

Plymouth Health and Wellbeing Board 7th October 2021



Suicide Prevention Update

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Background



- Suicide is a major societal issue
- In England ~ 6,000 deaths by suicide each year
- Average cost to society of each death ~ £1.67 million
- Leading cause of years of life lost
- Leading cause of death in men <50 years, in young people and in new mothers
- ~ 70% of those people who die by suicide are not in receipt of mental health services
- ~ 3 times more men than women die by suicide
- England average age-standardised rate [2017-2019] = 10.1/100,000. Plymouth rate 11.7/100,000
- Suicides are not inevitable, they are preventable

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic



- We know that risk factors for mental illness have increased during the pandemic
- We are seeing increased demand for mental health services [especially for anxiety and depression]
- National data shows no evidence of an increase in suicide deaths to date
- No local evidence of an increase in suicide deaths to date
- Coroner services closed for 6 months in 2020
- Delays to finalised data for 2020
- 2020 and 2021 likely to be unrepresentative years [due to coroner delays]

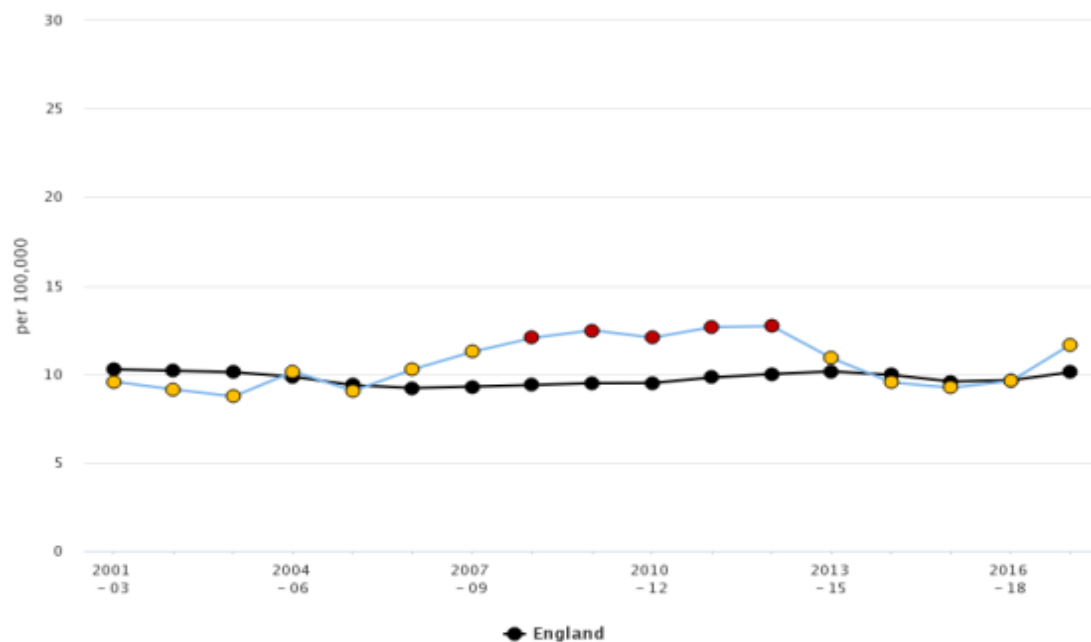
ONS Data 2017-2019



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Compared with England ● Better 95% ● Similar ● Worse 95% ● Lower ● Similar ● Higher ○ Not applicable

Suicide rate (Persons) for Plymouth



Period	Plymouth					South West	England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
2001 - 03	●	62	9.6	7.3	12.3	10.4	10.3
2002 - 04	●	59	9.1	6.9	11.8	10.5	10.2
2003 - 05	●	56	8.7	6.6	11.4	10.4	10.1
2004 - 06	●	66	10.1	7.8	12.9	10.3	9.8
2005 - 07	●	61	9.0	6.9	11.6	9.7	9.4
2006 - 08	●	70	10.3	8.0	13.0	9.6	9.2
2007 - 09	●	77	11.3	8.8	14.1	9.9	9.3
2008 - 10	●	81	12.0	9.5	15.0	10.5	9.4
2009 - 11	●	83	12.5	9.9	15.5	11.0	9.5
2010 - 12	●	80	12.0	9.5	15.0	10.9	9.5
2011 - 13	●	84	12.6	10.1	15.7	11.3	9.8
2012 - 14	●	84	12.7	10.1	15.8	11.3	10.0
2013 - 15	●	72	10.9	8.5	13.7	11.0	10.1
2014 - 16	●	64	9.5	7.3	12.2	10.8	9.9
2015 - 17	●	64	9.2	7.1	11.8	10.6	9.6
2016 - 18	●	68	9.6	7.4	12.2	11.1	9.6
2017 - 19	●	84	11.7	9.3	14.5	11.3	10.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

Data Systems: Audit and Real Time Surveillance



AUDIT

- Retrospective
- Registered deaths [gone to inquest]
- Plymouth residents only but death anywhere in UK
- Monitor trends and compare to national
- Inform prevention activity

RTS

- Real time – weekly report
- Deaths by date of incident
- Devon and Cornwall Police area only
- Deaths in Plymouth
- Enable timely interventions
- Identify clusters
- Identify novel methods

Suicide Audit Data 2021



Suicide Audit Data 2021			
[Registered Deaths to 8th Sept]			
Suicide Conclusions Only = 16			13M 3F
Age Range	20 - 83		
Under 25	2		
25-30	3	2F	
30s	2		
40s	5		
50s	1		
60s	2	1F	
Over 80	1		
	16		
Year of Death			
2019	5		
2020	10		
2021	1		

Real Time Surveillance Data 2021



Real Time Surveillance Deaths by Month 2021

Month	Total	Likely	Possible
Jan	5	1	1
Feb	4	2	0
March	6	1	0
April	3	3	0
May	6	2	2
June	5	3	0
July	7	2	0
Aug	6	2	1
Sept	5	2	2
Total	47	18	6

Real Time Surveillance Details 2021

Number	Following	24 deaths
	Likely	18
	Possible	6
Methods	Hanging	12
	Overdose	7
	Fall or jump from height	2
	Poisoning	1
	Other	1
	Not known	1
Sex	Male	19
	Female	5
Age	Youngest	20
	Oldest	78

Suicide Prevention System

