

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

National Confidential Inquiry

into Suicide and Safety
in Mental Health

Annual Report 2023
Additional online data tables
UK-wide data 2010-2020



HQIP

Healthcare Quality
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A PATIENT SUICIDE IN THE UK

Table 1: Suicide figures by UK country (2010-2020)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
General population	53,446	2,541	8,496	3,874	68,357
Patients under mental health care	14,365 (27%)	547 (24%)*	2,646 (31%)	845 (22%)	18,403 (27%)*

* full patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2019-2020, therefore the proportion in contact with mental health care in Northern Ireland is calculated from 2010-2018 general population data

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
England	1,264	1,338	1,379	1,321	1,241	1,270	1,256	1,257	1,350	1,357	1,332
Northern Ireland	73	67	78	76	61	43	52	30	23	27	17
Scotland	239	285	264	267	223	226	226	216	223	237	240
Wales	71	69	96	101	62	79	62	83	77	74	71
Total	1,647	1,759	1,817	1,765	1,587	1,618	1,596	1,586	1,673*	1,695*	1,660*

Notes: Full patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2019 and 2020. The numbers in Northern Ireland indicate the current guidance from NISRA to include only registered deaths from 2015 onwards resulting from self-inflicted injury.
* Figures from 2018-2020 include estimates based on late notifications.

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
England	92	101	93	97	77	90	66	54	56	56	55
Northern Ireland	<3	3	4	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	-	-
Scotland	11	20	19	16	12	20	14	6	13	14	12
Wales	10	3	7	4	4	5	4	<3	3	4	3
Total UK	113	127	123	120	93	115	84	60	72*	74*	70*

Notes: Patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2019 and 2020.
* Figures from 2018-2020 include estimates based on late notifications.

B THEMED TOPICS

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WITH RECENT ECONOMIC ADVERSITY (UK, 2016-2020)

Table 4: Demographic characteristics of patients who experienced recent (<3 months) economic adversity

	Economic adversity N=1,864		Other patients N=5,124
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	44 (16-87)	▽	48 (12-97)
Age group:			
Under 25	108	7 ▽	11
25-44	668	43 △	32
45-64	688	45 △	38
≥65	82	5 ▽	19
Male †	1,380	74 △	63
Living alone	756	53 △	48
Marital status:			
Single	665	47	47
Divorced/separated	425	30 △	18
Married	301	21 ▽	29
Widowed	39	3 ▽	6
Employment status:			
In paid employment	306	21	22
Unemployed	862	60 △	41
On long-term sick leave	130	9	9
Ethnic minority group	112	8	7
Homeless	96	7 △	1

† includes estimated figures in 2018-2020

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

Table 5: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients who experienced recent (<3 months) economic adversity

	Economic adversity N=1,864		Other patients N=5,124
	Number	%	%
Clinical features			
Primary diagnosis:			
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	158	11 ▽	16
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	586	39	41
Alcohol dependence/misuse	115	8 △	5
Drug dependence/misuse	97	7 △	3
Personality disorder	184	12	12
Anxiety disorders	100	7	7
Any secondary diagnosis	945	64 △	60
Duration of illness (<12 months)	313	24	22
Priority groups			
In-patients	63	4	5
Recent (<3 months) discharge	222	15 △	12
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	223	15	13
Missed last contact	372	26 △	20
Non-adherence with medication	211	15	13
Service contact			
First contact with mental health services <12 months	358	25	23
Last admission was a re-admission	95	14	13
Last contact within 7 days of death	705	46	50
Immediate risk: low or none	1,033	77 ▽	81
Long-term risk: low or none	619	50 ▽	56

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

Table 6: Behavioural characteristics of patients who experienced recent (<3 months) economic adversity

	Economic adversity N=1,864		Other patients N=5,124
	Number	%	%
Behavioural features			
History of self-harm	833	58	55
History of violence	287	23 △	14
History of alcohol misuse	798	55 △	40
History of drug misuse	654	44 △	31

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

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS AGED UNDER 25 (UK, 2010-2020)

Table 7: Demographic characteristics of patients aged under 25

	Patients aged under 25		Patients aged 25 and over	
	N=1,619		N=15,579	
	Number	%		%
Female [†]	604	37	△	33
Living alone	312	23	▽	50
Full time student	320	24	△	<1
Unemployed	691	52	△	47
Ethnic minority group	168	12	△	6
Homeless	49	4	△	2

[†] includes estimated figures in 2018-2020

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

Table 8: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients aged under 25

	Patients aged under 25		Patients aged 25 and over	
	N=1,619		N=15,579	
	Number	%		%
<i>Clinical features</i>				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	217	15		15
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	378	26	▽	41
Alcohol dependence/misuse	62	4	▽	8
Drug dependence/misuse	98	7		6
Personality disorder	257	18	△	10
Eating disorders (primary or secondary diagnosis)	59	4	△	1
Anxiety disorders	72	5		6
Autism (primary or secondary diagnosis)	100	7	△	1
ADHD, learning disability, or conduct disorders (primary or secondary diagnosis)	85	6	△	1
Any secondary diagnosis	781	55		53
Duration of illness (<12 months)	318	26	△	21
<i>Priority groups</i>				
In-patients	103	7		6
Recent (<3 months) discharge	177	13		14
Missed last contact	373	28	△	23
Non-adherence with medication	184	14		12
<i>Service contact</i>				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	411	29	△	23
Last admission was a re-admission	91	17		13
Last contact within 7 days of death	607	42	▽	46
Immediate risk: low or none	1,041	81		83
Long-term risk: low or none	651	54	▽	58

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

Table 9: Behavioural characteristics of patients aged under 25

	Patients aged under 25		Patients aged 25 and over
	N=1,619		N=15,579
	Number	%	%
History of self-harm	1,075	76 \triangle	62
History of violence	323	24 \triangle	21
History of alcohol misuse	648	46	48
History of drug misuse	757	54 \triangle	36

\triangle = significantly ($p < 0.01$) higher than older patients

SUICIDE BY WOMEN GIVEN A DIAGNOSIS OF PERSONALITY DISORDER (UK, 2010-2020)

Table 10: Demographic characteristics of women given a diagnosis of personality disorder

	Women given a diagnosis of personality disorder N=1,092			Other women N=4,657
	Number	%		%
Age: median (range)	38 (16-90)		▽	49 (12-97)
Age group:				
Under 25	164	17	△	8
25-44	502	51	△	31
45-64	298	30	▽	43
≥65	28	3	▽	18
Unmarried	777	83	△	67
Unemployed	562	61	△	40
Long-term sick leave	161	18	△	11
Living alone	498	53	△	43
Ethnic minority group	50	5		7
Homeless	24	3	△	1

† includes estimated figures in 2018-2020

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

Table 11: Clinical and service contact characteristics of women given a diagnosis of personality disorder

	Women given a diagnosis of personality disorder N=1,092			Other women N=4,657
	Number	%		%
<i>Clinical features</i>				
Any secondary diagnosis	647	65	△	51
Duration of illness (>5 years)	748	78	△	55
<i>Priority groups</i>				
In-patients	95	10	△	7
Recent (<3 months) discharge	170	19	△	15
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	107	12		14
Missed last contact	245	28	△	21
Non-adherence with medication	98	11		12
<i>Service contact</i>				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	39	4	▽	21
Last admission was a re-admission	132	22	△	15
Last contact within 7 days of death	548	56	△	50
Immediate risk: low or none	621	71	▽	83
Long-term risk: low or none	270	32	▽	60

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

Table 12: Behavioural characteristics of female patients given a diagnosis of personality disorder

	Women given a diagnosis of personality disorder N=1,092		Other women N=4,657
	Number	%	%
<i>Behavioural features</i>			
History of self-harm	947	97 △	66
History of violence	203	23 △	10
History of alcohol misuse	522	56 △	36
History of drug misuse	409	43 △	24

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

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WHO IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANS (UK, 2016-2020)

In these data tables we describe the common characteristics of patients who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans (including transgender, transsexual, or non-binary). We have combined these patients due to small numbers but we acknowledge that they are not a homogeneous group.

Table 13: Demographic characteristics of LGBT patients

	LGBT patients		Other patients
	N=246		N=4,738
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	36 (13-80)	▽	47 (12-97)
Age group:			
Under 25	46	19 △	8
25-44	116	47 △	35
45-64	72	29 ▽	41
≥65	12	5 ▽	16
Male	160	65	65
Single	162	71 △	39
Living alone	113	51	44
Unemployed	105	47	45
Long-term sick leave	21	9	9
Ethnic minority group	17	7	7
Homeless	5	2	2

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

Table 14: Clinical and service contact characteristics of LGBT patients

	LGBT patients			Other patients
	N=246			N=4,738
	Number	%		%
Clinical features				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	21	9		13
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	88	37		41
Alcohol dependence/misuse	<3	1	▽	6
Drug dependence/misuse	16	7	△	4
Personality disorder	65	27	△	11
Anxiety disorders	14	6		7
Any secondary diagnosis	162	68	△	59
Duration of illness (<12 months)	39	18		23
Priority groups				
In-patients	9	4		5
Recent (<3 months) discharge	27	12		13
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	35	15		13
Missed last contact	58	25		21
Non-adherence with medication	27	12		13
Service contact				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	45	19		23
Last admission was a re-admission	14	15		14
Last contact within 7 days of death	108	44		47
Immediate risk: low or none	160	76		80
Long-term risk: low or none	99	49		55

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

Table 15: Behavioural characteristics of LGBT patients

	LGBT patients			Other patients
	N=246			N=4,738
	Number	%		%
History of self-harm	165	71	△	56
History of violence as a perpetrator	32	15		17
History of alcohol misuse	113	49		45
History of drug misuse	109	46	△	35

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

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WITH SUICIDE-RELATED INTERNET USE (UK, 2011-2020)

Table 16: Demographic characteristics of patients with suicide-related internet use

	Suicide-related internet use		Other patients
	N=728 [†]		N=8,196
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	41 (12-90)	▽	48 (12-100)
Age group:			
Under 25	117	18 △	8
25-44	276	42 △	35
45-64	218	33 ▽	41
≥65	54	8 ▽	17
Male [†]	481	63	66
Unmarried	502	77 △	71
Living alone	279	43 ▽	48
Unemployed	248	38 ▽	47
Long-term sick leave	74	11	11
Ethnic minority group	50	8	7
Homeless	8	1	2

[†] includes estimated figures in 2018-2020

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

Table 17: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients with suicide-related internet use

	Suicide-related internet use			Other patients
	N=728			N=8,196
	Number	%		%
Clinical features				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	67	10	▽	18
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	286	43		42
Alcohol dependence/misuse	20	3	▽	6
Drug dependence/misuse	13	2	▽	4
Personality disorder	105	16	△	11
Anxiety disorders	49	7		6
Any secondary diagnosis	369	56		53
Duration of illness (<12 months)	157	26	△	22
Priority groups				
In-patients	43	6		8
Recent (<3 months) discharge	99	16		17
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	131	21	△	16
Missed last contact	146	24		22
Non-adherence with medication	106	17	△	12
Service contact				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	196	30	△	23
Last admission was a re-admission	50	17		14
Last contact within 7 days of death	390	59		55
Immediate risk: low or none	392	65	▽	80
Long-term risk: low or none	202	35	▽	54

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

Table 18: Behavioural characteristics of patients with suicide-related internet use

	Suicide-related internet use			Other patients
	N=728			N=8,196
	Number	%		%
History of self-harm	442	69	△	63
History of violence as a perpetrator	76	12	▽	20
History of alcohol misuse	235	37	▽	44
History of drug misuse	190	30	▽	34

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