

# NCIS FACT SHEET

## Intentional self-harm deaths in Australia in 2016

**50 deaths**

per week  
on average

**2,580**

intentional self-harm  
deaths in 2016

**15.2%**

of all reportable  
deaths in 2016

**Intentional-self harm refers to a death that occurred due to purposefully self-inflicted poisoning or injury.**

Intentional self-harm deaths occurred in a higher proportion of males than females. The majority of deaths for both sexes occurred in those aged 25 - 34 years. More than one third (38.5%) occurred in persons aged between 25 and 44 years.

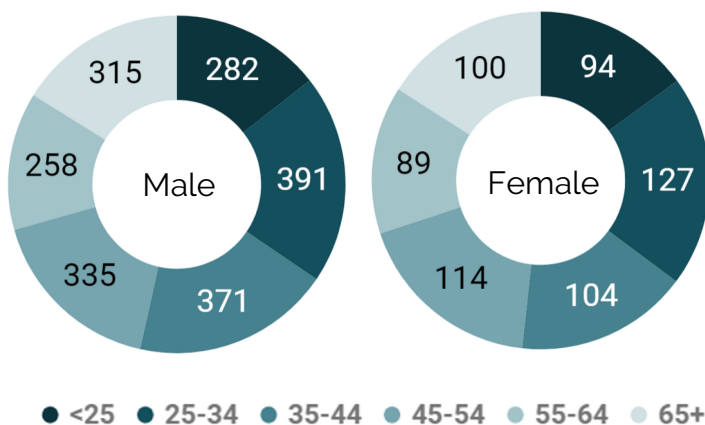


Figure 1. Frequency of intentional self-harm deaths by age group and sex, 2016

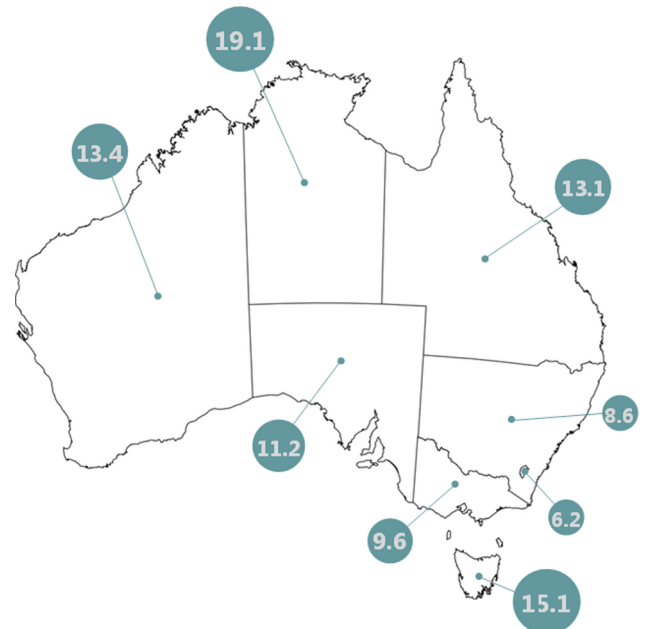


Figure 2. Rates of intentional self-harm deaths per 100,000 by jurisdiction of investigation, 2016

The national rate of intentional self-harm deaths was 10.7 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). The Northern Territory had the highest rate at 19.1 deaths per 100,000, and the lowest occurred in the Australian Capital Territory (6.2 deaths per 100,000).



***intentional self-harm deaths decreased by 1.9 deaths per 100,000 from 2015 to 2016***

The most common mechanism of injury in intentional self-harm deaths in 2016 was asphyxiation by hanging (Figure 3). This is consistent with 2015 data.

The percentage of hanging deaths decreased in the older age groups, while remaining the most common mechanism across all age groups. The percentage of pharmaceutical drug toxicity and firearm-related deaths both increased in the older age groups.

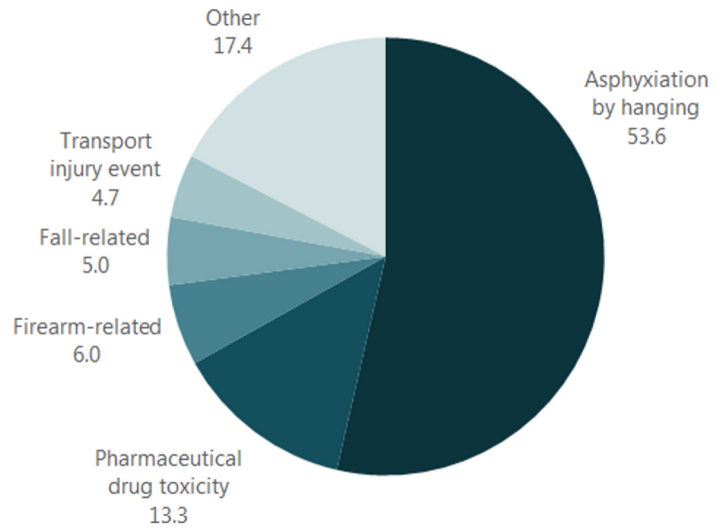
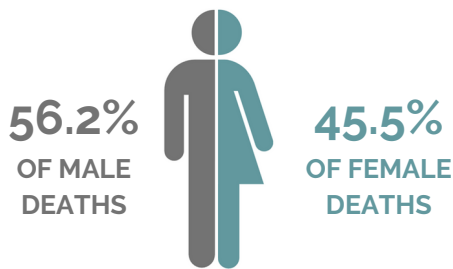


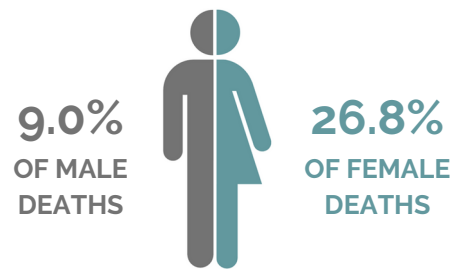
Figure 3. Percentage of intentional self-harm deaths by mechanism of death, 2016

## Mechanism of injury by sex

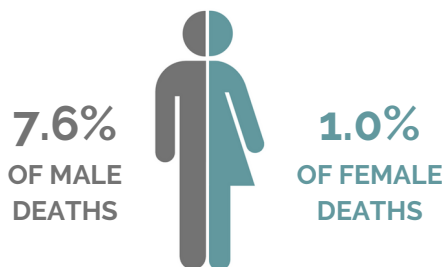
### HANGING



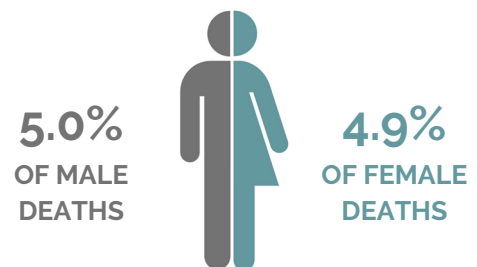
### PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG TOXICITY



### FIREARM-RELATED



### FALL-RELATED



The data presented in this fact sheet was obtained from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) in December 2018. The dataset extracted contained every fatality reported to an Australian coroner between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 that was coded as intentional self-harm, and where the coronial investigation had concluded and the case was closed on the NCIS. Population data was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Visit the NCIS website for information on [data sources and limitations](#). To request a comprehensive data report, contact the NCIS or visit [www.ncis.org.au](http://www.ncis.org.au).

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