

# A profile of deaths by suicide in Scotland 2009-2014

A report from the Scottish Suicide Information Database

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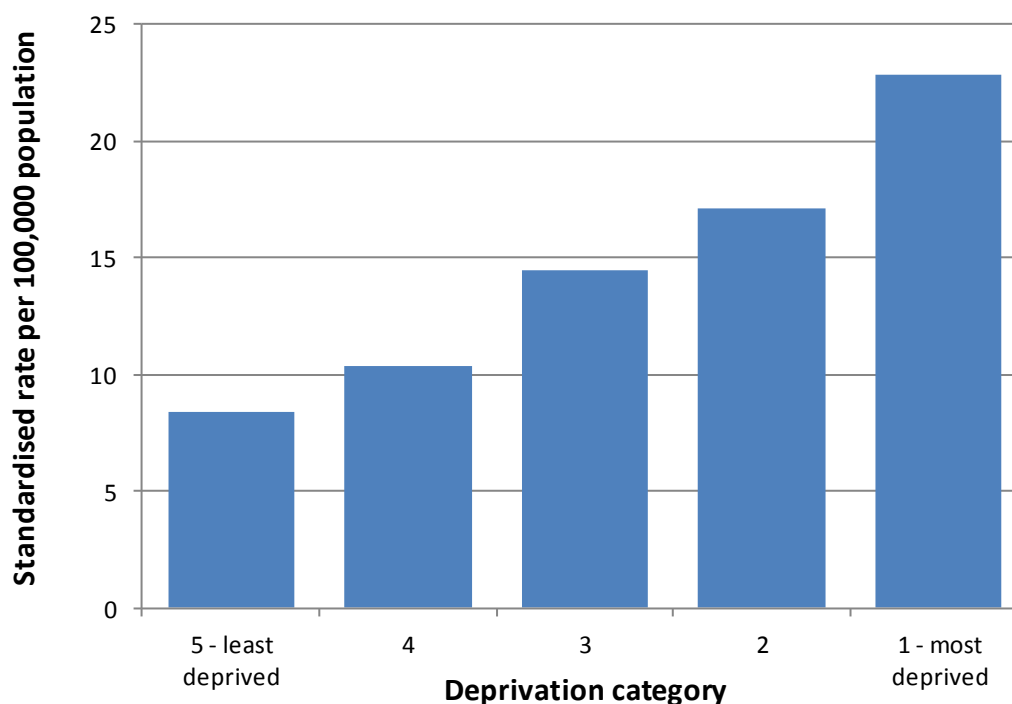
## About this release

This release from the Information Services Division presents the information held on the Scottish Suicide Information Database for suicides between 2009 and 2014, focussing particularly on socio-demographic characteristics and prior contact with health services.

## Main Points

- Between 2009 and 2014 nearly 4,500 individuals died from suicide in Scotland, equivalent to 15 suicides for every 100,000 people per year, after allowing for age and sex.
- Around three-quarters of the deaths were in men (73%), in those unmarried/not partnered (71%), and in those who were employed (71%). Almost half (47%) were aged 35-54 at the time of their suicide.
- Suicides were around three times more likely in those from the most deprived areas than those in the least deprived areas.

**Suicide rate by deprivation category, 2009-14**



- Of women who died by suicide in Scotland, one in four had given birth to one or more children in the previous 16 years.

- 5% of individuals who died by suicide had been discharged from a mental health hospital, and 6% had a mental health outpatient appointment in the 30 days before their death.
- One in four people who died by suicide attended A&E in the three months before they died, and 9% of people attended A&E multiple times within the same window.
- The majority (60%) of individuals who died by suicide had been prescribed a mental health drug in the year prior to their death.
- Hanging and strangulation were the most common methods of suicide among men and young women, while poisoning was the most common method for women of other ages.

## Background

ScotSID provides a central repository for information on all probable suicide deaths in Scotland, in order to support epidemiology, policy-making and suicide prevention.

'Probable suicides' analysed in this report are of people aged five years and over whose death was recorded in Scotland, including some individuals who were not resident in Scotland at the time they died. 'Probable suicides' includes deaths from 'intentional self-harm' and 'events of undetermined intent'. The latter category includes cases where it is not clear whether the death was suicide. However, it is understood that the majority of these undetermined intent deaths are likely to be suicides. For simplicity 'probable suicides' are sometimes shortened to 'suicides'. More information can be found on the [National Records of Scotland website](#).

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the main report: [A profile of deaths by suicide in Scotland 2009-2014](#) and from the accompanying data tables available to download [from our web page](#).

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## ISD and Official Statistics

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