

Comment in relation to CSO Vital Statistics Report

On today, May 29th 2015, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) released provisional figures for deaths, including suicide, which occurred in 2014. According to Press Release, 459 suicide deaths occurred in 2014, equating to 10 per 100,000 of the population. These provisional figures show a decrease of 16 deaths or 3% from the provisional suicide figures for 2013, of 475 deaths. Figures for 2014 also show a decrease (7% from 396 to 368) in male suicides from 2013, with males accounting for 80% of all suicide deaths in 2014. Ninety one suicide deaths in Ireland in 2014 were carried out by females.

However, these provisional figures by their nature are subject to change, and should therefore be interpreted with caution. The provisional figures always represent an underestimate of the final figures. Previous research by Corcoran *et al.* (2006) found that the final suicide figures can be 6-20% higher.

These findings underline the need to review suicide mortality recording procedures in Ireland in conjunction with prioritising the on-going implementation and evaluation of suicide prevention programmes.

Professor Ella Arensman
National Suicide Research Foundation
Western Gateway Building
Room 4.34
University College Cork
Cork
Ireland

Tel: 0035321 4205551
E-mail: earensman@ucc.ie
<http://www.nsrif.ie>

29th May 2015