

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – FINALISED SUICIDE STATISTICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, 2015 – 2021



9:30am Wednesday 30 November 2022

Finalised Suicide Statistics in Northern Ireland 2015 – 2021

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that there were 237 suicide deaths in 2021- the highest number since 2015 and represents an increase of 18 (8.2 per cent) from the 219 suicide deaths registered in 2020. These figures also conclude the review of NI Suicide Statistics for the years 2015-2017, and thus provide a consistent time series for the period 2015-2021.

In 2021, 176 (74.3 per cent) suicide deaths were males and 61 (25.7 per cent) were females. The suicide death rate (standardised for age) for both males and females has been on a general upward trajectory since 2019. The rate for males increased from 19.1 per 100,000 males in 2019 to 21.5 in 2021, while for females, the equivalent rate increased from 6.0 per 100,000 females in 2019 to 7.3 in 2021.

Suicide deaths were highest for men between the ages of 25 and 29 and 45 and 49, while for women the highest number of suicide deaths were between the ages of 20 and 24. Overall in 2021, one in every three suicide deaths was someone under the age of 30.

Northern Ireland had an age-standardised rate of 14.3 suicides per 100,000 population in 2021. This is slightly higher than the 14.0 suicides per 100,000 population for Scotland but notably above the rate for England and Wales at 10.5 suicides per 100,000. It should be remembered that cross country comparisons will be affected by differences in data collection and collation processes in the separate jurisdictions.

The Belfast Trust had the highest suicide rate at 17.9 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, followed by Western Trust (16.0 deaths per 100,000). Northern Trust had the lowest suicide rate in 2021 at 10.4 deaths per 100,000.

Northern Ireland's most deprived areas had a suicide rate that was almost twice that of the least deprived areas in 2020 (19.7 deaths per 100,000 in the most deprived areas, 10.8 per 100,000 in the least deprived).

NISRA

November 2022

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The official UK definition of suicide encompasses deaths due to external causes relating to intentional self-harm AND of undetermined intent. It does not include deaths where the outcome was deemed accidental.
2. Statistics on suicide deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/suicide-deaths>
3. Suicide deaths are defined using the UK definition which includes deaths from self-inflicted Injury as well as events of undetermined Intent. The ICD-10 codes used to define the suicide figures are shown below:

**ICD-10 - X60-X84, Y87.0, Description - Self-inflicted Injury,
Notes - Persons aged 10 years and above**

**ICD-10 - Y10-Y34, Y87.2 - Description - Events of Undetermined Intent,
Notes - Persons aged 15 years and above**

Further background information on the processes involved in the production of suicide statistics can be found in the user guide on the NISRA website:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/suicide-deaths>

In 2019 NISRA and CSNI commenced a review of suicide statistics, which concluded in 2022. This marked a major revision to this important statistical series and has had a significant impact on the existing NI narrative in relation to suicide rates compared with other nations. Full details of the issues surrounding the review and the impact of the revision on previously published time series are available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/review-suicide-statistics-northern-ireland>

4. Following the review a break in the time series has been introduced from 2015 , meaning that comparisons with data pre-2015 should be made with caution..
5. Information on the areas of deprivation is taken from the Northern Ireland Multiple deprivation measures (NIMDM 2017) and can be found at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivationmeasure-2017-nimdm2017>

6. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. The Executive Information Service operates an out of hours service For Media Enquiries Only between 1800hrs and 0800hrs Monday to Friday and at weekends and public holidays. The duty press officer can be contacted on 028 9037 8110.

7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

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