

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4558

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to suicide, self-inflicted deaths and attempted suicides.

Please could you give a breakdown of how many suicides, self-inflicted deaths and attempted suicides occurred among people under 18 with the ICD-10 code F12. – 'mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids', during the 2016/17, 2015/2016, 2014/2015, 2013/2014, 2012/2013, 2011/2012, 2010/ 2011, 2009/ 2010, 2008/ 2009, 2007/ 2008, 2006/ 2007 periods?

Please note:

The Trust can go back as far as 2009/2010, although this will only be as robust as the data available at that time, and we understand the coding would not have been as good back then as it is now. However, we have run for the financial years 2016/17 back to 2009/10 using the ICD10 code F12 for those under 18 only (i.e. aged 17 and less). For each of those years for all patients with the code F12, none of them died in hospital, all were discharged alive. We have been advised by the Coding Team that of those with the F12 code, we could use ICD10 codes X60-X84 to identify intentional self-harm of some kind. We have therefore listed below for each year how many in total had the code F12 recorded in any position (i.e. primary or secondary's) and then of those, how many also had a code X60-X84 also in any position. Where this code is recorded we have shown what code and the text for what this code means. Some of the patients had two of the X codes listed so we have shown both and detailed how many actual patients this is.

Please be aware that this data is really limited because in reality we don't code or hold most of what we believe you are trying to identify. If a patient commits suicide at home and are successful an ambulance will be called but this will not come to the hospital and therefore not in our data. Likewise if suicide is attempted but not successful and they do come to A&E, we are unable to identify attempted suicide in A&E data as the A&E coding will show the problem not the cause, i.e. diagnosis of poisoning in A&E could be used

for example where a person ingested something to try and commit suicide, but the fact that it was an attempted suicide would not form part of the A&E diagnosis so we could not identify this, and ICD10 coding is not used in A&E.

Many who go through A&E will not be admitted, but where they are admitted and of those which have the F12 code specified which we can only pick these up when looking at admitted patients, we still can only use the X60-X84 to identify the self-harm but still cannot be clear that the intention was to kill themselves.

We have also been advised that the accident codes for suicide etc. (which is the X60-X84) are very rarely seen on patient's notes because the patients do not reach the wards in time.

With all these limitations stated, please see attached what we can provide as described.

For admitted patients aged <18

Financial Year	No. of pts with ICD10 code F12	Number that died in hospital
2016/2017	12	0
2015/2016	11	0
2014/2015	14	0
2013/2014	7	0
2012/2013	6	0
2011/2012	6	0
2010/2011	<5	0
2009/2010	<5	0

Due to the very small number of cases and in order to protect patient confidentiality the Trust has therefore decided that further information will be refused using the limitations available under Section 10 and Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998.