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To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has undertaken any study to determine which age cohorts are most at risk of suicide; 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.

Information is publicly available from the CSO (www.cso.ie) and in PxStat Data Dissemination Services (<https://data.cso.ie/#>). You can also [contact the CSO](#) or their Vital Statistics department directly at vitalstats@cso.ie.



There are 7 suicide-specific tables in the PxStat Data Dissemination Service, each providing different types of information. They are updated at different intervals each year.

- [VSA35 – Revised Deaths Occurring](#) (Sex, Cause of Death, Age Group at Death, Year)
- [VSD30 – Suicides](#) (Area of residence, Sex, Year)
- [VSD32 – Suicide death rates](#) (Sex, Year)
- [VSD34 – Late registered suicide deaths](#) (Sex, Year of occurrence, Year)
- [VSA112 – Revised deaths occurring](#) (Sex, County, Cause of Death, Year)
- [VSD31 – Suicides](#) (Sex, Year) (*archived*)
- [VSD33 – Published Suicide deaths and Late Registered Suicide deaths](#) (Sex, Year) (*archived*)

Information in the table below is extracted from VSA35 for your ease of reference, and contains the number of revised deaths occurring from 2019 to 2021, for deaths by intentional self-harm.

Additional presentation of this information can be found in the [CSO briefing note on Suicide Statistics 2021](#).

Both sexes	2019	2020	2021
5 - 9 years			
10 - 14 years	2	3	2
15 - 19 years	31	27	27
20 - 24 years	48	43	46
25 - 29 years	43	35	51
30 - 34 years	53	46	48
35 - 39 years	49	58	45
40 - 44 years	58	63	42
45 - 49 years	61	46	52
50 - 54 years	54	60	43
55 - 59 years	47	37	58
60 - 64 years	35	40	33
65 - 69 years	25	19	29
70 - 74 years	18	24	16
75 - 79 years	13	11	11
80 - 84 years	3	2	9
85 years and over	2	1	
All ages	542	515	512
Male	2019	2020	2021
5 - 9 years			
10 - 14 years	1	1	1
15 - 19 years	21	16	19

20 - 24 years	36	33	37
25 - 29 years	36	23	39
30 - 34 years	41	34	38
35 - 39 years	33	40	34
40 - 44 years	50	48	30
45 - 49 years	48	36	48
50 - 54 years	44	42	30
55 - 59 years	33	31	44
60 - 64 years	25	27	26
65 - 69 years	19	13	25
70 - 74 years	17	19	14
75 - 79 years	13	8	9
80 - 84 years	3	2	7
85 years and over	2	1	
All ages	422	374	401
Female	2019	2020	2021
5 - 9 years			
10 - 14 years	1	2	1
15 - 19 years	10	11	8
20 - 24 years	12	10	9
25 - 29 years	7	12	12
30 - 34 years	12	12	10
35 - 39 years	16	18	11
40 - 44 years	8	15	12
45 - 49 years	13	10	4
50 - 54 years	10	18	13
55 - 59 years	14	6	14
60 - 64 years	10	13	7
65 - 69 years	6	6	4
70 - 74 years	1	5	2
75 - 79 years		3	2
80 - 84 years			2
85 years and over			
All ages	120	141	111

In addition, information in the following table is from [MORT02 – Age-Standardised Mortality Rate](#), which provides information on Sex, County, Age Group, Cause of Death and Year.

	2022 Age-standardised mortality rate, suicide and intentional self-harm	2023 Age-standardised mortality rate, suicide and intentional self-harm	2024 Age-standardised mortality rate, suicide and intentional self-harm
0 - 64 years	8.82	5.85	6.87
65 years and over	8.08	6	5.93
All ages	8.67	5.88	6.69

Additional data and research of note

While age is not the primary focus of most suicide-related studies in Ireland, it is included as part of broader demographic studies or analyses. Age-related data can be found within larger research outputs and the following are some notable examples.

- The HSE NOSP [grant scheme for collaborative research projects on Connecting for Life 'priority groups' in Ireland](#). The purpose of the scheme was to improve understanding of the groups that are at increased risk for self-harm and suicide, and to promote and support collaborative research projects between researchers and services working in the area of suicide prevention in Ireland. This scheme provided funding to 11 discrete project. Two projects focused specifically on better quality data on suicidality amongst particular priority groups: the '[Dying to Farm](#)' project was a national survey investigating risk factors for mental health and suicide among farmers in Ireland; and the '[AfterWords Study](#)' was a national survey of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland.
- The HSE NOSP [Irish Probable Suicide Deaths Study \(IPSDS\)](#) which provides comprehensive information on 'probable' suicide deaths in Ireland, for a four-year period from 2015 to 2018. This first-of-its-kind study outlines the numbers and characteristics of people who have died by probable suicide in Ireland and identifies associated risk factors. While the Central Statistics Office is the main source of official information of suicide mortality in Ireland, the IPSDS has provided unique data on probable suicide rates amongst the general population and amongst sub-population groups.
- The [National Suicide Research Foundation \(NSRF\)](#) is an independent, multi-disciplinary research unit that investigates the causes of suicide and self-harm in Ireland, and funded by

the HSE. The NSRF is designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention. Notably in the context of your question, the [National Self-Harm Registry Ireland](#) annually publishes a comprehensive range of information about people who self-harm, and present to hospital Emergency Departments across the country.

- In recent years the HSE has collaborated with Healthy Ireland, to incorporate questions about suicide and self-harm in the annual [Healthy Ireland Survey](#). It is conducted with a representative sample of the population aged 15 and older living in Ireland.
- Published in 2024, the [Being LGBTQI+ in Ireland](#) study was the result of an extensive body of work undertaken by Belong To and Trinity College Dublin. The HSE NOSP was proud to co-fund this study which captured the views of over 2,800 LGBTQI+ people, and reported levels of (among others) depression, anxiety, self-harm ideation and suicide ideation disclosed by respondents.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Meehan

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& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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