

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



HQIP

Healthcare Quality
Improvement Partnership

National Confidential Inquiry

Into Suicide and Safety
in Mental Health

Annual Report 2024:
Additional online data tables
UK-wide data 2011-2021

CONTENTS

A	PATIENT SUICIDE IN THE UK.....	3
B	THEMED TOPICS	4
	SUICIDE BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND THOSE WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) (UK, 2011-2021).....	4
	SUICIDE BY IN-PATIENTS AGED UNDER 25 (UK, 2011-2021)	5
	SUICIDE BY PATIENTS AGED 18-21 WHO WERE STUDENTS (ENGLAND & WALES, 2011-2021) ...	7
	SUICIDE BY PATIENTS FOLLOWING A ONE-OFF ASSESSMENT (UK, 2016-2020).....	9
	SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WHO DIED IN PUBLIC LOCATIONS (UK, 2011-2020)	11

A PATIENT SUICIDE IN THE UK

Table 1: Suicide figures by UK country (2011-2021)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
General population	54,553	2,454	8,464	3,949	69,420
Patients under mental health care	14,379 (26%)	452 (22%) [†]	2,636 (31%)	872 (22%)	18,339 (26%)

* patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2020-2021, therefore the proportion in contact with mental health care in Northern Ireland is calculated from 2011-2019 general population data (n=2,039).

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
England	1,338	1,379	1,321	1,241	1,270	1,258	1,241	1,345	1,354	1,335	1,297
Northern Ireland[†]	67	78	76	61	43	53	30	26	18	-	-
Scotland	285	264	267	223	226	226	218	226	224	247	230
Wales	69	96	101	63	79	64	83	84	81	82	70
Total	1,759	1,817	1,765	1,588	1,618	1,601	1,572	1,681	1,677*	1,664*	1,597*

[†]Patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2020 and 2021. The numbers in 2015-2019 are based on guidance from NISRA to include only registered deaths resulting from self-inflicted injury. Figures appear lower in more recent years but will be updated in future versions of this document.

*Figures from 2019-2021 include estimates based on late notifications.

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
England	101	93	97	77	90	66	59	67	67	62	58
Northern Ireland[†]	3	4	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	-	-
Scotland	20	19	16	12	20	14	6	13	10	10	12
Wales	3	7	4	4	5	5	<3	4	7	3	4
Total UK	127	123	120	93	115	85	65	84	84*	75*	74*

[†]Patient data unavailable in Northern Ireland in 2020 and 2021.

* Figures from 2019-2021 include estimates based on late notifications.

B THEMED TOPICS

SUICIDE BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND THOSE WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) (UK, 2011-2021)

Table 4: Characteristics of autistic people and those with ADHD compared to all other patients

Characteristic	Autistic people		Patients with ADHD		Other patients	
	Total=350 [†]		Total=159 [†]		Total=16,505	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sociodemographic:						
Age: median (range)	27 (14-77)*		29 (14-68)*		46 (12-100)	
Age group:						
Under 18	36	11%*	10	7%*	181	1%
Under 25	125	39%*	43	31%*	1,336	8%
25-44	123	39%	76	55%*	6,152	37%
45-64	62	20%*	17	12%*	6,670	40%
65+	7	2%*	<3	-	2,347	14%
Male [†]	266	76%*	127	79%*	10,764	65%
Not currently married	281	93%*	97	82%*	11,188	72%
Living alone	120	40%*	48	38%*	7,457	48%
Living with parents	118	39%*	36	29%*	1,875	12%
Unemployed	170	59%*	72	60%*	7,268	48%
Full-time student	35	12%*	9	8%*	338	2%
LGBT+	18	13%*	6	5%	320	5%
Behavioural:						
History of self-harm	212	70%*	94	73%*	9,766	63%
History of alcohol misuse	93	31%*	70	55%	7,369	47%
History of drug misuse	102	33%	80	62%*	5,883	37%
Suicide-related internet use	38	21%*	6	8%	706	7%
Adverse events:						
Victim of childhood abuse	99	37%*	47	45%*	3,765	30%
emotional abuse	63	27%*	42	43%*	1,674	16%
physical abuse	39	17%*	32	33%*	985	9%
sexual abuse	27	12%	16	17%*	893	9%
Clinical:						
In-patients	34	11%*	6	4%	918	6%
Under CRHT services	32	11%	8	6%*	2,100	14%
Non-adherence with medication	60	20%*	22	17%	1,800	12%
Short-term risk: low or none	207	76%*	94	85%	11,767	82%
Long-term risk: low or none	127	49%*	71	70%*	7,801	57%

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

CRHT = crisis resolution/home treatment

* significance $p < 0.05$ compared to patients without diagnoses of autism or ADHD

SUICIDE BY IN-PATIENTS AGED UNDER 25 (UK, 2011-2021)

Table 5: Demographic characteristics of in-patients aged under 25

	In-patients aged under 25			In-patients aged 25 and over
	N=117 [†]			N=856
	Number	%		%
Female	66	61	△	40
Living alone	22	22	▽	47
Full time student	21	21	△	1
Unemployed	59	60		49
Ethnic minority group	13	12		7
Homeless	15	14	△	5

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than older in-patients

Table 6: Clinical and service contact characteristics of in-patients aged under 25

	In-patients aged under 25			In-patients aged 25 and over
	N=117 [†]			N=856
	Number	%		%
<i>Clinical features</i>				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	24	22		28
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	17	16	▽	43
Alcohol dependence/misuse	<3	-		3
Drug dependence/misuse	<3	-		1
Personality disorder	42	39	△	11
Any secondary diagnosis	62	58		54
Duration of illness (<12 months)	19	20		26
<i>Priority groups</i>				
Non-adherence with medication	8	8		11
<i>Service contact</i>				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	17	16		24
Short-term risk: low or none	61	64	▽	74
Long-term risk: low or none	23	26	▽	41

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

△ ▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than older in-patients

Table 7: Behavioural characteristics of in-patients aged under 25

	In-patients aged under 25		In-patients aged 25 and over
	N=117 [†]		N=856
	Number	%	%
History of self-harm	92	86 Δ	72
History of violence	27	27	24
History of alcohol misuse	51	50 Δ	38
History of drug misuse	55	53 Δ	32

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

Δ = significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher than older in-patients

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS AGED 18-21 WHO WERE STUDENTS (ENGLAND & WALES, 2011-2021)

Table 8: Demographic characteristics of students aged 18-21

	Patients aged 18-21 who were students		Other patients aged 18-21	
	N=96 [†]		N=367	
	Number	%		%
Female	36	40		35
Living alone	6	7	▽	21
Living with parents	50	57		52
Living in shared accommodation	25	28	△	12
Ethnic minority group	19	23		14

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

△▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than other patients aged 18-21

Table 9: Clinical and service contact characteristics of students aged 18-21

	Patients aged 18-21 who were students		Other patients aged 18-21	
	N=96 [†]		N=367	
	Number	%		%
Clinical features				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	5	6	▽	17
Depressive disorder	30	36	△	20
Alcohol dependence/misuse	<3	-		2
Drug dependence/misuse	<3	-		5
Personality disorder	10	12	▽	22
Any secondary diagnosis	39	48		60
Duration of illness (<12 months)	21	31		27
Comorbid physical illness	4	5		9
Priority groups				
In-patients	<3	-		9
Recent (<3 months) discharge	9	10		16
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	18	21	△	10
Missed last contact	20	24		25
Non-adherence with medication	6	7	▽	19
Service contact				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	40	46	△	29
Last admission was a re-admission	4	14		21
Last contact within 7 days of death	38	42		53
Short-term risk: low or none	54	70		76
Long-term risk: low or none	33	46		52

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

△▽ = significantly (p<0.05) higher or lower than other patients aged 18-21

Table 10: Behavioural characteristics of students aged 18-21

	Patients aged 18-21 who were students		Other patients aged 18-21
	N=96 [†]		N=367
	Number	%	%
<i>Behavioural features</i>			
History of self-harm	63	72	77
History of violence	<3	-	23
History of alcohol misuse	23	27 ▽	43
History of drug misuse	27	31 ▽	57

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

▽= significantly (p<0.05) lower than other patients aged 18-21

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS FOLLOWING A ONE-OFF ASSESSMENT (UK, 2016-2021)

Table 11: Demographic characteristics of patients who had a one-off assessment

	Patients with a one-off assessment		Other patients
	N=1,001 [†]		N=6,671
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	43.5 (15-95)	▽	47 (12-97)
Age group:			
Under 25	101	11	10
25-44	367	41 △	35
45-64	310	35 ▽	40
≥65	120	13	15
Male	665	74 △	64
Unmarried	518	69	73
Living alone	326	43	47
Unemployed	286	39 ▽	48
Long-term sick leave	34	5 ▽	9
Ethnic minority group	54	7	7
Homeless	29	4 △	2

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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

Table 12: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients who had a one-off assessment

	Patients with a one-off assessment		Other patients
	N=1,001 [†]		N=6,671
	Number	%	%
Clinical features			
Primary diagnosis:			
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	29	4 ▽	15
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	254	31 ▽	40
Alcohol dependence/misuse	97	12 △	5
Drug dependence/misuse	68	8 △	4
Personality disorder	52	6 ▽	12
Anxiety disorders	56	7	8
Any secondary diagnosis	352	44 ▽	60
Duration of illness (<12 months)	170	33 △	20
Comorbid physical illness	179	25	28
Service contact			
First contact with mental health services <12 months	330	40 △	21
Last contact within 7 days of death	239	27 ▽	46
Short-term risk: low or none	663	84 △	80
Long-term risk: low or none	488	67 △	55

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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

Table 13: Behavioural characteristics of patients who had a one-off assessment

	Patients with a one-off assessment		Other patients
	N=1,001 [†]		N=6,671
	Number	%	%
History of self-harm	375	49 ▽	58
History of violence as a perpetrator	118	19	16
History of alcohol misuse	388	50 △	45
History of drug misuse	309	38	36

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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

SUICIDE BY PATIENTS WHO DIED IN PUBLIC LOCATIONS (UK, 2011-2021)

Table 14: Demographic characteristics of patients who died in public locations

	Patients who died in public locations		Other patients
	N=3,894 [†]		N=9,856
	Number	%	%
Age: median (range)	45 (12-96)	▽	47 (12-100)
Age group:			
Under 25	464	13 △	8
25-44	1,374	37	36
45-64	1,369	37 ▽	41
≥65	472	13 ▽	15
Male [†]	2,692	69 △	62
Unmarried	2,546	72	73
Living alone	1,431	40 ▽	51
Unemployed	1,665	47	47
Long-term sick leave	332	9 ▽	12
Ethnic minority group	334	9 △	7
Homeless	159	4 △	1

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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

Table 15: Clinical and service contact characteristics of patients who died in public locations

	Patients who died in public locations			Other patients
	N=3,894 [†]			N=9,856
	Number	%		%
Clinical features				
Primary diagnosis:				
Schizophrenia and other delusional disorders	821	23	△	15
Affective disorder (depression & bipolar disorder)	1,459	40		42
Alcohol dependence/misuse	168	5		6
Drug dependence/misuse	120	3	▽	5
Personality disorder	325	9	▽	12
Anxiety disorders	219	6		7
Any secondary diagnosis	1,889	53	▽	56
Duration of illness (<12 months)	766	23	△	21
Comorbid physical illness	681	19	▽	27
Priority groups				
In-patients	360	10	△	6
Recent (<3 months) discharge	603	18	△	15
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services	597	17	△	15
Missed last contact	690	21		23
Non-adherence with medication	511	15	△	12
Service contact				
First contact with mental health services <12 months	917	26	△	22
Last admission was a re-admission	288	16		14
Last contact within 7 days of death	2,157	59	△	51
Short-term risk: low or none	2,577	79		80
Long-term risk: low or none	1,681	54		54

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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

Table 16: Behavioural characteristics of patients who died in public locations

	Patients who died in public locations			Other patients
	N=3,894 [†]			N=9,856
	Number	%		%
History of self-harm	2,110	60	▽	64
History of violence as a perpetrator	638	19		19
History of alcohol misuse	1,444	41	▽	46
History of drug misuse	1,262	36		36

[†] includes estimated figures in 2019-2021

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