



Peadar Tóibín TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
[peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

## PQ Ref 2646/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who died by suicide in the State in each of the past ten years 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 for the past ten years**

For your reference, the current NOSP 'Briefing on CSO Suicide Statistics (16th November 2021)' - which covers data back to 2005 - is appended to this response.

This briefing document (and another on Eurostat comparison data) is always publicly available [here](#).

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)



## HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

### Briefing on CSO Suicide Statistics

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (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, the 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:

1. Numbers of deaths are provided firstly based on year of registration – 'provisional'
2. They are revised later, by year of occurrence – 'official'
3. 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. The following table gives the number of suicide deaths in Ireland since 2012, with information on the type of data for each year, at November 2021.

Year	Total suicide deaths	Male suicide deaths	Female suicide deaths	More information
2020	340	259	81	'Provisional', year of registration data, excluding late registered deaths. Available in the <a href="#">CSO Vital Statistics Yearly Summaries</a>
2019	390	300	90	'Final', year of occurrence data, excluding late registered deaths. Available in the <a href="#">CSO PxStat database</a> (Table VSD30 Suicides)
2018	437	327	110	
2017	500	391	109	'Final', year of occurrence data, including late registered deaths. Available on the <a href="#">CSO PxStat database</a> (Table VSD33 Published Suicide Deaths and Late Registered Deaths)
2016	524	424	100	
2015	495	389	106	
2014	569	465	104	
2013	547	440	107	
2012	580	471	109	

During 2020, the public health restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on the ability of Coroner's Courts to hold public hearings. Consequently, this will have impacted on the number of deaths registered and subsequently assigned an Underlying Cause of Death of intentional self-harm.

Read the CSO Information Note on the Implications of COVID-19 on the processing of Death Certificates [here](#).

## Number of suicide deaths and rates of suicide, 2005 to 2020, updated to reflect late registered suicide deaths

This table includes revised data from the CSO, to reflect late registered suicide deaths (i.e. historic suicides that have been registered in years after the occurrence year data has been finalised for publication). **Data used for 2020 is provisional** and late registered deaths for 2018, 2019 and 2020 have not yet been published. Rates are crude rates per 100,000 population.

	Published Suicide Deaths <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD32		Late Registered Suicide Deaths <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD33	Published Suicide Deaths and Late Registered Suicide Deaths <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD33 Crude rates calculated using Table PEA04, Estimated Population	
	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
<b>2020</b>					
Males	259	10.5	-	-	-
Females	81	3.2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>6.8</b>	-	-	-
<b>2019</b>					
Males	300	12.3	-	-	-
Females	90	3.6	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>7.9</b>	-	-	-
<b>2018</b>					
Males	327	13.6	-	-	-
Females	110	4.5	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>9.0</b>	-	-	-
<b>2017</b>					
Males	310	13.1	81	391	16.5
Females	73	3.0	36	109	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>2016</b>					
Males	350	14.9	74	424	18.1
Females	87	3.6	13	100	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>2015</b>					
Males	335	14.5	54	389	16.8
Females	90	3.8	16	106	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Males	399	17.4	66	465	20.2
Females	87	3.7	17	104	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>12.2</b>
<b>2013</b>					
Males	391	17.1	49	440	19.2
Females	96	4.1	11	107	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Males	445	19.6	26	471	20.7
Females	96	4.1	13	109	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<b>2011</b>					
Males	458	20.2	18	476	21.0
Females	96	4.2	5	101	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Males	405	17.9	19	424	18.7
Females	90	3.9	10	100	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>11.5</b>

	Published Suicide Deaths <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD32		Late Registered Suicide Deaths  <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD33	Published Suicide Deaths and Late Registered Suicide Deaths <a href="#">CSO PxStat</a> Table VSD33  Crude rates calculated using Table PEA04, Estimated Population	
	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
<b>2009</b>					
Males	443	19.6	22	465	20.6
Females	109	4.8	5	114	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>12.8</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Males	386	17.2	13	399	17.8
Females	120	5.3	12	132	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>2007</b>					
Males	362	16.5	20	382	17.4
Females	96	4.4	8	104	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Males	379	17.9	28	407	19.2
Females	81	3.8	8	89	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>11.7</b>
<b>2005</b>					
Males	382	18.5	35	417	20.2
Females	99	4.8	14	113	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>12.8</b>

## Suicide rates by age group and sex, 2005 to 2020

This table summarises rates of suicide by age group and sex. They are calculated using finalised occurrence year data from the CSO, and population estimates from [PxStat](#) Table PEA04. **Data used for 2020 is provisional.** Rates are crude rates per 100,000 population and all rates in this table **exclude late registered deaths**.

Males	All Ages	Age 15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
2020	10.5	10.6	11.5	12.6	19.4	13.2	11.8
2019	12.3	13.1	15.7	14.0	23.4	15.0	12.2
2018	13.6	11.7	16.0	19.9	19.2	23.8	13.0
2017	13.1	10.7	20.3	17.7	19.3	19.5	11.9
2016	14.9	15.7	20.5	22.0	22.6	23.5	8.9
2015	14.5	14.0	19.3	20.2	23.3	19.6	14.1
2014	17.4	21.8	24.1	22.4	28.4	17.9	16.9
2013	17.1	15.4	19.7	21.5	31.5	27.0	16.8
2012	19.6	20.6	25.0	27.7	32.3	28.2	14.7
2011	20.2	26.7	27.0	28.2	32.3	25.1	12.8
2010	17.9	24.0	20.5	28.8	28.9	23.3	7.3
2009	19.6	21.9	26.9	30.9	26.5	26.8	12.5
2008	17.2	20.5	25.5	22.4	24.5	21.1	12.0
2007	16.5	22.7	23.5	19.3	20.8	16.6	16.3
2006	17.9	27.5	23.5	21.4	24.1	21.1	14.2
2005	18.5	25.6	26.8	24.9	25.8	21.6	10.4
Females	All Ages	Age 15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
2020	3.2	4.8	3.9	4.5	4.4	5.7	1.0
2019	3.6	4.9	4.4	4.8	6.0	5.9	1.4
2018	4.5	6.7	4.7	5.9	7.1	5.7	3.6
2017	3.0	4.5	3.9	3.6	5.0	2.7	2.6
2016	3.6	6.7	3.2	5.3	5.7	3.2	2.7
2015	3.8	3.2	5.8	4.3	5.2	8.1	2.7
2014	3.7	3.9	5.6	5.0	6.9	4.1	2.2
2013	4.1	3.2	6.5	5.4	7.7	4.2	3.6
2012	4.1	5.7	5.3	6.0	7.1	5.6	1.3
2011	4.2	5.6	7.0	6.1	5.9	5.2	1.0
2010	3.9	3.6	4.7	5.3	6.0	8.4	2.1
2009	4.8	3.7	5.4	7.8	7.2	6.8	4.4
2008	5.3	7.5	4.7	6.4	9.2	8.4	4.9
2007	4.4	4.6	5.1	6.3	9.4	5.3	1.9
2006	3.8	5.1	3.6	4.6	6.2	6.5	2.7
2005	4.8	6.4	6.8	4.3	7.5	6.2	4.3
All	All Ages	Age 15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
2020	6.8	7.8	7.6	8.5	11.9	9.4	6.1
2019	7.9	9.1	10.0	9.3	14.7	10.4	6.5
2018	9.0	9.2	10.2	12.8	13.1	14.6	8.0
2017	8.0	7.7	11.9	10.6	12.1	11.0	6.9
2016	9.2	11.3	11.6	13.6	14.1	13.3	5.6
2015	9.1	8.7	12.3	12.1	14.2	13.8	8.0
2014	10.5	13.0	14.5	13.6	17.6	11.0	9.0
2013	10.6	9.4	12.9	13.4	19.6	15.6	9.7
2012	11.8	13.2	14.8	16.9	19.6	16.9	7.5
2011	12.1	16.2	16.8	17.2	19.0	15.2	6.4
2010	10.9	12.8	12.5	16.0	16.7	16.5	6.0
2009	12.2	12.8	16.1	19.5	16.8	16.9	8.1
2008	11.3	14.0	15.2	14.5	16.8	14.8	8.1
2007	10.5	13.7	14.5	12.9	15.2	11.0	8.3
2006	10.9	16.4	13.7	13.1	15.2	13.9	7.8
2005	11.6	16.1	16.9	14.7	16.7	14.0	7.0

### Three-year moving average rate of suicide, by county of residence of deceased, 2004 to 2020

This table summarises three-year moving average rates of suicide by county of residence of the deceased. They are calculated using finalised year of occurrence data from the CSO, and population estimates for each county which have been extrapolated from the most recent Census (2016) data. **Data used for 2020 is provisional.**

Rates are crude rates per 100,000 population and all rates in this table **exclude late registered deaths**.

	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
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	8.7	8.3	7.9
Carlow	17.0	19.9	17.4	14.5	11.7	12.3	11.6	15.2	16.3	16.9	14.4	13.6	12.9	10.4	10.2
South Dublin	10.2	8.4	8.6	8.2	8.2	9.5	8.8	9.3	7.4	6.7	5.3	3.5	3.7	4.4	5.8
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	4.7	3.7	4.2	4.5
Fingal	6.1	4.7	5.2	6.3	6.7	6.0	5.6	5.2	5.3	4.5	3.8	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.1
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	2.2	2.9	2.7	2.8
Kildare	10.6	11.4	11.4	11.4	10.3	10.5	10.9	11.7	11.8	11.1	10.8	9.0	9.0	8.5	8.2
Kilkenny	10.1	11.4	11.5	10.9	9.6	11.2	11.8	11.8	11.1	11.4	12.3	11.2	10.1	6.7	3.6
Laois	8.8	10.4	11.6	10.9	13.5	16.5	16.8	12.2	8.1	7.6	8.8	11.1	9.8	6.2	3.8
Longford	15.2	12.6	10.5	9.2	7.9	8.7	7.6	9.2	10.8	11.6	9.9	8.2	6.5	3.2	1.6
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	7.9	7.3	5.3
Meath	11.1	7.5	9.3	10.8	10.9	8.3	7.5	8.7	9.1	9.8	9.0	8.9	8.5	9.3	9.7
Offaly	12.8	11.8	13.7	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.0	12.4	11.5	9.7	11.4	11.3	12.5	11.5	10.9
Westmeath	12.7	13.6	12.1	14.4	14.9	14.0	13.1	11.5	9.5	8.3	9.8	9.3	10.7	8.4	7.9
Wexford	13.6	15.7	13.5	13.9	12.5	14.8	17.8	17.8	17.0	13.5	13.5	10.7	12.1	13.4	13.7
Wicklow	13.4	11.7	10.3	9.3	10.6	11.5	10.2	8.2	7.2	8.5	9.0	9.3	7.4	6.8	4.0
Clare	12.6	12.2	12.8	14.3	11.6	11.1	10.2	14.1	15.2	15.5	13.5	14.3	14.1	13.7	11.7
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	13.9	14.4	12.5	13.2
Cork Co.	12.8	12.5	13.1	13.3	13.5	13.5	11.8	11.7	10.0	10.5	10.7	10.4	9.9	8.9	7.6
Kerry	11.3	9.9	9.5	12.6	15.4	18.1	19.0	16.6	16.1	12.5	14.1	11.1	12.7	11.0	11.8
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	11.1	12.8	20.0	22.6
Limerick Co.	10.7	10.1	8.6	10.8	11.4	13.3	14.0	12.4	10.1	10.0	9.8	12.4	12.8	13.6	11.5
Tipperary														14.5**	13.2
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	14.3	15.9**		
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	11.2	9.6**		
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	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.8
Waterford Co.	16.6	11.9	13.0	13.2	15.1	12.4	11.4	9.8	12.3	11.8	13.7	13.0	14.8	11.8	9.3

\*\*These are two-year (rather than three-year) moving averages. Following an amendment of the EU NUTS legislation, data is now (since 2018) provided for Tipperary, rather than for Tipperary NR and Tipperary SR.

	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020
<b>Galway C.B.</b>	8.7	5.5	7.5	8.7	8.8	11.0	9.8	12.2	11.4	12.8	11.9	11.3	13.4	13.3	10.9
<b>Galway Co.</b>	11.3	12.1	10.6	10.9	12.5	13.1	13.6	13.3	13.3	12.6	11.8	10.2	9.2	8.3	7.9
<b>Leitrim</b>	23.4	13.1	8.9	10.9	14.9	16.8	15.6	12.5	9.4	9.4	10.4	9.3	10.2	9.1	11.0
<b>Mayo</b>	11.1	13.8	12.8	12.8	11.5	13.3	15.4	14.6	15.1	12.0	11.5	8.6	9.0	8.6	9.3
<b>Roscommon</b>	12.7	17.6	15.5	11.9	11.1	10.5	11.4	10.9	14.5	16.1	15.0	10.8	10.1	9.5	8.4
<b>Sligo</b>	13.2	8.7	6.9	7.3	10.3	11.3	11.8	9.8	9.3	8.8	9.8	9.8	9.7	10.5	14.8
<b>Cavan</b>	19.3	18.5	16.7	14.9	12.0	10.2	10.0	14.0	15.8	15.8	15.3	14.8	17.8	16.2	14.7
<b>Donegal</b>	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.9	9.6	8.0	6.4	8.9	9.3	11.6	10.8	10.5	7.6	7.1	6.0
<b>Monaghan</b>	10.9	10.0	9.8	11.3	12.2	10.5	13.1	13.1	16.4	12.6	14.7	14.1	16.2	10.2	6.9