

# National Confidential Inquiry

into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health

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**Annual Report 2022**

Supplementary data tables

UK-wide data, 2009-2019

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## A PATIENT SUICIDE IN THE UK

**Table 1: Suicide figures by UK country (2009-2019)**

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
<b>General population</b>	52,310	2,478	8,447	3,756	66,991
<b>Patients under mental health care</b>	14,208 (27%)	579 (25%)*	2,645 (31%)	836 (22%)	18,268 (27%)*

\* patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2019, therefore the proportion in contact with mental health care in Northern Ireland is calculated from 2009-2018 general population data

**Table 2: Patient suicide: numbers by year and UK country**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>England</b>	1,168	1,264	1,339	1,379	1,323	1,241	1,268	1,249	1,252	1,368	1,357
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	64	73	67	78	76	61	35	48	37	40	*
<b>Scotland</b>	221	239	285	264	267	223	226	225	219	231	245
<b>Wales</b>	70	71	68	96	99	62	78	59	83	77	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,716*</b>	<b>1,675*</b>

Note: \* patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2019. Figures from 2017-2019 include estimates based on late notifications. The numbers in Northern Ireland indicate the current guidance from NISRA to include only registered deaths from 2015 onwards resulting from self-inflicted injury.

**Table 3: Patient suicide: number of in-patient suicides by year and UK country**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>England</b>	100	92	101	93	97	77	90	66	54	60	54
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	5	<3	3	4	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	*
<b>Scotland</b>	11	11	20	19	16	12	20	14	6	14	11
<b>Wales</b>	7	10	3	7	4	4	5	3	<3	<3	<3
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65*</b>

Note: figures from 2017-2019 include estimates based on late notifications.

\* patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2018

## B THEMED TOPICS

### SUICIDE BY PEOPLE AGED UNDER 18 (UK, 2009-2019)

**Table 4: Demographic characteristics of patients aged under 18 in the UK**

	Patients aged under 18			Patients aged 18 and over
	N=213			N=18,056
	Number	%		%
Female <sup>†</sup>	104	49	△	34
Living alone	10	5	▽	49
Full time student	145	76	△	2
Unemployed	32	17	▽	48
Employed	5	3	▽	20
Other employment status	8	4	△	1
Ethnic minority group	20	11		7
Homeless	6	3		3

<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2017-2019

△▽= significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than older patients

**Table 5: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients aged under 18 in the UK**

	Patients aged under 18			Patients aged 18 and over
	N=213			N=18,056
	Number	%		%
<b><i>Clinical features</i></b>				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	9	5	▽	16
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	59	31	▽	41
Alcohol dependence/misuse	4	2	▽	8
Drug dependence/misuse	8	4		6
Personality disorder	6	3	▽	10
Eating disorders (primary or secondary diagnosis)	10	5	△	1
Anxiety disorders	15	8		5
Autism	25	13	△	1
ADHD, learning disability, or conduct disorders (primary or secondary diagnosis)	25	13	△	1
Any secondary diagnosis	89	49		53
Duration of illness (<12 months)	56	39	△	21
<b><i>Priority groups</i></b>				
In-patients	15	8		6
Recent (<3 months) discharge	16	9		15
Missed last contact	41	23		24
Non-adherence with medication	13	7		13

<b>Service contact</b>				
Average suicide rate per 100,000 mental health service users in 2017-19 (England only)	2.8	▽		63.5
First contact with mental health services <12 months	72		39 △	25
Last admission was a re-admission	3		8	14
Last contact within 7 days of death	81		41	46
Immediate risk: low or none	142		81	84
Long-term risk: low or none	98		60	58
<b>Type of mental health service</b>				
Child & adolescent mental health services	56		76 △	<1
Crisis resolution/home treatment services	21		11	14
Assertive outreach	9		5 △	2
Alcohol or drug services	11		8	13

<sup>†</sup>The Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS) was used to calculate rates.

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than older patients

**Table 6: Behavioural characteristics of patients aged under 18 in the UK**

	Patients aged under 18			Patients aged 18 and over
	N=213			N=18,056
	Number	%		%
History of self-harm	141	74	△	64
History of violence	33	17		22
History of alcohol misuse	59	31	▽	48
History of drug misuse	69	37		37

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than older patients

## SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WITH RECENT ECONOMIC ADVERSITY (UK, 2009-2019)

**Table 7: Demographic characteristics of patients who experienced economic adversity in the UK**

	Economic adversity N=3,345		Other patients N=14,345
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	44 (12-93)	▽	46 (10-100)
Age group:			
Under 25	244	8	8
25-44	1,292	43 △	37
45-64	1,360	45 △	39
≥65	142	5 ▽	16
Male <sup>†</sup>	2,464	74 △	64
Living alone	1,410	49	48
Marital status:			
Single	1,240	43	42
Divorced/separated	848	29 △	24
Married	754	26	28
Widowed	62	2	6
Employment status:			
In paid employment	742	26 △	19
Unemployed	1,591	55 △	45
On long-term sick leave	298	10	12
Ethnic minority group	230	8 △	6

<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2017-2019

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than other patients

**Table 8: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients who experienced economic adversity in the UK**

	Economic adversity N=3,345		Other patients N=14,345
	Number	%	%
<b><i>Clinical features</i></b>			
Primary diagnosis:			
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	337	11 ▽	17
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	1,288	43 △	41
Alcohol dependence/misuse	232	8	8
Drug dependence/misuse	195	7 △	5
Personality disorder	303	10	10
Anxiety disorders	157	5	5
Any secondary diagnosis	1,713	58 △	52
Duration of illness (>12 months)	755	28 △	20
<b><i>Priority groups</i></b>			
In-patients	202	7	6
Recent (<3 months) discharge	496	18 △	15
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	529	19 △	13
Missed last contact	718	26 △	23
Non-adherence with medication	410	15 △	12
<b><i>Service contact</i></b>			
First contact with mental health services <12 months	847	30 △	25
Last admission was a re-admission	200	15	14
Last contact within 7 days of death	1,503	50 △	46
Immediate risk: low or none	2,129	79 ▽	84
Long-term risk: low or none	1,327	52 ▽	59

△ ▽ = significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) higher or lower than other patients

**Table 9: Behavioural characteristics of patients who experienced economic adversity in the UK**

	Economic adversity N=3,345		Other patients N=14,345
	Number	%	%
<b><i>Behavioural features</i></b>			
History of self-harm	1,826	63	64
History of violence	620	23 △	21
History of alcohol misuse	1,522	53 △	46
History of drug misuse	1,206	41 △	35

△ = significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) higher than other patients

## SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WITH COMORBID PHYSICAL ILLNESS (UK, 2009-2019)

**Table 10: Demographic characteristics of patients with comorbid physical illness who and died by suicide in the UK**

	Comorbid physical illness N=4,289			No comorbid illness N=12,682
	Number	%		%
Age: median (range)	53 (15-98)		△	44 (10-100)
Age group:				
Under 25	108	3	▽	10
25-44	975	24	▽	43
45-64	1,920	48	△	37
≥65	1,015	25	△	10
Male <sup>†</sup>	2,703	63	▽	67
Unmarried	2,669	70	▽	74
Unemployed	1,567	41	▽	49
Long-term sick leave	656	17	△	10
Living alone	2,024	52	△	47
Ethnic minority group	224	6		7
Homeless	63	2	▽	3

<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2017-2019

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than patients without comorbid illness

**Table 11: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients with comorbid physical illness and died by suicide in the UK**

	Comorbid physical illness N=4,289		No comorbid illness N=12,682
	Number	%	%
<b><i>Clinical features</i></b>			
Primary diagnosis:			
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	454	11 ▽	17
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	1,797	45 △	40
Alcohol dependence/misuse	311	8	8
Drug dependence/misuse	195	5	6
Personality disorder	395	10	10
Anxiety	230	6	6
Any secondary diagnosis	2,142	54	52
Duration of illness (>5 years)	2,143	58 △	53
<b><i>Priority groups</i></b>			
In-patients	206	5 ▽	7
Recent (<3 months) discharge	519	14 ▽	16
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	487	13 ▽	15
Missed last contact	826	22	24
Non-adherence with medication	403	11 ▽	13
<b><i>Service contact</i></b>			
First contact with mental health services <12 months	870	23 ▽	27
Last admission was a re-admission	240	12	14
Last contact within 7 days of death	1,774	45 ▽	48
Immediate risk: low or none	2,959	84	83
Long-term risk: low or none	1,885	55 ▽	58

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.01) higher or lower than patients without comorbid illness

**Table 12: Behavioural characteristics of patients with comorbid physical illness and died by suicide in the UK**

	Comorbid physical illness N=4,289		No comorbid illness N=12,682
	Number	%	%
<b><i>Behavioural features</i></b>			
History of self-harm	2,495	65	64
History of violence	707	19 ▽	22
History of alcohol misuse	1,660	43 ▽	48
History of drug misuse	1,149	30 ▽	38

△ = significantly (p<0.01) higher than patients without comorbid illness

## SUICIDE BY WOMEN WITH A HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (UK, 2015-2019)

**Table 13: Demographic characteristics of women with a history of domestic violence in the UK**

	Women with a history of domestic violence			Other women
	N=382			N=1,512
	Number	%		%
Age: median (range)	43 (16-81)	▽		48 (12-95)
Age group:				
Under 25	33	10		12
25-44	138	44	△	30
45-64	123	39		39
≥65	22	7	▽	19
Unmarried	247	84	△	68
Living alone	163	54	△	42
Unemployed	189	65	△	40
Long-term sick leave	35	12		10
Ethnic minority group	26	8		8
Homeless	9	3	△	1

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than other women

**Table 14: Clinical and service contact characteristics of women with a history of domestic violence**

	Women with a history of domestic violence			Other women
	N=382			N=1,512
	Number	%		%
<b>Clinical features</b>				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	30	10		11
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	87	28	▽	47
Alcohol dependence/misuse	23	7	△	3
Drug dependence/misuse	19	6	△	1
Personality disorder	89	29	△	16
Anxiety disorders	20	6		8
Any secondary diagnosis	219	71	△	58
Duration of illness (<12 months)	27	9	▽	20
<b>Priority groups</b>				
In-patients	16	5		7
Recent (<3 months) discharge	35	12		15
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	30	10	▽	14
Missed last contact	69	24	△	19
Non-adherence with medication	38	13		12

<b>Service contact</b>				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	26	8	▽	19
Last admission was a re-admission	25	17		16
Last contact within 7 days of death	144	46	▽	55
Immediate risk: low or none	214	78		77
Long-term risk: low or none	130	49		53

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than other women

**Table 15: Behavioural characteristics of women with a history of domestic violence**

	Women with a history of domestic violence			Other women
	N=382			N=1,512
	Number	%		%
History of self-harm	247	81	△	60
History of violence as a perpetrator	64	24	△	5
History of alcohol misuse	183	61	△	28
History of drug misuse	140	47	△	19

△ = significantly (p<0.05) higher than other women