

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – SUICIDE STATISTICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, 2023



9:30am 05 February 2025

Northern Ireland Suicide Statistics, 2023

- Figures published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show that there were 221 suicide deaths registered in 2023. Since 2015, annual numbers of registered suicides have fluctuated, ranging from 195 in 2016 to 237 in 2021. Considering a three-year average trend drawing on post review data (from 2015), the average rose from 204.7 in 2017 to 220.3 in 2021 and has remained at a similar level since then (220.3 in 2023).
- The suicide rate (age-standardised) in Northern Ireland was 13.3 deaths per 100,000 population in 2023. This rate has fluctuated since the start of the revised series (2015), ranging from 11.9 per 100,000 in 2016 to 14.3 per 100,000 in both 2018 and 2021.
- 171 (77.4 per cent) of the 221 registered suicide deaths in 2023 were males and 50 (22.6 per cent) were females. The age-standardised rate for males increased from 19.2 per 100,000 males in 2022 to 20.9 in 2023, while for females, the equivalent rate increased from 5.7 per 100,000 females in 2022 to 5.9 in 2023.
- The suicide rate (crude rate) per 100,000 population (aged 16+) was higher among those with a marital status of single (21.7) or divorced (17.6), compared to those recorded as married (9.6) or widowed (8.3).
- The percentage of suicides in 2023 within Northern Ireland's most deprived areas (28.5 per cent) was over twice that of the least deprived areas (13.1 per cent).
- The Northern Ireland 2023 age-standardised rate of 13.3 suicides per 100,000 population was lower than the rate for [Scotland](#) (14.6 suicides per 100,000 population) but higher than the rate for [England and Wales](#) (11.4 suicides per 100,000). It should be noted, however, that cross country comparisons will be affected by differences in data collection and collation processes in the separate jurisdictions.

NISRA

February 2025

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The official United Kingdom (UK) definition of suicide encompasses deaths due to external causes relating to intentional self-harm and of undetermined intent. It does not include deaths where the outcome was deemed accidental. The ICD-10 codes used to define the suicide figures include:
 - Persons aged 10 years and above; ICD-10 X60-X84 and Y87.0 (Self-inflicted Injury)
 - Persons aged 15 years and above; ICD-10 Y10-Y34 and Y87.2 (Events of undetermined intent)
2. Statistics and background information on the processes involved in the production of suicide statistics can be found on the [NISRA website](#).
3. In 2019 NISRA and the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland (CSNI) commenced a [review of suicide statistics](#), which concluded in 2022. This marked a major revision to this important statistical series and has had a significant impact on the existing Northern Ireland narrative in relation to suicide rates compared with other nations. Following the review a break in the time series has been introduced from 2015, meaning that comparisons with data pre-2015 should be made with caution.
4. Registration-based statistics will always be subject to fluctuations in the time which lapses between the date of death and the date the Coroner is able to close the investigation. Every death reported is carefully considered by the Coroner and is influenced by several factors specific to each case. These include whether the Coroner orders a post mortem, whether an inquest is required, the complexity of each case, and the number of cases reported to and being investigated by the Coroner at any point in time. It is therefore important to look at the trend over a longer period of time.
5. Information on the areas of deprivation is taken from the Northern Ireland Multiple deprivation measures (NIMDM 2017) and can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>
6. Advice and guidelines for the media on safe reporting of suicide statistics are available from [WHO/IASP](#) and [Samaritans](#).
7. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. The Executive Information Service operates an out of hours service For Media Enquiries Only between 1800hrs and 0800hrs Monday to Friday and at weekends and public holidays. The duty press officer can be contacted on 028 9037 8110.

8. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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