



2005

3309.0

SUICIDES

AUSTRALIA

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents summary statistics on deaths registered in Australia where the underlying cause of death was determined to be suicide. These statistics were compiled from data made available to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and coroners in each State or Territory. Data are presented for suicide deaths registered in the years 1995 to 2005, by sex and age group, and method of suicide. State and territory death rates from suicide are also presented.

Caution

The quality of cause of death coding is affected by a range of factors including delays in finalising coronial processes. See paragraphs 6 to 10 of the Explanatory Notes. The level of recorded deaths attributed to suicide, and observed changes over time are likely to have been affected by delays in finalising a cause. More information about these issues will be provided in *Information Paper: External Causes of Death, Data Quality 2005* (cat.no. 3317.0.55.001) to be released in April 2007.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ICD International Classification of Diseases
- ICD-10 International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision
- ICD-9 International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision
- NCIS National Coroners Information System
- WHO World Health Organization

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Suicide continues to be a major public health issue. Although death by suicide is a relatively uncommon event (occurring at a rate of about 1 per 10,000 population per year), the human and economic costs are substantial.

Suicide can be defined as the deliberate taking of one's life¹. To be classified as a suicide, a death must be recognised as being due to other than natural causes. It must also be established by coronial enquiry that the death resulted from a deliberate act of the deceased with the intention of ending his or her own life.

This publication contains summary statistics on deaths registered in Australia between 1995 and 2005 (the most recent year for which data are available), where the underlying cause of death was determined as suicide. Data on deaths from suicide are presented disaggregated by sex, age, method of suicide and state or territory of usual residence.

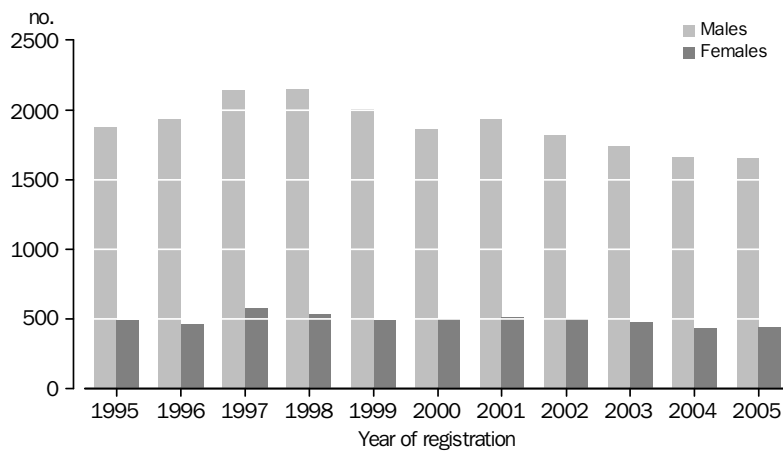
All data are presented by year of registration, rather than the year in which the death occurred. Over the last decade, around 93% of suicide deaths were registered in the same year in which the death occurred, and 7% in the year immediately following.

OVERALL TRENDS

Total number of suicide deaths

There were 2,101 deaths from suicide registered in 2005, similar to the number registered in the previous year (2,098). Nearly 80% of these were deaths of males.

SUICIDE, TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS



Suicide as proportion of total deaths

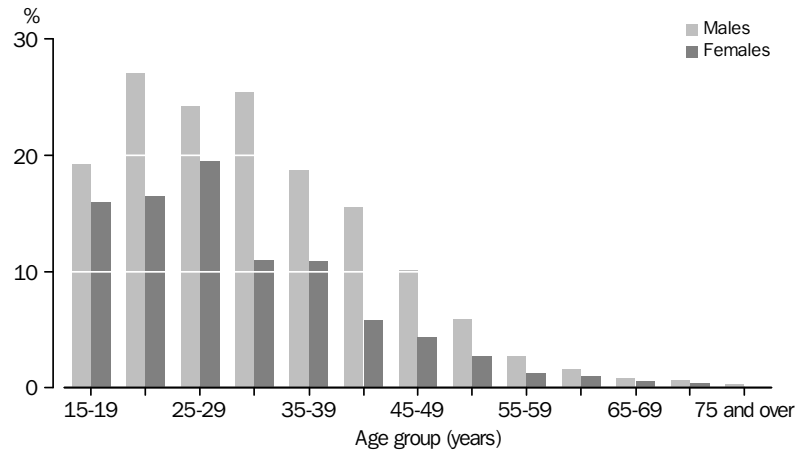
While suicide accounts for only a small proportion (1.6%) of deaths of persons of all ages, it accounts for a greater proportion of deaths from all causes in specific age groups (see graph below). For example, suicide deaths make up more than 20% of deaths from all causes, in each five year age group for males between 20 to 34 years. Similarly for females, suicide deaths comprise a much higher proportion of total deaths in younger age groups compared with older age groups (see Table 7).

¹ Butterworths Concise Australian Legal Dictionary, 1997, Butterworths Sydney.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS *continued*

Suicide as proportion of total deaths continued

SUICIDE AS PROPORTION OF TOTAL DEATHS 2005



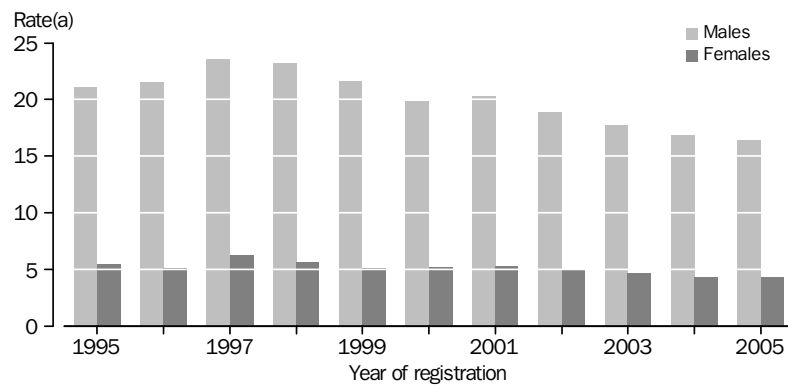
Age-standardised rates

The age-structure of the Australian population has changed over time. Age standardisation allows comparison of rates between populations with different age structures. The age-standardised suicide rate (for persons) in 2005 was 1% lower than the corresponding rate for the previous year and 30% lower than in 1997.

The age-standardised suicide rate in 2005 for males was 16.4 per 100,000 while the corresponding rate for females was 4.3 per 100,000 (see Table 1).

Throughout the period 1995 to 2005 the male age-standardised suicide death rate was approximately four times higher than the corresponding female rate, as can be seen in the following graph.

AGE-STANDARDISED DEATH RATES FOR SUICIDE



(a) Age-standardised rate per 100,000. Standardised using direct method and the Australian estimated resident population (persons) at 30 June 2001 as standard population.

AGE

Median age

The median age at death for suicide in 2005 was 41.4 years for males and 44.1 years for females (see Table 1). In comparison, the median age for deaths from all causes in 2005 was 76.8 for males and 82.9 years for females.

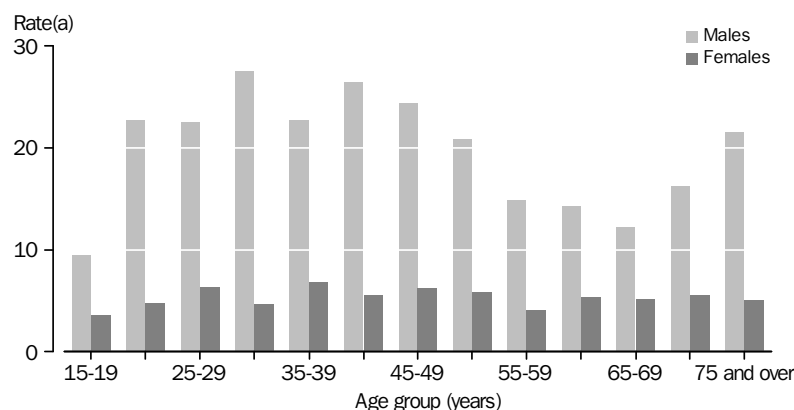
Age-specific rates

The pattern of age-specific rates in 2005 for suicide in males and females is shown in the graph below.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS *continued*

Age-specific rates *continued*

AGE-SPECIFIC SUICIDE RATES 2005



(a) Rate per 100,000 estimated resident population

The highest age-specific suicide death rate for males in 2005 was observed in the 30-34 years age group (27.5 per 100,000) and the lowest was in the 15-19 years age group (9.5 per 100,000). For females the highest age-specific suicide death rate in 2005 was observed in the 35-39 years age group (6.9 per 100,000) and the lowest in the 15-19 years age group (3.6 per 100,000) (see Table 3).

METHOD OF SUICIDE

In 2005 the most frequent method of suicide was hanging (including strangulation and suffocation) which was used in half (51%) of all suicide deaths. Poisoning by drugs was used in 12% and poisoning by other methods (including by motor vehicle exhaust) was used in 16% of suicide deaths. Methods using firearms accounted for 7% of suicide deaths. The remaining group (Other) comprised 14% of suicide deaths and included deaths from drowning, jumping from a high place, and other methods. Suicide deaths using firearms have more than halved over the last ten years, from 389 deaths in 1995, to 147 deaths in 2005. See Table 5 for data on broad groupings of method of suicide.

STATE AND TERRITORY

Suicide rates in states and territories may fluctuate over time particularly in the smaller jurisdictions, because of the small number of suicides that may be registered annually. In addition, quality issues relating to delays in finalising coronial processes may also vary across the jurisdictions. Therefore caution should be exercised when comparing annual state and territory suicide data (see Table 5).

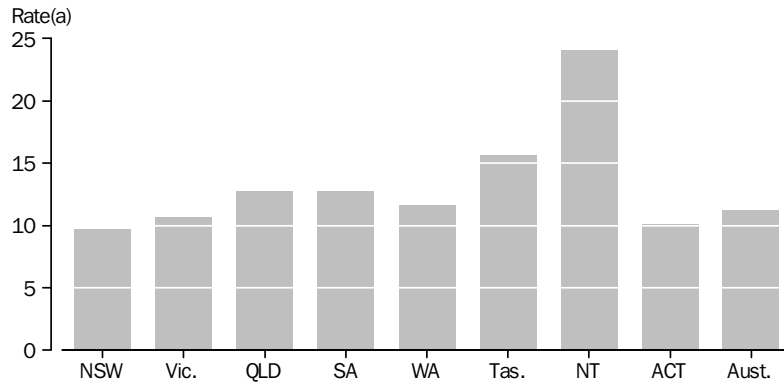
Other factors such as the higher rate of suicide in rural areas may contribute to differences across states and territories. In the Northern Territory, the high rate of suicide in the Indigenous population contributes to the high rate of suicide in that jurisdiction. See *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (cat. no. 4704.0, page 159) for more information on suicide deaths in the Indigenous population.

Combining data for five years allows more reliable comparison of suicide rates across the states and territories. The graph below shows age-standardised suicide rates for the states and territories using the most recent five years of data (registration years 2001-2005) combined (Table 6).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS *continued*

STATE AND TERRITORY
continued

SUICIDE BY STATE AND TERRITORY 2001-2005, age-standardised rates



(a) Age-standardised rate per 100,000. Standardised using direct method and estimated resident population for Australia (persons) at 30 June 2001 as standard population

For this period, high rates were evident in the Northern Territory (more than double the national rate), followed by Tasmania (39% above the national rate) and Queensland and South Australia (14% above the national rate). New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT all had rates lower than the national rate.

		YEAR OF REGISTRATION										
		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of suicide deaths												
Males	no	1 873	1 931	2 143	2 150	2 002	1 860	1 935	1 817	1 736	1 661	1 657
Females	no	495	462	577	533	490	503	519	503	477	437	444
Persons	no	2 368	2 393	2 720	2 683	2 492	2 363	2 454	2 320	2 213	2 098	2 101
Rate of suicide deaths (age-standardised)(a)												
Males	rate	21.1	21.5	23.6	23.2	21.6	19.8	20.3	18.8	17.7	16.8	16.4
Females	rate	5.5	5.1	6.2	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.3
Persons	rate	13.1	13.1	14.7	14.3	13.2	12.3	12.6	11.8	11.1	10.4	10.3
Rate ratio of males to females	ratio	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8
Rate of suicide deaths (crude)(b)												
Males	rate	20.8	21.2	23.3	23.1	21.3	19.6	20.1	18.6	17.6	16.6	16.4
Females	rate	5.5	5.0	6.2	5.7	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.3
Persons	rate	13.1	13.1	14.7	14.3	13.2	12.3	12.6	11.8	11.1	10.4	10.3
Males aged 15–24	rate	25.4	25.7	31.0	27.4	23.3	19.7	20.4	19.0	18.0	13.8	16.2
Females aged 15–24	rate	6.4	4.3	7.2	6.4	5.6	5.8	4.8	4.3	3.7	5.1	4.2
Median age at death												
Males	years	37.2	38.0	37.5	36.8	38.8	39.0	39.0	39.3	40.6	41.4	41.4
Females	years	41.1	40.6	41.0	39.8	40.2	40.2	41.1	43.2	41.2	43.3	44.1
Persons	years	37.9	38.6	38.1	37.5	39.0	39.3	39.6	40.3	40.7	41.8	41.8
Suicides as percentage of total deaths	%	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
Suicides as percentage of all deaths from external causes	%	31.9	31.7	34.6	32.7	29.8	29.2	31.2	29.7	28.6	26.3	26.2
Selected external cause of death codes relevant to quality of suicides data(c)(d)(e)												
Accidental												
strangulation/hanging/suffocation (W75, W76, W83, W84)	no	..	..	69	144	142	107	104	112	140	178	102
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	no	..	..	352	659	1 088	822	642	568	629	737	740
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	no	..	..	826	898	860	930	802	1 031	949	1 015	1 102

.. not applicable

(a) Age-standardised rate per 100,000 using estimated resident population for Australia (persons) at 30 June 2001 as the standard population. Direct method of standardisation used.

(b) Crude rate per 100,000 estimated resident population.

(c) The number of deaths coded as suicide (intentional self-harm X60-X84) is affected by a range of factors relating to the collection, coding and processing of cause of death data. The specificity with which cases are able to be allocated to a cause of death code depends on the amount of information available. Other codes may also be relevant to suicide.

(d) For more information, see the *Explanatory Notes* and the planned paper *External Causes of Death, Data Quality* (ABS cat. no. 3317.0.55.001).

(e) ICD-10 codes available from 1997 registration year

SUICIDE, NUMBER OF DEATHS —5 year age groups

AGE GROUP (YEARS)														
Year(a)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75 and over	All ages(b)
MALES														
1995	98	252	236	239	220	162	154	116	108	69	63	54	96	1 873
1996	114	237	236	229	234	179	151	115	93	88	68	68	112	1 931
1997	121	295	294	246	215	216	153	141	97	80	77	69	131	2 143
1998	116	248	314	277	273	206	167	147	88	75	87	49	97	2 150
1999	97	212	272	235	224	203	165	147	102	74	63	77	121	2 002
2000	89	174	235	240	234	210	152	139	80	66	56	64	113	1 860
2001	95	181	226	260	240	207	171	140	101	74	63	64	107	1 935
2002	97	164	214	229	222	209	159	143	84	74	64	51	103	1 817
2003	89	162	180	227	185	196	187	112	88	66	63	65	109	1 736
2004	53	143	172	221	174	208	131	126	89	78	71	64	123	1 661
2005	67	166	156	207	167	203	177	138	93	68	47	49	111	1 657
FEMALES														
1995	29	55	49	50	50	54	48	41	31	19	23	14	32	495
1996	26	30	49	47	65	45	50	38	21	19	15	23	27	462
1997	33	60	59	56	64	58	45	51	32	24	25	22	41	577
1998	35	47	56	53	77	58	33	39	30	23	20	21	39	533
1999	27	44	55	61	48	56	57	40	20	22	17	12	23	490
2000	41	34	57	49	67	65	34	33	29	22	20	21	30	503
2001	25	38	55	53	65	53	49	57	28	20	13	20	38	519
2002	27	29	47	56	48	74	51	43	35	21	15	15	38	503
2003	24	25	41	70	57	45	57	36	37	22	20	13	23	477
2004	32	37	30	48	41	50	51	38	24	17	17	12	39	437
2005	24	33	43	36	51	43	46	39	25	25	20	18	38	444
PERSONS														
1995	127	307	285	289	270	216	202	157	139	88	86	68	128	2 368
1996	140	267	285	276	299	224	201	153	114	107	83	91	139	2 393
1997	154	355	353	302	279	274	198	192	129	104	102	91	172	2 720
1998	151	295	370	330	350	264	200	186	118	98	107	70	136	2 683
1999	124	256	327	296	272	259	222	187	122	96	80	89	144	2 492
2000	130	208	292	289	301	275	186	172	109	88	76	85	143	2 363
2001	120	219	281	313	305	260	220	197	129	94	76	84	145	2 454
2002	124	193	261	285	270	283	210	186	119	95	79	66	141	2 320
2003	113	187	221	297	242	241	244	148	125	88	83	78	132	2 213
2004	85	180	202	269	215	258	182	164	113	95	88	76	162	2 098
2005	91	199	199	243	218	246	223	177	118	93	67	67	149	2 101

(a) Year of registration

(b) Includes deaths of persons aged under 15 years and age not stated.

SUICIDE, AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES (a)—5 year age groups

AGE GROUP (YEARS)														
Year(b)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75 and over	All ages(c)
MALES														
1995	15.1	34.8	34.1	32.7	30.9	24.3	24.2	23.4	26.6	19.5	18.8	20.0	29.2	20.8
1996	17.4	33.4	33.2	31.8	32.2	26.5	23.1	22.2	22.2	24.9	20.2	24.6	32.4	21.2
1997	18.5	42.8	40.5	34.6	29.2	31.5	23.5	25.3	22.3	22.1	22.8	24.5	36.1	23.3
1998	17.6	36.9	42.9	39.4	36.6	29.7	25.5	24.8	19.6	20.2	25.9	17.0	25.5	23.1
1999	14.6	32.1	37.3	33.5	29.8	28.8	24.9	23.9	21.7	19.2	18.9	26.1	30.4	21.3
2000	13.1	26.6	32.5	33.9	31.3	29.2	22.8	21.9	16.3	16.5	16.9	21.4	27.2	19.6
2001	13.8	27.4	32.2	35.8	32.4	28.2	25.3	21.5	19.7	17.9	18.8	21.1	24.5	20.1
2002	13.9	24.2	31.1	30.8	30.3	27.8	23.2	22.0	15.3	17.3	18.6	16.8	22.5	18.6
2003	12.7	23.3	26.3	30.1	25.5	25.7	26.9	17.1	15.1	15.0	17.7	21.5	22.9	17.6
2004	7.5	20.0	25.2	29.2	24.0	27.1	18.4	19.1	14.7	17.1	19.3	21.2	24.8	16.6
2005	9.5	22.7	22.6	27.5	22.7	26.4	24.3	20.8	14.9	14.2	12.3	16.3	21.6	16.4
FEMALES														
1995	4.7	7.8	7.1	6.8	7.0	8.1	7.8	8.6	7.8	5.3	6.5	4.3	5.9	5.5
1996	4.2	4.4	6.9	6.5	8.9	6.6	7.8	7.6	5.2	5.3	4.2	7.0	4.8	5.0
1997	5.3	9.0	8.1	7.8	8.6	8.4	7.0	9.5	7.6	6.6	7.1	6.7	7.0	6.2
1998	5.6	7.2	7.6	7.5	10.2	8.3	5.0	6.8	6.9	6.2	5.7	6.3	6.4	5.7
1999	4.2	6.9	7.5	8.6	6.3	7.8	8.6	6.7	4.4	5.7	4.9	3.6	3.7	5.1
2000	6.3	5.3	7.8	6.8	8.9	8.9	5.0	5.3	6.1	5.5	5.8	6.3	4.6	5.2
2001	3.8	5.9	7.8	7.2	8.7	7.1	7.2	8.8	5.6	4.9	3.7	6.0	5.6	5.3
2002	4.1	4.4	6.8	7.4	6.5	9.7	7.4	6.6	6.5	5.0	4.2	4.5	5.5	5.1
2003	3.6	3.7	6.0	9.1	7.8	5.8	8.1	5.5	6.5	5.1	5.5	3.9	3.2	4.8
2004	4.8	5.5	4.5	6.3	5.6	6.5	7.1	5.7	4.0	3.8	4.5	3.7	5.3	4.3
2005	3.6	4.8	6.4	4.7	6.9	5.6	6.3	5.8	4.0	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.1	4.3
PERSONS														
1995	10.0	21.5	20.7	19.8	19.0	16.2	16.1	16.1	17.3	12.4	12.5	11.5	14.7	13.1
1996	10.9	19.1	20.1	19.1	20.5	16.5	15.5	15.1	13.8	15.1	12.0	15.1	15.3	13.1
1997	12.0	26.1	24.3	21.2	18.8	19.9	15.3	17.5	15.1	14.3	14.8	14.9	18.1	14.7
1998	11.7	22.3	25.3	23.4	23.4	18.9	15.3	16.0	13.4	13.2	15.6	11.3	13.8	14.3
1999	9.5	19.7	22.4	21.0	18.0	18.2	16.7	15.4	13.2	12.5	11.8	14.2	14.0	13.2
2000	9.8	16.1	20.1	20.3	20.0	19.0	13.9	13.7	11.3	11.0	11.2	13.4	13.4	12.3
2001	8.9	16.8	20.0	21.3	20.4	17.6	16.2	15.1	12.8	11.4	11.1	13.2	13.0	12.6
2002	9.1	14.5	19.0	19.0	18.3	18.7	15.2	14.3	11.0	11.2	11.3	10.4	12.2	11.8
2003	8.3	13.7	16.2	19.5	16.6	15.7	17.4	11.3	10.8	10.1	11.5	12.3	11.1	11.1
2004	6.2	12.9	14.9	17.7	14.7	16.7	12.7	12.4	9.4	10.5	11.8	12.1	13.2	10.4
2005	6.6	14.0	14.6	16.1	14.8	16.0	15.2	13.2	9.5	9.8	8.7	10.6	11.8	10.3

(a) Deaths per 100,000 estimated resident population in each age and sex group.

(b) Year of registration

(c) Crude rate per 100,000 estimated resident population. Includes deaths of persons aged under 15 years and age not stated.

SUICIDE, AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES (a)—10 year age groups

AGE GROUP (YEARS)								
Year(b)	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages(c)
MALES								
1995	25.4	33.4	27.8	23.9	23.3	19.3	29.2	20.8
1996	25.7	32.5	29.4	22.7	23.4	22.2	32.4	21.2
1997	31.0	37.6	30.3	24.3	22.2	23.6	36.1	23.3
1998	27.4	41.2	33.2	25.2	19.9	21.8	25.5	23.1
1999	23.3	35.4	29.3	24.4	20.6	22.3	30.4	21.3
2000	19.7	33.2	30.2	22.4	16.4	19.0	27.2	19.6
2001	20.4	34.0	30.3	23.4	18.9	19.9	24.5	20.1
2002	19.0	30.9	29.0	22.6	16.2	17.7	22.5	18.6
2003	18.0	28.3	25.6	22.1	15.0	19.4	22.9	17.6
2004	13.8	27.3	25.6	18.8	15.7	20.2	24.8	16.6
2005	16.2	25.1	24.6	22.6	14.6	14.0	21.6	16.4
FEMALES								
1995	6.4	7.0	7.5	8.1	6.6	5.5	5.9	5.5
1996	4.3	6.7	7.8	7.7	5.2	5.6	4.8	5.0
1997	7.2	8.0	8.5	8.1	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.2
1998	6.4	7.6	9.3	5.9	6.6	6.0	6.4	5.7
1999	5.6	8.0	7.1	7.7	5.0	4.3	3.7	5.1
2000	5.8	7.3	8.9	5.2	5.9	6.0	4.6	5.2
2001	4.8	7.5	7.9	8.0	5.3	4.8	5.6	5.3
2002	4.3	7.1	8.1	7.0	5.9	4.4	5.5	5.1
2003	3.7	7.7	6.8	6.8	5.9	4.7	3.2	4.8
2004	5.1	5.4	6.0	6.4	3.9	4.1	5.3	4.3
2005	4.2	5.5	6.2	6.0	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.3
PERSONS								
1995	16.1	20.2	17.6	16.1	15.0	12.0	14.7	13.1
1996	15.2	19.6	18.6	15.3	14.4	13.4	15.3	13.1
1997	19.3	22.8	19.3	16.3	14.7	14.8	18.1	14.7
1998	17.1	24.3	21.2	15.6	13.3	13.6	13.8	14.3
1999	14.6	21.7	18.1	16.1	12.9	12.9	14.0	13.2
2000	12.9	20.2	19.5	13.8	11.2	12.3	13.4	12.3
2001	12.8	20.7	19.0	15.7	12.2	12.1	13.0	12.6
2002	11.8	19.0	18.5	14.8	11.1	10.8	12.2	11.8
2003	11.0	18.0	16.1	14.4	10.5	11.9	11.1	11.1
2004	9.6	16.4	15.7	12.6	9.9	11.9	13.2	10.4
2005	10.4	15.3	15.4	14.3	9.6	9.6	11.8	10.3

- (a) Deaths per 100,000 estimated resident population in each age and sex group.
- (b) Year of registration.
- (c) Crude rate per 100,000 estimated resident population. Includes deaths of persons aged under 15 years and age not stated.

SUICIDE, BY METHOD (a)—number of deaths

Year(b)	Poisoning by drugs	Poisoning by other(c)	Hanging(d)	Firearms(e)	Other(f)	Total
MALES						
1995	194	455	585	366	273	1 873
1996	163	486	672	369	241	1 931
1997	160	555	812	309	307	2 143
1998	157	499	1 035	218	241	2 150
1999	158	492	868	257	227	2 002
2000	144	472	807	213	224	1 860
2001	151	427	855	242	260	1 935
2002	156	362	846	207	246	1 817
2003	148	340	820	185	243	1 736
2004	127	331	822	164	217	1 661
2005	128	286	885	136	222	1 657
FEMALES						
1995	154	101	114	23	103	495
1996	165	94	120	15	68	462
1997	149	116	175	21	116	577
1998	153	87	182	17	94	533
1999	120	103	160	13	94	490
2000	129	102	182	10	80	503
2001	134	86	195	20	84	519
2002	131	77	199	11	85	503
2003	130	75	176	9	87	477
2004	102	71	176	5	83	437
2005	119	51	183	11	80	444
PERSONS						
1995	348	556	699	389	376	2 368
1996	328	580	792	384	309	2 393
1997	309	671	987	330	423	2 720
1998	310	586	1 217	235	335	2 683
1999	278	595	1 028	270	321	2 492
2000	273	574	989	223	304	2 363
2001	285	513	1 050	262	344	2 454
2002	287	439	1 045	218	331	2 320
2003	278	415	996	194	330	2 213
2004	229	402	998	169	300	2 098
2005	247	337	1 068	147	302	2 101

(a) See Glossary for ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes used for categories of method of suicide.

(b) Year of registration.

(c) Includes poisoning by other gases and vapours (including motor vehicle exhaust).

(d) Includes strangulation and suffocation.

(e) Includes explosives.

(f) Includes drowning, smoke/fire/flames, sharp object, jumping from high place, jumping or lying before moving object, other and unspecified means.

SUICIDE BY STATE OR TERRITORY (a)—number of deaths, age-standardised rate

Year(b) NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.

MALES

1995	593	439	396	161	179	51	np	np	1 873
1996	660	388	451	153	171	54	28	26	1 931
1997	712	528	434	161	206	40	33	29	2 143
1998	705	446	454	199	234	49	np	np	2 150
1999	689	440	396	155	192	68	27	35	2 002
2000	588	382	421	161	206	40	37	25	1 860
2001	613	412	406	168	212	51	39	34	1 935
2002	552	386	431	140	188	54	44	22	1 817
2003	510	409	371	154	167	54	np	np	1 736
2004	464	396	371	141	156	70	44	19	1 661
2005	438	393	360	182	169	52	37	26	1 657

FEMALES

1995	172	127	99	39	39	15	np	np	495
1996	155	112	88	32	47	10	7	11	462
1997	222	141	101	35	49	11	5	13	577
1998	157	133	125	45	53	10	np	np	533
1999	180	112	84	45	44	10	5	10	490
2000	142	129	120	38	55	10	5	4	503
2001	172	129	93	39	57	13	4	12	519
2002	140	142	106	30	54	16	11	4	503
2003	130	131	95	39	59	15	np	np	477
2004	123	125	82	37	38	18	7	7	437
2005	111	112	99	49	34	22	8	9	444

PERSONS

1995	765	566	495	200	218	66	23	34	2 368
1996	815	500	539	185	218	64	35	37	2 393
1997	934	669	535	196	255	51	38	42	2 720
1998	862	579	579	244	287	59	42	31	2 683
1999	869	552	480	200	236	78	32	45	2 492
2000	730	511	541	199	261	50	42	29	2 363
2001	785	541	499	207	269	64	43	46	2 454
2002	692	528	537	170	242	70	55	26	2 320
2003	640	540	466	193	226	69	44	35	2 213
2004	587	521	453	178	194	88	51	26	2 098
2005	549	505	459	231	203	74	45	35	2 101

AGE-STANDARDISED RATE 2001-2005 (c)

Males	15.6	16.5	20.9	20.8	18.4	25.0	39.0	15.8	18.0
Females	4.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	6.9	6.7	4.6	4.7
Persons	9.7	10.6	12.8	12.8	11.6	15.6	24.0	10.1	11.2

RATE RATIO 2001-2005 (d)

Males	0.87	0.92	1.16	1.16	1.02	1.39	2.17	0.88	1.00
Females	0.84	1.08	1.06	1.04	1.05	1.47	1.43	0.98	1.00
Persons	0.86	0.95	1.14	1.14	1.03	1.39	2.14	0.90	1.00

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) State or Territory of usual residence

(b) Year of registration

(c) Age-standardised death rate per 100,000 for the five year period 2001 to 2005, using estimated resident population for Australia (persons) at 30 June 2001 as the standard population. Direct method of standardisation.

(d) Ratio of age-standardised rate for state/territory to corresponding rate for Australia.

SUICIDES AS PROPORTION OF TOTAL DEATHS

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

Year(a)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75 and over	All ages(b)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES														
1995	19.9	27.5	27.8	22.8	19.0	12.8	8.9	5.2	3.5	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.3	2.8
1996	21.1	27.4	26.9	22.5	20.8	13.5	8.6	5.0	3.0	1.9	0.9	0.7	0.3	2.8
1997	21.2	34.4	31.3	25.9	19.9	16.4	8.9	5.8	3.2	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.4	3.2
1998	22.9	28.5	31.7	26.0	24.0	15.7	10.3	6.2	2.9	1.7	1.3	0.5	0.3	3.2
1999	17.7	25.2	26.5	24.1	21.0	15.6	9.9	6.2	3.3	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	3.0
2000	17.8	24.9	25.5	25.8	20.9	15.6	9.4	5.8	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	2.8
2001	20.8	27.2	29.8	29.5	23.7	16.4	10.1	5.9	3.1	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.3	2.9
2002	22.1	26.5	29.7	27.1	23.5	16.5	8.9	6.1	2.6	1.7	1.1	0.6	0.3	2.6
2003	19.9	26.1	25.9	28.4	19.1	14.6	10.4	5.0	2.6	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.3	2.5
2004	15.2	24.2	26.7	25.2	20.5	16.2	7.7	5.3	2.7	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.3	2.4
2005	19.3	27.1	24.2	25.4	18.7	15.5	10.1	5.9	2.7	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.3	2.5
FEMALES														
1995	13.6	18.8	17.0	12.1	10.1	7.4	4.7	3.1	1.8	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.8
1996	14.1	13.2	16.6	12.9	11.7	6.3	4.7	2.8	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.8
1997	14.9	21.1	18.4	13.0	11.6	7.8	4.2	3.5	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.9
1998	14.8	18.2	18.2	14.2	13.4	7.6	3.1	2.6	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.9
1999	12.6	16.4	17.5	15.0	9.0	7.1	5.3	2.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.8
2000	19.0	13.8	17.6	13.1	11.8	8.8	3.2	2.2	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.8
2001	15.8	16.5	21.6	15.1	12.4	6.7	4.8	3.7	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.8
2002	14.5	14.8	18.1	15.3	9.7	9.7	4.8	2.7	1.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.8
2003	13.1	11.6	16.4	18.4	11.1	5.9	5.2	2.6	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.7
2004	17.1	16.6	12.3	14.9	8.8	6.9	4.6	2.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.7
2005	16.0	16.5	19.5	11.0	10.9	5.8	4.4	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7
PERSONS														
1995	18.0	25.4	25.0	19.8	16.4	10.8	7.3	4.4	2.9	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.9
1996	19.3	24.4	24.3	20.0	17.8	11.0	7.1	4.2	2.3	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.9
1997	19.4	31.1	28.1	21.9	17.1	13.3	7.1	5.0	2.7	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.2	2.1
1998	20.3	26.2	28.5	22.9	20.5	12.7	7.4	4.8	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.2	2.1
1999	16.3	23.1	24.4	21.4	17.0	12.4	8.1	5.0	2.5	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.2	1.9
2000	18.1	22.0	23.5	22.1	17.8	13.2	6.9	4.4	2.2	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.2	1.8
2001	19.5	24.5	27.7	25.4	19.8	12.7	8.1	5.1	2.5	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.2	1.9
2002	19.8	23.7	26.6	23.5	18.8	14.0	7.3	4.7	2.3	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.7
2003	17.9	22.3	23.4	25.2	16.4	11.4	8.5	4.1	2.3	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.2	1.7
2004	15.9	22.1	22.7	22.5	16.3	12.8	6.4	4.3	2.1	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.2	1.6
2005	18.3	24.5	23.0	21.3	16.0	11.9	7.9	4.7	2.2	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.2	1.6

(a) Year of registration.

(b) Includes deaths of persons aged under 15 years and age not stated.

EXTERNAL CAUSES BY STATE OR TERRITORY (a)(b)—number of deaths

YEAR OF REGISTRATION

State/Territory of registration

1997(c) 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

NEW SOUTH WALES

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	2 649	2 752	2 802	2 467	2 572	2 580	2 482	2 488	2 407
Accidents (V01-X59)	1 517	1 672	1 746	1 550	1 601	1 706	1 605	1 694	1 685
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	661	647	655	653	601	618	555	465	409
Falls (W00-W19)	170	190	206	222	249	243	247	235	245
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	99	103	96	72	103	106	67	77	69
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	5	16	6	16	24	40	30	71	39
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	106	248	352	168	235	205	216	238	254
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	302	289	269	273	249	344	331	435	474
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	942	865	878	735	797	687	637	593	548
Assault (X85-Y09)	112	124	110	110	109	87	93	59	63
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	17	13	11	16	np	np	3	22	17
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	24	44	26	21	33	58	110	92	64
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	32	30	31	33	30	33	33	28	30

VICTORIA

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	1 776	1 755	2 014	1 933	1 724	1 766	1 763	1 939	1 965
Accidents (V01-X59)	986	1 062	1 343	1 306	1 057	1 099	1 081	1 251	1 298
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	473	426	432	445	493	431	385	396	397
Falls (W00-W19)	83	70	102	96	95	98	146	308	431
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	59	44	49	39	36	28	31	26	38
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	np	12	11	21	7	np	16	11	13
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	89	147	443	312	135	154	178	232	181
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	168	246	224	265	224	289	245	170	144
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	668	584	549	500	539	526	547	515	498
Assault (X85-Y09)	69	46	64	53	57	67	57	33	44
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	12	14	11	11	31	37	26	27	34
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	18	26	26	45	19	19	28	90	68
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	22	20	21	18	20	16	24	21	22

QUEENSLAND

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	1 632	1 617	1 615	1 731	1 637	1 609	1 605	1 662	1 569
Accidents (V01-X59)	890	854	989	1 056	1 016	979	1 008	1 100	977
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	405	357	360	389	416	374	361	366	327
Falls (W00-W19)	100	110	108	130	154	147	152	167	150
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	52	48	65	53	66	45	50	55	43
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	4	12	42	5	23	30	50	63	18
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	40	81	120	164	117	92	108	128	106
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	178	160	200	207	158	201	208	187	247
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	535	574	473	542	496	542	464	455	461
Assault (X85-Y09)	75	64	53	68	60	48	69	30	29
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	93	72	56	5	14	5	14	—	33
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	21	39	24	37	17	11	35	55	45
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	18	14	20	21	34	21	14	22	24

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The number of deaths coded as suicide (intentional self-harm X60-X84) is affected by a range of factors relating to the collection, coding and processing of cause of death data. The specificity with which cases are able to be allocated to a cause of death code depends on the amount of information available. Other codes may also be relevant to suicide.

(b) For more information, see the *Explanatory Notes* and the planned paper *External Causes of Death, Data Quality* (ABS cat. no. 3317.0.55.001).

(c) ICD-10 coded deaths data are only available for registration years from 1997 onwards.

YEAR OF REGISTRATION

State/Territory of registration

1997(c) 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	584	676	602	668	615	599	620	642	744
Accidents (V01-X59)	349	377	354	413	356	363	366	411	452
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	151	181	174	178	160	162	173	142	184
Falls (W00-W19)	26	27	26	29	28	26	34	40	36
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	17	16	12	17	13	13	11	8	11
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	4	np	4	np	np	—	np	np	np
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	47	44	47	65	37	36	50	74	74
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	57	65	52	68	57	79	51	93	88
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	194	244	203	202	206	169	191	177	233
Assault (X85-Y09)	23	29	29	23	19	27	18	9	24
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	np	7	np	12	13	11	20	8	8
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	6	13	np	14	16	23	20	33	20
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	11	6	9	4	4	6	5	4	7

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	769	903	839	859	810	756	798	732	761
Accidents (V01-X59)	465	534	553	529	487	455	509	464	494
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	225	226	250	225	191	192	207	200	173
Falls (W00-W19)	35	36	55	45	55	64	72	69	82
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	31	21	37	33	25	23	29	16	19
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	3	13	8	17	15	11	14	10	np
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	40	96	93	81	82	41	50	38	70
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	73	93	69	86	76	80	77	87	100
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	255	289	235	261	266	243	226	197	206
Assault (X85-Y09)	27	27	25	37	25	31	19	16	22
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	3	20	np	4	4	7	np	21	8
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	12	20	15	10	np	9	21	30	18
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	7	13	7	17	15	11	20	4	13

TASMANIA

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	202	214	252	185	251	237	228	274	265
Accidents (V01-X59)	136	137	159	125	175	148	143	170	165
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	43	44	78	44	63	49	53	67	56
Falls (W00-W19)	22	16	12	20	34	34	37	38	35
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	4	5	6	9	9	8	np	9	7
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	4	3	3	—	np	np	—	np	—
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	18	13	14	16	19	20	11	12	25
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	27	28	29	18	26	19	20	24	23
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	49	58	77	50	66	70	71	86	75
Assault (X85-Y09)	12	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	8
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	np	5	4	—	np	—	—	—	np
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	4	6	np	np	—	7	6	12	8
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	—	np	4	np	—	np	np	4	6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The number of deaths coded as suicide (intentional self-harm X60-X84) is affected by a range of factors relating to the collection, coding and processing of cause of death data. The specificity with which cases are able to be allocated to a cause of death code depends on the amount of information available. Other codes may also be relevant to suicide.

(b) For more information, see the *Explanatory Notes* and the planned paper *External Causes of Death, Data Quality* (ABS cat. no. 3317.0.55.001).

(c) ICD-10 coded deaths data are only available for registration years from 1997 onwards.

YEAR OF REGISTRATION

State/Territory of registration

1997(c) 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

NORTHERN TERRITORY

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	155	185	129	145	158	184	154	153	167
Accidents (V01-X59)	104	129	82	83	87	99	95	77	108
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	61	77	42	58	54	68	65	40	56
Falls (W00-W19)	6	9	np	10	10	8	9	5	8
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	13	9	10	np	np	np	7	np	np
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	np	7	np	np	np	—	—	—	np
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	4	10	10	np	5	5	3	10	10
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	13	7	4	np	4	5	8	8	14
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	38	39	33	42	42	57	43	50	45
Assault (X85-Y09)	9	12	11	15	22	23	14	12	np
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	np	np	—	3	5	—	—	3	np
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	—	np	—	np	—	4	np	7	np
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	4	3

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	97	113	108	110	109	89	99	76	137
Accidents (V01-X59)	50	77	61	76	61	57	58	42	88
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	19	28	20	23	26	13	12	13	36
Falls (W00-W19)	6	7	np	13	9	9	12	11	9
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	4	3	3	np	np	np	np	np	np
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	np	np	np	—	—	—	np	—	—
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	8	20	9	np	12	15	13	5	20
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	8	10	13	np	8	14	9	11	12
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	39	30	44	31	42	26	34	25	35
Assault (X85-Y09)	3	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	np	np	—	—	np	np	np	—	—
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	—	np	—	np	np	3	np	6	np
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	np	—	np	—	np	np	np	—	3

AUSTRALIA

CHAPTER XX External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)	7 864	8 215	8 361	8 098	7 876	7 820	7 749	7 966	8 015
Accidents (V01-X59)	4 497	4 842	5 287	5 138	4 840	4 906	4 865	5 209	5 267
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	2 038	1 986	2 011	2 015	2 004	1 907	1 811	1 689	1 638
Falls (W00-W19)	448	465	520	565	634	629	709	873	996
Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	279	249	278	229	261	232	201	197	192
Other accidental hanging and strangulation (W76)	26	67	77	65	75	91	114	160	74
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	352	659	1 088	822	642	568	629	737	740
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	826	898	860	930	802	1 031	949	1 015	1 102
Suicide (Intentional self-harm) (X60-X84)	2 720	2 683	2 492	2 363	2 454	2 320	2 213	2 098	2 101
Assault (X85-Y09)	330	307	300	313	300	291	278	164	199
Event of undetermined intent (Y10-Y34)	131	135	86	51	72	65	67	81	105
Complications of medical and surgical care (Y40-Y84)	85	153	97	131	100	134	224	325	234
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality (Y85-Y89)	94	88	95	97	106	94	100	87	108

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The number of deaths coded as suicide (intentional self-harm X60-X84) is affected by a range of factors relating to the collection, coding and processing of cause of death data. The specificity with which cases are able to be allocated to a cause of death code depends on the amount of information available. Other codes may also be relevant to suicide.

(b) For more information, see the *Explanatory Notes* and the planned paper *External Causes of Death, Data Quality* (ABS cat. no. 3317.0.55.001).

(c) ICD-10 coded deaths data are only available for registration years from 1997 onwards.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains summary statistics on deaths where the underlying cause of death was determined to be suicide. The registration of deaths is the responsibility of the individual state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. As part of the registration process, information about the cause of death is supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death or by a coroner. Other information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred. This information is provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) by individual Registrars for coding and compilation into aggregate statistics shown in this publication. In addition, the ABS supplements this data with information from the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The statistics in this publication relate to the number of deaths registered, not those which actually occurred, in the years shown. Over the last decade about 7% of suicide deaths occurring in one year were not registered until the following year or later. The ABS deaths collection includes all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS statistics.

Children

3 Suicide deaths in children are an extremely sensitive issue for families and coroners. The number of child suicides registered each year is low in relative terms and is likely to be underestimated. For that reason this publication does not include detailed information about suicides for children aged under 15 years. There was an average of 10.5 suicide deaths per year of children under 15 years over the period 1995 to 2005; the highest number was registered in 1999 (17), the lowest in 1995 (5). For boys the average number of suicides per year was 6.6, while for girls the average number was 3.8. These correspond to rates of approximately 0.3 per 100,000 boys and 0.2 per 100,000 girls in this age group over this period.

EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH

4 Deaths that are classified as External Causes are generally of the kind that are reported to Coroners for investigation. Although what constitutes a reportable death varies across jurisdictions, they are generally reported in circumstances such as:

- Where the person died unexpectedly and the cause of death is unknown;
- Where the person died in a violent or unnatural manner;
- Where the person died during or as a result of an anaesthetic;
- Where the person was 'held in care' or in custody immediately before they died; and
- Where the identity of the person who has died is unknown.

5 Where an accidental or violent death occurs, the underlying cause is classified according to the circumstances of the fatal injury, rather than the nature of the injury which is coded separately.

DATA QUALITY

6 In compiling causes of death statistics the ABS employs a variety of quality control measures, which include:

- providing certifiers with certification booklets for guidance in reporting cause of death on medical certificates;
- seeking additional information, where necessary, from medical practitioners, from coroners and from the National Coroners Information Service (NCIS);
- check-coding of cause of death; and
- editing checks at the individual record and aggregate levels.

7 The quality of cause of death coding can be affected by changes in the way information is reported by certifiers, by lags in completion of coroner cases and the processing of the findings. While changes in reporting and lags in coronial processes can affect coding of all causes of death, those coded to causes within *Chapter XX: External causes of morbidity and mortality* are more likely to be affected

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DATA QUALITY *continued*

because most are referred to a coroner, and for suicide, ICD-10 coding rules require evidence of intent before the relevant code is assigned.

8 The specificity with which cases are able to be allocated to a code for an external cause of death depends on the amount of information available at the point in time at which coding is being undertaken. The following codes may include cases which could potentially have been suicides but for which the intent could not be established with the available information (according to ICD-10 coding rules). Such cases cannot be separately identified in the final causes of death statistics.

FIREARM DISCHARGE (W31, W32, W33, W34, W40)

ACCIDENTAL DROWNING (W65, W67, W69, W73, W74)

ACCIDENTAL STRANGULATION/HANGING/SUFFOCATION (W75, W76, W83, W84)

ACCIDENTAL FALLS (W13, W15, W16, W17, W19)

EXPOSURE TO UNSPECIFIED FACTOR (X59)

ACCIDENTAL POISONING BY AND EXPOSURE TO NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (X40-X49)

CONTACT WITH KNIFE, SWORD OR DAGGER (W26)

CONTACT WITH NONPOWERED HAND TOOL (W27)

CONTACT WITH OTHER POWERED HAND TOOLS AND HOUSEHOLD MACHINERY (W29)

EXPOSURE TO UNSPECIFIED ELECTRIC CURRENT (W87)

EXPOSURE TO UNSPECIFIED SMOKE, FIRE AND FLAMES (X09)

LACK OF FOOD (X53)

9 ABS is working with stakeholders to improve data quality by improving the amount of information available for coding of deaths from external causes, including suicides, when cause of death statistics are compiled. As well, ABS is working to improve the amount of information available on the data quality of deaths from external causes.

10 Care should be taken in interpreting results in recent years for several groups of causes within CHAPTER XX: EXTERNAL CAUSES OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY. See *Causes of Death, Australia 2005* (cat. no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information. See also *Information Paper: External Causes of Death, Data Quality, 2005* (cat.no. 3317.0.55.001) which is planned for release in April 2007.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

11 Other ABS publications or articles that contain information on deaths from suicide are as follows:

Causes of Death, Australia (cat.no.3303.0)- annual

Deaths, Australia (cat.no.3302.0) - annual

Information Paper: External Causes of Death, Data Quality, 2005
(cat.no.3317.0.55.001)

Suicides, Australia, 1994 to 2004 (cat.no.3309.0)

Suicides: Recent Trends, Australia, 1993 to 2003 (cat.no.3309.0.55.001)

Suicides: Recent Trends, Australia, 1992 to 2002 (cat.no.3309.0.55.001)

Information Paper: Suicides, Australia, 2001 (cat.no.3309.0.55.001)

Suicides, Australia 1921-1998 (cat.no.3309.0)

A Mortality Atlas of Australia, 1997-2000 (cat.no.3318.0)

The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005 (cat. no. 4704.0)

Trends in Mortality by Causes of Death in Australia, the States and Territories During 1971-92, and in Statistical Divisions and Sub-divisions During 1991-92
(cat.no.3313.0)

Suicide (Australian Social Trends 2000, cat.no.4102.0)

Youth suicide (Australian Social Trends 1994, cat.no.4102.0)

GLOSSARY

Age-specific death rate	Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths registered (or occurred) during the calendar year at a specified age per 100,000 of the estimated resident population of the same age at mid-point of the year (30 June).
Accidental strangulation/hanging/ suffocation (W75, W76, W83, W84)	<p>A group of selected ICD-10 codes relating to strangulation/hanging/suffocation. This group may include cases for which intent (necessary for coding suicides) cannot be established with the available information according to ICD-10 coding rules.</p> <p>ACCIDENTAL SUFFOCATION AND STRANGULATION IN BED (W75) OTHER ACCIDENTAL HANGING AND STRANGULATION (W76) OTHER SPECIFIED THREATS TO BREATHING (W83) UNSPECIFIED THREAT TO BREATHING (W84)</p>
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances (X40-X49)	A group of ICD-10 codes relating to all forms of poisoning, including by drugs, chemicals and gases (including motor vehicle exhaust). This group may include cases for which intent (necessary for coding suicides) cannot be established with the available information according to ICD-10 coding rules.
Causes of death	Causes of death recorded on death certificates are those diseases, morbid conditions, or injuries which either resulted in or contributed to death. From the information provided on the death certificates an underlying cause of death is coded according to the rules and guidelines of that particular revision of the International Classification of Diseases.
Crude death rate	The crude death rate is the number of deaths registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June.
Death	Death refers to any death which occurs in, or en route to Australia and is registered with a State or Territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
Estimated resident population	Estimated resident population (ERP) data are estimates of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated resident population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration.
Exposure to unspecified factor (X59)	ICD-10 code used for deaths from unspecified accidents e.g. head injury of unknown cause, fractures etc. This code may include cases for which intent (necessary for coding suicides) cannot be established with the available information according to ICD-10 coding rules.
External causes	<p>Environmental events, circumstances and conditions which are the cause of injury, poisoning and other adverse effects. Deaths from external causes are classified according to ICD-10 codes within CHAPTER XX EXTERNAL CAUSES OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY (V01-V98).</p> <p>Major blocks of codes within this chapter are:</p> <p>ACCIDENTS (V01-X59) INTENTIONAL SELF HARM (SUICIDE) (X60-X84) ASSAULT (X85-Y09) EVENT OF UNDETERMINED INTENT (Y10-Y34) LEGAL INTERVENTION AND OPERATION OF WAR (Y35-Y36) COMPLICATIONS OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CARE (Y40-Y84) SEQUELAE OF EXTERNAL CAUSES OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY (Y85-Y89)</p>
Method of suicide	In this publication, suicide deaths data for registration years 1995-1996 have been coded to ICD-9 while data for registration years 1997-2005 have been coded to ICD-10. For suicide deaths, ICD-9 and ICD-10 classifications are comparable. Codes for groupings of methods used in this publication are shown below.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Method of suicide *continued*

METHOD OF SUICIDE

	<i>ICD-9 codes</i>	<i>ICD-10 codes</i>
Poisoning by drugs	E950.0 - E950.5	X60 - X64
Poisoning by 'other'(a)	E950.6 - E952.9	X65 - X69
Hanging, strangulation, and suffocation	E953	X70
Firearms and explosives	E955	X72 - X75
Other(b)	E954, E956 - E959	X71, X76 - X84
All suicides	E950 - E959	X60 - X84

(a) Includes motor vehicle exhaust

(b) Includes drowning, smoke/fire/flames, sharp object, jumping from high place, jumping or lying before moving object, other and unspecified means

Suicide Suicide refers to the deliberate taking of one's life. To be classified as a suicide a death must be recognised as due to other than natural causes and established by a coronial inquiry that death results from a deliberate act of the deceased with the intention of taking his or her own life.

Standardised death rate Standardised death rates enable the comparison of death rates between populations with different age structures by relating them to a standard population. The ABS standard populations relate to the years ending in 1 (e.g. 2001). The current standard population is all persons in the 2001 Australian population. They are expressed per 100,000 persons.

There are two methods of calculating standardised death rates:

The direct method - this is used when the populations under study are large and the age-specific death rates are reliable. It is the overall death rate that would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced at each age the death rates of the population under study; and

The indirect method - this is used when the populations under study are small and the age-specific death rates are unreliable or not known. It is an adjustment to the crude death rate of the standard population to account for the variation between the actual number of deaths in the population under study and the number of deaths which would have occurred if the population under study had experienced the age-specific death rates of the standard population.

In this publication, five year age groups (0-4, 5-9, ... 85 & over) were used in the calculation of standardised rates, and a small number of records where age at death was not stated were excluded. The direct method of standardisation was used and the standard population used was the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for Australia (persons) at June 2001.

Undetermined intent (Y10-Y34) For deaths in this category the coroner has determined that the intent of the death cannot be established from the available evidence. See explanatory notes in *Suicides, Australia 1921-1998* (ABS cat. no. 3309.0) for further explanation of deaths of undetermined intent.

Underlying cause of death The underlying cause of death is the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury rather than to the nature of the injury.

Year of occurrence Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the death occurred.

Year of registration Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the death was registered.

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- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.
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