

# NSW Suicide Monitoring System

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Data to January 2025

28 March 2025

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# Introduction

This report provides estimates of suspected and confirmed suicides in NSW since 2021 from the NSW Suicide Monitoring and Data Management System.

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## Warning

The following report contains information about the collection and reporting of suicide data in NSW. NSW Health acknowledges that behind these numbers are people, their families and their friends who are deeply affected by suicide. Some people may find the content of this report confronting or distressing. If affected in this way, please contact:

Beyond Blue, 1300 22 4636, [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) or Lifeline, 13 11 14, [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

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## What is the NSW Suicide Monitoring and Data Management System?

The NSW Suicide Monitoring and Data Management System is a collaboration between the NSW Ministry of Health, Department of Communities and Justice, the State Coroner and NSW Police. It estimates the number of recent suspected and confirmed suicides in NSW, using data collected by NSW Police and the State Coroner.

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## Where does this suicide data come from?

All suicides or suspected suicides in NSW are reported to the Coroner. Data on these Police notifications of suspected suicides are obtained from the “JusticeLink” information system managed by NSW Department of Communities and Justice. As well as the initial Police advice, records are searched for potential indicators of suicide in other fields. These include the manner or place of death, and whether the person communicated their intention to family and friends. Each potential suicide death record is then screened manually by the Department of Communities and Justice to confirm the classification of suspected or confirmed suicide.

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## How accurate is this data?

The data about suspected suicides are an estimate. A final determination of the manner of death can only be made by the Coroner after detailed enquiry. This will mean that there may be small differences in the number of suicides between reports for the same reporting period. The numbers reported for the most recent month may be underestimated due to time taken to record a report of a death. Evidence from Suicide Registers in other states shows that initial Police advice is usually accurate. However, once all facts are known some suspected suicide deaths are found to be due to other causes, and some deaths initially thought to be accidental are found to be due to suicide.

This report will differ from suicide statistics reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), which count suicide deaths which have been confirmed or are being finalised through the coronial process. ABS reported the number of suicide deaths in NSW was 913 in 2020, 923 in 2021, 928 in 2022 and 847 in 2023. National and state reports may also differ slightly in how they count years and locations of death. Some deaths occur in one year and are registered in another, and some deaths occur in a location in a different state from the person’s address.

# Current findings

There have been 94 suspected or confirmed suicide deaths reported in NSW from 1 January to 31 January 2025.

## Suspected suicide deaths in NSW

2021		2022		2023		2024		2025
900	100	939	77	930	88	960	83	94
full year	1 January to 31 January	full year	1 January to 31 January	full year	1 January to 31 January	full year	1 January to 31 January	1 January to 31 January

Table 1 Monthly frequency

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	100	77	88	83	94
February	56	72	67	76	-
March	85	97	86	70	-
April	74	92	69	73	-
May	77	75	87	82	-
June	66	64	75	84	-
July	72	90	90	75	-
August	64	72	73	80	-
September	64	80	77	79	-
October	78	73	82	76	-
November	71	75	69	106	-
December	93	72	67	76	-
Total	900	939	930	960	94

Table 2 Gender and age group

	Full year				1 January to 31 January				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>	900	939	930	960	100	77	88	83	94
<b>Under 18</b>	30	24	23	18	3	2	2	1	2
<b>18-24</b>	78	76	84	59	7	8	11	2	8
<b>25-34</b>	166	160	146	162	18	11	23	11	16
<b>35-44</b>	162	179	163	176	19	17	16	12	19
<b>45-54</b>	150	165	180	182	16	10	12	18	15
<b>55-64</b>	126	163	159	162	12	14	14	15	18
<b>65-74</b>	86	84	92	107	10	5	6	14	9
<b>75-84</b>	62	58	59	58	12	6	3	6	7
<b>85 plus</b>	40	30	24	36	3	4	1	4	-
<b>Female</b>	231	210	204	229	22	15	22	18	21
<b>Under 18</b>	15	10	9	7	1	2	2	-	2
<b>18-24</b>	20	21	20	14	-	4	3	1	-
<b>25-34</b>	36	39	33	46	6	1	6	2	5
<b>35-44</b>	46	37	45	30	4	2	4	2	4
<b>45-54</b>	39	33	33	41	4	2	4	4	4
<b>55-64</b>	29	35	29	43	2	2	2	3	4
<b>65-74</b>	22	16	19	31	3	1	1	4	-
<b>75-84</b>	13	11	9	9	2	-	-	-	2
<b>85 plus</b>	11	8	7	8	-	1	-	2	-
<b>Male</b>	669	728	726	731	78	62	66	65	73
<b>Under 18</b>	15	14	14	11	2	-	-	1	-
<b>18-24</b>	58	55	64	45	7	4	8	1	8
<b>25-34</b>	130	120	113	116	12	10	17	9	11
<b>35-44</b>	116	142	118	146	15	15	12	10	15
<b>45-54</b>	111	132	147	141	12	8	8	14	11
<b>55-64</b>	97	128	130	119	10	12	12	12	14
<b>65-74</b>	64	68	73	76	7	4	5	10	9
<b>75-84</b>	49	47	50	49	10	6	3	6	5
<b>85 plus</b>	29	22	17	28	3	3	1	2	-

Table 3 Location of usual residence

	Full year				1 January to 31 January				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	438	524	475	494	45	40	46	51	49
<b>Rest of NSW</b>	456	403	431	445	55	36	40	29	38
<b>Overseas/ Interstate</b>	6	10	21	19	-	1	1	2	7
<b>Total</b>	900	939	930	960	100	77	88	83	94

## Information about methods

Deaths have been coded as suspected suicides using a two-stage process of (i) computerised screening followed by (ii) manual review and checking by experienced staff from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

All deaths in the NSW JusticeLink database in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 were screened. Deaths were flagged as “Suspected Suicides” if the apparent cause of death was described as suicide or suspected suicide, or if key fields included words suggesting specific suicide methods, that the person had left a note or indicated to their family or others that they intended to end their life. All deaths flagged as “Suspected Suicide” were then manually checked against other information, including the Coroner’s determination where this was available.

Deaths were also flagged for screening if they met any of three other criteria. First, if the death occurred in circumstances that are sometimes due to suicide, such as drug overdoses or single vehicle accidents. Second, if Police had recorded that the person had previously attempted to end their life. Third, if the person had experienced recent stressors such as relationship breakups or job loss. All of these records were manually checked, and some were re-classified as “Suspected Suicide” deaths.

People with a recorded residential address in NSW were allocated to Capital City Geographical Area (Greater Sydney, Rest of NSW) using Australian Bureau of Statistics definitions. Rest of NSW includes the Level 4 Statistical Areas (SA4s) of Richmond - Tweed, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Mid North Coast, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, Hunter Valley, New England and North West, Central West, Far West and Orana, Murray, Riverina, Capital Region, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven. Central Coast and Blue Mountains regions are included in Greater Sydney. People with an interstate or overseas address, or no address but a residency status of Overseas Visitor were classified as interstate or overseas visitors.

## Inclusion and exclusion criteria for reporting

Issue	What is included	What has been corrected	What is excluded
<b>Month and Year of death</b>	Deaths occurring in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025	Date of death is unknown for some records – the date of recording of death has been used for those records	Deaths occurring prior to 2019, even if registered in 2019 or 2020
<b>Place of death</b>	Deaths occurring in NSW, or involving a NSW resident and investigated by the State Coroner	Records where the place of death is unknown or missing are assumed to have occurred in NSW	Three records were excluded, one in 2019 and two in 2020. See note (1) below
<b>Address of the person</b>	All records; Totals include records where the address of the person is not known	No correction	No exclusion
<b>Age group</b>	All records; Totals include records where age is not known	No correction	No exclusion
<b>Gender</b>	All records; Totals include records where gender is not known or other	No correction	No exclusion

### Notes

- (1) Three deaths of interstate residents were excluded where the incident occurred in the state of residence, but death occurred in a NSW hospital. These incidents were investigated by that state's Coroner and would be included in reporting in that state. A small number of incidents occurred in NSW and involved NSW Police and the Coroner, but death occurred after transfer to an interstate hospital: these are included in the figures in this report.

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1 Reserve Road  
St Leonards NSW 2060

SHPN (SIA) 250066  
ISBN 978-1-74231-050-3

Office hours:  
Monday to Friday  
9.00am — 5.00pm

T: (02) 9391 9000  
F. (02) 9391 9101  
TTY. (02) 9391 9900  
W: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

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