

## Data on suspected suicide based on the Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory (SSHO) in County Cork, 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Q1-Q3)

The data presented below is based on provisional data that has been made available in real time by the Coroners in County Cork for inclusion in the SSHO, prior to coronial inquest.

Based on the most current data available and collated by the SSHO, the following summary has been provided, relating to deaths by suspected suicide that have occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021:

- Between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 38 cases of suspected suicide were recorded by the SSHO in County Cork, the majority involving males (76.3%).
- Comparing the data on suspected suicide for County Cork between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to the same period in 2020 (N=26) and 2019 (N=31), a slight increase has been observed in suspected suicides during the specified period in 2021.
- Based on the gender distribution of suspected suicides in County Cork, a slight increase has been observed in suspected suicides by females during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (21% deaths by females, compared with the same period in 2020 (15% deaths by females) and 2019 (19% deaths by females).
- Comparing the data on suspected suicide for County Cork between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to data from the same period in 2020 and 2019, the most frequently used methods of suicide remain unchanged. During the specified period in 2021, there was a slight increase in deaths involving intentional self-harm by sharp object (8%); a method that was not observed during the same period in 2020 and 2019.
- Comparing the data on suspected suicide for County Cork between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to data from the same period in 2020 and 2019, there are no significant differences regarding involvement with the mental health services prior to death.
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, most deaths occurred by individuals aged within the 45–49-year-old age bracket, for both males and females. During the same period in 2020 and 2019, the high-risk age brackets involved males aged between 45-49-years-old and females aged 40-44 years-old.
- Despite being consistently recorded as the most common location of death by suspected suicide, fewer deaths occurred in the home of the deceased (47%) between 1<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 compared to data from the same period in 2020 (54%) and 2019 (74%). During the specified period, more deaths occurred at publicly accessible locations in 2021 (18%), compared to data from the same period in 2020 (8%) and 2021 (6%).
- On multiple occasions, access to real-time suicide data facilitated a timely response to people bereaved by suicide, verification of misinformation on suicide in the media, and enhanced prevention measures to restrict access to lethal means.

*For further information on the data presented here, please contact:*

Prof Ella Arensman  
Professor of Public Mental Health, School of Public Health,  
Chief Scientist, National Suicide Research Foundation,  
University College Cork  
E-mail: [ella.arensman@ucc.ie](mailto:ella.arensman@ucc.ie)

*For support information, please contact:*

Freephone Samaritans on: 116 123 or Text Hello to 50808 or Email: [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie)  
For information on mental health support services, please visit: [www.yourmentalhealth.ie](http://www.yourmentalhealth.ie)