



Data Report: DR16-16

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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**Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia
2001 - 2013**

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information about deaths reported to an Australian State or Territory Coroner between 01/01/2001 and 31/12/2013, where the deceased died as a result of an act of intentional self-harm.

Only cases where the coronial investigation had concluded and are closed on the NCIS are included.

INTENDED USE OF DATA

The data in this report is provided by the NCIS for the purpose requested by Anthony Smith, of Male Health Victoria (MHV). The data contained here is approved for MHV to use as part of their on-going commitment to improve service provision and reduce suicide deaths, including a submission to Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) to hold a workshop for the development of guidelines and principles for funding of suicide research. This data may be used in collaboration with other service providers to develop resources around service provision and to develop a Professional Development module.

As a result, the data will be published in the public domain.

NCIS DISCLAIMER

This dataset does not claim to be representative of all relevant cases within the time period specified. This may be due to; cases still under coronial investigation, missing data, occasional processing and coding errors. The Department of Justice & Regulation accepts no liability for any loss or damage that may arise from any use of or reliance on the data.

Any data provided is for the stated use of the requesting client only. A copy of this data report must not be published, placed in the public domain, or distributed to any external parties without first obtaining permission from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). Any data used from this report must be cited as originating from the NCIS.

The data entered into the NCIS is collected from source material such as the police report of death, autopsy reports, toxicology reports and coronial findings from nine jurisdictions. It is acknowledged that quality and consistency of these documents may vary between and within each jurisdiction. There are also differences between jurisdictions as to legislation governing the reporting of a death to a coroner, which can impact on the type, quality and quantity of the information collected and reported by each jurisdiction. These differences will have an impact on the information available in the NCIS. It should also be noted the NCIS is the result of an administrative data set and data collection is the result of operational processes which differ between jurisdictions. Contributing data to the NCIS is not the primary purpose of the operational processes which can result in data limitations.

METHOD

Data Source

The data presented in this report was obtained by conducting a search of the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). The NCIS is an electronic database of coronial information containing case details from the coronial files of all Australian states and territories, except Queensland, dating back to 1st July 2000. Queensland data is contained from 1st January 2001. New Zealand data is available for deaths reported from 1st July 2007.

Case Identification

The Query Design Search Screen was used to identify cases of relevance. The method of case identification involved searching for cases where:

- **Date notified** = Between 01/01/2001 and 31/12/2013

Please note: All time ranges in this report refer to **calendar years** unless otherwise indicated.

- **Case status** = Closed
- **Jurisdiction** = All Australian States and Territories
- **Intent (Completion)** = Intentional Self-Harm
- **State of Residence** = Victoria

The search was conducted on 09/02/2016.

Data Collection & Analysis

An extract of the NCIS database was performed, containing all closed cases in Australia where the intent of the deceased was coded as "intentional self-harm". A manual review of the coding of all cases in the dataset was undertaken in order to confirm that the cases were of relevance. Duplicates were identified and subsequently removed.

LIMITATIONS OF DATA SOURCE

Coded fields are not completed until the closure of a case and the extent of information contained in the attached text reports may vary. There are several other factors which may have influenced the number of cases identified within this dataset, these are outlined below. Given these factors, there is a possibility of under-reporting.

Intent Classification

The determination of the 'intent' of a deceased person is subject to the individual determination of the Coroner investigating each fatality. In some cases, a statement as to intent will not be made by the Coroner. In these instances, only where the mechanism of death (e.g. hanging, car exhaust gassing) is highly indicative of an intentional act, or where a suicide note was present, will the death be coded as "Intentional Self-Harm" on the NCIS. The non-standard nature of intent determination may influence the classification of deaths which are identified in this report.

Only Closed Cases Included

Only cases that are closed on the NCIS following coronial investigation are included in this dataset. Therefore it is possible cases of relevance may still be under coronial investigation and not included in this report.

Quality Assessment of Closed Cases

The NCIS Unit conducts a quality assessment of the coding associated with cases that have been closed. While every effort is made to quality review closed cases in a timely manner, there may be a delay between the case being closed and the completion of the quality review. It cannot be guaranteed that all cases included in this report have been quality assessed.

Reportable Deaths in Australian Coronial Jurisdictions

All Australian state and territory coroners investigate death in accordance with their respective Coroners Act. The definition of a 'reportable death' may vary between jurisdictions and therefore it is not always possible to compare frequencies of certain types of deaths between jurisdictions.

The NCIS Unit has created a comparison table to assist in the accurate interpretation of mortality data: http://www.ncis.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/NCIS-Reportable-Death_Jurisdictional-Comparison_FINAL_December-20152.xlsx

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

RESULTS

There were **twenty six thousand, seven hundred and seventy nine (26779)** deaths identified with the date of notification between 01/01/2001 and 31/12/2013 that were reported to an Australian State or Territory Coroner where the deceased died as a result of an act of intentional self-harm.

All deaths reported were closed cases where coronial investigation has been formally concluded.

Dashes (-) indicate that no deaths occurred. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.

From 2001 to 2013, there was an average of **two thousand, three hundred and two (2231.6)** deaths of relevance reported per calendar year.

For more information on NCIS employment status codes, please refer to the Coding and Data system manuals.

(<http://www.ncis.org.au/data-collection-2/system-manuals/>)

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 1: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	395	384	13	114	590	4	6	1	2	1509
20 - 24	1071	783	52	296	315	27	25	6	0	2575
25 - 29	1347	940	87	339	110	51	24	3	0	2901
30 - 34	1564	949	190	377	61	79	34	4	0	3258
35 - 39	1671	920	239	396	48	85	29	3	0	3391
40 - 44	1722	853	294	407	26	83	20	4	0	3409
45 - 49	1614	753	330	351	11	72	10	7	0	3148
50 - 54	1266	562	451	312	10	67	7	4	0	2679
55 - 59	848	393	528	218	6	74	4	6	0	2077
60 - 65	539	150	923	164	0	44	8	4	0	1832
Total	12037	6687	3107	2974	1177	586	167	42	2	<u>26779</u>

Table 2: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in New South Wales by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	95	67	5	17	173	0	3	0	1	361
20 - 24	270	160	16	51	91	6	9	4	0	607
25 - 29	402	210	29	64	28	12	9	2	0	756
30 - 34	473	233	65	90	22	20	13	1	0	917
35 - 39	467	235	83	80	18	17	10	1	0	911
40 - 44	474	226	109	86	6	26	10	1	0	938
45 - 49	475	214	124	82	4	18	3	1	0	921
50 - 54	396	158	126	73	2	25	2	2	0	784
55 - 59	221	101	160	52	1	25	3	3	0	566
60 - 65	187	44	305	33	0	19	3	1	0	592
Total	3460	1648	1022	628	345	168	65	16	1	<u>7353</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 3: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Victoria by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	79	54	3	10	139	2	0	0	0	287
20 - 24	250	114	13	49	98	7	3	1	0	535
25 - 29	316	182	29	54	26	13	1	0	0	621
30 - 34	376	211	49	50	14	21	3	0	0	724
35 - 39	430	153	61	55	9	29	0	0	0	737
40 - 44	422	162	71	61	5	18	2	1	0	742
45 - 49	411	155	69	42	3	13	1	0	0	694
50 - 54	317	126	131	37	3	20	0	0	0	634
55 - 59	225	78	127	37	1	24	0	0	0	492
60 - 65	127	39	217	28	0	9	1	0	0	421
Total	2953	1274	770	423	298	156	11	2	0	<u>5887</u>

Table 4: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Queensland by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	98	109	1	61	118	1	1	1	1	391
20 - 24	234	221	11	131	53	6	3	1	0	660
25 - 29	261	220	13	160	30	9	8	1	0	702
30 - 34	287	227	32	166	11	15	8	1	0	747
35 - 39	350	240	46	160	10	17	7	0	0	830
40 - 44	357	214	60	166	8	15	5	2	0	827
45 - 49	302	179	62	157	3	16	3	3	0	725
50 - 54	236	115	78	135	2	11	0	1	0	578
55 - 59	169	101	105	88	1	9	1	2	0	476
60 - 65	105	35	187	67	0	3	3	2	0	402
Total	2399	1661	595	1291	236	102	39	14	1	<u>6338</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 5: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in South Australia by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	25	21	2	26	46	0	0	0	0	120
20 - 24	71	51	5	59	19	3	3	0	0	211
25 - 29	77	59	1	57	4	3	3	0	0	204
30 - 34	105	63	20	66	5	2	4	0	0	265
35 - 39	99	73	19	96	3	3	4	0	0	297
40 - 44	119	57	21	82	2	7	2	0	0	290
45 - 49	121	50	23	63	0	4	1	0	0	262
50 - 54	84	42	38	61	0	2	2	0	0	229
55 - 59	66	18	47	38	1	4	0	1	0	175
60 - 65	31	8	61	35	0	5	0	1	0	141
Total	798	442	237	583	80	33	19	2	0	<u>2194</u>

Table 6: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Western Australia by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	69	85	2	0	73	1	2	0	0	232
20 - 24	163	140	3	3	35	4	7	0	0	355
25 - 29	199	159	10	3	16	11	3	0	0	401
30 - 34	208	137	15	4	5	16	5	1	0	391
35 - 39	222	138	16	4	2	15	7	0	0	404
40 - 44	227	140	17	8	5	15	0	0	0	412
45 - 49	211	105	24	6	1	18	1	1	0	367
50 - 54	157	91	46	1	2	5	3	0	0	305
55 - 59	115	71	54	1	0	10	0	0	0	251
60 - 65	62	13	84	0	0	4	0	0	0	163
Total	1633	1079	271	30	139	99	28	2	0	<u>3281</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 7: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Tasmania by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	10	10	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	35
20 - 24	27	22	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	59
25 - 29	35	37	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	82
30 - 34	52	34	7	1	1	5	0	0	0	100
35 - 39	48	33	7	0	4	3	1	1	0	97
40 - 44	60	26	11	0	0	2	1	0	0	100
45 - 49	49	31	22	1	0	1	0	0	0	104
50 - 54	43	13	19	0	1	3	0	1	0	80
55 - 59	36	9	27	0	2	0	0	0	0	74
60 - 65	18	5	44	0	0	2	0	0	0	69
Total	378	220	144	2	34	18	2	2	0	800

Table 8: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in the Northern Territory by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	11	32	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	64
20 - 24	40	61	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	104
25 - 29	34	48	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	84
30 - 34	32	29	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	64
35 - 39	32	31	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	70
40 - 44	24	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
45 - 49	17	13	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	36
50 - 54	21	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
55 - 59	4	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	12
60 - 65	4	3	11	0	0	1	1	0	0	20
Total	219	247	30	0	25	6	2	3	0	532

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 9: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in the Australian Capital Territory by Employment Status and Age Range

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unlikely to be Known	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
15 - 19	8	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	19
20 - 24	16	14	1	3	10	0	0	0	0	44
25 - 29	23	25	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	51
30 - 34	31	15	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	50
35 - 39	23	17	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	45
40 - 44	39	13	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	59
45 - 49	28	6	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	39
50 - 54	12	6	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	32
55 - 59	12	11	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	31
60 - 65	5	3	14	1	0	1	0	0	0	24
Total	197	116	38	17	20	4	1	1	0	<u>394</u>

Table 10: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	10109	1928	12037
Unemployed	5258	1429	6687
Retired/Pensioner	2178	929	3107
Unlikely to be Known	2161	813	2974
Student	761	416	1177
Home Duties	24	562	586
Prisoner	156	11	167
Other	31	11	42
Child Not at School	2	0	2
Total	20680	6099	<u>26779</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 11: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in New South Wales by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	2925	535	3460
Unemployed	1287	361	1648
Retired/Pensioner	724	298	1022
Unlikely to be Known	462	166	628
Student	217	128	345
Home Duties	4	164	168
Prisoner	61	4	65
Other	11	5	16
Child Not at School	1	0	1
Total	5692	1661	<u>7353</u>

Table 12: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Victoria by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	2444	509	2953
Unemployed	1004	270	1274
Retired/Pensioner	513	257	770
Unlikely to be Known	309	114	423
Student	191	107	298
Home Duties	5	151	156
Prisoner	11	0	11
Other	1	1	2
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	4478	1409	<u>5887</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 13: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Queensland by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	2043	356	2399
Unemployed	1293	368	1661
Retired/Pensioner	422	173	595
Unlikely to be Known	938	353	1291
Student	151	85	236
Home Duties	5	97	102
Prisoner	35	4	39
Other	11	3	14
Child Not at School	1	0	1
Total	4899	1439	<u>6338</u>

Table 14: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in South Australia by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	668	130	798
Unemployed	371	71	442
Retired/Pensioner	168	69	237
Unlikely to be Known	417	166	583
Student	57	23	80
Home Duties	3	30	33
Prisoner	18	1	19
Other	2	0	2
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	1704	490	<u>2194</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 15: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Western Australia by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	1360	273	1633
Unemployed	847	232	1079
Retired/Pensioner	198	73	271
Unlikely to be Known	22	8	30
Student	91	48	139
Home Duties	3	96	99
Prisoner	26	2	28
Other	1	1	2
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	2548	733	<u>3281</u>

Table 16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Tasmania by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	312	66	378
Unemployed	163	57	220
Retired/Pensioner	101	43	144
Unlikely to be Known	1	1	2
Student	23	11	34
Home Duties	2	16	18
Prisoner	2	0	2
Other	2	0	2
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	606	194	<u>800</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 17: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in the Northern Territory by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	200	19	219
Unemployed	208	39	247
Retired/Pensioner	27	3	30
Unlikely to be Known	0	0	0
Student	16	9	25
Home Duties	1	5	6
Prisoner	2	0	2
Other	2	1	3
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	456	76	<u>532</u>

Table 18: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in the Australian Capital Territory by Employment Status and Sex

Employment Status	Male	Female	Total
Employed	157	40	197
Unemployed	85	31	116
Retired/Pensioner	25	13	38
Unlikely to be Known	12	5	17
Student	15	5	20
Home Duties	1	3	4
Prisoner	1	0	1
Other	1	0	1
Child Not at School	0	0	0
Total	297	97	<u>394</u>

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

Table 19: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia by Employment Status and Year of Notification

Age Range [Years]	Employed	Unemployed	Retired/Pensioner	Unknown	Student	Home Duties	Prisoner	Other	Child Not at School	Total
2001	1030	568	283	198	91	76	28	2	0	2276
2002	945	567	313	177	100	73	19	2	0	2196
2003	917	496	266	192	84	64	20	2	0	2041
2004	962	486	274	221	78	53	16	8	0	2098
2005	969	473	245	228	78	46	12	5	0	2056
2006	883	398	244	275	80	46	9	1	1	1937
2007	964	446	242	233	86	43	7	3	0	2024
2008	939	521	224	217	90	37	11	1	0	2040
2009	922	541	213	227	95	34	10	0	1	2043
2010	941	497	197	227	94	32	15	0	0	2003
2011	908	518	225	211	89	32	7	5	0	1995
2012	924	585	211	309	118	25	4	4	0	2180
2013	733	591	170	259	94	25	9	9	0	1890
Total	12037	6687	3107	2974	1177	586	167	42	2	26779

NATIONAL CORONIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

DR16-16: Intentional Self-Harm Fatalities in Australia, 2001 - 2013

DATA SOURCES

Data on the NCIS has been provided by each State and Territory Coroner's Office around Australia and New Zealand. Additional codes are provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Safe Work Australia.



ACT Coroner's Court



Coroner's Court
of New South Wales



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND JUSTICE



QUEENSLAND
COURTS



MAGISTRATES COURT of
TASMANIA



CORONIAL DIVISION



Coroners Court
of Victoria



Coroner's Court of Western Australia



CORONIAL SERVICES
OF NEW ZEALAND
Purongo O te Ao Kakarauri

NOTE: In some States/Territories the Coroner's Office is part of the Magistrate's Court.

FUNDING AGENCIES

Operational funding for the NCIS is provided by the following agencies:

- Each State and Territory Justice/Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Department of Health
- Australian Institute of Criminology
- Safe Work Australia
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Australian Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- The New Zealand Ministry of Justice