

1,722

suicides by people under recent (within 12 months)
mental health care in 2022

26%

of all people who died by suicide in 2012-2022 had
recent contact with mental health services

Acute mental health care settings



47%
lived **alone**



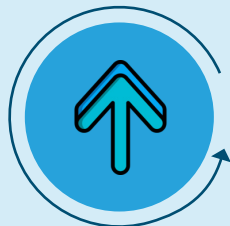
17%
had serious
financial
problems



31%
had recent
self-harm



Deaths **on the**
ward have recently
increased



Deaths **after discharge**
from the ward have **risen**
since 2017

Prevention should focus on ward safety, support after
discharge, and recognition of risk following self-harm

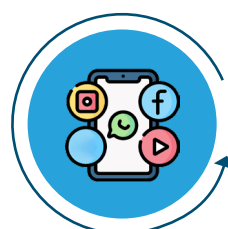
Real-Time Surveillance of suspected suicides



in-patient and
post discharge
deaths
reported



67% were **in-**
patients; over
half had been
detained



Evidence of
suicide-related
internet use

All trusts contributing to real-time surveillance will
provide early warning of safety concerns

Suicide in mental health patients with bipolar disorder

136

deaths per
year



Mostly **female**,
middle-aged, and
living alone



39% were
prescribed **lithium**;
12% received
psychological
therapy

**Lithium treatment and psychological interventions
should be provided in line with NICE guidelines**

Suicide after missed contact and non-adherence with medication

347

deaths per year
following
missed contact

182

deaths per year
following **non-
adherence** with
medication



Affective disorder
common in both
groups



**Socioeconomic
adversity** was
common in those who
missed contact



Half of patients who
were non-adherent
were **prescribed
antipsychotics**

Greater family involvement may help engagement efforts

Suicide and recent bereavement in mental health patients

119

deaths per
year



More likely to be
female, **older**, and
widowed than
other patients



7% died on or near
the **anniversary** of
a bereavement

**Enquiring about significant dates should be a routine
part of assessment**