

This report summarizes all deaths classified as suicide between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2023. Suicide is defined as death resulting from self-inflicted injury, with the intent to cause death. The report includes both confirmed and suspected suicide deaths.

Caveats: As the BCCS operates in a live database environment, the data are considered preliminary and subject to change as investigations are concluded. These data were compiled by date of death, which may differ from the date of injury. In some cases, the death may occur months or years subsequent to injury. These statistics may vary from those reported by other agencies because of differences in data definitions or reporting standards. See p. 10 for policy changes that may have impacted the rates after 2014.^[1]

Summary:

- In 2023, there were 639 deaths by suicide equating to about 12 deaths per 100,000 population.
- Suicide rates have remained relatively stable since 2016, averaging to about 12 deaths per 100,000 population per year.
- From 2013-2023, suicide deaths were most common in January and May to August.
- Individuals aged 40 to 69 accounted for 52% of deaths in 2023. The highest age-specific suicide death rate was among those 40-49 years of age (17 deaths per 100,000 in the age group).
- Males accounted for 75% of suicide deaths in 2023.
- Overall, the three most common means of suicide death in 2023 were by hanging, firearm and poisoning.
- Means of suicide varied by sex. From 2013-2023, the most common means of suicide for females was hanging (38%), followed by poisoning (33%). For males, hanging and firearms accounted for 42% and 19% of deaths, respectively.
- The three townships experiencing the highest number of suicides in 2023 were Vancouver, Greater Victoria, and Surrey.
- Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the highest *number* of suicide deaths (195 and 139 deaths, respectively) in 2023, accounting for 52% of all suicide deaths during this period.
- Northern Health Authority had the highest rate of suicide deaths (21 deaths per 100,000) followed by Interior Health Authority (14 deaths per 100,000) in 2023.
- Rates of suicide deaths were highest in Northeast, North Vancouver Island, Northern Interior, Northwest, and Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Health Services Delivery Areas in 2023.

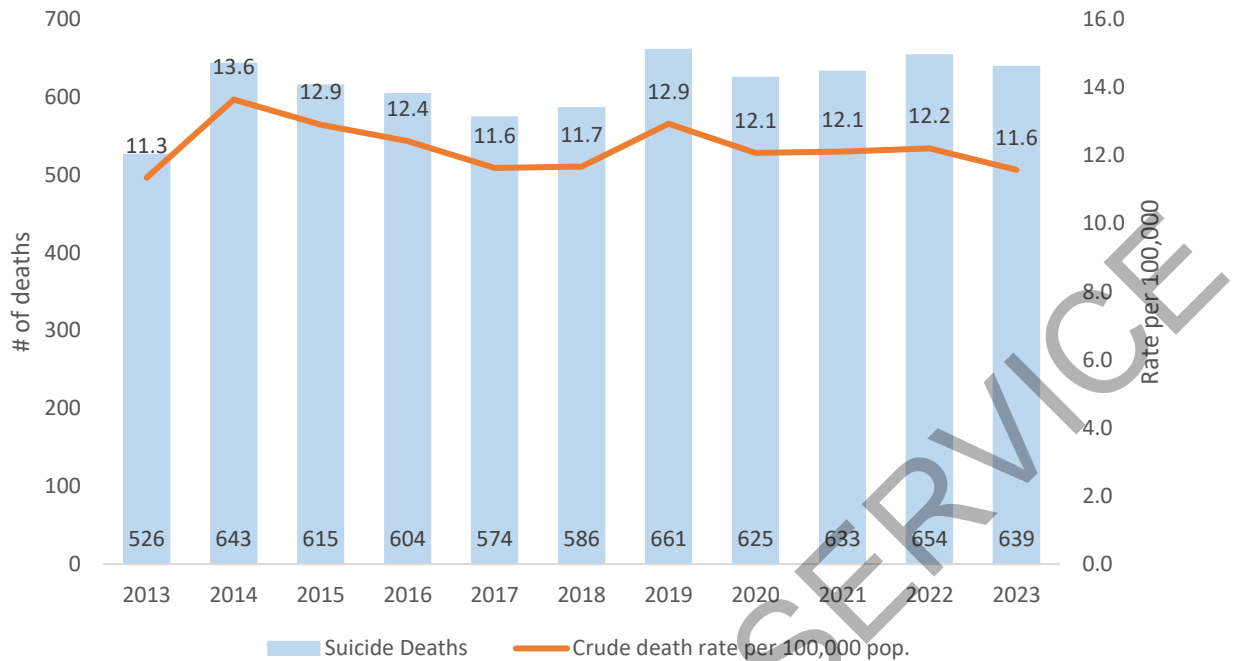


Fig. 1. Suicide Deaths and Crude Death Rate per 100,000 Population, 2013-2023^[1,2]

Table 1. Suicide Deaths by Month of Death, 2013 – 2023											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	47	60	56	62	46	43	55	63	51	58	67
February	43	50	45	54	38	40	56	59	53	62	51
March	41	56	43	57	66	48	57	51	41	46	39
April	35	59	52	49	48	41	56	43	31	45	52
May	54	45	60	49	50	63	63	42	57	58	55
June	47	47	52	50	47	53	47	61	61	61	65
July	49	46	56	46	62	63	51	52	55	73	44
August	39	56	58	50	58	45	61	51	71	57	63
September	48	56	50	49	33	55	65	48	59	47	44
October	39	59	61	56	43	56	42	51	57	51	57
November	44	57	33	38	41	42	51	58	45	53	56
December	40	52	49	44	42	37	57	46	52	43	46
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

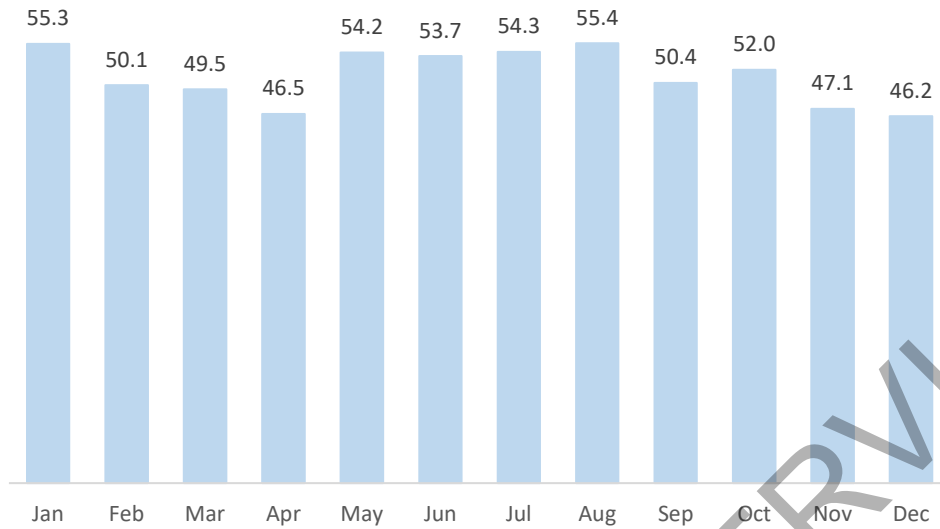


Fig. 2. Average Number of Suicide Deaths by Month, 2013-2023

Table 2. Suicide Deaths by Sex, 2013 – 2023											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	143	156	145	154	143	156	170	177	150	158	160
Male	383	487	470	450	431	430	491	448	483	496	479
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

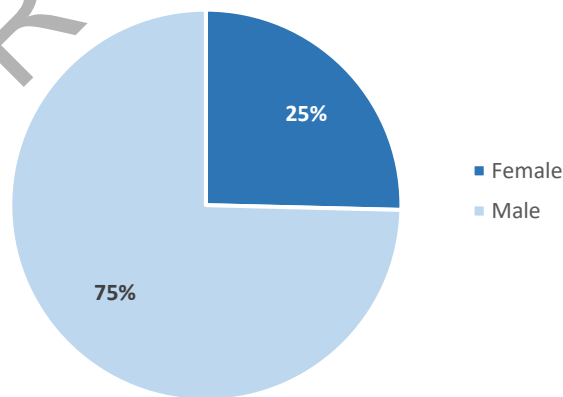


Fig. 3. Percent of Suicide Deaths by Sex, 2013-2023

Table 3. Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2013 – 2023											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<19	12	25	19	20	22	22	22	24	18	21	24
19-29	70	83	95	95	92	92	116	113	99	100	105
30-39	84	81	77	86	82	100	87	111	114	121	103
40-49	97	120	85	107	105	95	114	96	111	112	114
50-59	112	140	163	110	111	129	122	117	122	114	109
60-69	75	97	88	105	81	73	109	79	90	96	108
70-79	38	54	45	43	50	52	59	47	46	55	54
80+	38	43	43	38	31	23	31	38	33	35	21
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

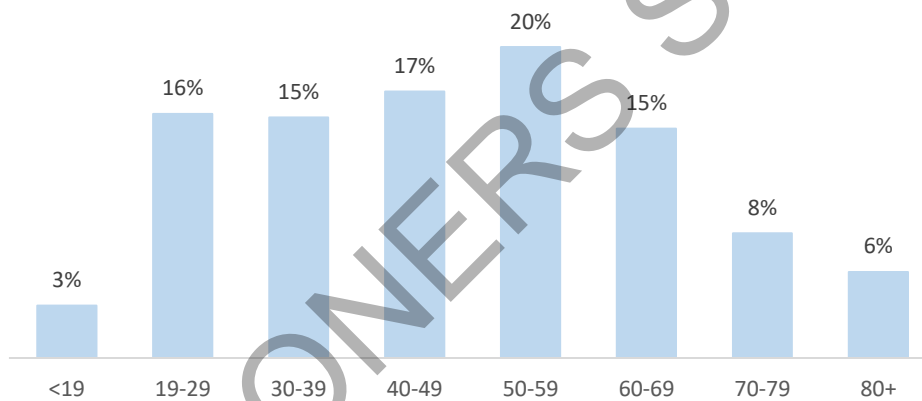


Fig. 4. Percent of Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2013-2023

Table 4. Age-Specific Suicide Death Rates per 100,000, 2013 – 2023^[2]											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10-18	2.7	5.6	4.3	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.7	5.2	3.9	4.4	4.6
19-29	10.0	11.7	13.4	13.0	12.4	12.0	14.7	14.3	12.8	12.5	12.4
30-39	13.7	12.9	12.1	13.1	12.1	14.3	12.0	14.8	14.7	15.0	12.5
40-49	14.6	18.2	13.0	16.8	16.5	14.9	17.8	14.9	17.0	16.7	16.5
50-59	15.8	19.3	22.2	15.0	15.2	17.8	16.9	16.3	17.1	16.2	15.8
60-69	13.8	17.1	14.9	17.1	12.9	11.4	16.6	11.8	13.1	13.7	15.1
70-79	12.4	17.0	13.7	12.6	13.7	13.4	14.4	10.9	10.2	11.6	11.0
80+	19.0	21.0	20.7	17.9	14.3	10.4	13.7	16.3	13.9	14.4	8.4
Total	11.3	13.6	12.9	12.4	11.6	11.7	12.9	12.1	12.1	12.2	11.6

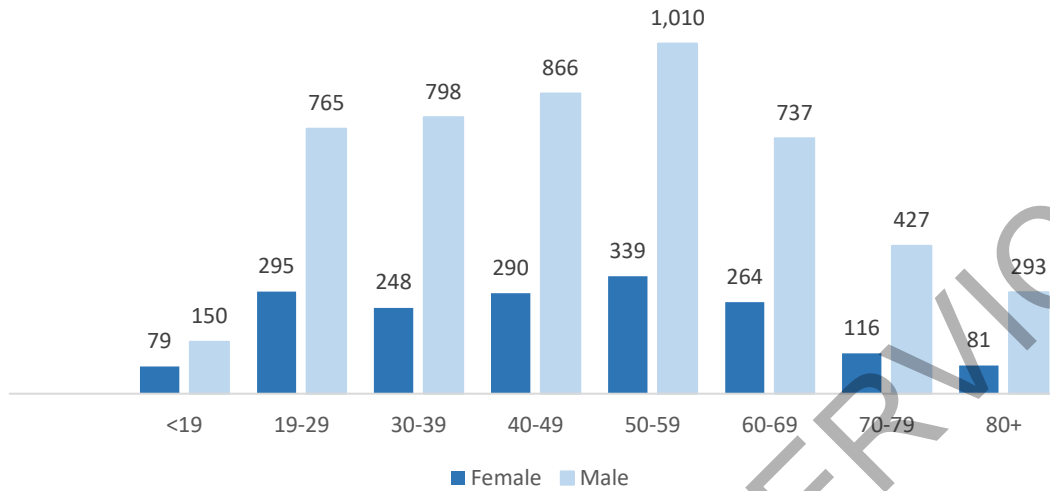


Fig. 3. Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Sex, 2013-2023

Table 5. Means of Suicide Deaths in BC, 2013-2023

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hanging	189	258	216	243	236	258	279	272	241	248	270
Poisoning (alcohol/drugs/ other)	92	121	120	113	91	86	106	85	94	90	78
Firearms	86	82	105	88	97	80	100	92	90	99	78
Fall	48	53	56	48	54	44	53	56	56	62	57
Carbon monoxide poisoning	21	37	29	22	14	18	17	20	18	14	14
Other gases/fumes	18	13	17	20	10	11	11	9	12	11	12
Airway obstruction	8	11	15	12	7	9	14	16	10	20	17
Stabbing/incised injuries	29	26	22	16	20	21	27	18	24	30	25
Drowning	8	15	17	15	16	11	18	19	15	22	29
Motor vehicle	9	6	4	9	3	3	10	9	8	11	11
Railway	3	5	4	6	3	4	3	3	2	5	7
Fire	5	5	2	2	1	5	1	3	2	7	5
Skytrain	3	4	3	3	5	2	1	6	6	1	2
Other	7	7	4	4	2	3	2	2	4	2	3
Not yet available	0	0	1	3	15	31	19	15	51	32	31
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

*Note: Means of death includes confirmed and preliminary data that is subject to change as investigations are updated.

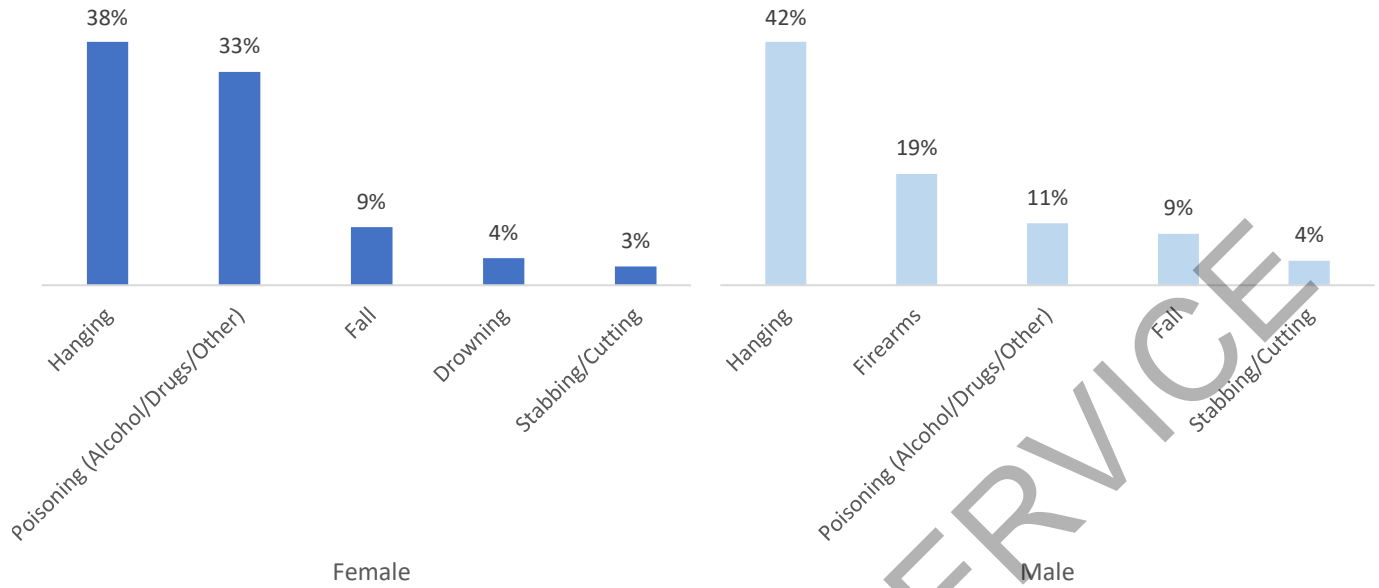


Fig. 4. Top 5 Means of Death by Sex as % of Total*, 2013-2023

*Note: Deaths under investigation were excluded.

Table 6. Suicide Deaths by Top Townships of Injury, 2013-2023

Township	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vancouver	85	95	73	74	74	85	77	80	82	81	89
Greater Victoria	39	49	44	45	51	46	55	68	61	48	44
Surrey	30	63	48	39	48	34	49	48	41	53	51
Burnaby	17	27	17	24	19	25	20	25	25	26	20
Kelowna	20	22	21	27	17	25	23	20	14	17	25
Abbotsford	12	12	19	17	16	14	14	15	18	19	13
North Vancouver	13	15	11	13	17	14	16	18	18	17	8
Kamloops	13	16	15	11	16	13	14	17	13	10	21
Nanaimo	15	10	15	9	12	17	18	8	26	16	13
Richmond	15	10	13	12	16	18	13	14	16	9	19
Prince George	8	10	18	10	10	11	23	10	12	17	18
Langley	15	15	18	13	5	18	18	5	10	11	17
Chilliwack	8	9	12	18	10	8	12	11	12	22	18
Coquitlam	15	15	11	17	11	7	19	11	5	10	18
Vernon	10	8	10	11	8	10	9	10	12	11	9
Other Townships	211	267	270	264	244	241	281	265	268	287	256
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

Table 7. Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Authority of Injury, 2013 – 2023^[3]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Interior	104	133	118	134	132	133	147	133	136	121	121
Fraser	149	191	176	173	158	154	189	177	159	208	195
Van. Coastal	131	147	131	120	130	137	130	133	135	133	139
Island	103	120	124	121	103	118	128	136	142	133	120
Northern	39	52	66	55	51	44	66	46	61	58	64
Out of Province	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

Table 8. Suicide Death Rates by Health Authority of Injury per 100,000, 2013 – 2023^[2,3]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Interior	14.2	17.9	15.7	17.4	16.9	16.7	18.1	16.2	16.3	14.3	13.8
Fraser	8.8	11.0	10.0	9.6	8.6	8.2	9.9	9.1	8.0	10.2	9.2
Van. Coastal	11.5	12.7	11.2	10.1	10.9	11.3	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.4	10.7
Island	13.4	15.4	15.7	15.0	12.5	14.1	15.1	15.8	16.3	15.0	13.1
Northern	13.6	17.9	22.7	18.8	17.3	14.8	22.0	15.3	20.2	19.1	20.7
Total	11.3	13.6	12.9	12.4	11.6	11.7	12.9	12.1	12.1	12.2	11.6

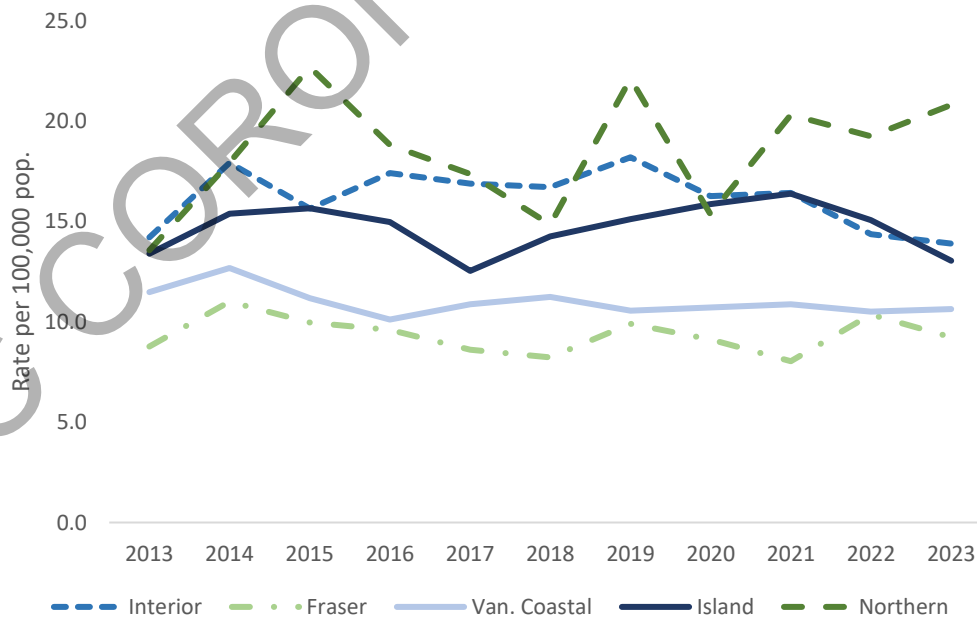


Fig. 5. Suicide Death Rates by Health Authority of Injury per 100,000, 2013-2023^[2,3]

Table 9. Suicide Deaths in BC by Health Services Delivery Area of Injury, 2013 – 2023^[3]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
East Kootenay	10	17	15	14	15	12	23	16	15	12	12
Kootenay Boundary	7	19	11	14	18	15	19	11	15	14	14
Okanagan	47	61	57	71	56	74	60	58	61	61	54
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	40	36	35	35	43	32	45	48	45	34	41
Fraser East	41	36	50	46	38	31	40	36	44	61	51
Fraser North	50	67	59	66	51	52	72	73	57	74	61
Fraser South	58	88	67	61	69	71	77	68	58	73	83
Richmond	15	10	13	12	16	18	13	14	16	9	19
Vancouver	85	95	73	74	74	85	77	80	82	81	89
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	31	42	45	34	40	34	40	39	37	43	31
South Vancouver Island	41	52	47	50	55	47	59	70	66	51	47
Central Vancouver Island	43	49	50	44	30	40	49	36	53	46	41
North Vancouver Island	19	19	27	27	18	31	20	30	23	36	32
Northwest	11	16	20	20	7	16	20	13	18	16	13
Northern Interior	15	18	33	22	25	21	31	21	27	32	34
Northeast	13	18	13	13	19	7	15	12	16	10	17
Out of Province	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total	526	643	615	604	574	586	661	625	633	654	639

Table 10. Suicide Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area of Injury per 100,000, 2013 – 2023^[2,3]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
East Kootenay	12.7	21.2	18.4	16.9	17.9	14.1	26.7	18.4	17.1	13.4	13.1
Kootenay Boundary	8.9	23.9	13.8	17.2	21.9	18.0	22.6	13.0	17.6	16.3	15.9
Okanagan	13.3	16.9	15.5	18.8	14.6	18.8	15.0	14.2	14.7	14.4	12.3
Thompson Cariboo	18.1	16.2	15.6	15.3	18.5	13.5	18.7	19.8	18.5	13.7	16.1
Fraser East	14.1	12.2	16.7	14.9	12.0	9.5	12.0	10.7	12.9	17.5	14.2
Fraser North	7.8	10.3	9.0	9.8	7.5	7.5	10.3	10.3	7.9	10.0	7.9
Fraser South	7.5	11.1	8.3	7.4	8.2	8.3	8.7	7.5	6.3	7.7	8.4
Richmond	7.5	4.9	6.4	5.8	7.7	8.5	6.1	6.5	7.3	4.0	8.3
Vancouver	12.9	14.2	10.8	10.8	10.7	12.2	10.8	11.1	11.4	11.1	11.9
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	10.9	14.6	15.4	11.5	13.3	11.2	13.1	12.6	11.9	13.5	9.5
South Vancouver Island	10.8	13.4	12.0	12.5	13.5	11.4	14.0	16.4	15.3	11.5	10.3
Central Vancouver Island	16.1	18.1	18.2	15.7	10.5	13.8	16.6	12.1	17.6	15.0	13.0
North Vancouver Island	15.6	15.5	21.7	21.3	13.9	23.6	15.0	22.2	16.8	25.9	22.3
Northwest	14.8	21.4	26.9	26.7	9.3	21.2	26.3	16.9	23.2	20.4	16.2
Northern Interior	10.5	12.5	22.8	15.0	16.9	14.0	20.5	13.8	17.7	20.9	21.9
Northeast	18.5	25.3	18.3	18.3	26.7	9.8	20.8	16.7	22.2	13.9	23.1
Total	11.3	13.6	12.9	12.4	11.6	11.7	12.9	12.1	12.1	12.2	11.6

Notes:

1. Following a policy review, a change was implemented in September 2014, with respect to the determination of suicide. Consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *F.H. v. Hugh McDougall*, a finding of suicide is now made on a balance of probabilities, in that it is more likely than not that the death was the result of intentional self-harm. Prior to September 2014, the determination of suicide was based on the test articulated in the 1992 Ontario Court of Appeal decision in *Beckon v. Young*, which required a higher degree of probability to classify a death as suicide. The suicide numbers after 2014 may have been impacted by this policy change.
2. Population estimates were taken from:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>
3. Health Boundary breakdowns can be found at:
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographicdata-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>