



Deputy Sorca Clarke

sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

01/07/2025

**PQ Number 36053/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of travellers who died by suicide in 2024; and if she 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.

In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) provides mortality data including deaths by suicide. The CSO is Ireland's national statistical office and its purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. It is attached to the Department of the Taoiseach. Information is publicly available from the CSO ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)) and in their main data dissemination service (<https://data.cso.ie/#>). You can contact the CSO (<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/contactus/>) or their Vital Statistics department directly (<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vsar/vitalstatisticsannualreport2020/contactdetails/>).

**Information requested**

The information you have requested is not available across the CSO tables, as official mortality statistics are not provided based on ethnicity, including for Travellers. However you may like to contact the CSO directly with your specific enquiry.

In addition, although dated, you might look toward the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) published in 2010 and based on deaths that took place in 2008, found that 11.2% of Traveller deaths that year were a result of suicide.

Research from AITHS indicated that the suicide rate amongst Traveller males was 6.6 times larger than with the general male population. Variations in the data for women were not deemed statistically significant.

[All-Ireland Traveller Health Study](#)

The following tables extracted from various CSO sources offer an overview of the nature of the data available:

[Suicide Statistics 2020 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

[Table VSD30 Suicides](#) (Area of Residence, Sex, Year)

[Table VSD32 Suicide death rates](#) (Sex, Year)

[Table VSA35 Deaths Occurring](#) (Sex, Cause of Death, Age at Death, Year)

### **Caveats**

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. Therefore the information in each table, may not be like-for-like in another table.

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, Access and Integration, and Head of the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

[johnf.meehan@hse.ie](mailto:johnf.meehan@hse.ie)