

# Suicide Knowledge Update to December 2021

## BC Coroners Service (BCCS) Suicide Data – Knowledge Update to December 31, 2021

The following summarizes the number of deaths classified as suicide between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021. While this data is usually not released until data has had time to settle, preliminary statistics are being made available due to public interest.

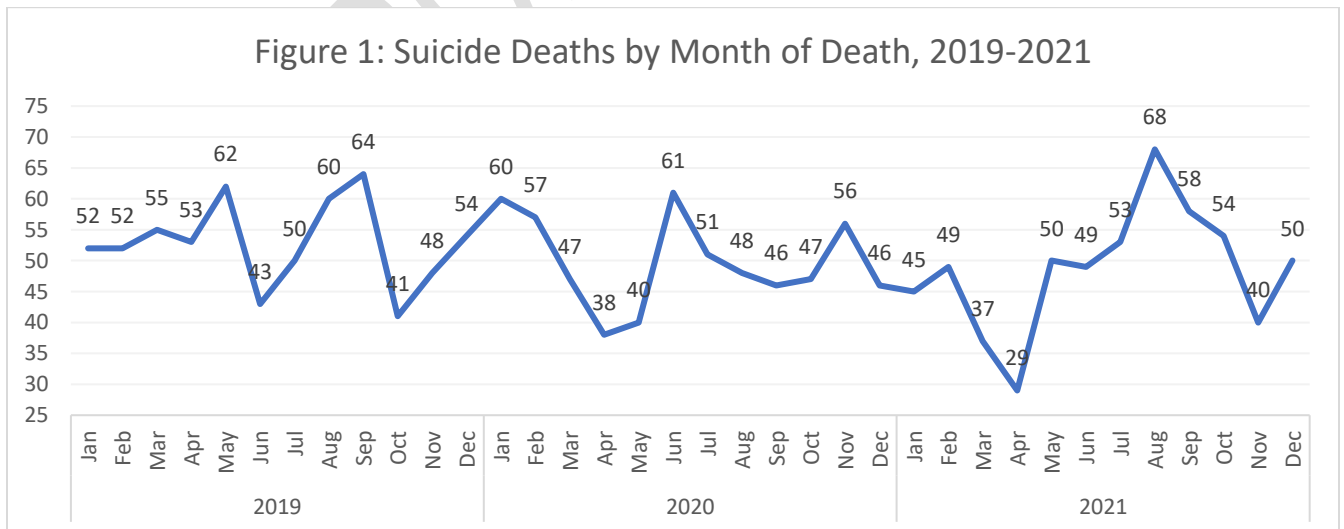
Suicide is defined as death resulting from self-inflicted injury, with the intent to cause death.

**Caveats:** As the BCCS operates in a live database environment, the data are considered preliminary and subject to change. Data and trends for 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution as the data require time to settle; cases that are currently classified as undetermined may be updated and those classified as suicide may also change as the coroner’s investigation concludes.

*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 after injury.*

- In 2021, there have been 582 suicide deaths investigated in BC. This number is down from 597 in 2020 and 634 in 2019. *Please see caveat with respect to data limitations.*
- Island Health was the only health authority that saw increasing suicide deaths year after year since 2019.
- Only the 30-39 age group saw an increase in suicide deaths in 2021 compared to 2019.

### A. BC Data:



**B. BC Data by Health Authority:**

**Table 1: Suicide Deaths by Year of Death and Health Authority of Injury, 2019-2021\***

	2019	2020	2021
Interior	141	131	128
Fraser	186	166	141
Vancouver Coastal	120	131	124
Island	120	124	128
Northern	66	45	60
Out of Province	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>582</b>

\*Health Authority of death was used when health authority of injury was missing

**C. BC Data by Age Group:**

**Table 3: Suicide Deaths by Year of Death and Age Group, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021
<19	22	22	18
19-29	111	106	94
30-39	84	108	107
40-49	107	91	100
50-59	115	113	114
60-69	107	76	77
70-79	57	44	44
80+	31	37	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>582</b>

**D. BC Data by Sex:**

**Table 5: Suicide Deaths by Year of Death and Sex, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021
Female	158	163	134
Male	476	434	448
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>582</b>