

No. 535/2019

10 September 2019

Our Ref: P26/19

To: All Branches

Dear Colleagues,

UK Suicide Rates Rise by 11.8% to Highest Level Since 2002 - Office for National Statistics (ONS) Report Published:

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have this week published data for 2018 which shows that the rate of suicides in the UK has risen sharply to its highest level since 2002 and this is the first rise in numbers since 2013. The overall increase reversed a trend of continuous decline since 2013. In 2018, a total of 6,507 suicides were registered in the UK, 686 more deaths than in 2017 when there were 5,821 deaths (11.8% increase).

The official figures show a worrying, sharp 11.8% increase which translates to 11.2 deaths from suicide per 100,000 people - up from 10.1 in 2017.

The official figures show that men account for three-quarters of the number of people who took their own lives last year with 17.2 deaths from suicide per 100,000, up from 15.5 per 100,000 in 2017.

Those men in their late 40s remain the age group with the highest suicide rate at 27.1 per 100,000.

Of particular concern is the increase in the rates of young people aged from 10 to 24 killing themselves, which saw a significant rise with the overall rate for that age group reaching a 19-year high with 730 deaths. The rate for young girls and women reached an all-time high. Young men aged 20-24 saw significant increases. The rate among 20 to 24-year-old males leaped 31% to 16.9 per 100,000, from 12.9 a year earlier. Among females aged 10 to 24, despite a low number of suicides overall, the rate rose to its highest level, 3.3 per 100,000.

Across the UK Scotland had the highest suicide rate with 16.1 deaths per 100,000 people (784 deaths), followed by Wales with 12.8 per 100,000 (349 deaths) and England the lowest with 10.3 deaths per 100,000 (5,021 deaths). The rates for Northern Ireland will be published by the ONS later this year.

Outside of Scotland, the area with the highest suicide rate for men was the north-east, with 20.4 per 100,000 taking their own lives and for women it was Wales that had the highest rate, at 6.9 per 100,000. London and the south-east had the lowest rates for both men and women.

The all-time peak in the suicide rate is was in the 1980s.

Attachments:

- Suicides in the UK 2018 Registrations Statistics Report (ONS)
- Suicides by Gender & Age Group Summary (ONS)

Note:

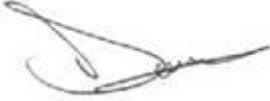
- World Suicide Prevention Day is on 10th September 2019.
- The Samaritans 2019 Annual Suicide Statistics Report will be published on 10th September 2019.

Members in Distress:-

In the UK the Samaritans can be contacted as follows:

Tel: 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org

Yours sincerely



Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer