

Youth Suicides

Outcome

Youth are healthy, safe and supported

Measure

Number of youth suicides per annum

Type

Contributory measure

Relationship(s) to other frameworks

This measure is included in the Youth Mental Health Project Outcomes Framework.

Details for this measure can be located via Superu's social sector outcome indicators catalogue for NZ government's priority programmes which is located at: http://www.superu.govt.nz/outcomes_catalogue

Data is sourced annually via the New Zealand Health Survey.

This measure also assimilates to an indicator included in the Children's Action Plan Evaluation Framework – specifically: • Rates of reported self harm

And the Family and Whānau with children aged 0 – 5 years Framework - specifically: • Families and whānau are not affected by suicide or self harm.

Rationale

Many factors influence a person's decision to attempt suicide. Suicide prevention initiatives generally aim to promote protective factors and reduce risk factors for suicide, and improve the services available for people in distress.

A range of protective factors can enhance a person's wellbeing and resilience, and reduce their risk of suicide. These include: access to community and health resources, social connectedness, and the capacity to cope with life's difficulties.

The costs of suicide to society are high. The direct economic costs of suicide are not insignificant, but they are small in comparison to the intangible costs (i.e. the grief and bereavement of family and friends, and the lost potential of lives cut short).

This measure enables benchmarking – so that individuals, organisations, districts and regions can monitor and assess the impacts that their suicide prevention initiatives/actions are having on reducing youth suicides.

Eligible population

Youth aged 10 to 19 years

Measure status

In development

Measure definition

Numerator

Number of youth who have committed suicide in the last 12 months

Denominator

N/a

National target

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Local target

Milestones to be decided by Alliance

Data Sources

New Zealand Mortality Collection, Ministry of Health

Data extracted from data sources

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Data availability

Data is available from the Suicide Facts: Deaths and intentional self-harm hospitalisations Report: <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-deaths-and-intentional-self-harm-hospitalisations-2013#reporting>

Measure calculation process

Refer to 'Data extracted from data sources' note above.

Relationship(s) to other measures

This measure is one of a number of risky behaviour indicators which form part of the Minister's Youth Mental Health Project. Examples include:

- Proportion of young people, aged 15-24 years that participate in hazardous drinking (i.e. scored 8 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT))
- Proportion of young people, aged 15—24 years who currently smoke cigarettes.

Measure development notes

Data is captured at individual, regional and national levels by ethnicity and gender.

Measure testing/piloting: This measure has been assigned a status of In Development for a period of 12 months during which time, the sector will 'test/use' the measure as it is currently defined and provide feedback to the SLM Team. Modifications to the measure definition may be made, prior to its status being updated to Active from 1 July 2018.

Implementation timeline: Measure is scheduled to move from a status of 'in development' to 'active' on 1 July 2018.

Reporting frequency: The Ministry will be responsible for gathering data and releasing information to Alliances.

Measure implementation group: TBC.