

Publication Summary



Suicide Statistics for Scotland

Update of trends to 2014

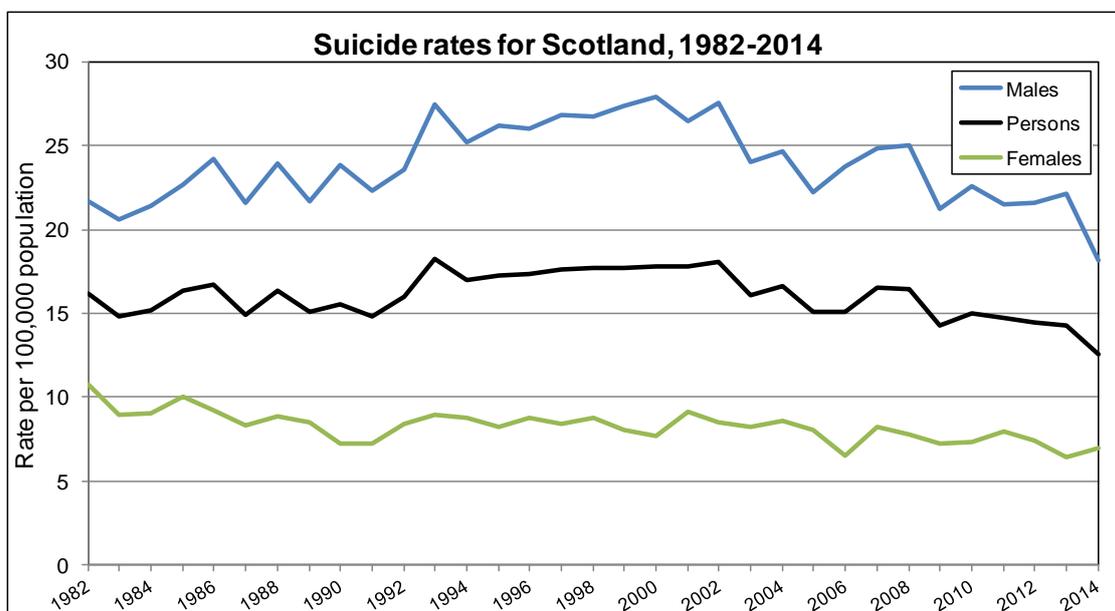
Publication date – 20 August 2015

About this Release

This is the annual update of suicide statistics on the [Scottish Public Health Observatory website](#). It is based on information on deaths from suicide registered in Scotland in 2014. The publication is released in parallel with the release of the 2014 suicide statistics by National Records of Scotland.

Key Points

- There were 696 suicides registered in Scotland in 2014, compared to 795 in 2013. This indicates that the welcome declining trend in suicide rates in recent years appears to be continuing.



- In 2014, the suicide rate for males was more than two-and-a-half times that for females.
- In 2010-14, the suicide rate was more than three times higher in the most deprived population compared to the least deprived (24.5 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 7.5).

- While suicide rates are strongly related to deprivation level, this difference or inequality has decreased between 2001-05 and 2010-14.
- The suicide rate varies between different areas within Scotland and fluctuates over time.
- Although Scotland appears to have had a higher suicide rate than the UK overall since the early 1990s, this comparison is influenced by differences in data recording practices between countries.

Background

Suicide (deaths from intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent) can occur at almost any age, and is a leading cause of death in Scotland among people aged 15-34 years.

In 2011, [National Records of Scotland](#) changed their coding rules for certain causes of death. Some deaths previously coded under 'mental and behavioural disorders' are now classed as 'self-poisoning of undetermined intent' and consequently are classified as suicides. Comparing the suicide numbers for Scotland, there were 696 suicides (new coding rules) and 659 (old rules) in 2014, and 795 (new rules) and 746 (old rules) in 2013.

[The Scottish Government's suicide prevention strategy 2013-2016](#) sets out key areas of work to reduce the number of suicides in Scotland.

Contact

Chris Deans
Information Analyst, ISD
chrisdeans@nhs.net
0131 314 1749

For queries about data collection and the coding change:
Frank Dixon
National Records of Scotland
Frank.Dixon@nrscotland.gov.uk
0131 314 4229

Further Information

The publication and supporting information can be found on the [Scottish Public Health Observatory 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.