

# National Confidential Inquiry

**into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health**

**Annual Report 2026:**  
**Additional online data tables**  
**Northern Ireland patient data 2013-2023**

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# SUICIDE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

## 1. GENERAL POPULATION SUICIDE RATES, BY AREA OF RESIDENCE

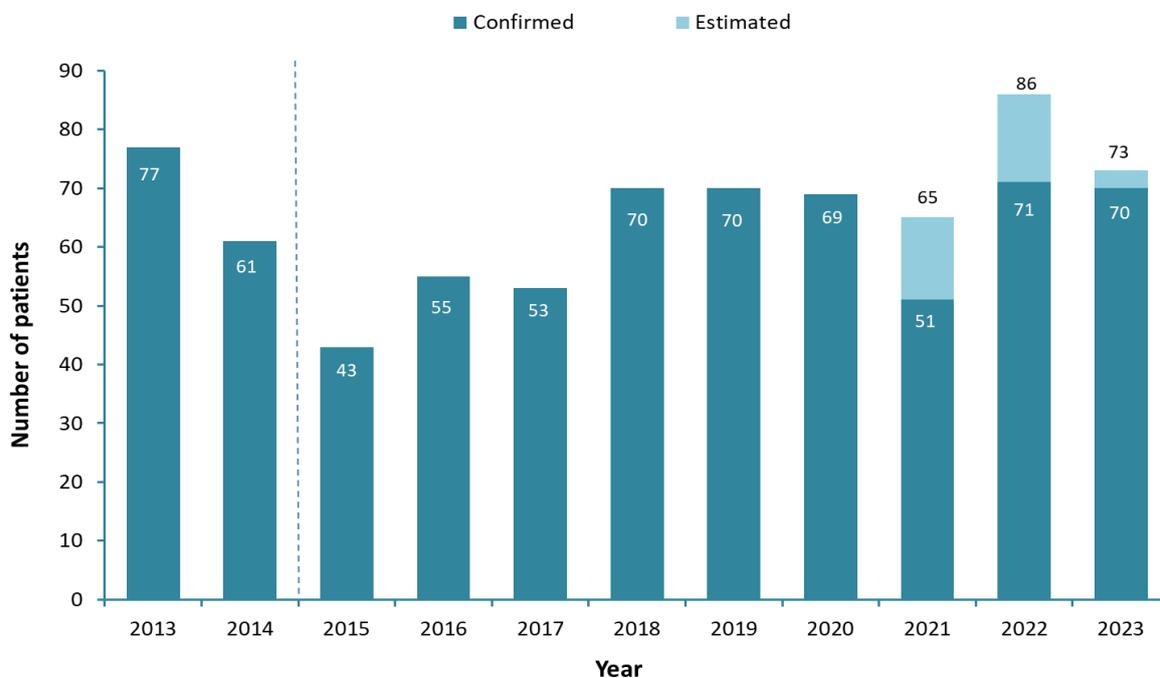
Figure 1: Rates of suicide per 100,000 population, by Health and Social Care Trust of residence (average rate 2021-2023)



# PATIENTS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

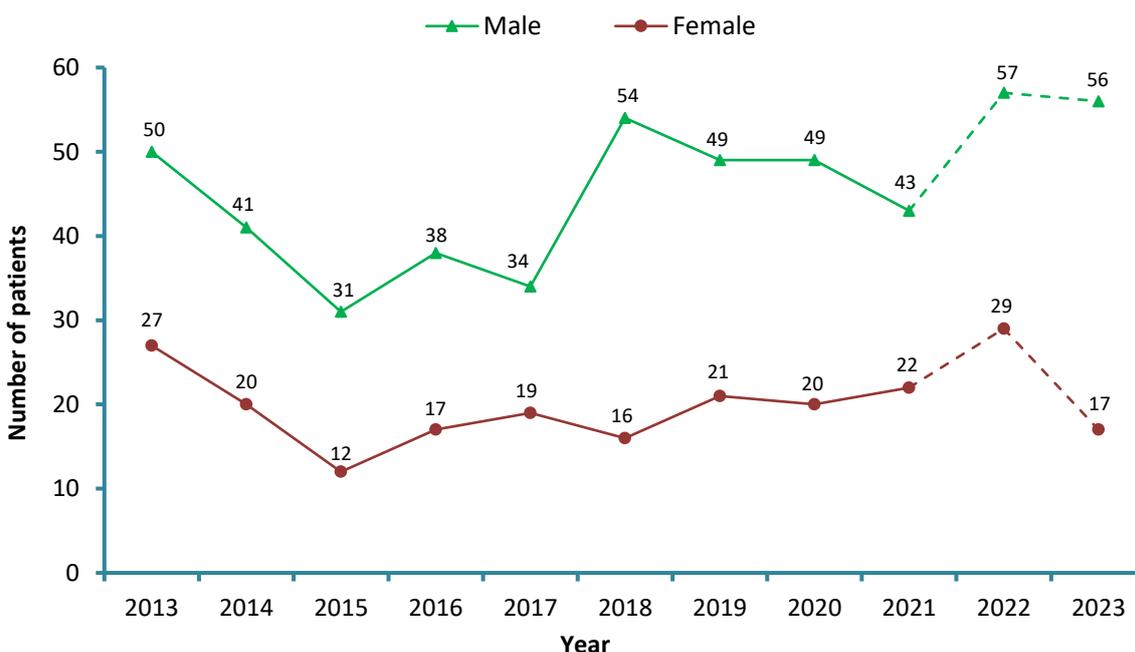
## 2. NUMBER OF PATIENT SUICIDES

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



Notes: Data prior to 2015 are not directly comparable with those in 2015 onwards due to a [review of suicide statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency \(NISRA\)](#). Data in 2022-2023 are provisional due to a change in Northern Ireland-specific data collection processes and will be updated in subsequent reports.

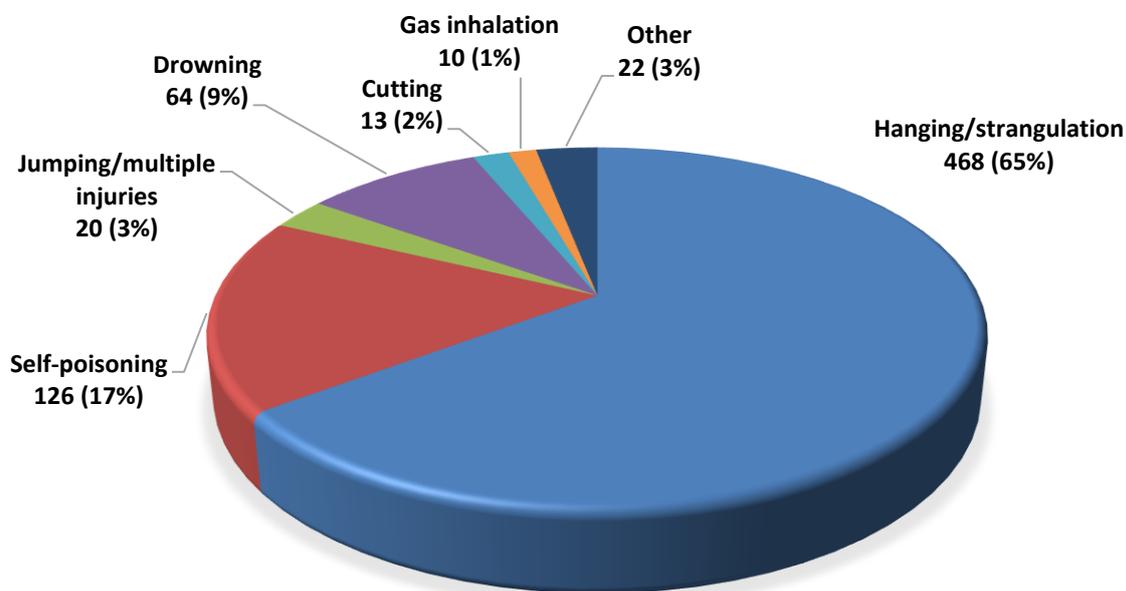
**Figure 3: Number of patient suicides in Northern Ireland, by sex (2013-2023)**



Notes: Data prior to 2015 are not directly comparable with those in 2015 onwards due to a [review of suicide statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency \(NISRA\)](#). Dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2021-2023.

### 3. METHOD OF SUICIDE

Figure 4: Patient suicide in Northern Ireland: main suicide methods (2013-2023)



### 4. SOCIAL AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE

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

Characteristic	Total=722 <sup>†</sup>	
	Number	%
Age: median (range)	42 (14-85)	
Aged under 25 <sup>†</sup>	77	11
Male <sup>†</sup>	502	70
Not currently married/cohabiting	377	71
Living alone	233	44
Unemployed	268	52
On long-term sick leave	39	8
Ethnic minority group	5	1
LGBT+ <sup>*</sup>	8	3
Homeless	10	2

<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2021-2023

<sup>\*</sup> data from 2016 onwards

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

Characteristic	Total=722 <sup>†</sup>	
	Number	%
Duration of illness (<12 months)	82	17
Any comorbid (i.e. additional) mental illness	304	54
Any comorbid physical illness	134	26
First contact with mental health services:		
<12 months	110	20
>5 years	271	49
Last admission was a re-admission	42	16

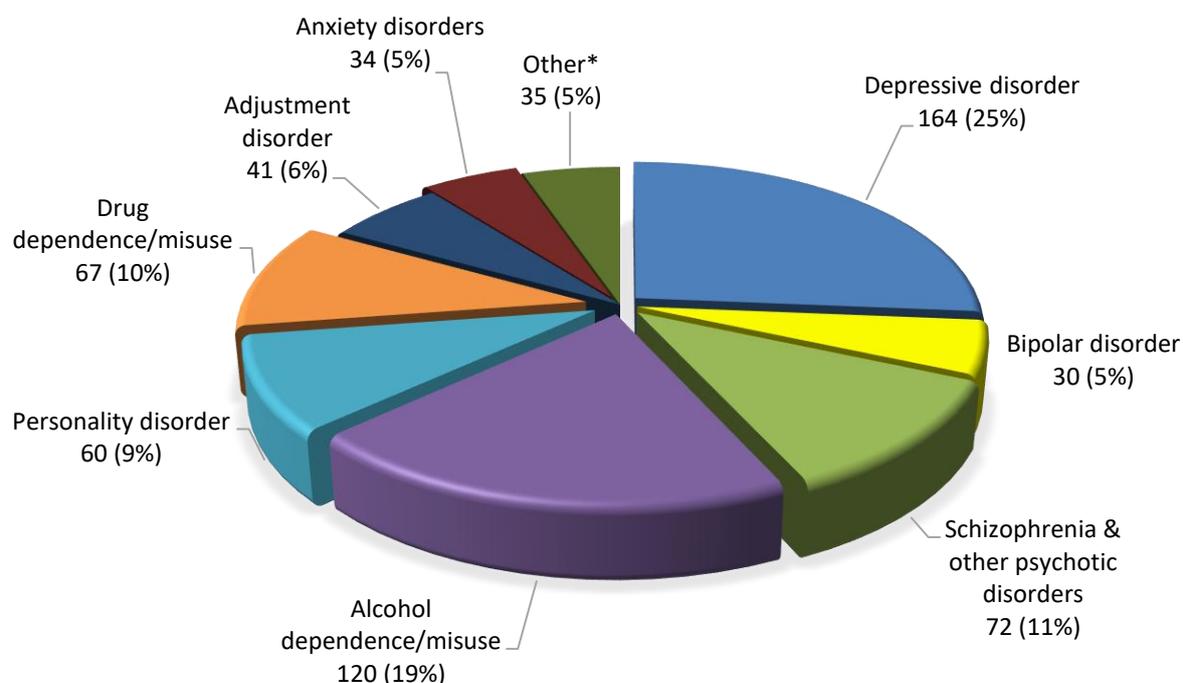
<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2021-2023

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

Characteristic	Total=722 <sup>†</sup>	
	Number	%
History of self-harm	402	71
History of violence	132	25
History of alcohol misuse <sup>†</sup>	410	63
History of drug misuse <sup>†</sup>	305	47
Suicide-related internet use	15	5

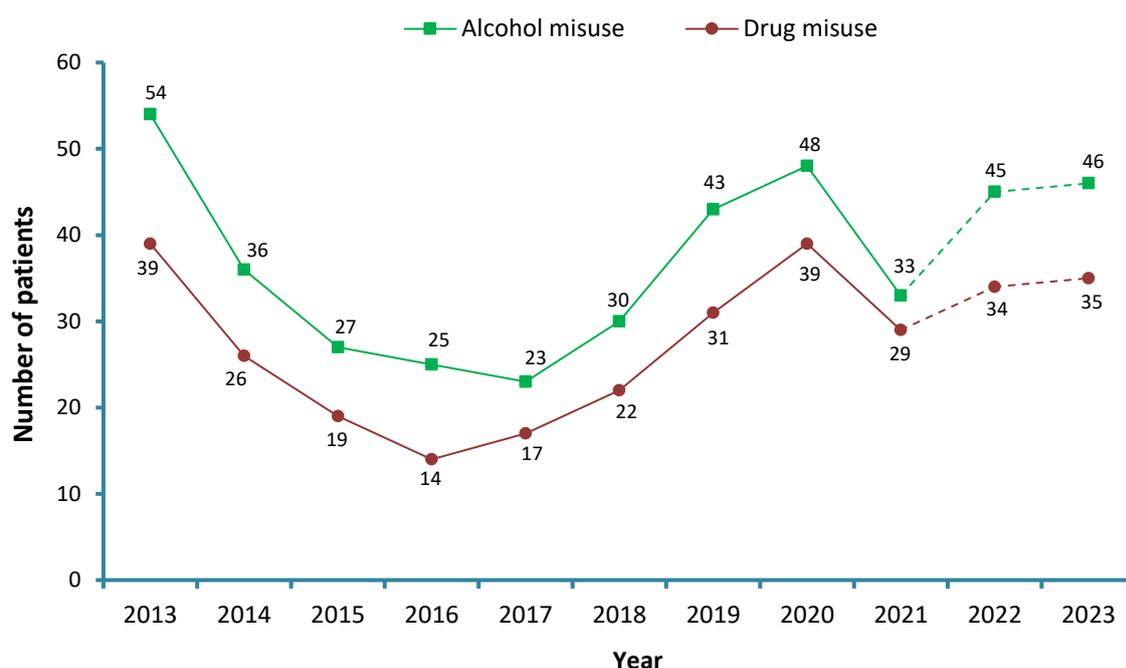
<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2021-2023

**Figure 5: Patient suicide in Northern Ireland: 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 6: Number of patients with a history of alcohol or drug misuse who died by suicide in Northern Ireland (2013-2023)**



Notes: Data prior to 2015 are not directly comparable with those in 2015 onwards due to a [review of suicide statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency \(NISRA\)](#); dashed lines represent estimated numbers in 2021-2023.

## 5. MENTAL HEALTH CARE

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

Characteristic	Total=722 <sup>†</sup>	
	Number	%
In-patient <sup>†</sup>	16	2
Recent (<3 months) discharge <sup>†</sup>	101	14
Under crisis resolution/home treatment service <sup>†</sup>	55	8
Missed last contact with services	186	34
Non-adherence with medication	49	10
<b>Contact with services</b>		
Last contact within 7 days of death	200	35
Short-term suicide risk: low or none	392	88
Long-term suicide risk: low or none	251	62

<sup>†</sup> includes estimated figures in 2021-2023