injury
Y10-Y34, Y87.2	Events of Undetermined Intent

0..



Number of Deaths From Suicide^{1,2} Registered in Northern Ireland by Sex, 1970-2012^P

Registration Year	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
1970	43	30	73
1971	48	22	70
1972	43	24	67
1973	53	46	99
1974	55	27	82
1975	61	37	98
1976	55	39	94
1977	58	37	95
1978	66	45	111
1979	87	37	124
1980	75	43	118
1981	102	36	138
1982	71	51	122
1983	101	62	163
1984	82	41	123
1985	113	44	157
1986	123	51	174
1987	80	42	122
1988	139	44	183
1989	103	31	134

1990	121	47	168
1991	105	43	148
1992	103	25	128
1993	120	31	151
1994	117	34	151
1995	105	41	146
1996	114	29	143
1997	108	30	138
1998	113	37	150
1999	127	27	154
2000	140	45	185
2001	132	26	158
2002	142	41	183
2003	112	32	144
2004	105	41	146
2005	167	46	213
2006	227	64	291
2007	175	67	242
2008	218	64	282
2009	205	55	260
2010	240	73	313
2011	216	73	289
2012 ^P	215	63	278

Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population^{1,2} in Northern Ireland by Sex, 1971-2012^P

Registration Year	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
1971	6	3	5
1972	6	3	4
1973	7	6	6
1974	7	3	5
1975	8	5	6
1976	7	5	6

1977	8	5	6
1978	9	6	7
1979	12	5	8
1980	10	6	8
1981	13	5	9
1982	9	6	8
1983	13	8	11
1984	11	5	8
1985	15	5	10
1986	16	6	11
1987	10	5	8
1988	18	5	12
1989	13	4	8
1990	16	6	11
1991	13	5	9
1992	13	3	8
1993	15	4	9
1994	15	4	9
1995	13	5	9
1996	14	3	9
1997	13	4	8
1998	14	4	9
1999	16	3	9
2000	17	5	11
2001	16	3	9
2002	17	5	11
2003	13	4	8
2004	13	5	9
2005	20	5	12
2006	27	7	17
2007	20	7	14
2008	25	7	16
2009	23	6	15
2010	27	8	17
2011	24	8	16
2012 ^P	24	7	15

Deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence, unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time: therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.

More detailed data by cause of death can be found in the Registrar General Annual Report.
The most recent quarterly statistics relating to suicide can be found in the Registrar General Quarterly Reports.