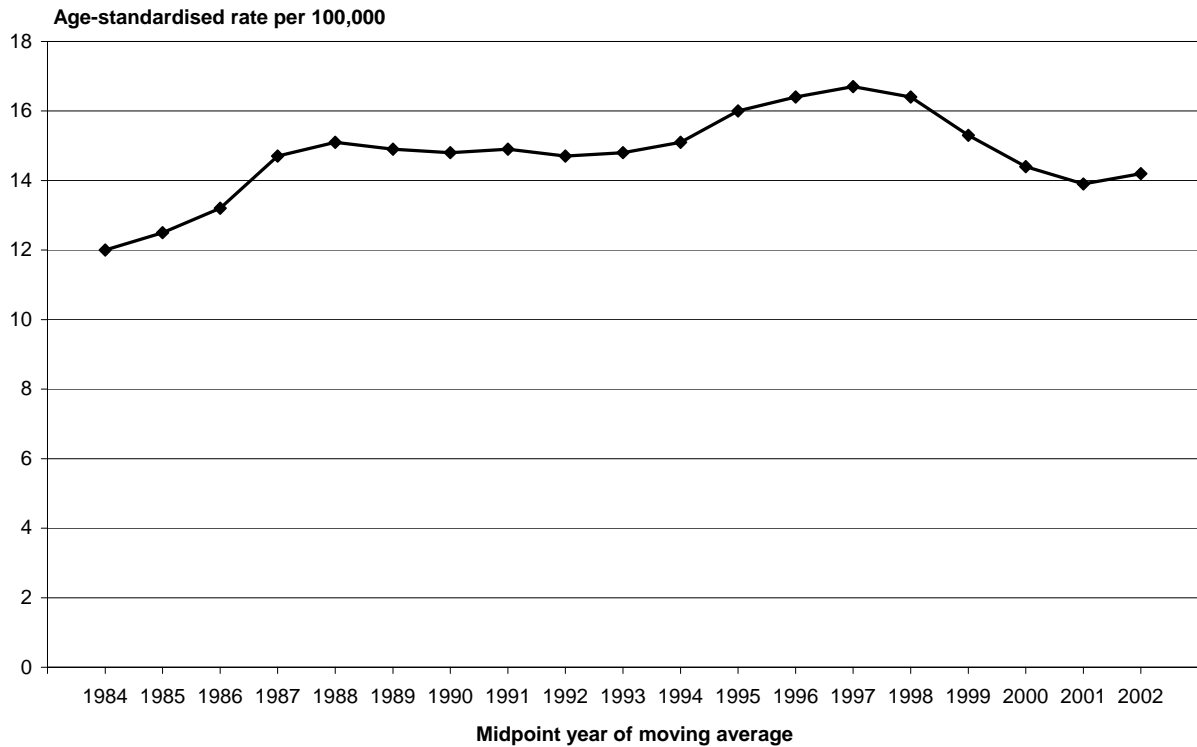


# Overall Trends

## Deaths

**Figure 8:** Age-standardised suicide rates, three-year moving averages, 1983–2003



Source: New Zealand Health Information Service

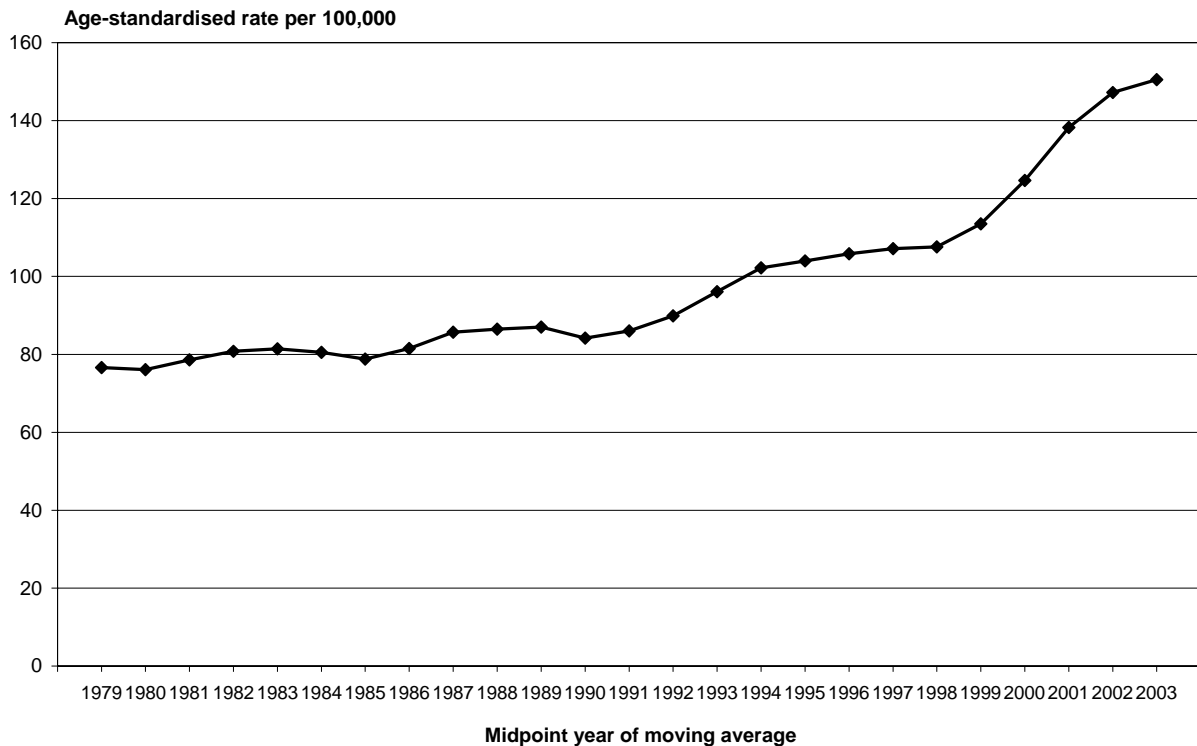
Notes:

1. Rates per 100,000, age-standardised to the World Health Organization standard population.
2. For more information see 'Methods and Data Sources'.

The rate of suicide in New Zealand increased from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, but has been generally decreasing since then. In 1996–1998, the suicide rate (16.7 deaths per 100,000 population or an average of 560 deaths per year) was 35 percent higher than the 1983–1985 rate (12.0 deaths per 100,000 population or an average of 360 deaths per year). From 1996–1998 to 2001–2003, the suicide rate decreased by 15 percent to 14.2 deaths per 100,000 population (an average of 494 deaths per year).

## Hospitalisations

**Figure 9:** Age-standardised intentional self-harm hospitalisation rates, three-year moving averages, 1978–2004



Source: New Zealand Health Information Service

Notes:

1. Rates per 100,000, age-standardised to the World Health Organization standard population.
2. For more information see 'Methods and Data Sources'.

The rate of hospitalisation for intentional self-harm<sup>1</sup> shows a similar trend to the death rate, with an increase between the late 1970s and the mid-1990s. In 1994–1996, the hospitalisation rate (104.0 hospitalisations per 100,000 population or an average of 3312 hospitalisations per year) was 36 percent higher than the hospitalisation rate in 1978–1980 (76.6 hospitalisations per 100,000 population or an average of 2149 hospitalisations per year).

After the change in ICD coding of hospitalisation data in 1999 and 2000, the rate of intentional self-harm hospitalisation has continued to increase. In 1998–2000, there were 113.5 hospitalisations per 100,000 population (3703 hospitalisations on average per year). For 2002–2004 the rate was 150.5 hospitalisations per 100,000 population (4932 hospitalisations on average per year).

<sup>1</sup> In New Zealand, hospitalisation for intentional self-harm is a recognised proxy measure for attempted suicide that measures the number of people who intentionally harmed themselves and were admitted to hospital.