Suicide

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Goal
To produce a nationally and internationally recognised body of reliable knowledge from a multidisciplinary perspective on the risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviour.

Research focus
Extent of the problem of deliberate self harm and suicide as well as risk and protective factors

Effectiveness of intervention and prevention programmes for deliberate self harm and suicide
What is suicidal behaviour?

- Suicide
- Suicide attempts
- Deliberate self harm
  - Hospital/medically-treated
  - Untreated
- Suicidal ideation/thoughts/plans
Suicidal behaviour:
an ‘iceberg phenomenon’

Level 1

Suicide

Level 2

Deliberate self harm medically treated

World Health Organization and Irish Central Statistics Office Suicide Data

Surveillance studies and registries

Level 3

‘Hidden’ cases of deliberate self harm and suicidal thoughts

Community and school-based studies
The burden of suicidal behaviour

An estimated one million people die by suicide annually worldwide

10-20 million people attempt suicide annually worldwide

Suicide accounts for ~1.5% of all deaths and is the 10th leading cause of death worldwide

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in 15-34 year-old Europeans

Among 15-44 year-olds worldwide, self-inflicted injuries is the sixth leading cause of disability-adjusted life years
The burden of suicidal behaviour
The burden of suicidal behaviour

Evolution of global suicide rates 1950-2000
(per 100,000)

- Males
- Females

Year

Rate

1950
2000
Recording of suicide in Ireland

- Coroner notified of death by gardai
- Post mortem and inquest
- Coroner notifies registrar of death after the inquest
- Registrar then registers death and notifies the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
- CSO send confidential form to relevant garda sub-district
- Garda provides opinion as to the cause of death and returns form to CSO
  - Suicidal
  - Homicidal
  - Accidental
  - Undetermined
Irish suicide rates, 1960-2010

Rate per 100,000 age-adjusted to the Standard European Pop.

Men

Women
Suicide compared to transport accident deaths in Ireland

Suicide+UD - Suicide - Transport accidents

Number of deaths
Is suicide a major cause of death in Ireland?

Suicide accounted for 527 (1.8%) of the 28,898 deaths that were registered in 2009.
Suicide accounted for 229 (25%) of the 923 deaths of 15-34 year-olds that were registered in 2009.
Suicide in Ireland and in other EU countries

Suicide rate of 15-24 year-olds in Ireland and in other EU countries

Suicide in Ireland by age, 2004-2009

Average annual rate per 100,000

- Men
- Women

Age groups:
- 10-14yrs
- 15-19yrs
- 20-24yrs
- 25-29yrs
- 30-34yrs
- 35-39yrs
- 40-44yrs
- 45-49yrs
- 50-54yrs
- 55-59yrs
- 60-64yrs
- 65-69yrs
- 70-74yrs
- 75-79yrs
- 80-84yrs
- 85yrs+

Graph shows the average annual suicide rate per 100,000 for both men and women across different age groups.
Method of suicide in Ireland by gender

Based on 2004-2008 data
Method of suicide in Ireland by gender and age

Based on 2004-2008 data
Monthly variation in suicide, 2006-2008

Number of suicide deaths

- Expected
- Observed
Monthly variation in suicide, 2006-2008
Suicide in Ireland by day of death

Based on 2005-2006 data
Location of suicide deaths in Ireland

Based on 2002 data

- At or near home
- River/waterway
- At sea
- Institution
- Farm/agri area
- Other persons residence
- Road/roadside
- Work site
- Other

Based on 2002 data
Example of volatile rates:
Carlow 2007: 22 per 100,000
Carlow 2008: 11 per 100,000
Galway county, 8 deaths in 2004
Galway county, 25 deaths in 2005
Suicide in Ireland by marital status and gender

Based on 2002 data
Suicide in Ireland by domestic situation and gender

Based on 2002 data
Suicide in Ireland by employment status and gender

Based on 2002 data