

Reporting on this Research

Still Vulnerable: The impact of early childhood experiences on Adolescent Suicide and Accidental Death.

(1) This research looked at literature concerned with the impact of adverse experience in childhood, cases of adolescent suicide or accidental death in England along with a small number of cases in Northern Ireland to identify the link between negative experiences in childhood and suicide or accidental death.

(2) Following best practice in reporting suicide and to protect these families in Northern Ireland from further grief and upset, please do not identify any of the cases in this report – the report identifies ways in which key government departments and agencies can practically work together to decrease suicide rates among adolescents in Northern Ireland.

(3) Certain types of suicide reporting are particularly harmful and can act as a catalyst to influence the behaviour of people who are already vulnerable.

Please refer to the following guidance before reporting on this research

[Media guidelines for reporting suicide](#)

[Media guidelines for reporting child abuse and neglect](#)

(4) The communications team at NICCY has extracted key operational points from the guidance on reporting suicide and provided a summary, see below:

Key points to make/cover:

- Raise awareness of the complexity of issues surrounding suicide
- Challenge it as a taboo subject
- Discuss risk factors
- Call for better resources to tackle it
- State that suicide is a preventable phenomenon if the right support is given
- Discuss 'wastefulness' of death and 'brilliance' of life
- Offer advice and sources of help for people experiencing suicidal feelings (ChildLine – 0800 1111, Lifeline – 0808 808 8000, If you are bereaved by suicide please contact Cruse – 0844 477 9400)



Key phrases to use:

- A suicide
- Die by suicide
- Take one's own life
- A suicide attempt
- A completed suicide
- Person at risk of suicide
- Help prevent suicide

What not to do

- Give details of death and in the case of this research do not identify the families involved

Key phrases not to use

- Commit or committed suicide
- Inevitable outcome
- Tragic waste
- Avoidable loss

*Advice taken from media guidelines on reporting suicide by The Irish Institute of Suicidology

