

Suicide Statistics 2011

02/08/2012

About this Release

Annual update of suicide information in Scotland including numbers and rates of suicide at Scotland, NHS board and LA level and by deprivation decile at Scotland level. These figures are published on the ScotPHO website to coincide with the release of the latest statistics on suicide in 2011 as part of the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

The key findings for the new data are discussed below.

Key Points

- In 2011 the National Records of Scotland (NRS) made a change to the way deaths are classified to match World Health Organisation (WHO) updates to codes. This has resulted in deaths previously coded under 'mental and behavioural disorders' now being classed as 'self-poisoning of undetermined intent'. This ScotPHO update presents 2011 data relating to the new coding rules but, for continuity purposes, also presents some 2011 data using NRS estimates based on the previous coding rules. Note that for any analysis over time, data based on the previous coding rules is the appropriate set to use and 2011 data based on new coding rules is not directly comparable.
- There were 889 suicides (deaths from intentional self harm and events of undetermined intent combined) in Scotland in 2011. However, NRS estimate that only 772 of these would have been counted as suicides under the old coding rules. The latter number equates to an age-sex-standardised rate of 14.5 per 100,000 population compared to 14.7 per 100,000 in 2010.
- Based on three-year rolling averages and using estimates of previous coding rules for 2011, between 2000-02 and 2009-11 there was a 17% fall in suicide rates overall (19% for males and 9% for females). The national target is to reduce the suicide rate in Scotland by 20% between 2000-02 and 2011-2013.
- In 2011 the suicide rate for males was almost three times that for females.
- Suicide is a leading cause of mortality in those under the age of 35 years.

- Suicide rates generally increase with increasing deprivation, with rates in the most deprived areas of Scotland significantly higher than the Scottish average. The rate is four times higher in the most deprived decile (tenth of the population) compared to the least deprived decile.
- Suicide rates vary among NHS boards and local authority areas. Between 2002-2006 and 2007-2011 using estimates of previous coding rules for 2011, the age-sex-standardised suicide rate per 100,000 population decreased in 9 of the 14 NHS boards and 15 of the 32 local authorities. The rate for 2007-11 was significantly higher than the rate for Scotland in one NHS board (Greater Glasgow and Clyde) and one local authority areas (Glasgow City).
- Full details on Changes to the coding of causes of death between 2010 and 2011 can be found on the [NRS website](#).

Background

The ScotPHO website contains comprehensive information on a wide range of topics including behaviour, health, well being and disease and clinical risk factors. Along with summary data and statistics, the website provides background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources, references and links to further information.

Contact

Craig Collins

Senior Information Analyst

craig.collins@nhs.net

0141 282 2124

For media queries and those relating to the interpretation of data regarding the likely effect of the procedural change:

Frank Dixon

National Records Scotland

Frank.Dixon@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

0131 314 4229

Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ScotPHO website](#) 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.

About ScotPHO

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaboration is led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland, and includes the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland. Our aim is to make public health information more accessible and usable to improve health and reduce inequalities in Scotland. Metadata and pre-release access information for this publication is available [here](#).