

Comment in relation to CSO Vital Statistics Report

On today, May 31th 2016, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) released provisional figures for deaths, including suicide, which occurred in 2015. According to the Press Release, 451 suicide deaths occurred in 2015, equating to 9.7 per 100,000 of the population. The provisional figures for 2015 indicate that there were 375 male suicides (16.4 per 100,000 of the population) and 76 female suicides (3.2 per 100,000 of the population).

These provisional figures by their nature are subject to change, and should therefore be interpreted with caution. The provisional figures often 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, in particular, the strategic goals and actions of *Connecting for Life*, Ireland's National Strategy to reduce Suicide 2015-2020.

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