Suicide figures (ABS 2016, September 28)

ABS revisions to Causes of Death Data

The ABS began a significant quality assurance process in 2010 to improve the quality of coding of deaths data. This process has involved revising the Causes of Death data from 2006 onwards by including any subsequently closed coronial cases that had failed to reach a conclusion ahead of the original ABS cut off period for that year.

In September 2016, preliminary suicide data for 2015 was released. As the 2015 data was released six months earlier than the usual annual release date, the first and second revisions of data from 2013 and 2014 respectively, will not be available until early 2017. The following figures include both preliminary and final ABS data from 2006 to 2012.

Further information about this data is available from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au, or contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Notes about using statistics

1. The gap between preliminary and subsequent revisions has been closing due to the ABS receiving information faster from coronial processes in each state and territory.

2. ABS advises that care should be taken in comparing 2015 suicide data with:
   a. Previous revisions, as some data have been subject to a quality improvement process;
   b. Pre-2006 data as the previous years are not subject to the revision process.

3. Due to differences in population size of some subgroups (i.e. state, age [particularly elderly], and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin), in some cases even one or two deaths can have a considerable impact on standardised suicide rates. Thus comparisons must be done cautiously.

4. Data on suicides can be reported in different ways, including: the number of people who died by suicide; the age-standardised suicide rate (e.g. seven per 100,000 people, this allows for the comparison of groups with different age structures and sizes); and as a percentage of deaths from all causes which were due to suicide.

5. The comparison of international suicide statistics can be very difficult due to differences in procedures for coronial reporting and classifying deaths, definitions, time periods, and the level of undercounting.
Figure 1. Preliminary and Revised Suicide Rates (1989 – 2015)

Figure 2. Preliminary Suicide Rates, 2015
Figure 3. Age-standardised Suicide Rates, 1989-2015 (15 – 19 year olds)

Figure 4. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (20 – 24 year olds)
Figure 5. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (25 – 29 year olds)

Figure 6. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (30 – 34 year olds)
Figure 7. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (35 – 39 year olds)

Figure 8. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (40 – 44 year olds)
Figure 9. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (45 – 49 year olds)

Figure 10. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (50 – 54 year olds)
Figure 11. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (55 – 59 year olds)

Figure 12. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (60 – 64 year olds)
Figure 13. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (65 – 69 year olds)

Figure 14. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (70 – 74 year olds)
*Note – Statistics available prior to 1997 only show data from 75 years plus age category. 1997 was the first year that the age category 80 – 84 was used.
Figure 17. Age-standardised Suicide Rates 1989-2015 (85+ year olds)

*Note – Statistics available prior to 1997 only show data from 75 or above. 1997 was the first year that the age category 85+ was used.