

## Publication Summary



# Suicide Statistics for Scotland

Update of trends to 2013

Publication date – 14 August 2014

## About this Release

This is the annual update of the suicide topic on the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) website. It is based on information on deaths from suicide (intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent) registered in Scotland in 2013. It includes numbers and rates at Scotland level, and by NHS board, local authority and deprivation decile. These figures are published to coincide with the release of the latest (2013) statistics on suicide by the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

## Key Points

- Suicide is a leading cause of death in Scotland among people aged 15-34 years.
- There were 795 suicides (deaths from intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent combined) registered in Scotland in 2013. This figure is based on the new coding rules introduced by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) in 2010.
- The corresponding estimated 2013 figure based on the old coding rules (see Background below) is 746 suicides.
- In 2013, the suicide rate for males was more than three times that for females.
- The suicide rate for persons in Scotland reduced by 19% between 2000-02 and 2011-13. This was close to the target of a 20% reduction.
- Suicide rates are strongly related to deprivation level. In 2009-13, the age-standardised rate was more than three times higher in the most deprived tenth of the population (decile) compared to the least deprived decile (25.7 compared to 7.1 per 100,000 population respectively).
- Suicide rates vary among NHS board and local authority (LA) areas, but there is considerable year-on-year fluctuation. No NHS board or LA had a significant increase or decrease in the rate for persons between 1983-87 and 2009-2013, and the rates for 2009-13 did not differ significantly from the Scottish average.

## Background

In 2011, NRS changed its coding rules for certain causes of death, and some deaths previously coded under 'mental and behavioural disorders' are now classed as 'self-poisoning of undetermined intent' and consequently as suicides. This update primarily presents data based on the old rules, for assessing trends over time. We also present some data from 2011 onwards based on the new rules.

Full details of changes to the coding of causes of death in 2011 can be found on the [NRS website](#).

For more information, see the [Scottish Government's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2013 - 2016](#).

## Contact

***Queries about how the data are collected and how the coding change affected the reported number of probable suicides:***

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## Further Information

The publication and supporting information can be found on the [ScotPHO website](#). A [technical paper](#) (including metadata and pre-release access information) is also available.

### 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.