



Deputy Gerry Adams

Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

23rd May 2019

PQ Ref: 21080/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in County Louth that died by suicide in each year over the past five years - Gerry Adams

PQ Ref: 21081/19

To ask the Minister for Health the age of persons from County Louth that died by suicide over the past five years - Gerry Adams

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to you with regard to your two questions above.

In the first instance, it should be noted that in Ireland, the decision as to whether someone has died by suicide, is a legal decision made by Coroners, not a medical decision made by doctors or the HSE. Following the Coronial investigation, inquest and registration processes, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) publishes national mortality data, including data on deaths by suicide. The purpose of the CSO (mandated under the Statistics Act 1993) is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy.

- All CSO data on suicide deaths is publically available on their website www.cso.ie.
- For an overview, you can read our own briefing document on the most recent CSO data, here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/nosp-briefing-on-suicide-figures.html>.

Suicide rates over the last five years

Annual data from the CSO is delivered in three stages;

1. Provided firstly by year of registration – “provisional”
2. Revised later, by year of occurrence – “official”
3. Revised later again, to include “late registrations”. Only national figures and figures by gender are updated to include these.

Data for the five years you have requested is not easily comparable like-for-like. This is because data for the following years, is each at a different stage;

- 2018 – no full year data is yet available
- 2017 – this is provisional data
- 2016 – this is official data but excludes late registrations
- 2015 – this is official data but excludes late registrations
- 2014 – this is official data and includes late registrations

It should be noted that the CSO are due to publish provisional data for 2018, around 31st May 2019.

Rates of suicide in County Louth

Given the limitations in comparing suicide data already outlined, and the differences in county populations, our office recommends comparing county suicide rates - using three-year moving average rates of suicide per 100,000 population, by county of residence of deceased. The following table gives these rates for 2004 to 2017 (*2017 data remains provisional).

	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017*
Ireland	11.6	11.0	10.9	11.3	11.4	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.0	10.1	9.6	8.8
Carlow	17.0	19.9	17.4	14.5	11.7	12.3	11.6	15.2	16.3	16.9	14.4	11.8
South Dublin	10.2	8.4	8.6	8.2	8.2	9.5	8.8	9.3	7.4	6.7	5.3	4.2
Dublin C.B.	11.3	11.0	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.8	11.0	10.6	9.5	7.3	5.8	4.4
Fingal	6.1	4.7	5.2	6.3	6.7	6.0	5.6	5.2	5.3	4.5	3.8	3.7
Dun Lgh Rdown	5.6	5.9	6.5	7.3	7.9	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.5	4.1	2.5	2.1
Kildare	10.6	11.4	11.4	11.4	10.3	10.5	10.9	11.7	11.8	11.1	10.8	9.3
Kilkenny	10.1	11.4	11.5	10.9	9.6	11.2	11.8	11.8	11.1	11.4	12.3	11.5
Laois	8.8	10.4	11.6	10.9	13.5	16.5	16.8	12.2	8.1	7.6	8.8	12.2
Longford	15.2	12.6	10.5	9.2	7.9	8.7	7.6	9.2	10.8	11.6	9.9	9.8
Louth	9.3	8.6	11.1	11.6	12.8	12.9	14.0	12.7	11.8	8.8	8.2	8.1
Meath	11.1	7.5	9.3	10.8	10.9	8.3	7.5	8.7	9.1	9.8	9.0	8.0
Offaly	12.8	11.8	13.7	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.0	12.4	11.5	9.7	11.4	12.6
Westmeath	12.7	13.6	12.1	14.4	14.9	14.0	13.1	11.5	9.5	8.3	9.8	9.7
Wexford	13.6	15.7	13.5	13.9	12.5	14.8	17.8	17.8	17.0	13.5	13.5	11.1
Wicklow	13.4	11.7	10.3	9.3	10.6	11.5	10.2	8.2	7.2	8.5	9.0	8.9
Clare	12.6	12.2	12.8	14.3	11.6	11.1	10.2	14.1	15.2	15.5	13.5	13.4
Cork C.B.	17.9	18.6	19.3	19.3	19.2	17.7	18.6	16.0	15.9	12.2	15.4	16.8
Cork Co.	12.8	12.5	13.1	13.3	13.5	13.5	11.8	11.7	10.0	10.5	10.7	10.9
Kerry	11.3	9.9	9.5	12.6	15.4	18.1	19.0	16.6	16.1	12.5	14.1	12.0
Limerick C.B.	16.4	14.1	12.4	10.8	11.9	16.6	21.3	26.0	27.1	21.8	15.9	8.8
Limerick Co.	10.7	10.1	8.6	10.8	11.4	13.3	14.0	12.4	10.1	10.0	9.8	9.5
Tipperary N.R.	19.1	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.6	9.9	14.0	12.5	13.9	12.0	13.9
Tipperary S.R.	10.5	11.1	12.0	14.1	14.3	14.6	14.2	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.1	12.7
Waterford C.B.	11.5	9.3	9.2	13.1	11.1	14.1	10.8	9.3	5.0	4.3	4.9	6.3
Waterford Co.	16.6	11.9	13.0	13.2	15.1	12.4	11.4	9.8	12.3	11.8	13.7	11.6
Galway C.B.	8.7	5.5	7.5	8.7	8.8	11.0	9.8	12.2	11.4	12.8	11.9	11.1
Galway Co.	11.3	12.1	10.6	10.9	12.5	13.1	13.6	13.3	13.3	12.6	11.8	10.2
Leitrim	23.4	13.1	8.9	10.9	14.9	16.8	15.6	12.5	9.4	9.4	10.4	12.4
Mayo	11.1	13.8	12.8	12.8	11.5	13.3	15.4	14.6	15.1	12.0	11.5	8.2
Roscommon	12.7	17.6	15.5	11.9	11.1	10.5	11.4	10.9	14.5	16.1	15.0	9.8
Sligo	13.2	8.7	6.9	7.3	10.3	11.3	11.8	9.8	9.3	8.8	9.8	10.8
Cavan	19.3	18.5	16.7	14.9	12.0	10.2	10.0	14.0	15.8	15.8	15.3	13.8
Donegal	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.9	9.6	8.0	6.4	8.9	9.3	11.6	10.8	10.2
Monaghan	10.9	10.0	9.8	11.3	12.2	10.5	13.1	13.1	16.4	12.6	14.7	15.7

Number of suicides in County Louth

The following numbers of suicides in County Louth are provided by the CSO, and are year of occurrence data, which again, should be viewed in the context of limitations outlined previously.

Co Louth	Male and Female	Male	Female
2016	10	9	1
2015	10	8	2
2014	11	8	3
2013	12	10	2
2012	21	19	2

Number of suicides in County Louth, by age

This level of information is not publically available from the CSO - as the figures would be relatively low and due to the sensitive nature of this data. Further queries on this can be directed to the CSO.

Lastly, you will be familiar with **Connecting for Life - Midlands, Louth, Meath**, the regions suicide prevention action plan for 2018-2020, which is aligned with our national strategy. Aside from goals, objectives and actions for the region, the report also contains helpful contextual information on self-harm and suicide in counties Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth and Meath. The report is available here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/connecting-for-life-midlands-louth-meath.pdf>.

I trust this information is useful for you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Strategy and Planning

Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)