Instructions for users

How to extract suicide statistics by country from the

WHO Mortality Database Online Tool

This guide explains how to access suicide statistics and make graphs and tables, or export to Excel, for countries using the WHO Mortality Database Online Tool. The following indicators are available:

- Number of suicide deaths, by sex, and age groups
- Age-standardized suicide rates, by sex
- Crude suicide rates, by sex and age groups

In order to access the online database, go to “Health statistics and information systems: WHO Mortality Database” at http://www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/

Then click “Access the online database”. This will open the WHO Mortality Database Online Tool (direct link: http://apps.who.int/healthinfo/statistics/mortality/whodpms).

For the definition of any indicator, click on “Definitions” on the top of the main page. You will see that the following ICD codes correspond to intentional self-harm: ICD-10 detailed codes: X60 - X84, Y870; ICD-10 Mortality Tabulation List 1: 1101; ICD-9 Basic Tabulation List: B54.
Select parameters

To get started, click on the button “Select parameters” on the top of the page. A new window opens, where you can select “Indicators”, “Countries” and “Years” for the data you would like to have displayed.
Number of suicide deaths

In order to find the number of suicides, you need to click on the folder “No. of deaths - External causes”. In here, you will find the folder “No. of deaths - Intentional self-harm, both sexes”, which includes data by age groups, as well as the numbers by males and females and by age groups.

The age groups are the following: below 1 year, 1-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-54, 55-74, and 75+ years. In order to get all ages, the main folder of both sexes, males, females respectively needs to be selected.

Once you have selected one or more indicators, one or more countries, and one or more years, click “OK” on the bottom and you will again see the main page of the WHO Mortality Database from where you started from.

In order to display the data, you have to click on “Graphs” or on “Tables” on the top of the page (please see below).

Not all countries have data for each of the years you can select. If this is the case, you will only get the data for the years for which suicide statistics are available for the selected country.

Suicide rates, age-standardized

In order to find the age-standardized suicide rates, you need to click on the folder “Age-standardized death rates per 100 000 world standard population”. In here, you will find the folder “ASDR per 100 000 - Intentional self-harm, both sexes”, which includes data for males and females, and for both sexes when you click on the main folder.

The age-standardized death rates (ASDR) are for all ages.

Once you have selected one or more indicators, one or more countries, and one or more years, click “OK” on the bottom and you will again see the main page of the WHO Mortality Database from where you started from.

In order to display the data, you have to click on “Graphs” or on “Tables” on the top of the page (please see below).
Suicide rates, crude

Crude suicide rates by country can be displayed in line charts or bar charts. For this, it is important to select one or more countries and one or more years, and either number or ASDR from the indicators (either way, crude suicide rates will be displayed in the charts). Once you have made your selection, click “OK” on the bottom and you will again see the main page of the WHO Mortality Database from where you started from.

In order to display the crude suicide rates in line charts or bar charts, click on “Graphs” on the top of the page and select “By specific indicator” in the drop-down menu. In there, you have the choice of “Suicide: bar chart – crude death rates” or “Suicide: line chart – crude death rates”. Once the selected chart opens, you can change the view by going to the “Countries” button or the “Years” button on the top of the page. You can also “Change scale” or “Print”.

The charts are displayed by sex and the following age groups: 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, and 75+ years.

See an example of the bar chart as follows:
Graphs

When clicking on “Graphs” on the top of the main page, a drop-down menu shows with the following options (the same kinds of graphs apply to numbers and ASDR):
- Bar chart
- Ranked bar charts (vertical or horizontal)
- Line chart
- Scattergram

See examples of graphs as follows:
Tables

When clicking on “Tables” on the top of the main page, a drop-down menu shows with the following options (the same kinds of tables apply to numbers and ASDR):

**Table A:** numbers or ASDR are displayed for all countries and for the years selected. By clicking on “Indicators” in the tab on the top you can switch views between both sexes, males, and females.

**Table B:** numbers or ASDR are displayed for the countries selected for all years available. By clicking on “Indicators” in the tab on the top you can switch views between both sexes, males, and females.

**Table C:** numbers or ASDR are displayed for all years available by both sexes, males, and females. By clicking on “Countries” in the tab on the top you can switch views between the countries selected.

**Table D:** numbers or ASDR are displayed for all countries by last available and first available year. By clicking on “Indicators” in the tab on the top you can switch views between both sexes, males, and females.

**Table E:** numbers or ASDR are displayed for all countries by both sexes, males, and females. By clicking on “Years” in the tab on the top you can switch views between the years selected.
Export to Excel

The Tables can be exported to Excel. When viewing a Table, click on “Send to” in the tab on the top and select “Excel”. In case of difficulties, make sure to have Excel open. With the data in Excel, you can create graphs with the options available in Excel.

Exporting Table C, for instance, allows creating Excel graphs with the evolution of numbers or ASDR over the years and by both sexes, males, and females.

See examples as follows:

![Number of suicides, by age groups, Japan, 2009](image1)

![Age standardized suicide rates, Japan, 1979-2009](image2)