

## Personality disorder, self-harm and suicide

174

deaths per year



Past abuse, domestic violence, alcohol and/or drug misuse were **common**

78%

diagnosed for more than **5 years**



Nearly **a third** of patients died using prescribed medication

## Contact with mental health services



**Over half** in contact with services **within a week** of death

65%

Last contact was an unplanned **crisis** appointment

28%

**missed** final service contact

10%

**referred** to specialist personality disorder services

## Personality disorder in women

57%

of patients given a diagnosis of personality disorder were **women**



suicide deaths in this group are **increasing**



Being single, living alone, unemployed, on long-term sick leave, or homeless **more common** in this group

43%

**combination** of previous self-harm, depressive illness, alcohol and/or drug misuse

**Historically these patients have been excluded from services  
Better models of safe and compassionate care are now needed**

### Additional resources

Safer care for patients with personality disorder  
Annual Report 2023: UK patient and general population data 2010-2020

National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health