

# **Isle of Wight JSNA Briefing Note: Suicide**

## Background

This report covers deaths of Isle of Wight residents where the cause of death is: **Suicide or Injury Undetermined**'. This includes:

- **Deaths from Suicide:** comprise deaths which the Coroner determines at inquest were caused by '**Intentional Self-Harm**' (*ICD10 codes X60-X84*).
- **Deaths from Injury undetermined:** comprise deaths which the Coroner determines at inquest were caused by '**Event of Undetermined Intent**' (*ICD10 codes X60-X84, Y10-Y34 exc Y33.9*). These include deaths where available information is insufficient to enable a medical or legal authority to make a distinction between self-harm, accident or assault.

Throughout this document the term 'Suicide' is used as shorthand for the full definition 'Suicide or Injury Undetermined'.

NB:

- **Year of Death Registration:** the analysis shows deaths by the year in which they were **registered**, not in the year in which they **occurred**. This is normal practice for mortality (deaths) data. However inquests for deaths whose cause is determined 'Suicide' or 'Event of Undetermined Intent' can take place some months after the death actually occurred, which delays the final confirmation of the cause of death. This could account for the apparent omission in this analysis of deaths whose circumstances have, for example, been reported in the local media.
- **Deaths of IW Residents Only:** data discussed in this report does not include deaths of non-Island residents which occurred on the Island, although it could include deaths of Island residents which occurred away from the Island.

***Please note that this analysis observes Office for National Statistics Disclosure Guidance, which prohibits the sharing outside the NHS of small numbers (under-5), and rates based on such numbers, in order to avoid the potential identification of individuals from data which is not already in the public domain. This is particularly relevant to this dataset, where there are relatively small numbers of deaths each year.***

*Data Sources: National Compendium for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD); Office for National Statistics Annual Death Extracts unless stated*

Key Points	
<p><b>Number of Deaths and Mortality Rates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among IW residents there were on average 17 deaths each year from suicide between 1995 – 2010.</li> <li>• The number of suicide deaths increased year on year between 2006 (13 deaths) to 2009 (20 deaths), but decreased to 18 in 2010.</li> <li>• Based on that increased number of suicide deaths, the IW directly age-standardised mortality rate increased to 14.2 (deaths per 100,000 population) in the period 2008-10 aggregated.</li> <li>• That 2008-10 IW mortality rate therefore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ is higher (worse) than the England and South East rates and the difference is statistically significant in both cases;</li> <li>○ ranks 324th out of 326 Local Authorities in England (among the worst 2%);</li> </ul> </li> <li>• However the small number of IW deaths each year means that a small change in the annual number of deaths can result in a significant change in the mortality rate.</li> <li>• Provisional data for 2011 indicates that the number of deaths was 9, considerably lower than the annual average over time. It is not yet known whether this is a statistical anomaly or the start of a sustained lower rate of suicides.</li> <li>• If this number is confirmed, the 2009-2011 comparative rate (which will be published in December 2012) is likely to decrease (improve).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gender and Age Profile</b></p> <p>In the period 2001 – 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender Breakdown:</b> of IW deaths, 77% were among Males and 23% among Females. This preponderance of deaths among males reflects the national pattern.</li> <li>• <b>Among IW Males:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The annual number of deaths has ranged between 10 – 16.</li> <li>○ The largest single group of deaths was in the 20 – 44 age group (46% of all male deaths occurred in this age group).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Among IW Females:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In most years the number of deaths has been under 5, but in 2009 the number was 5 and in 2010 the number was 6.</li> <li>○ The largest single group of deaths was in the 45 – 64 age group (50% of all female deaths occurred in this age group);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Number of Deaths**

**Number of Deaths by Year: Persons**

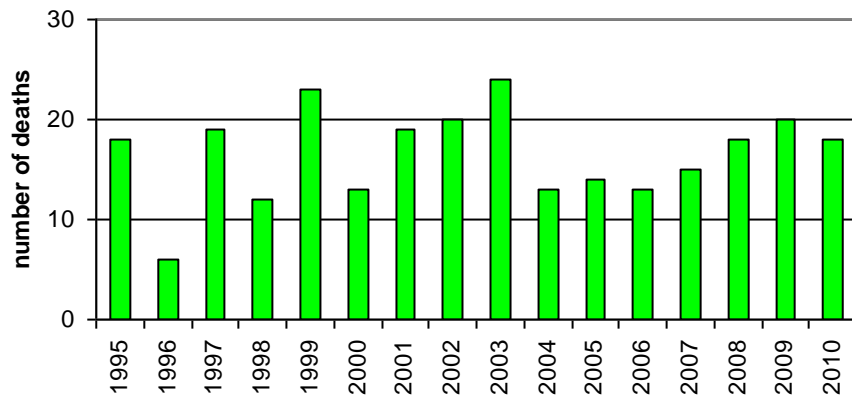
The table and chart below shows the number of deaths by year between 1995-2010. There was on average 17 deaths each year over this period, with annual fluctuations. The number of deaths ranged from 6 in 1996 to 24 in 2003.

**Number of Deaths by Gender: 1995-2010 Aggregate**

The chart below shows the total number of deaths between 1995-2010 broken down by gender. There were 265 deaths in total: 77% among males, 23% among females.

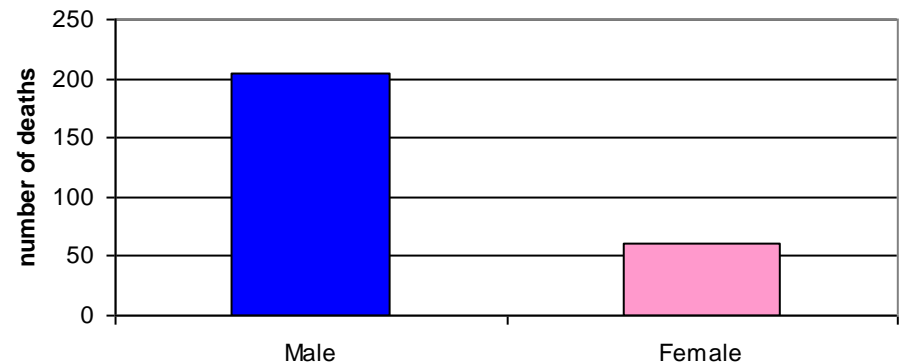
Persons, All Ages	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
number of deaths	18	6	19	12	23	13	19	20	24	13	14	13	15	18	20	18

**Isle of Wight: Mortality from Suicide and Injury Undetermined: Number of Deaths by Year of Death Registration: Persons, All Ages**



Data Source: National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD)

**Isle of Wight: Number of Deaths from Suicide and Injury Undetermined, 1995 - 2010 Combined: All Ages by Gender**



Data Source: National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD)

**2011 Deaths:** final data will not be available until the end of 2012. However provisional data suggests that there were **9 deaths** caused by Suicide and Injury Undetermined in 2011. This would represent a considerably lower annual figure compared with recent trends. However this figure should be interpreted with some caution, as it could represent a statistical anomaly rather than the start of a sustained lower trend.

**Number of Deaths by Gender and Age: 2001-10 Aggregate**

The chart alongside shows deaths of IW residents registered between 2001 – 2010, broken down by gender and age.

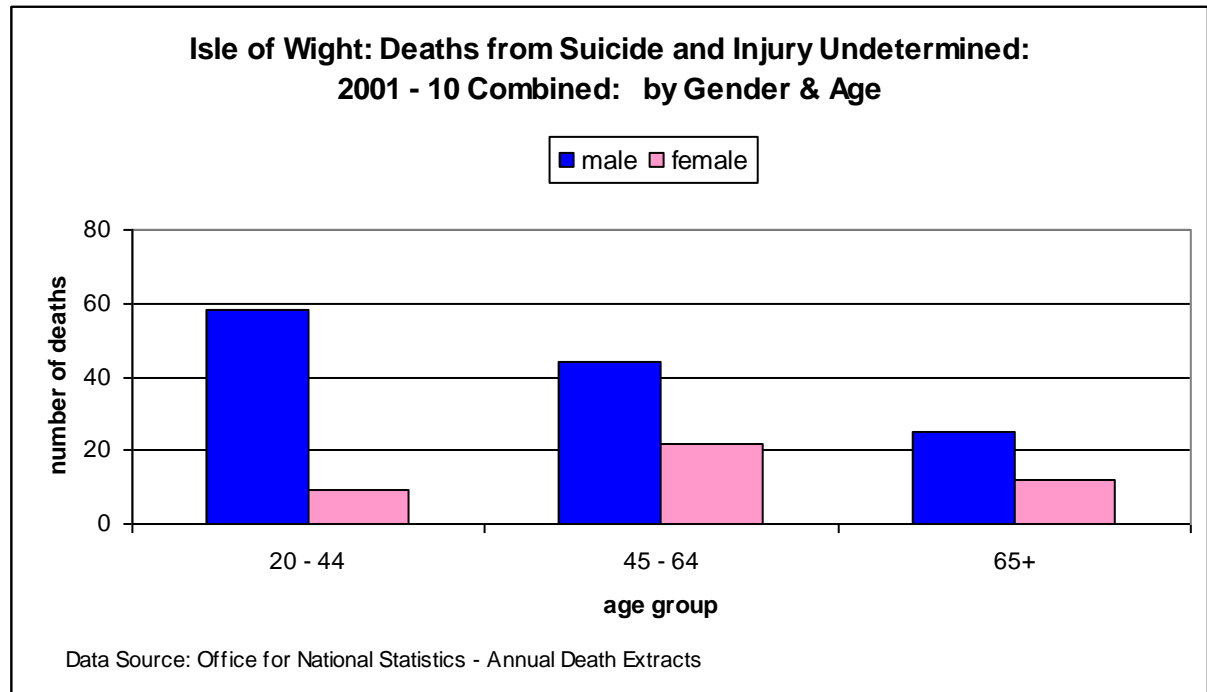
**Under-20 age group:** over this period there were fewer than 5 deaths in this age group, which is not shown on this chart. .

**Gender Breakdown:** in total and in all the age groups shown, there were more deaths among males than females. The difference was largest in the age group 20-44, in which 87% of deaths were among males.

**Among males:** the largest single group of deaths was in the 20 – 44 age group (46% of all male deaths occurred in this age group).

**Among females:** the largest single group of deaths was in the 45 – 64 age group (50% of all female deaths occurred in this age group).

*Data Source: Office for National Statistics – Annual Death Extracts*



**Comparative Directly Age-Standardised Mortality Rates: Trends over Time**

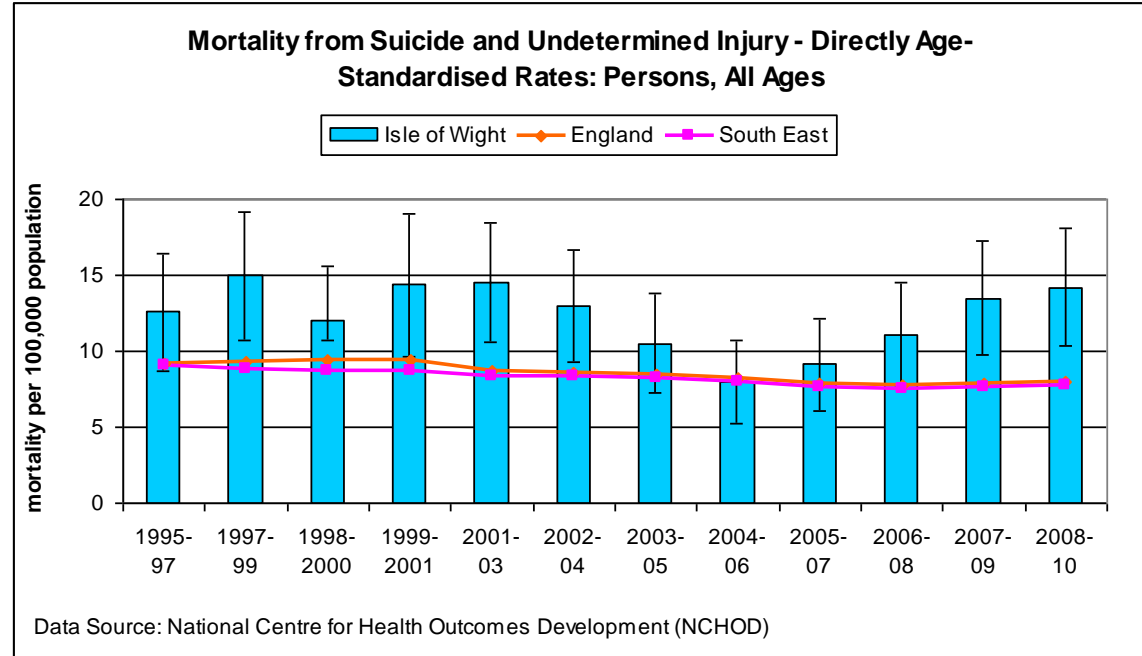
**IW – Persons, All Ages**

The chart alongside shows the IW’s mortality rate from Suicide and Undetermined Injury for Persons, All Ages compared with that for England and the South East. The rate is directly age-standardised and as such takes account of the differing age structures within populations when comparing rates. 3-year aggregated mortality rates are shown to smooth the annual fluctuations over time.

Since 2004-06 the IW rate has increased in each new 3-year period. The most recent available IW rate, for 2008-10, is higher than the England and South East rates, with the difference statistically significant, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest (worst) Local Authority rate in England.

It is important to note that, because of the relatively small number of deaths of IW residents each year from suicide, even three-year aggregated mortality rates are susceptible to fluctuation. A small change in the annual number of deaths can result in a significant change in the mortality rate.

Page 4 above showed a provisional finding that there were 9 deaths in 2011. If this figure is confirmed, then there would be a decrease in the next published 3 year rate for 2009-11 (due at the end of 2012).



**Mortality from Suicide & Undetermined Injury (continued)**

**Isle of Wight Mortality Rate: All Ages by Gender**

The chart alongside shows the IW suicide rate by gender over this period.

Reflecting the gender breakdown of the number of deaths shown above, the IW's mortality rate among Males has been significantly higher than the mortality rate among Females, in line with national trends.

The rate among IW males has been increasing since 2004-06.

