



Darren O'Rourke TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

[darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie](mailto:darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie)

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## PQ Ref 1426/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of suicides in Ireland in each of the years 2018 to 2021, by county; 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.

### Background information

The information you have requested, is publicly available from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and on their website [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie).

In Ireland, the CSO provides mortality data including deaths by suicide. Death due to intentional self-harm is classified as an unnatural death and therefore, must be referred to the Coroner for investigation. This investigation can take a protracted length of time to complete for various reasons (such as getting medical reports, health and safety reports, engineer's report, and involvement of the Director of Public Prosecutions etc.) and this delays the registration of such deaths.

Data from the CSO is published in different stages:

- Numbers of deaths are provided firstly based on year of registration – 'provisional'
- They are revised later, by year of occurrence – 'official'
- Finally they are revised later again, to include 'late registrations'.

These numbers are not easily comparable across different years - at any given time, data for different years is at different stages.



## Suicide statistics 2018 to 2021

For your convenience, CSO information on deaths by suicide and intentional self-harm for 2018, 2019 and 2020, is summarised below.

\* Figures for 2018 and 2019 are 'final', year of occurrence data, and excluding late registered deaths. Available in the [CSO PxStat database](#) Table VSD30 Suicides.

\*\* Figures for 2020 are 'provisional', year of registration data only, and excluding late registered deaths. Available in the [CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summaries](#).

	* 2018	* 2019	** 2020
<b>Provinces</b>			
Leinster	176	168	150
Munster	167	146	119
Connacht	62	51	51
Ulster (part of)	32	25	20
Carlow	5	5	8
South Dublin	12	19	21
Dublin City	15	31	30
Fingal	14	12	12
Dun Lgh. Rdown	6	7	6
Kildare	21	20	16
Kilkenny	10	1	
Laois	6	1	3
Longford	2		
Louth	10	8	3
Meath	21	18	20
Offaly	11	9	7
Westmeath	10	7	5
Wexford	25	23	16
Wicklow	8	7	3
Clare	16	14	13
Cork City	16	18	14
Cork County	40	35	24
Kerry	25	14	15
Limerick City	9	19	12
Limerick County	21	16	12
Tipperary	26	22	18
Waterford City	4	4	5
Waterford County	10	4	6
Galway City	11	8	5
Galway County	17	13	14
Leitrim	4	3	4
Mayo	15	12	11
Roscommon	9	6	2
Sligo	6	9	15
Cavan	14	12	8
Donegal	9	12	9
Monaghan	9	1	3
<b>State</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>340</b>

Presently, provisional data is available from the CSO, for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2021;

- [Vital Statistics Q1 2021](#) – 36 deaths by suicide and intentional self-harm
- [Vital Statistics Q2 2021](#) - 73 deaths by suicide and intentional self-harm.

County-level information on suicide and intentional self-harm, is not provided in these provisional quarterly statistics.

### **More information**

The HSE NOSP publishes two briefing documents, which summarise current CSO and Eurostat data. You can find these publicly available [here](#). In our briefing document you can find three-year moving average rates of suicide by county of residence of the deceased. These average rates can be more helpful when comparing county-level information, or observing trends.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning  
& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)  
[johnf.meehan@hse.ie](mailto:johnf.meehan@hse.ie)