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NEWS & UPDATES

- Latest Publications
- Ongoing Research
- Upcoming Events
- Outreach

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our Annual Report 2024
- 30th World Congress of
- Train-the Trainer Module Roll out
- We can help Pawel Thrive



ANNUAL REPORT



The NSRF Lews Letter

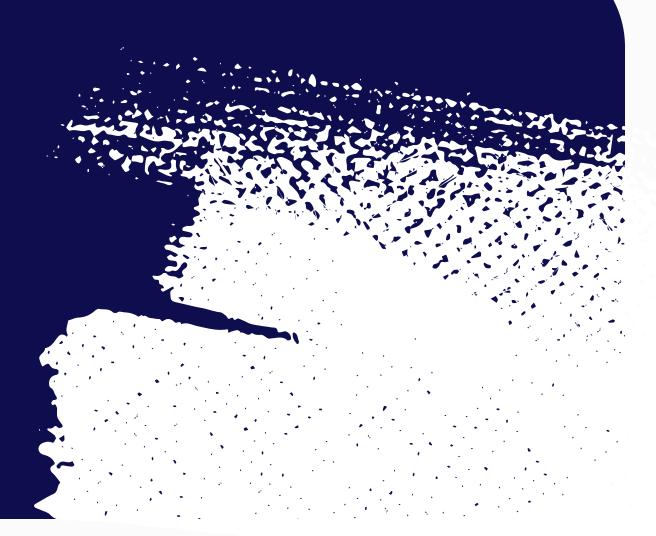
Welcome to the third edition of the NSRF Newsletter.

The NSRF Newsletter is designed to keep our research community, social advocates, and stakeholders informed and engaged with the Foundation's projects.

The Newsletter features articles on recent research outputs and events, interviews with the team, and spotlights on upcoming activities. This issue covers the period between March 2025 - September 2025.

In addition to providing the latest updates, insights, and stories from the NSRF, we hope this newsletter will serve as a platform for collaboration and inspiration.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter, please contact our editor, Sofia Bettella (sbettella@ucc.ie).



Our latest Annual Report 2024



Read the report in full HERE



The National Suicide Research Foundation Annual Report for 2024, including published research and dissemination activities, is now available to download.

Thank you to all of the team for continuing to provide the strong research base necessary to underpin efforts to address suicide and self-harm as significant public health issues and their commitment to reducing suicide in our communities.

Identifying the needs of young people and their families bereaved by suicide report NEW REPORT



On May 1st a new report identifying the support needs of young people and their families following a bereavement by suicide was published. Funded by HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention, the report reflects the voices of young people who have experienced a suicide bereavement, as well as parents of children with experience of suicide bereavement and professionals who support young people.

The report highlights the significant impact of suicide bereavement on young people and illustrates their support needs in the aftermath.

Understanding the Social Determinants of Suicide: A Call for Action NEW REVIEW



Suicide doesn't happen in isolation. It is often influenced by the world around us — our jobs, income, housing, education, and childhood experiences.

A recent study by members of our NSRF team, and funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention, reviewed a wide range of international research to better understand how these life circumstances — also called social determinants — can affect suicide risk.

The study found that people experiencing financial stress, unemployment, or difficult early life experiences were more likely to die by suicide. Poor housing and lower levels of education also showed some links, but more high-quality research is needed in these areas.

Importantly, the study highlights that while individual support and mental health care are

crucial, we also need to address the bigger picture — like tackling poverty, improving social protection, and supporting vulnerable children.

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day 2025, the NSRF team created a series of videos, including one highlighting the outcomes from this umbrella review of the social determinants of suicide. You can watch the video on our LinkedIn page by following the link above.

Suicide prevention in changing environments NEW EDITORIAL

Prof Ella Arensman is a co-author along with colleagues Dr Gregory Armstrong, Prof Katherine Keyes, Prof Alexandra Pitman and Dr Benedikt Till on an editorial in Crisis led by Prof Thomas Niederkrotenthaler.

The editorial highlights several pressing societal changes that will require the attention of the suicide research field in the near future, including:

- Changing online environments
- Changing work environments
- The Cost-of-Living Crisis
- Climate change
- Artificial intelligence
- Political turmoil and Armed conflict



Suicide reduction strategy public consultation report NEW REPORT

The NSRF were pleased to support Department of Health, Ireland by independently summarising findings from the public consultation to inform Ireland's new suicide reduction strategy. This report was under-taken by Dr Isabela Troya, Dr Grace Cully, Dr Eve Griffin and Dr Leigh Huggard.

Key emerging themes include:

- Ensuring accessible and highquality services
- Enhancing care systems
- Targeted interventions and support
- Education and stigma reduction
- Addressing social determinants in suicide prevention

Dr Eve Griffin and Prof Ella Arensman have also been appointed to the Expert Advisory Group for the new strategy by Minister of State for Mental Health Mary Butler. We are committed to preventing suicide and self-harm through research and action. We believe in working together across disciplines, sectors, and communities to create meaningful change.

Survey to Inform Ireland's New Suicide

Access findings from the consultation survey <u>HERE</u>.

Read a synthesis of the Public Consultation Submissions to Inform Ireland's New Suicide Reduction Strategy <u>HERE</u>.

From experience to evidence: on suicide bereavement NEW COMMENTARY

In collaboration with HUGG, we are pleased to share a new commentary in Nature Mental Health describing the process, learnings, and implications of the AfterWords research collaboration.

We discuss the benefits and challenges of co-produced research and the potential real world impact it can have, in the context of postvention. Read the paper in full **HERE**.



To mark World Suicide Prevention Day 2025, the NSRF team created a series of videos, including one showcasing the research collaboration between the NSRF and HUGG for the AfterWords survey. You can watch the video on our LinkedIn page by following the link above.

Updates from the National Self-Harm Registry: Data and Information Requests

The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland publishes an Annual Report each year, as well as HSE area level reports (most recently Community Healthcare Organisations or CHO Areas). We also prepare reports for the HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention (approx. 18 across Ireland). These reports are not publicly available but are used by the Resource Officers to inform their work locally and in particular, to guide their Connecting for Life Implementation Plans.

In addition to the listed reports, we also receive many data requests from HSE colleagues and other agencies that use data from the Registry to inform and guide their work. All data requests are submitted to the Registry Manager and are fulfilled, where possible, within a two-week timeframe.

Some examples of data requests we have received since March of this year include:



- National Medication Safety Programme:
 Data on codeine-containing products in
 intentional drug overdose
 presentations.
- Department of Health Working Group on Reducing Access to Paracetamol: Data on paracetamol intentional drug overdose presentations.
- EU Project MENTBEST: Information on self-harm presentations in the Limerick and Galway areas.
- JIGSAW: Data on the number of individuals aged 12-25 years who present to hospital with self-harm, by county.
- Cavan Monaghan Connecting for Life Working Group: Data on drug and alcohol involvement in self-harm presentations.



Prof Alan E. Fruzzetti, Dr Armida Fruzzetti and Dr Mary Joyce from the NSRF attended the <u>European DBT Association</u> Congress in Gdansk, Poland from May 8th-10th.

Also in attendance were Dr Mary Kells, Mr Declan O'Shea and Dr Ruth O'Driscoll from the HSE DBT Training Team.

The following presentations were delivered:

- Prof Alan Fruzzetti delivered a Plenary Session on DBT for families and Family Connections.
- Prof Alan Fruzzetti and Dr Armida Fruzzetti co-facilitated precongress workshops on DBT with couples, families and kids. Both Alan and Armida also contributed to symposia about training in DBT and DBT with adolescents.
- The Questionnaire for Suicidal Ideation (QSI): Psychometric properties of a brief tool measuring suicidal ideation in adult and adolescent clinical populations (Mary Joyce)
- Effect of a coordinated implementation approach on DBT programme sustainability (Mary Kells)
- Hopelessness for family members of individuals with borderline personality disorder (Mary Kells)
- Co-production of a modular based approach to Dialectical Behaviour Therapy training in Ireland (Poster)
- Personal mastery, burnout and related constructs for mental health professionals before participating in Clinician Connections (Poster)

Train-the-Trainer Programme Expands Suicide Prevention Education Capacity Across 13 Higher Education Institutions

On May 13th and 14th, educators from across Ireland came together for a national Train-the-Trainer event with one clear goal: to support the long-term delivery of a suicide prevention module for undergraduate health and social care students. By investing in educators, this initiative ensures that future nurses, social workers, doctors, and allied health professionals will be better prepared to respond with empathy, skill, and confidence in the face of suicide risk.





Funded by the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) initiative, the two-day event was a major step forward in the sustainable rollout of the "Prepare, Support, Prevent" module. Designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support people experiencing suicidal distress, the module has already been piloted in two Irish universities. Now, 13 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Ireland have in-house capacity to deliver the module to their students.

Throughout the event, trainers explored best practices in teaching sensitive topics, discussed how to tailor content to local needs, and began planning for module implementation within their own institutions.

The event was co-led by a multidisciplinary team from the National Suicide Research Foundation, University College Cork, University College Dublin, and the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention.

National Clinical Programme for Self-harm and Suicide Related Ideation Conference



On May 29th & 30th, the UCC School of Public Health and NSRF co-hosted the annual National Clinical Programme for Self-harm and Suicide related ideation annual conference, providing an opportunity to share research findings and clinical experiences of providing care for self-harm in emergency departments.

The conference included a research consultation with healthcare professionals on involving family members / supporters in care following self-harm. Via our Health Research Board (HRB) funded knowledge translation award we will be co-producing an e-module for healthcare staff along with accessible information resources for family members, supporters and patients.

Find out about our PRISM study **HERE**.



Daniel O'Callaghan UCC Research and Innovation Award



Huge congratulations to the NSRF's Daniel O'Callaghan on his award, as part of the Hidden Grief Research Project team, at the UCC Research and Innovation Awards for Engaged Research of the Year.

Related to Daniel's PhD research exploring the impact of drug-related deaths for families, communities, and services, Daniel is dedicated to producing high-impact research that promotes social inclusion and recognises the importance of strategic multi-agency and cross-disciplinary approaches to suicide prevention.

The Ella Arensman IASP Special Lecture Award





In honour of her impactful work, the International Association for Suicide Prevention has established the "Ella Arensman Special Lecture Award," celebrating individuals whose work bridges the gap between research, policy, and practice in suicide prevention.

Professor Ella Arensman has been an active member of the International Association for Suicide Prevention for over 20 years and a board member for 8 years. Ella played a fundamental role in the strategic development of IASP and was elected the first female IASP President in 2013. Ella's career reflects a deep commitment to reducing suicide and self-harm through evidence-based research, strategic policy development, and international collaboration. She was integral in the development of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and has worked nationally, and globally, with WHO to develop national strategies and provide technical support and training.

This award ensures that her legacy of mentorship and cross-sector collaboration continues to inspire the next generation of suicide prevention professionals.

The first recipient of the Special Lecture Award was Associate Professor Sarah Hetrick, presented at the International Association for Suicide Prevention 33rd World Congress in Vienna.



9th Suicide & Self-Harm Early and Mid-Career Researchers' Forum, Glasglow

Three NSRF team members attended the 9th annual Suicide and Self-Harm Early and Mid-Career Researchers' Forum in Glasgow from June 2nd-3rd.

The annual conference, hosted by the Suicidal Behaviour Research Laboratory, brought together researchers with a range of different expertise and experiences with a research focus on suicide and self-harm.

The forum offered the opportunity for attendees to connect, learn and be inspired by one another's research as well as hearing from a range of invited speakers who provided insight into their work.



The presentations by the NSRF team members are listed below.

- Grace Phillips Oral Presentation: The social determinants of suicide: an umbrella review. Poster Presentation: Implementing the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality Framework (CAMS) in Student Counselling Services in Ireland
- Dr Daniel O'Callaghan Oral Presentation: A rapid review of best practice in suicide prevention for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) populations
- Zara Harnett Oral Presentation: Let's Talk About Suicide: Evaluation of a brief introductory online suicide prevention training programme.



University College Cork Teaching and Learning Showcase



On June 6th, Dr Aileen Callanan presented on the feasibility of a Simulation Based Self-Harm and Management Training Programme for Healthcare Professionals in Ireland at the University College Cork Teaching and Learning Showcase.



30th World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Vienna

Several of the NSRF team presented on a range of topics at the 33rd World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention in Vienna from June 10th-13th.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and advocates from around the world to come together, share ideas, learn from one another, and work on real solutions to the global public health challenge of suicide and suicidal behaviours.



TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH



Prof Ella Arensman

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH



Prof Ella Arensman



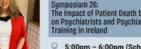
Ms Daisy Wiggin



Prof Ella Arensman



Dr Eibhlín Walsh





Dr Eve Griffin

Dr Griffin will be chairing the 'Oral 4'



Paul Corcoran

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH



Prof Ella Arensman



Dr Grace Cully

vices in Ireland: a mixed metho

10:30 AM - 12:30 noon (Strauss)



Prof Ella Arensman. Dr Paul Corcoran

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Schubert 6)



Dr Michelle O'Driscoll, Ms Kerrie Gallagher



Prof Ella Arensman



Dr Grace Cully



Dr Michelle O'Driscoll, Dr Grace Cully, Dr Eve Griffin, Ms Zara Harnett



Ms Kerrie Gallagher

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (Lehar 1



Dr Eric Kelleher

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH



Prof Ella Arensman Dr Isabela Troya



Ms Kerrie Gallagher

Dr Grace Cully

Age of onset of self-harm in children and adolescer

Dr Isabela Troya, Dr Eve Griffin,

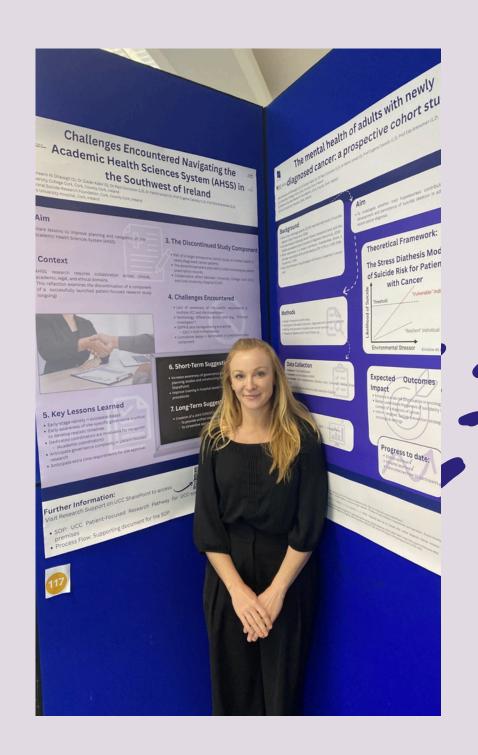
Full list of presentations and workshops by the NSRF team at the IASP Congress

College of Medicine and Health Research Conference

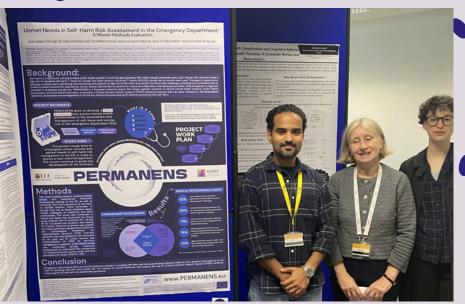
Several members of the NSRF team presented at the UCC College of Medicine and Health Research Conference on September 3rd.

Well done to Dr Aileen Callanan, Doireann Ní Dhálaigh, Dr Madhav Bhargav, Sofia Bettella, Almas Khan and Prof John Browne who presented on behalf of Pawel Hursztyn who continues to show remarkable strength, determination, and positivity following his recent accident.

The NSRF's ongoing collaboration with University College Cork across several disciplines supports a vision of enhancing and sustaining capacity, knowledge and quality in research and policy development to prevent suicide in our communities.







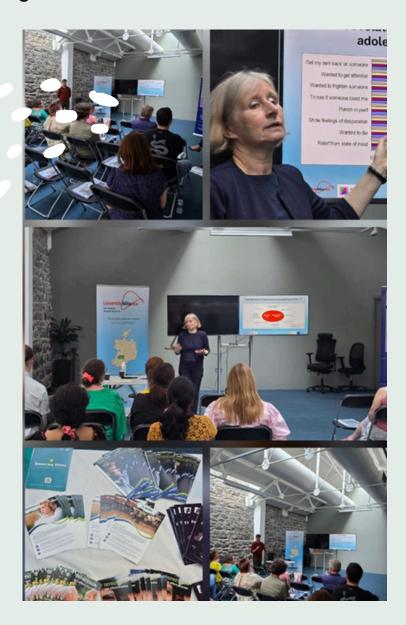




MENTBEST Project implementation highlights

MENTBEST is a Horizon Europe project that aims to support vulnerable individuals, mental health practitioners, and communities across Europe in preventing and addressing mental health challenges—both clinical and non-clinical—arising from rapid changes in the society.

Ireland is one of the project's implementation partners, alongside Spain, Estonia, Greece, and Albania, with Limerick serving as the intervention region. As part of this work and to implement the European Alliance against Depression (EAAD's) 4-level community-based interventions on ground, the Limerick Alliance for Mental Health Support was established.



Level 1 – Training for Health and Mental Health Professionals

On August 26th, the Limerick Alliance for Mental Health Support successfully delivered its first training workshop for health and mental health professionals at the Clayton Hotel, Limerick.

Level 2 – Public Awareness and Community Engagement

As part of its public awareness activities, the Alliance collaborated with the Limerick Wellbeing Series and Mental Health Ireland. They took part in the 5K Walks / 5 & 10K Runs and Wellness Sessions held across county Limerick in Barnagh, Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, and Rathkeale.

Level 3 – Community Facilitator (Gatekeeper) Training

The Alliance organised two gatekeeper training workshops, held on June 19th and July 29th at Limerick City Hall. These workshops aimed to equip community facilitators with the skills to recognise depression, provide effective support, and signpost individuals at risk of self-harm or suicide.

PROSPERH Consortium meeting, Leuven



On June 26th and 27th, representatives from across the PROSPERH consortium gathered in Leuven, Belgium, for a two-day plenary meeting. The plenary provided an invaluable opportunity to reflect on progress, align strategic priorities, and deepen collaboration across borders.

Over the two days, participants engaged in focused discussions on emerging challenges, shared insights from ongoing work packages, and explored opportunities for innovation and integration across research activities. The collaborative spirit was palpable, with interdisciplinary teams charting a path forward for the next phase of PROSPERH's mission. The meeting not only reinforced our shared goals but also underscored the importance of meaningful partnership in driving change.

NSRF TEAM UPDATE

WE CAN HELP PAWEL THRIVE

Following a serious accident in Cork on Saturday, 5th July 2025, our dear friend and colleague <u>Pawel Hursztyn</u> sustained life-altering injuries, resulting in permanent paralysis from the chest down.

This deeply distressing event has come as an overwhelming shock to Pawel, his family, friends, and his close network of colleagues at the NSRF and the School of Public Health in UCC.

Pawel is genuinely one of the nicest people you could meet and has touched many of us through his colleagueship, friendship, compassion, and his generosity of spirit and determination, both personally and professionally.

In the weeks since his accident Pawel has shown remarkable strength, determination and positivity and together, we can offer support to him and his family to navigate the road ahead to give Pawel the best possible chance to thrive in his recovery.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE

We kindly invite you to share this message and the GoFundMe link within your own networks, so we can reach a wider audience and offer Pawel and his family the strongest possible support. https://gofund.me/1a266 683
Thank you again for your compassion and support.

UPCCOMING

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY SEMINAR

FRIDAY 10[™] OCTOBER 2025 (IN PERSON, CORK CITY)

INCLUDING DR MICHAEL J KELLEHER MEMORIAL LECTURE BY PROF SHEKHAR SAXENA, FORMER DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, WHO

5TH EARLY & MID-CAREER RESEARCHER WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2025 (ONLINE EVENT)

DR RUTH MELIA, UNIVERSITY OF LIMERIC

Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the Island of Ireland - 2025 Events

We are pleased to be co-hosting two C-SSHRI events for 2025 in collaboration with the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention and the School of Public Health in UCC.

- Annual World Mental Health Day Seminar: Our annual World Mental Health Day Seminar will take place in Nano Nagle Place, Cork City on Friday, October 10th, 2025 (in person). Featuring keynote lecture by Prof Barbara Dooley and Dr Michael J Kelleher Memorial Lecture by Prof Shekhar Saxena. We have reached capacity for this event.
- Early and Mid-Career Researcher Workshop: Our 5th Early and Mid-Career Researcher Workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 12th, 2025. This will be an online event. See our call for abstracts on the next page.

GETIN/COLVED

5TH EARLY & MID-CAREER SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM



RESEARCHER WORKSHOP

Call for abstracts now open

Deadline: October 6th

Inviting submissions from researchers based on the island of Ireland

€1000 research bursary award for best presentation

ATTENDANCE IS FREE











THE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY 12TH
OF NOVEMBER
(online event)

Featuring:

- Keynote lecture by Dr Ruth Melia, University of Limerick
- Early and mid-career researcher presentations on topics relating to suicide prevention

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to express your interest in presenting at the Early and Mid-Career (ECR)Workshop. We welcome submissions on mental health-related topics, where there are clear applications to, or learnings, for suicide or self-harm prevention. More details on eligibility criteria and selection process at the link above.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the research outputs and analyses shared throughout the newsletter already, in this section, you will find a showcase of the most recent papers and reports published by the NSRF team.

We are proud to contribute to ongoing discussions in our field with our publications, which are catalogued and routinely updated in our website's repository.

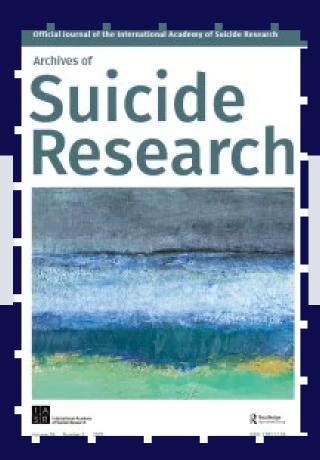
The following pages highlight a selection of key publications that have been released since our previous edition.



Selection of the publications already covered throughout the newsletter.

For a full list of our publications, the NSRF website catalogues

- Our Reports
- Our <u>Journal Articles</u>



Kavalidou et al 2025
Is Mental Health Multimorbidity
Associated with Contact with
Healthcare Services Before
Suicide? Retrospective Analysis
of Irish Coronial Data, 2015–2020

Key findings:

- Those with multiple mental health conditions (MH multimorbidity) are more likely to contact medical services within the year before suicide compared to those with one mental health condition only or no mental health condition at all.
- Several risk factors were found to be more prevalent in the MH multimorbid group compared to having none or one mental health condition, including prior self-harm and history of substance use.
- Healthcare services should be aware of this pattern of risk and target patients with multiple mental health disorders and cooccurring substance use accordingly.

O'Brien et al 2025

Investigating how patient suicide affects personal and professional lives of psychiatrists and psychiatrists in training in Ireland



Key findings:

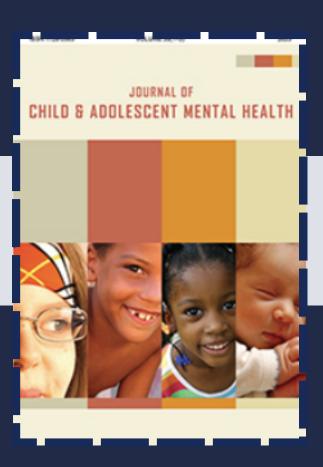
- Key personal and professional impacts in the aftermath of a patient's suicide include pre-occupation with suicide, decreased self-confidence, sadness, burnout, desire for career change/break and fear of negative events following the suicide.
- A significant difference was observed across gender with respect to sense of responsibility, with females displaying more feelings of responsibility than males.
- Support from colleagues and line managers was largely identified as helpful in the aftermath of patient death by suicide.
- There is a need for greater access to guidelines/policy and occupational support for psychiatrists to assist their responses.



O'Brien et al 2025 Suicide prevention curriculum development for health and social care students: A scoping review

Key findings:

- 58 suicide prevention training programmes were identified, mainly from the US and Australia.
- Training consistently improved students' knowledge, confidence, and preparedness.
- However, most programmes were optional, short in duration, and lacked standardised learning outcomes or competencies.
- Healthcare students would positively receive the embedding of suicide prevention training into their respective degrees and emphasize the need to include the student voice in a suicide prevention curriculum design.



Kavalidou et al 2025

Thoughts of suicide and selfharm: A national study on young people presenting to nonpaediatric acute hospitals in İreland

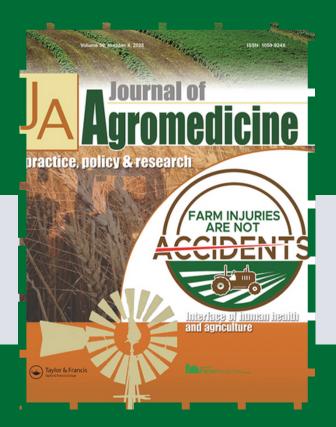
Key findings:

- Á significant number of adolescents with a self-harm-related crisis attend paediatric acute hospitals in Ireland.

- Careful initial assessment and transitional care are needed to ensure that youth at risk of suicide and/or mental illness are referred to appropriate services

Cox al 2025

Probable Suicide Among Men in Farming and Agricultural-Related Occupations in the Republic of Ireland: Exploring Coronial Data



Key findings:

- Male farmers accounted for 8% of all male probable suicides in the Republic of Ireland between 2015-2018.
- While there was no significant rate difference in probable suicides among farmers compared to non-farmers, the agespecific rate for farmers over 65-years was significantly different from same-age nonfarmers.
- Further research is needed to identify potential farming- and agricultural-related sub-populations at elevated risk of suicide, in addition to opportunities for intervention.



Kavalidou et al 2025

National clinical assessment data of Indigenous Traveller women attending 24 Irish emergency departments, between 2018-2022, in a suicidal crisis: a sequential mixed method study

Key findings:

- Results highlight the potential suicide risk of traveller women over the age of 40 and the significant issue of social isolation.

- One in four Traveller female presentations requested no next of kin involvement when

discharged.

- The 'Power of human connection' theme emerged from two Traveller women interviewed, reflecting the powerfulness of support in the participants experiences of suicidal ideation.

contacts and media



If you would like to support our work, there are many ways to do so: by donating or fundraising, becoming a corporate partner or by following and promoting our research and updates on social media. Find out more information here: https://nsrf.ie/donations/

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