

# NCIS FACT SHEET

## Intentional self-harm deaths in Australia in 2017

**57 deaths**

per week  
on average

**2,954**

intentional self-harm  
deaths in 2017

**16.8%**

of all reportable  
deaths in 2017

**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 male deaths occurred in those aged 35 - 44 years, and females in those aged 45 - 54. More than one third (37.8%) of all intentional self-harm deaths occurred in persons aged between 25 and 44 years.

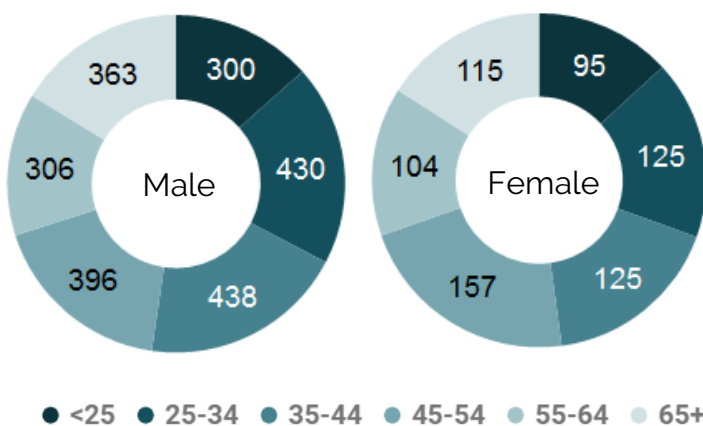


Figure 1. Frequency of intentional self-harm deaths by age group and sex, 2017

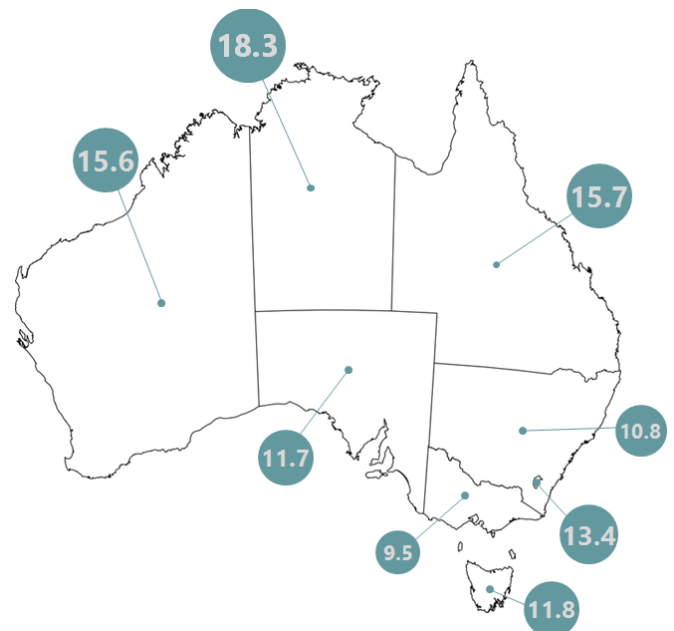


Figure 2. Rates of intentional self-harm deaths per 100,000 by jurisdiction of investigation, 2017

The national rate of intentional self-harm deaths was 12.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). The Northern Territory had the highest rate at 18.3 deaths per 100,000, and the lowest occurred in Victoria (9.5 deaths per 100,000).



***intentional self-harm deaths increased by 1.5 deaths per 100,000 from 2016 to 2017***

The most common mechanism of injury in intentional self-harm deaths in 2017 was asphyxiation by hanging (Figure 3). This is consistent with 2016 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.

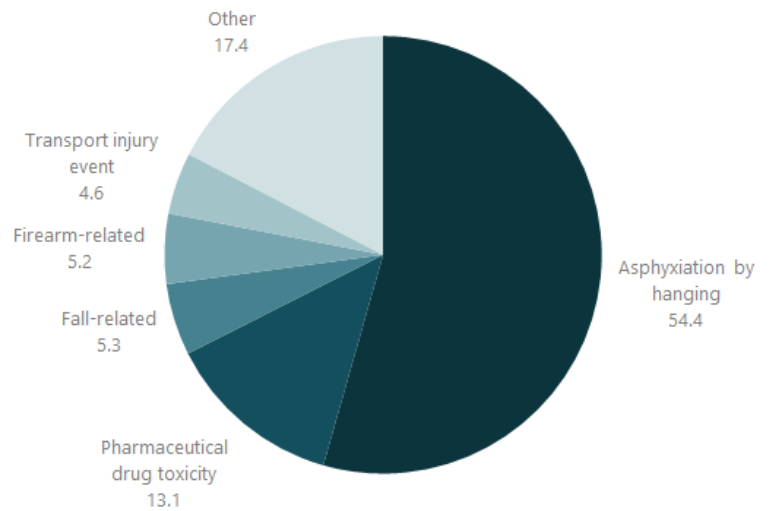
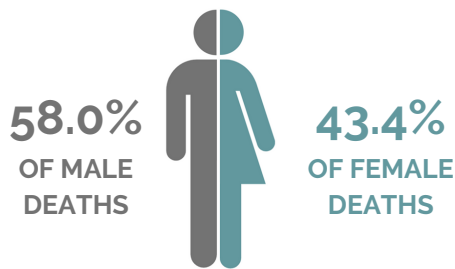


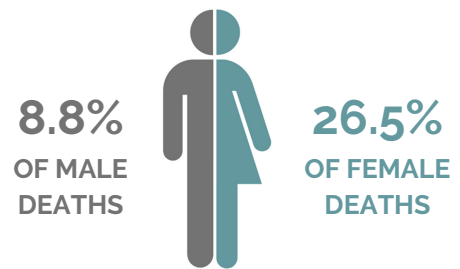
Figure 3. Percentage of intentional self-harm deaths by mechanism of death, 2017

## Mechanism of injury by sex

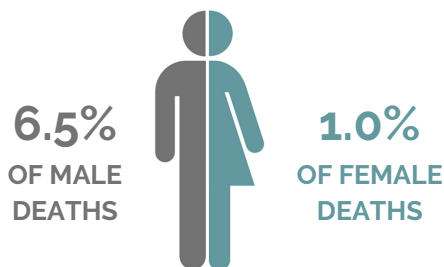
### HANGING



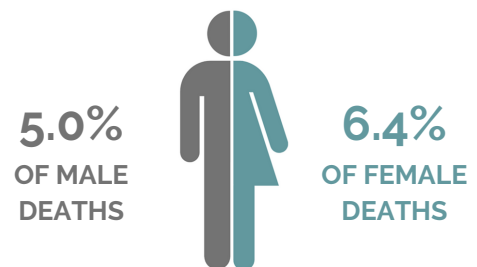
### PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG TOXICITY



### FIREARM-RELATED



### FALL-RELATED



The data presented in this fact sheet was obtained from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) in January 2020. The dataset extracted contained every fatality reported to an Australian coroner between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017 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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