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PQ Ref 23606/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that died by suicide in 2019 by age, gender and CHO area in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

It should be noted that in Ireland, the decision as to whether someone has died by suicide, is a legal determination made by Coroners, not a medical decision by doctors or the HSE.

Following the Coronial investigation, inquest and registration processes, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) then publishes national mortality data, including data on deaths by suicide. All CSO data on suicide deaths is publicly available on their website www.cso.ie.

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”.

At present, only provisional data is available for the year 2019. This can be viewed here: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vsyst/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2019/>. Table 16 in particular provides the information you have requested.

Aside from accessing the CSO site, you can also find more in our accompanying briefing document, [Briefing CSO Data \(2nd June 2020\)](#). This includes three-year moving average rates of suicide, by county of residence of deceased (2004-2019). It is more useful to use these three-year averages (rather than numbers of suicide by county) when making comparisons or observing trends.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert should you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan
HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Strategy and Planning
Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

Attachment: [NOSP Briefing CSO Data \(02 06 20\).pdf](#)