

SUICIDE AMONG THE IRISH TRAVELLER COMMUNITY

Profile of Suicide Incidence Nationally and Among Travellers.

Between 2000-2006 there was a reported 74 suicides.

The average annual rate of suicide among Travellers between 2000-2006 inclusive was 3.7 per 10,000.

This is 3 times the average rate of suicide of the total population of Ireland during the same period which was 1.2 per 10,000.

AGE

53% of Travellers are aged under 20 compared to 28% of the national population.

4% of Travellers are aged over 60 compared to over 15% of the total population

65% of Traveller suicides occur among the under 30's.

The age group most at risk for Travellers are 25-29.

SEX and MARITAL STATUS

Suicide is predominately a male issue.

For the total population, male suicide is 4 times as common as female suicide.

According to Mary Rose Walker study of 74 Traveller suicides 67 were male and 7 were female. This yields a male suicide rate at 91% over 9 times as common as female suicide.

Of those who died by suicide 38(58%) had never married

25(34%) were married

15% were separated.

Only one person was reported as being in the same sex relationship.

The numbers are low of women who have died by suicide, 7 women in total between 2000-2006.

METHOD of SUICIDE

The most frequent method of suicide used is hanging which accounts for almost 57% of all suicides in 2000.

59 Travellers used this means of death, which accounts for 80% of Traveller suicides.