

The Scottish Suicide Information Database Report 2011

2009 Data

Publication date – 20th December 2011

About this Release

This publication describes the development of the Scottish Suicide Information Database (ScotSID). The database contains death records of probable suicides and deaths due to events of undetermined intent routinely submitted to ISD by the National Records of Scotland. This release includes all deaths reported in the year 2009.

Key Points

- There was a total of 760 deaths due to suicide and events of undetermined intent in 2009. Of these, 744 were Scottish residents.
- Almost three-quarters of those who died were male and almost half aged between 35 and 54 years.
- Among those of employment age, 68% were in employment and a wide range of occupations were represented.
- Seventy one percent of suicidal acts occurred in a private dwelling.
- Sixteen percent of those completing suicide died in hospital.
- Of the Scottish residents, 441 (59%) had been an inpatient in a general hospital less than five years before death.
- Of these 441 inpatients, 26% had a diagnosis of 'Injury from Intentional Self Harm' and 20% had a diagnosis of 'Unintentional Injury (including assault by another person)', at discharge.
- Twenty one percent had been a psychiatric inpatient less than five years before death.
- Mood disorders, substance misuse and schizophrenia were the most frequent diagnoses at discharge from a psychiatric unit.

Background

It is widely recognised that the limited information available on people who complete suicide in Scotland, other than those in contact with mental health services, hampers our understanding of the underlying problems and may therefore reduce the relevance and effectiveness of preventive measures.

During the 2008 "Choose Life" summit, NHS Health Scotland made a commitment to lead work to establish a Scottish Suicide Information Database (ScotSID), in order to improve the quality of

information available on suicides in Scotland. A steering group was set up and chaired by Dr Laurence Gruer OBE, Director of Public Health with NHS Health Scotland. ISD was commissioned to develop, analyse and maintain the database with funding provided by NHS Health Scotland. This is the first ScotSID report. It describes the development of the database so far and presents new findings covering the calendar year 2009. Many of these have been made possible by linking each individual's death record with information about previous contacts with a range of NHS services. It is expected that future reports will include information from a wider range of sources as these are added to the database

At this stage, ScotSID is only able to provide limited additional information about the people who died. Over the next few years ScotSID will provide a much larger body of information based on thousands of cases. This will include the linkage of further data items derived from other data sources such as Procurator Fiscal records. Changes in the patterns of suicides which occur over the years will be more evident. The growing number of cases, the greater detail, and the trends over time will together provide an increasingly strong foundation for understanding suicide in Scotland, for identifying common factors at which preventive efforts could be directed, and for evaluating whether what is being done is having a beneficial effect.

Contact

Celina Davis

Principal Information Analyst

celina.davis@nhs.net

0131 275 6199

Parveen Chishti

Data Development Officer

parveen.chishti@nhs.net

0141 282 2084

Alana Atkinson

Programme Manager

Choose Life - Suicide Prevention & Self Harm Reduction programmes

alana.atkinson@nhs.net

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Full [Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/