

THE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRY INTO SUICIDE AND SAFETY IN MENTAL HEALTH (NCISH)
SUICIDE BY PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES
IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO DEATH

Study summary

Alcohol and drug misuse can have a negative impact on a person's family, their personal and professional relationships, and financial situation which are all key risk factors for suicide. There is currently no national study of suicide by people in contact with alcohol and drug services, and following NHS reforms, service provision has become more complex. Following on from an earlier [feasibility study](#), the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) proposes an 18-month study investigating deaths by suicide of people under the recent care of alcohol and drug services.

Objectives of this study are to:

- (1) Estimate the number of people in contact with alcohol and drug services in the year prior to suicide;
- (2) Identify the sociodemographic, mental health, and alcohol and drug misuse characteristics of these people that could be a focus of suicide prevention in this group;
- (3) Examine suicide risk management in people under the care of alcohol and drug services who have died by suicide.

We will undertake this by (1) linking existing data, (2) using existing data for case-control exploration, and (3) collecting and analysing additional clinical data from Serious Incident Reports.