

SUICIDE ON THE UK ROAD NETWORK

Lifting the Lid



KATY HARRISON, POLICY OFFICER

PACTS

SUICIDE IN THE UK

6,000 suicides
in the UK
each year

The biggest
killer of men
aged between
20 and 49 in
the UK

Female
suicide rate
highest in a
decade last
year

THE RAILWAY NETWORK

**300 SUICIDES
ON THE RAILWAY
NETWORK
EACH YEAR**

**2,233 SUICIDE
ATTEMPTS
ON THE RAILWAY
IN 2016/17**

**CROSS-INDUSTRY
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
STRATEGY**

**15,000 STAFF
TRAINED**

**1,811
INTERVENTIONS**



ON THE ROAD NETWORK?

THE ROAD NETWORK

- NO OFFICIAL NUMBER
- NO CENTRAL DATABASE
- NOT IDENTIFIED AS AN ISSUE
- LIMITED COLLABORATION & POLICY
- SCARCE UK RESEARCH

PACTS RESEARCH

Research
Objectives

What data is available on road-related suicide?

Who are the main stakeholders?

Initiatives and lessons from other sectors?

PACTS RESEARCH



UK POLICE

FOI 1

Response rate:
41 FORCES RESPONDED
7 PROVIDED DATA

10
SUICIDE
CASES

FOI 2

Response rate:
36 FORCES RESPONDED
10 PROVIDED DATA

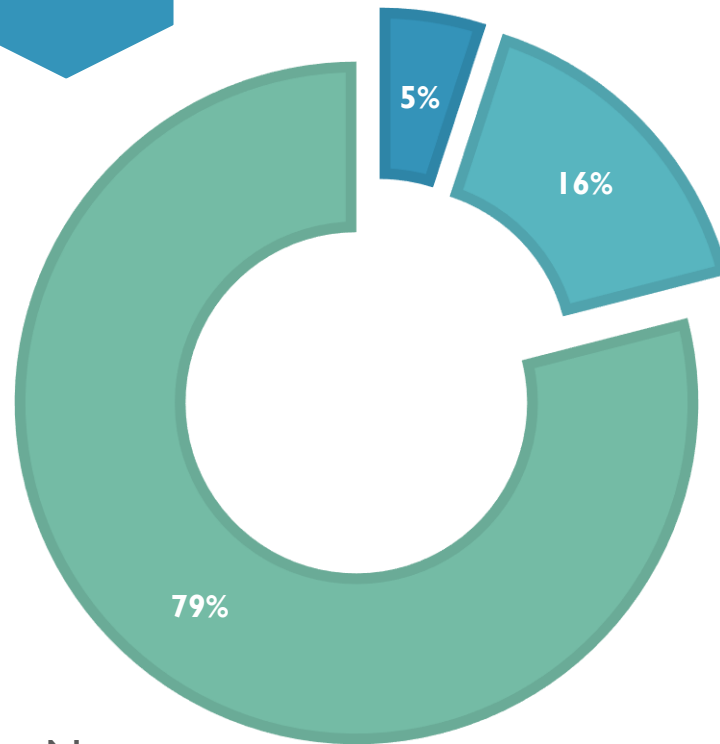
58
SUICIDE
ATTEMPTS

SCOTLAND?

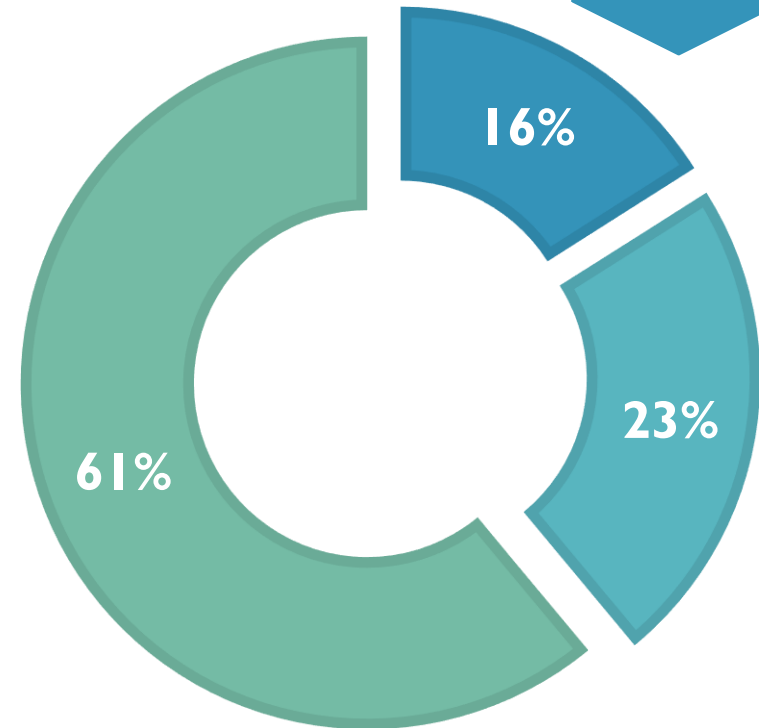
NORTHERN
IRELAND?

UK POLICE – ENGLAND & WALES

FOI 1



FOI 2



- No response
- Response with data
- Response without data

UK POLICE – ENGLAND & WALES

‘We do not currently record the information requested. Incidents would be dealt with as road traffic collisions. Any decision as to whether an incident was a suicide would be a matter for the Coroner to establish.’

‘A free text search has located, over the 3 year period, some 54,000 separate records which include the terms “suicide”; “death” or “attempt.”’

‘Any incidents relating to suicide would be recorded under the heading of ‘Other’; this heading will also include medical episodes, or where no further action is to be taken for a number of reasons.’

HM CORONERS



Response rate:
26 CORONERS RESPONDED

**3 suicide
cases**

HM CORONERS

‘I do deal regularly with suicides on the roads. Sadly I have no way of checking the numbers of them.’

‘I barely have the resources to do what I am obliged to and helping researchers is beyond the scope of what my office can achieve, no matter how socially important the research might be.’

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

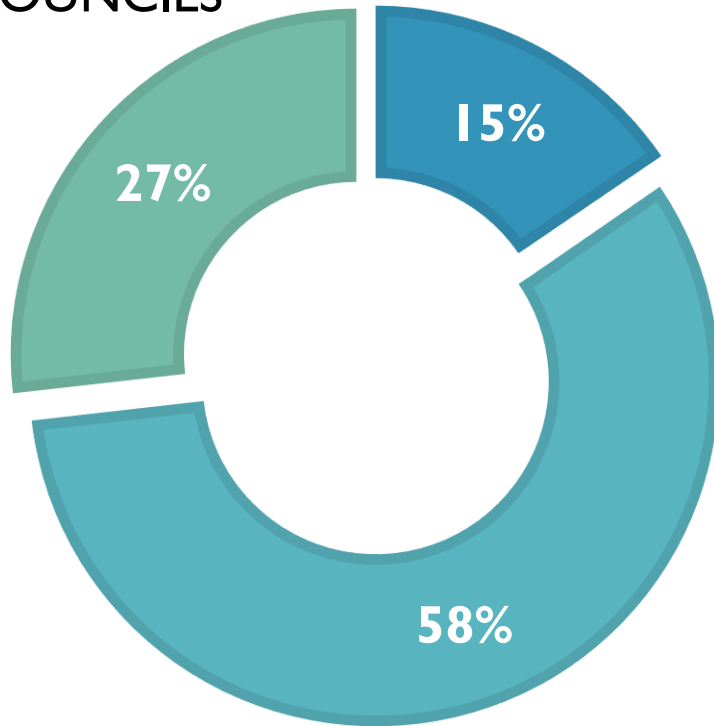


FOI 4

- All County Councils in England
 - The Greater London Authority
 - All London Boroughs and the City of London
 - A Borough Council
 - 5 City Councils
 - A Metropolitan District Council
-
- Transport for Greater Manchester
 - Transport for London
 - Transport for West Midlands

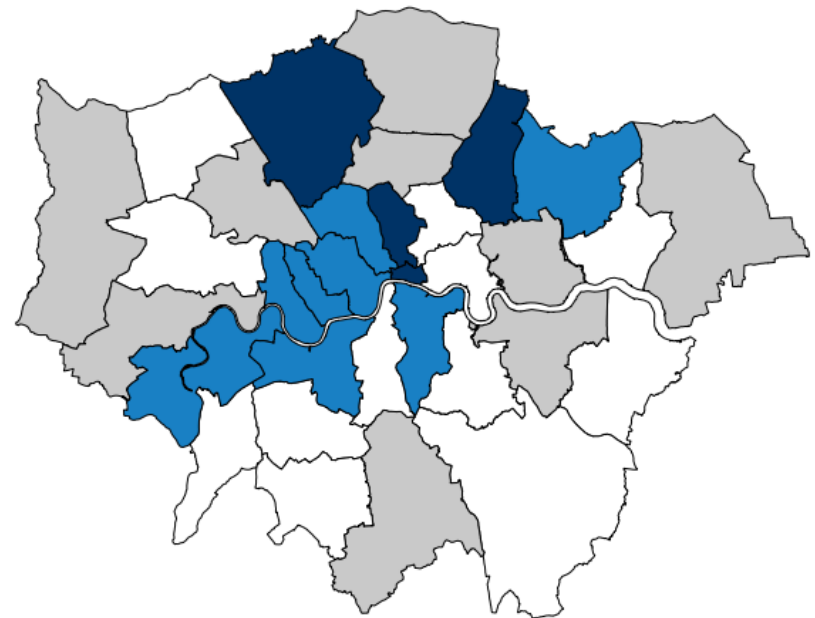
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

COUNTY COUNCILS



■ Included ■ Not included ■ No plan

LONDON BOROUGHES

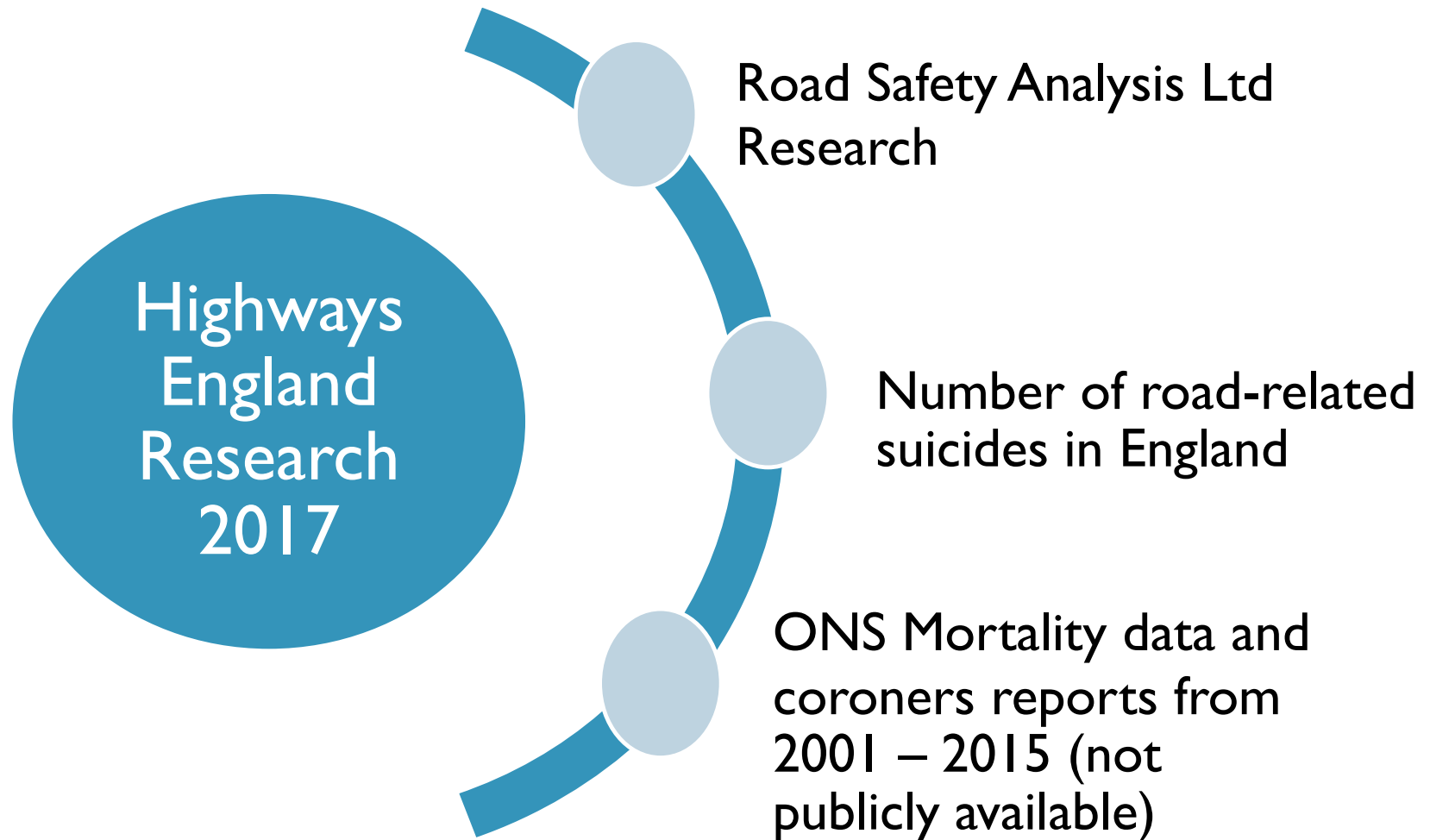


Suicide prevention plans in London

Key

- No plan available
- A new prevention strategy is in development
- Plan available. but no mention of roads or highways
- Plan available. Roads and highways mentioned as a concern


HIGHWAYS ENGLAND RESEARCH



HIGHWAYS ENGLAND RESEARCH

Identified 392 incidents of suicide or likely suicide in England (2001-15)

25-30 deaths per year in England



50 DEATHS
EACH YEAR
IN THE UK

INITIATIVES

Government
strategy on
suicide

STATS19
Review

Highways
England focus

Local suicide
prevention
groups

Interest and
enthusiasm

FACTS RECOMMENDATIONS

National
guidance

Health
Select
Committee

Classification
in databases

STATS19
review

Knowledge
gathering



50 deaths
every year

100s
attempts
every year

Families
Communities

Preventable



katy.harrison@pacts.org.uk