

Publication Summary



The Scottish Suicide Information Database Report 2012

2009-2010 Data

Publication date – 18th December 2012

About this Release

This publication describes the development of the Scottish Suicide Information Database (ScotSID). The database contains the death records of all probable suicides occurring in Scotland from January 2009 and includes demographic information, contact with health services and related health data.

Key Points

- There was a total of 1,533 deaths due to self harm and events of undetermined intent in 2009 and 2010. Of these, 1,501 (98%) were Scottish residents.
- Almost three quarters of those who died were male, and almost half were aged between 35 and 54 years.
- The number of probable suicides in the most deprived quintile is more than three times higher than the number in the least deprived quintile.
- Among those of employment age, 67% were in employment and a wide range of occupations was represented.
- Seventy one percent of suicidal acts occurred in a private dwelling.
- Sixteen percent of those completing suicide died in hospital.
- Of the 1,501 Scottish residents, 890 (59%) had been an inpatient in a general hospital less than five years before death. Of these, 25% had a diagnosis of 'Injury from Intentional Self Harm' and 18% had a diagnosis of 'Unintentional Injury (including assault by another person)', at discharge.
- Of the 1,501 Scottish residents, 21% had been a psychiatric inpatient less than five years before death.
- There was a total of 757 probable suicides in 2010 for Scottish residents. Of these, 424 (56%) had mental health prescriptions dispensed within twelve months prior to death. About 1 in 5 (21.5%) attended A&E within three months prior to death.

Background

During the 2008 "Choose Life" summit, NHS Health Scotland made a commitment to lead work to establish a Scottish Suicide Information Database (ScotSID) to improve the quality of information available on suicides in Scotland. A steering group was set up and ISD was commissioned to develop, analyse and maintain the database.

The overall aim of ScotSID is to provide a central repository for information on all probable suicide deaths in Scotland, in order to support epidemiology, preventive activity, and policy making.

This is the second ScotSID report and presents data on deaths due to probable suicide in 2009 and 2010. This report reflects the recent addition of data relating to attendances at Accident and Emergency departments and dispensed prescriptions.

In addition to these records that have already been included, it is hoped that over time, relevant information from other data sources will be linked in to ScotSID to provide a wider range of information on issues such as individuals' circumstances, the nature of their deaths, and their contact with services.

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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](#).