Mortality from suicide

**Purpose:**

To reduce the number of suicides.

**Definition of indicator and its variants:**

Mortality from intentional self-harm (ICD-10 X60-X84 equivalent to ICD-9 E950-E959). This indicator does not include deaths by injury undetermined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Organisation (see glossary)</th>
<th>Current data</th>
<th>Trend data</th>
<th>File-worksheet code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of deaths</td>
<td>MFP</td>
<td>15+, 15-34, 35-64, 65-74, 75+</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, Region, LA, CTY</td>
<td>current year</td>
<td></td>
<td>31C_113NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age-specific death rate per 100,000 resident population</td>
<td>MFP</td>
<td>15+, 15-34, 35-64, 65-74, 75+</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, Region, LA, CTY</td>
<td>three years pooled</td>
<td></td>
<td>31C_113CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirectly age-standardised mortality ratio (SMR) and number of deaths</td>
<td>MFP</td>
<td>15+ &lt;75, 15+</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, Region, LA, CTY</td>
<td>three years pooled</td>
<td>from 1995 to current year</td>
<td>31C_113SM15++, 31C_113SM1574, 31C_113SMT15++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directly age-standardised mortality rate (DSR) per 100,000 and number of deaths</td>
<td>MFP</td>
<td>15+ &lt;75, 15+</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, Region, LA, CTY</td>
<td>three years pooled</td>
<td>from 1995 to current year</td>
<td>31C_113DR15++, 31C_113DR1574, 31C_113DRT15++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Numerator:**

**Numerator data:**
Deaths from intentional self-harm (ICD-10 X60-X84, ICD-9 E950-E959), registered in the respective calendar year(s).

**Source of numerator data:**
Office for National Statistics (ONS), original cause of death data.

**Comments on numerator data:**
Mortality data for years 1995-2006 were extracted by ONS in June 2007 with organisational codes assigned using the postcode of usual residence and the November 2006 edition of the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD). Data for subsequent years were extracted in June of the following year using the respective year’s November edition of the NSPD.

This indicator is restricted to deaths classified as suicide. The directly age-standardised suicide rate, including deaths by injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted, for persons of all ages, was a target indicator in the Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation strategy (see “Further reading”). Reduction in suicides was also a target in the Health of the Nation strategy. For data relating to suicide as defined in Our Healthier Nation/Health of the Nation, please see the indicator entitled “Suicide and Undetermined Injury”.

For registrations post-2007, the definition of mortality from suicide has been updated. This is to ensure parity with the ONS definition. The update was to exclude registrations for under 15s.
In England and Wales, it cannot be assumed for deaths of children under 15, due to the possibility that these deaths were caused by unverifiable abuse, neglect or accidents. Therefore, due to this, and due to the variation between coroners in what age they will return a suicide verdict, only registrations for people aged 15 and over are included.

Indicators that start at age 0 have been retained for historic purposes.

**ICD-9 to ICD-10 bridging exercise:**
In January 2001, ONS implemented a change from ICD-9 to ICD-10 for coding causes of death in England and Wales. As part of an exercise to investigate the effects of this change, ONS also re-coded all deaths registered in 1999. Deaths for years prior to 1999 and for year 2000 have not been re-coded.

For current analysis, therefore, all data are based on ICD-10.

For trend analysis, the numbers of deaths observed in the years 1995-98 and 2000 must be adjusted to give "expected" numbers of deaths which would have been coded to this cause in ICD-10. This is done by multiplying the ICD-9 based death counts by the appropriate ICD-10/9 comparability ratio published by ONS.

For this indicator the following ICD-10/9 comparability ratios were used:

- **Males All Ages:** 1
- **Females All Ages:** 1

Adjusted person counts are the sum of the adjusted male and female counts. Once adjusted, the counts are used to calculate rates in the usual way.

From the 2003 *Compendium* onwards, data are based on the original causes of death rather than the final causes used in earlier *Compendia*.


**ICD-10 v2001.2 to ICD-10 v2010 bridging exercise:**
In 2011, ONS implemented a change from ICD-10 version 2001.2 to ICD-10 version 2010 for coding causes of death in England and Wales. For analysis of years 2011 onwards, all data are based on ICD-10 v2010. These indicators are not affected by the changes in ICD-10 Codes.

**ICD-10 v2010 NCHS software to ICD-10 v2013 IRIS software bridging exercise**
In 2014, ONS changed the software used to code cause of death. Previously the ICD-10 v2010 software and rules provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) was used, however from 1 January 2014 ONS have used the ICD-10 v2013 IRIS rules.

Further details are available from: [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_373602.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_373602.pdf)

These indicators are not affected by the changes in coding software.

**Denominator:**

**Denominator data:**
- 2011 Census rebased mid-year population estimates for the calendar years 2002-2010.
- 2011 Census based mid-year population estimates for calendar years 2011 onwards.

**Source of denominator data:**
ONS

**Comments on denominator data:**
Data are based on the latest revisions of ONS mid-year population estimates for the respective years.
Statistical methods:

Annex 2: Changes to Office for National Statistics mortality data
Annex 3: Explanations of statistical methods used in the Compendium
Annex 5: European Standard Population
Annex 6: Goals of Our Healthier Nation


Directly standardised indicators produced from August 2014 onwards have been calculated using the 2013 European Standard Population. This affects data for single years 2012 onwards, three-year pooled data for 2010-12 onwards and trend data from 1995-2012 onwards.

Data on the Compendium of Population Health Indicators website have had any required suppression applied: data that may potentially identify an individual have been removed (in cells marked by X). Full details of the disclosure control applied is available in the "Statistical methods" and "Disclosure control" sections of the website: https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/ci-hub/compendium-indicators

Interpretation of indicators:

Evaluating the quality of Clinical and Health Indicators - Annex 11 describes the criteria that should be used to judge the quality of this indicator. The application of the criteria is dependent on the context (e.g. describing a single organisation, comparing several organisations) and the level (e.g. national / regional with large numbers of events, local with small numbers of events) at which the data are to be used.

Further reading:


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