

National Confidential Inquiry

into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health

Annual Report 2026:
Additional online data tables
England patient data 2013-2023

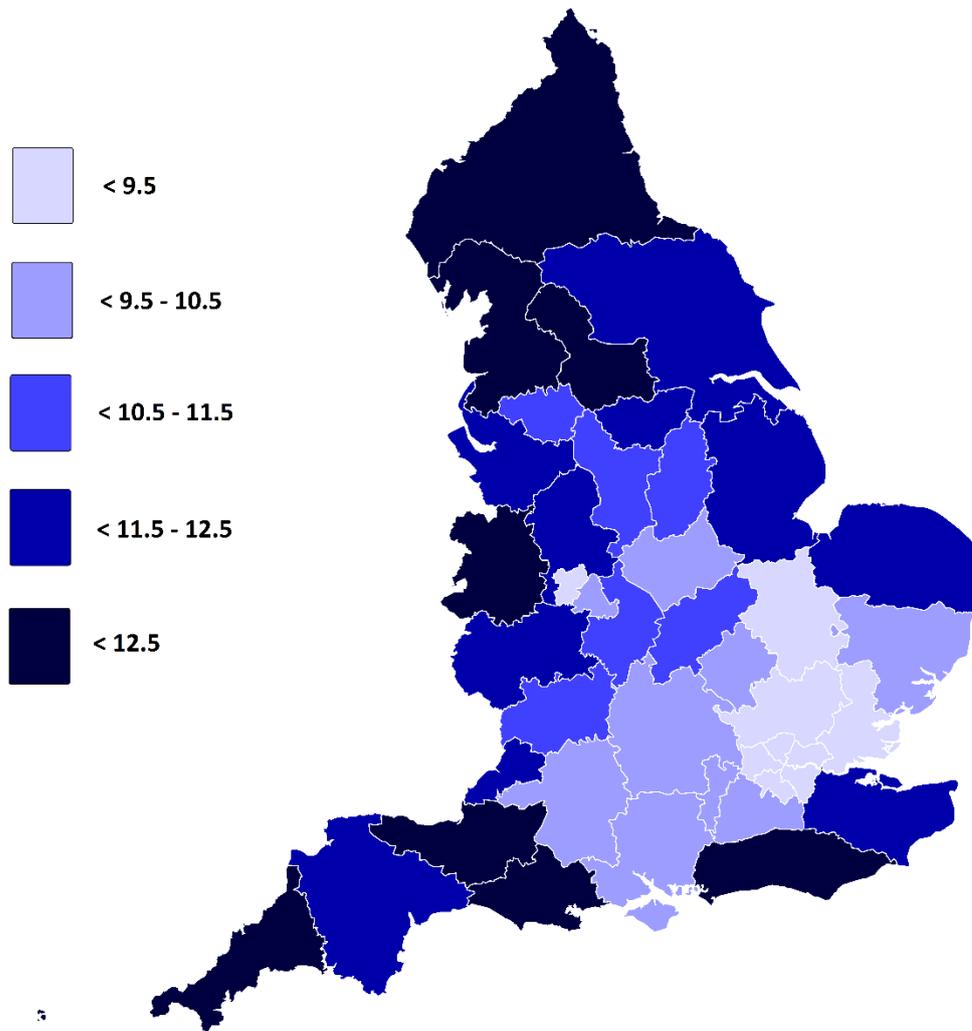
CONTENTS

1. GENERAL POPULATION SUICIDE RATES BY INTEGRATED CARE BOARDS (ICBS)	1
2. NUMBER OF PATIENT SUICIDES	2
3. METHOD OF SUICIDE	3
4. SOCIAL AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS	4
5. MENTAL HEALTH CARE	6
5.1 IN-PATIENT SUICIDE	6
5.2 PATIENTS RECENTLY DISCHARGED FROM IN-PATIENT CARE	8

SUICIDE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IN ENGLAND

1. GENERAL POPULATION SUICIDE RATES BY INTEGRATED CARE BOARDS (ICBS)

Figure 1: Rates of suicide per 100,000 population, by 42 Integrated Care Boards (average rate 2021-2023)



Map source: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/integrated-care-boards-in-england/>

PATIENTS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE IN ENGLAND

2. NUMBER OF PATIENT SUICIDES

Figure 2: Number of confirmed and estimated patient suicides in England (2013-2023)

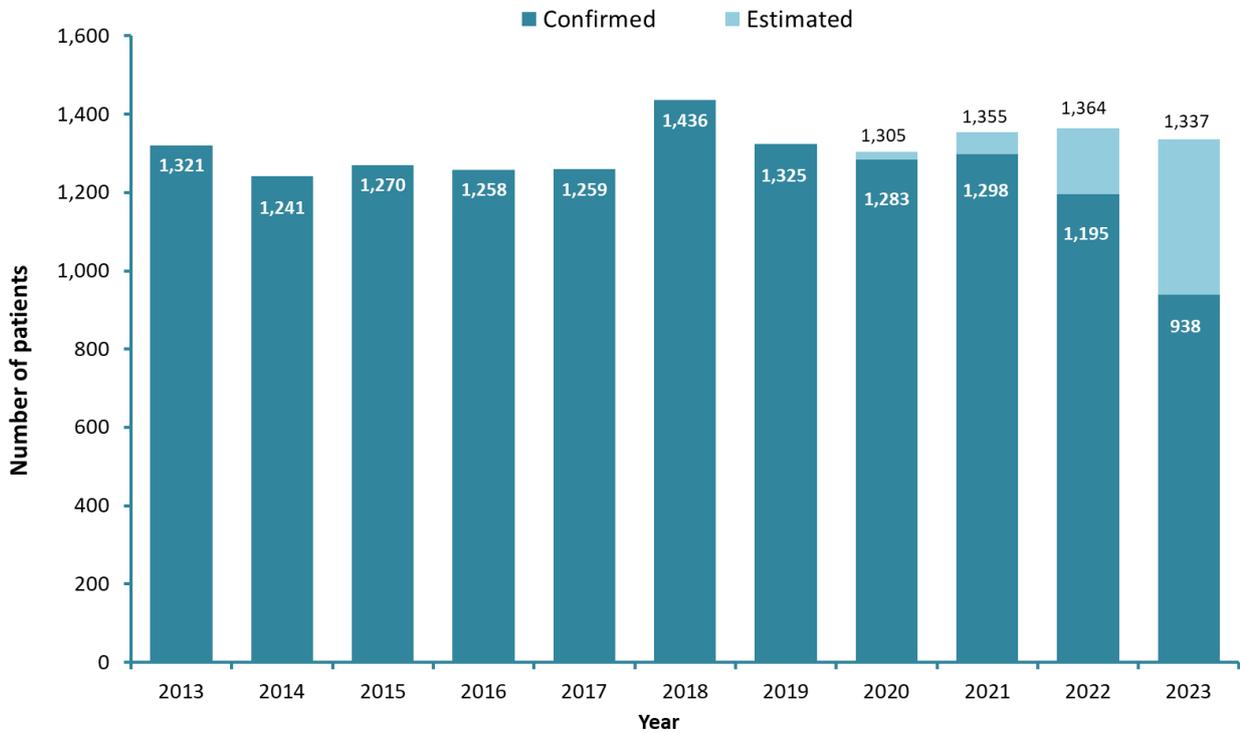
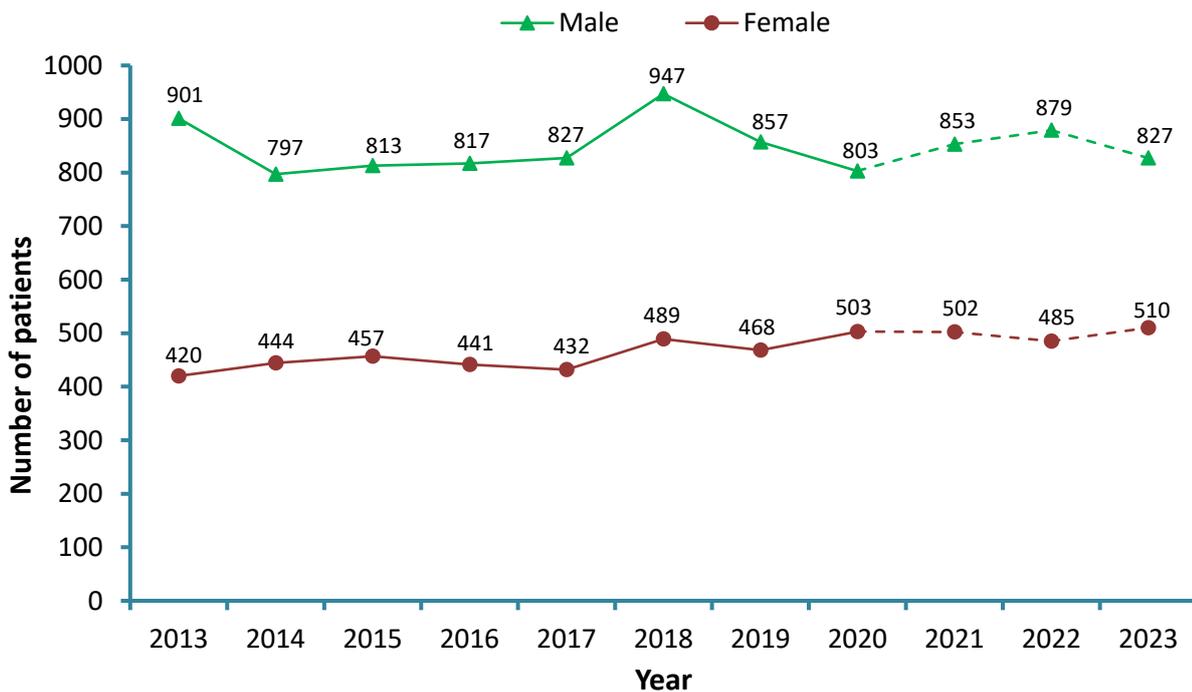
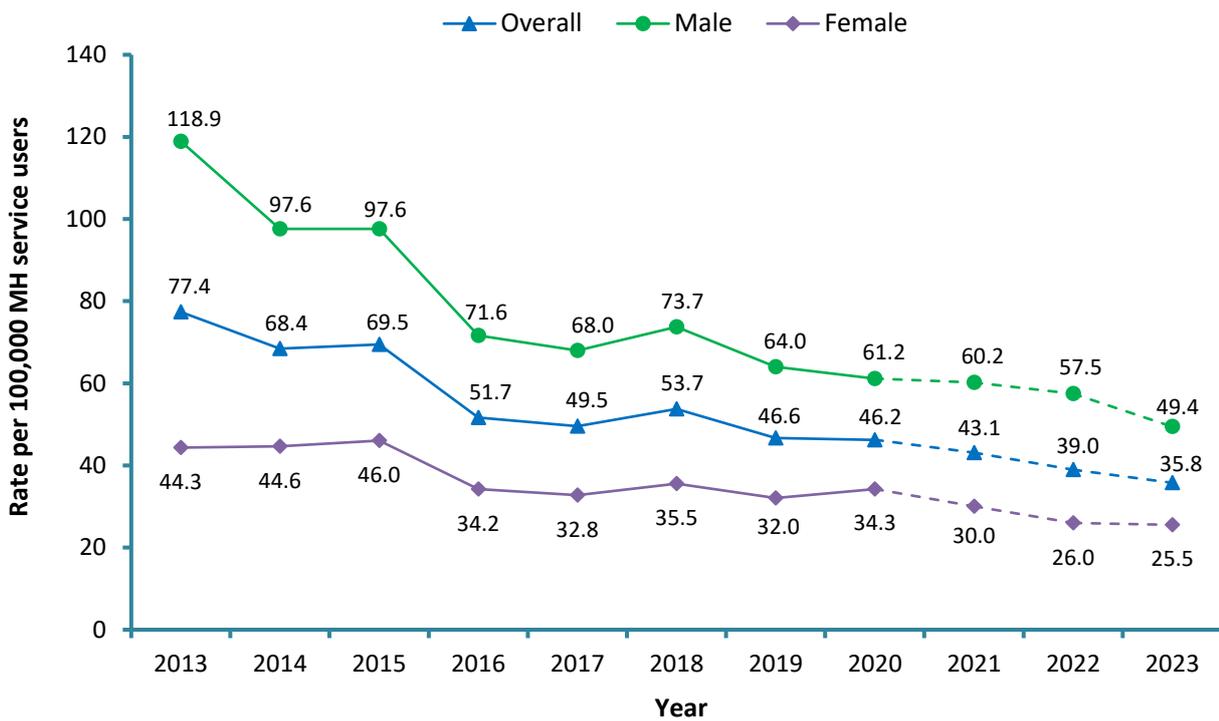


Figure 3: Number of patient suicides in England, by sex (2013-2023)



Note: Dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2020-2023

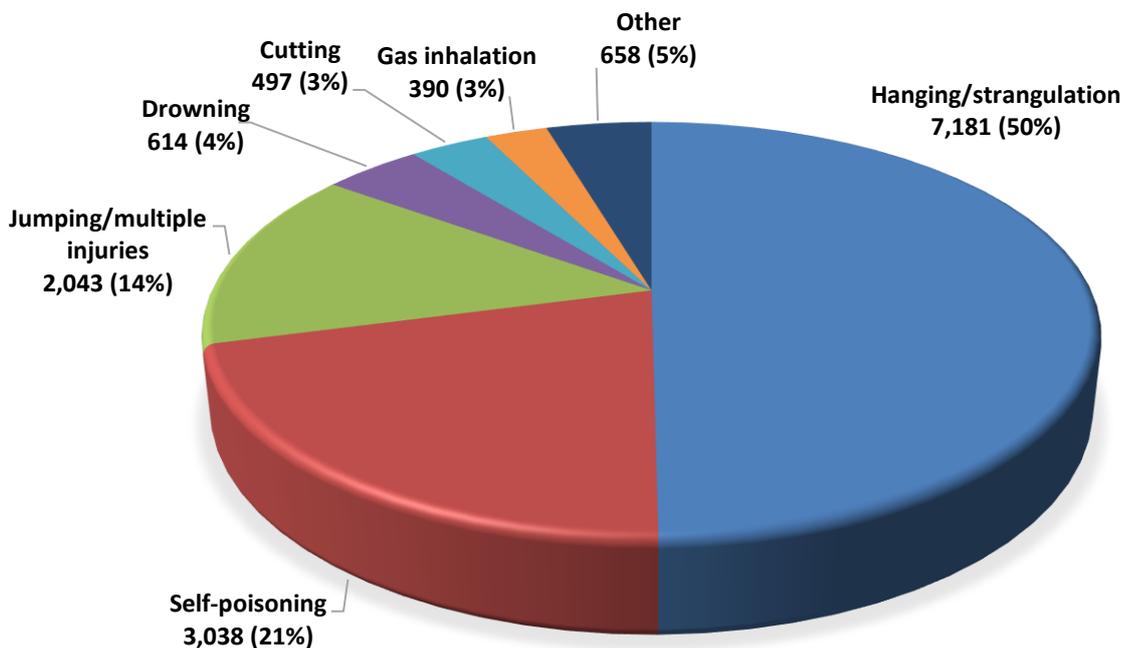
Figure 4: Rates of suicide per 100,000 mental health service users[†] in England, by sex (2013-2023)



[†] The Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS) was used to calculate rates; dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2020-2023

3. METHOD OF SUICIDE

Figure 5: Patient suicide in England: main suicide methods (2013-2023)



4. SOCIAL AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of patients who died by suicide in England (2013-2023)

Characteristic	Total=14,471 [†]	
	Number	%
Age: median (range)	46 (12-100)	
Aged under 18 [†]	237	2
Aged under 25 [†]	1,400	10
Male [†]	9,321	64
Not currently married/cohabiting	9,180	72
Living alone	5,934	46
Unemployed	5,596	45
On long-term sick leave	1,129	9
Ethnic minority group	1,141	9
LGBT+*	450	6
Homeless	322	2
In the lowest 20% deprivation score [^]	3,434	25

[†] includes estimated figures in 2020-2023

*data from 2016 onwards

[^] based on the English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019

Table 2: Clinical characteristics of patients who died by suicide in England (2013-2023)

Characteristic	Total=14,471 [†]	
	Number	%
Short (<12 months) history of illness	2,590	22
Any comorbid (i.e. additional) mental illness	7,451	56
Any comorbid physical illness	3,257	26
First contact with mental health services:		
<12 months	3,126	24
>5 years	6,240	48
Last admission was a re-admission	736	12

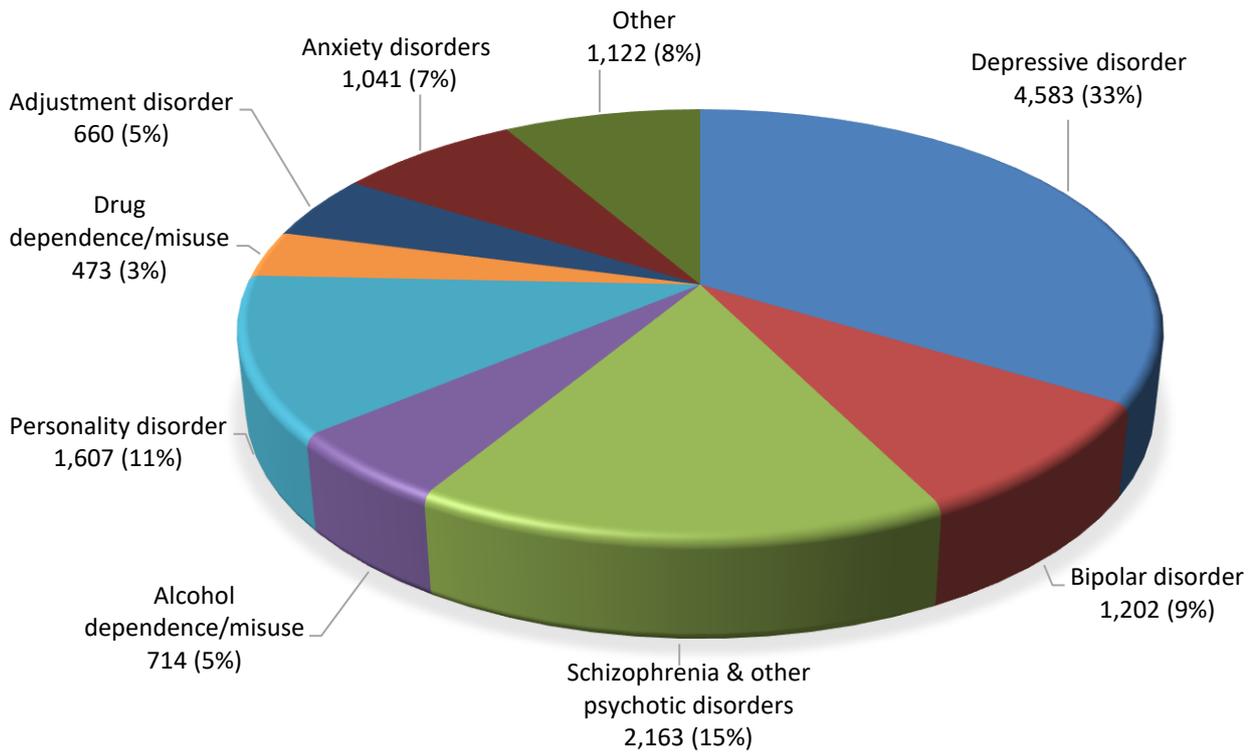
[†] includes estimated figures in 2020-2023

Table 3: Behavioural characteristics of patients who died by suicide in England (2013-2023)

Characteristic	Total=14,471 [†]	
	Number	%
History of self-harm	7,861	60
History of violence	2,229	18
History of alcohol misuse [†]	5,936	44
History of drug misuse [†]	4,849	35
Suicide-related internet use	752	10

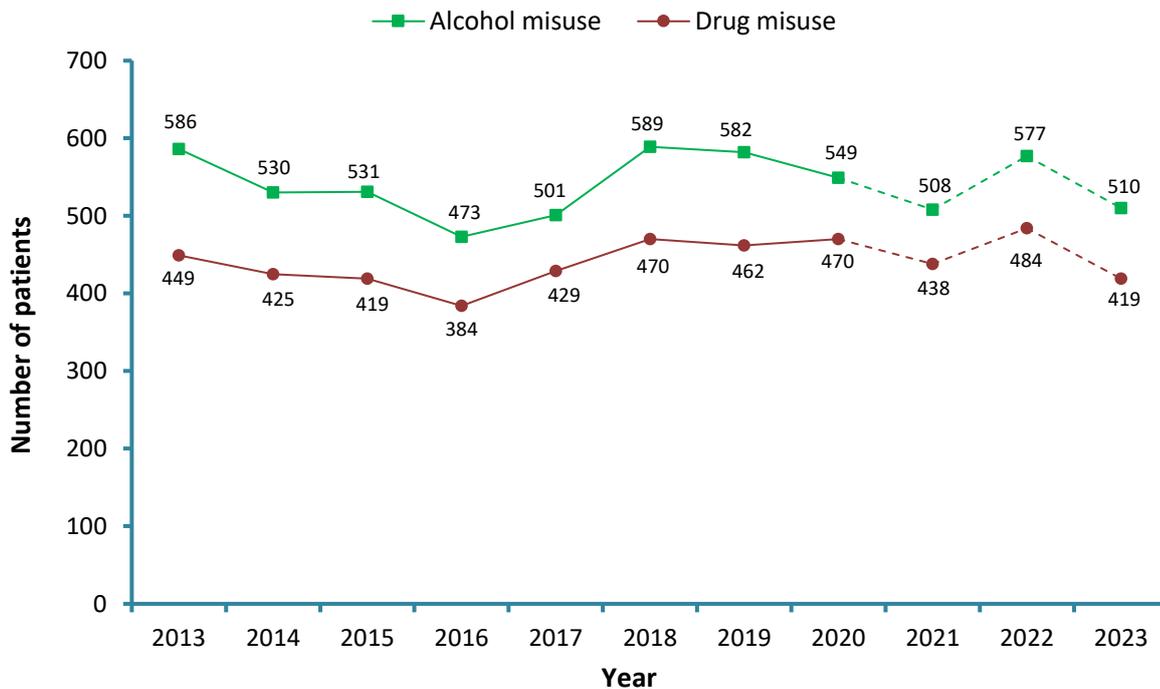
[†] includes estimated figures in 2020-2023

Figure 6: Patient suicide in England: primary mental health diagnoses (2013-2023)



*"other" diagnoses include: eating disorders, learning disability, conduct disorder, autism spectrum disorder, somatisation disorder, ADHD, organic disorder, drug induced psychosis, dementia and other specified

Figure 7: Patient suicide in England: number with a history of alcohol or drug misuse (2013-2023)



Note: Dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2020-2023

5. MENTAL HEALTH CARE

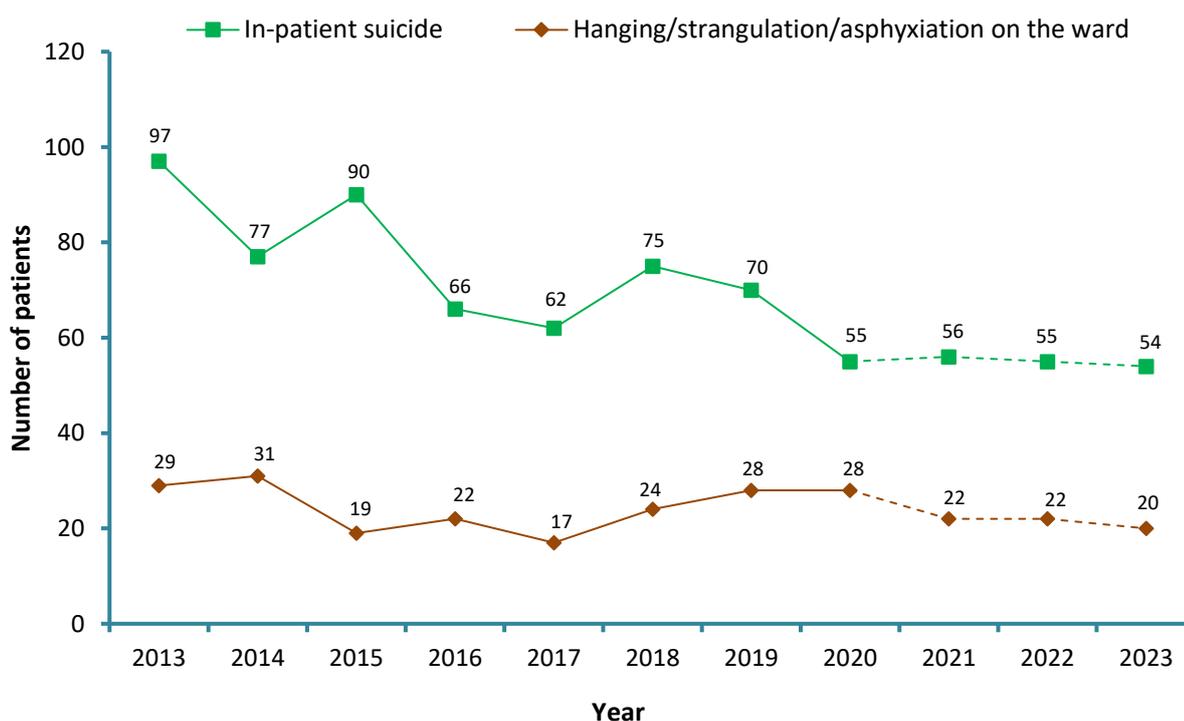
Table 4: Service characteristics of patients who died by suicide in England (2013-2023)

Characteristic	Total=14,471 [†]	
	Number	%
In-patients [†]	757	5
Recent (<3 months) discharge [†]	1,705	13
Under crisis resolution/home treatment services [†]	2,077	15
Missed last contact with services	2,617	21
Non-adherence with medication	1,542	13
Contact with services		
Last contact within 7 days of death	6,554	48
Short-term suicide risk: low or none	8,946	79
Long-term suicide risk: low or none	5,889	55

[†] includes estimated figures in 2020-2023

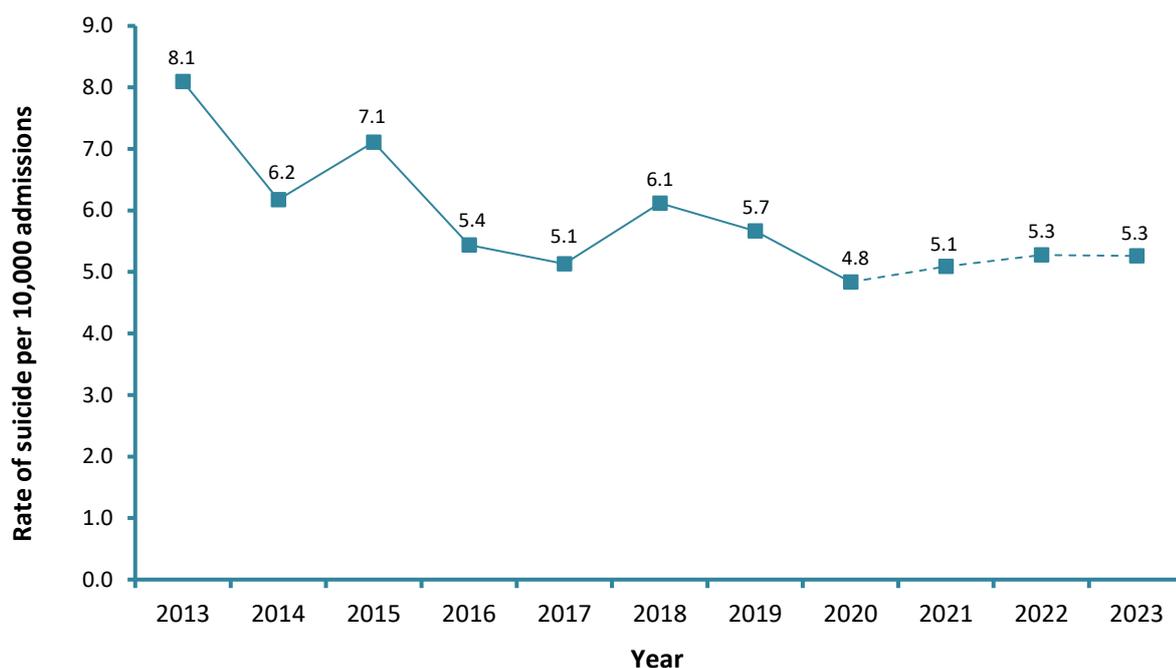
5.1 IN-PATIENT SUICIDE

Figure 8: Patient suicide in England: number of mental health in-patients; number who died by hanging/strangulation/asphyxiation on the ward (2013-2023)



Note: Dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2020-2023

Figure 9: Patient suicide in England: rate of in-patient suicide per 10,000 admissions (2013-2023)



Note: Dashed lines represent estimated rates in 2020-2023

Table 5: Service characteristics of in-patients who died by suicide in England (2013-2023)

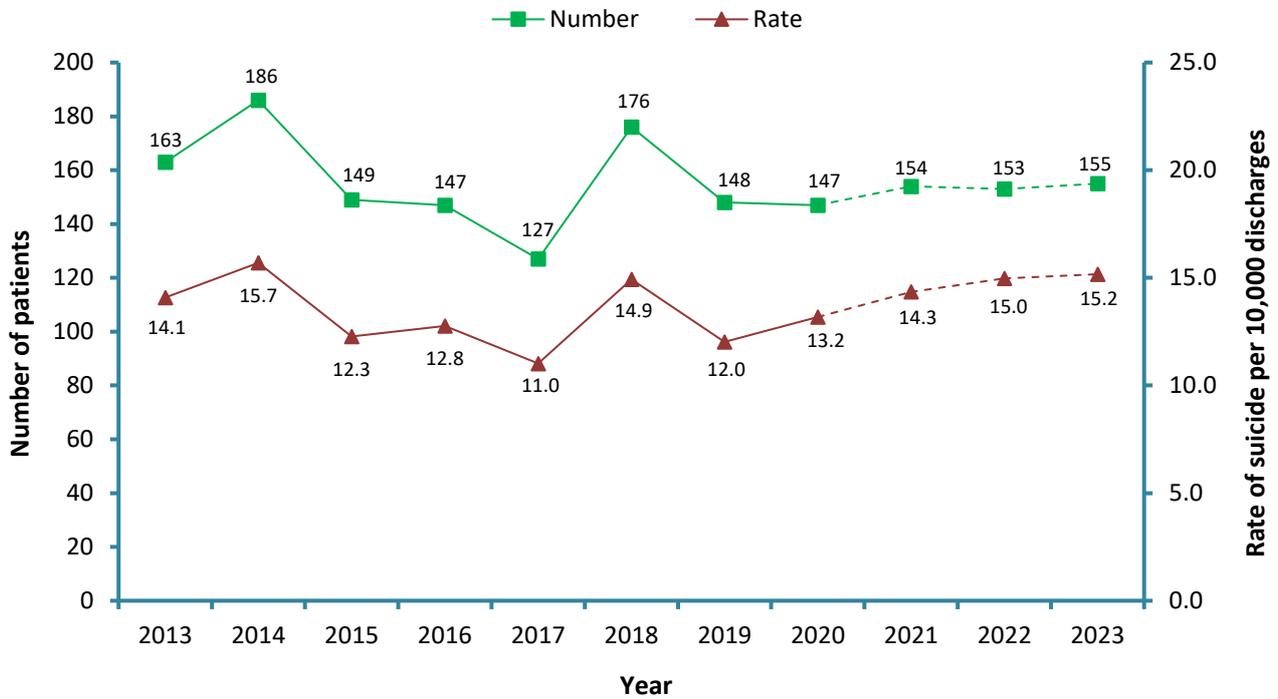
<i>Characteristic</i>	Total=757[†]	
	Number	%
Died within a week of admission	90	13
Leave status:		
On the ward	267	41
On agreed leave	332	51
Off the ward without staff agreement or with agreement but failed to return	56	9
Detained under the MHA	251	37
Died within a local in-patient unit	430	63
Under enhanced nursing observation	142	33
Short-term risk assessment viewed as low or none	439	72

[†] includes estimated figures in 2020-2023

MHA=Mental Health Act

5.2 PATIENTS RECENTLY DISCHARGED FROM IN-PATIENT CARE

Figure 10: Patient suicide in England: number who died within 3 months of in-patient discharge and rate of suicide per 10,000 discharges (2013-2023)



Note: Dashed lines represent estimated figures in 2020-2023

Figure 11: Patient suicide in England: number per week following discharge (2013-2023)

