

Suicide: the challenge for Northern Ireland

Belfast Samaritans, AGM 14th May 2013

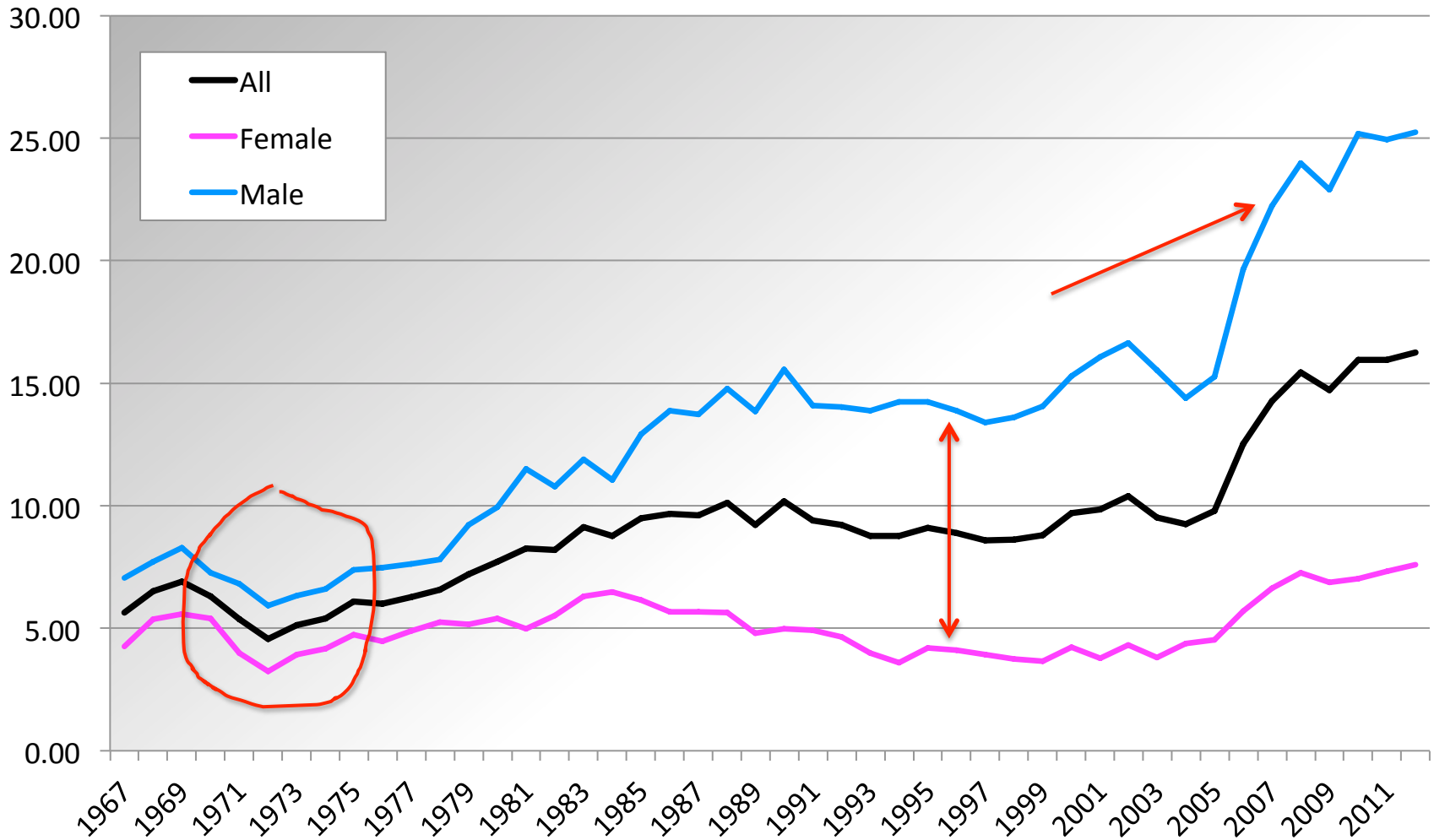
Mike Tomlinson

School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work

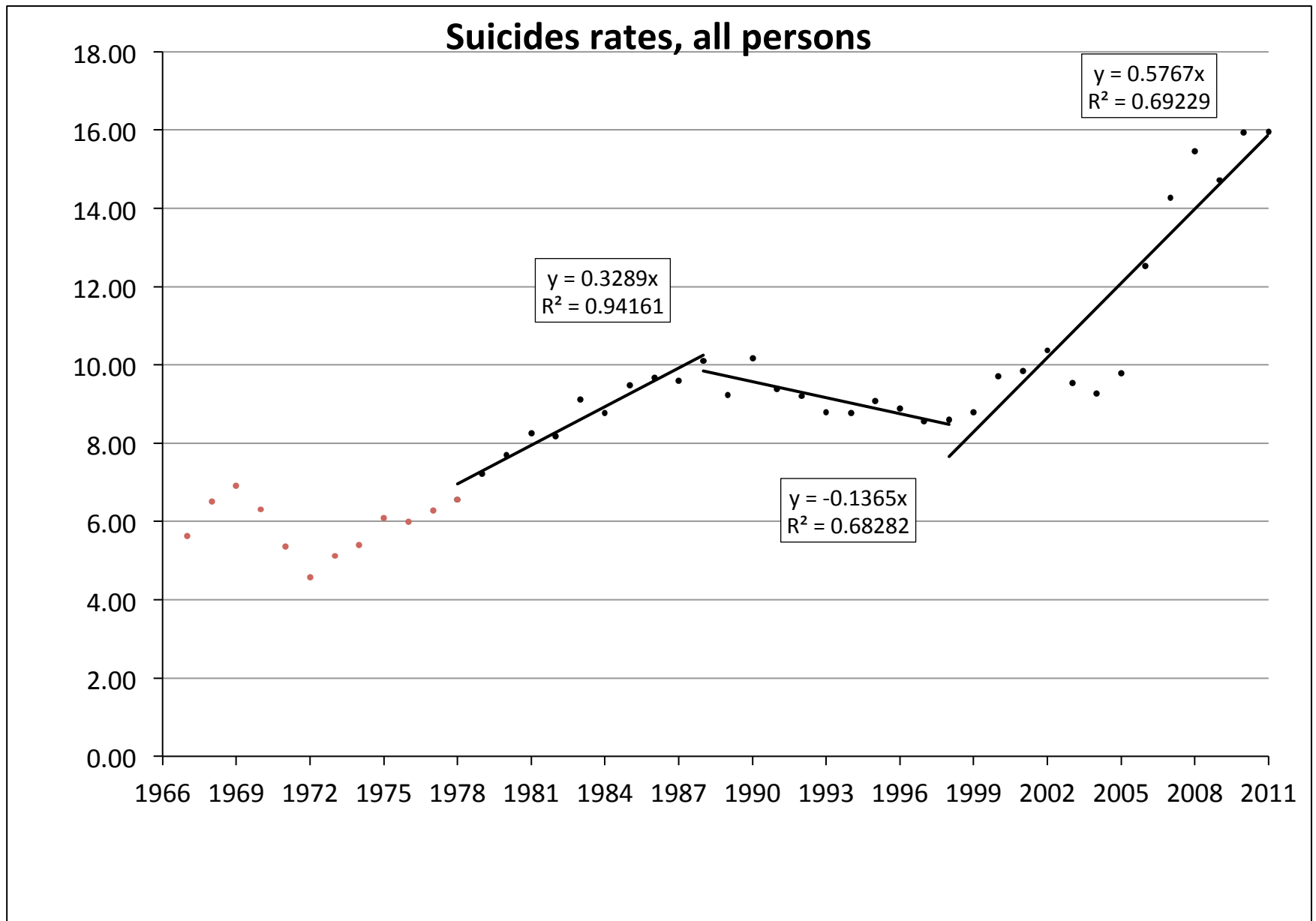


For full presentation and commentary see:
Northern Ireland Assembly, Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series, 11th April 2013

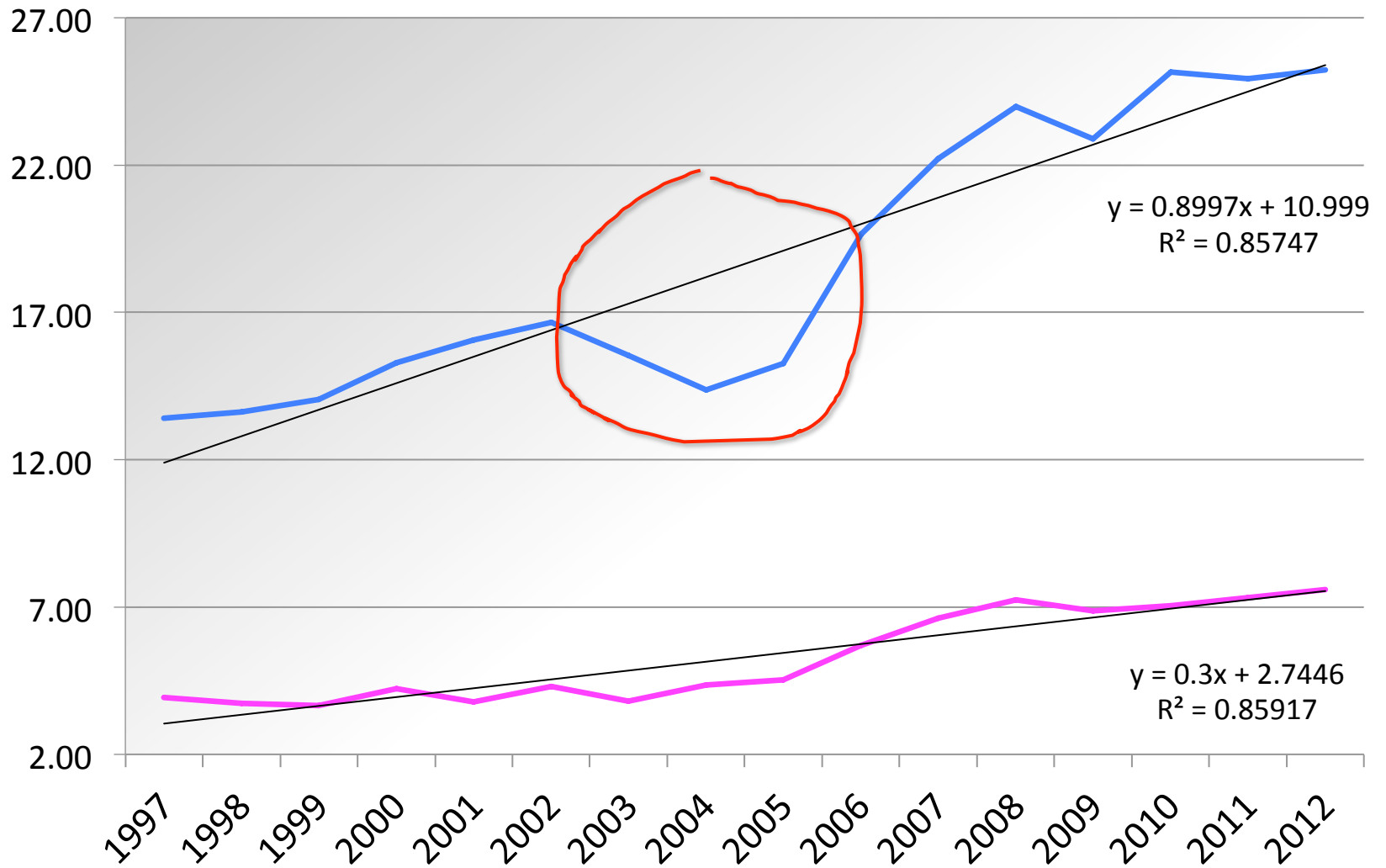
<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Research-and-Information-Service-RaISe/Knowledge-Exchange/Knowledge-Exchange-Seminars-Series-2/>



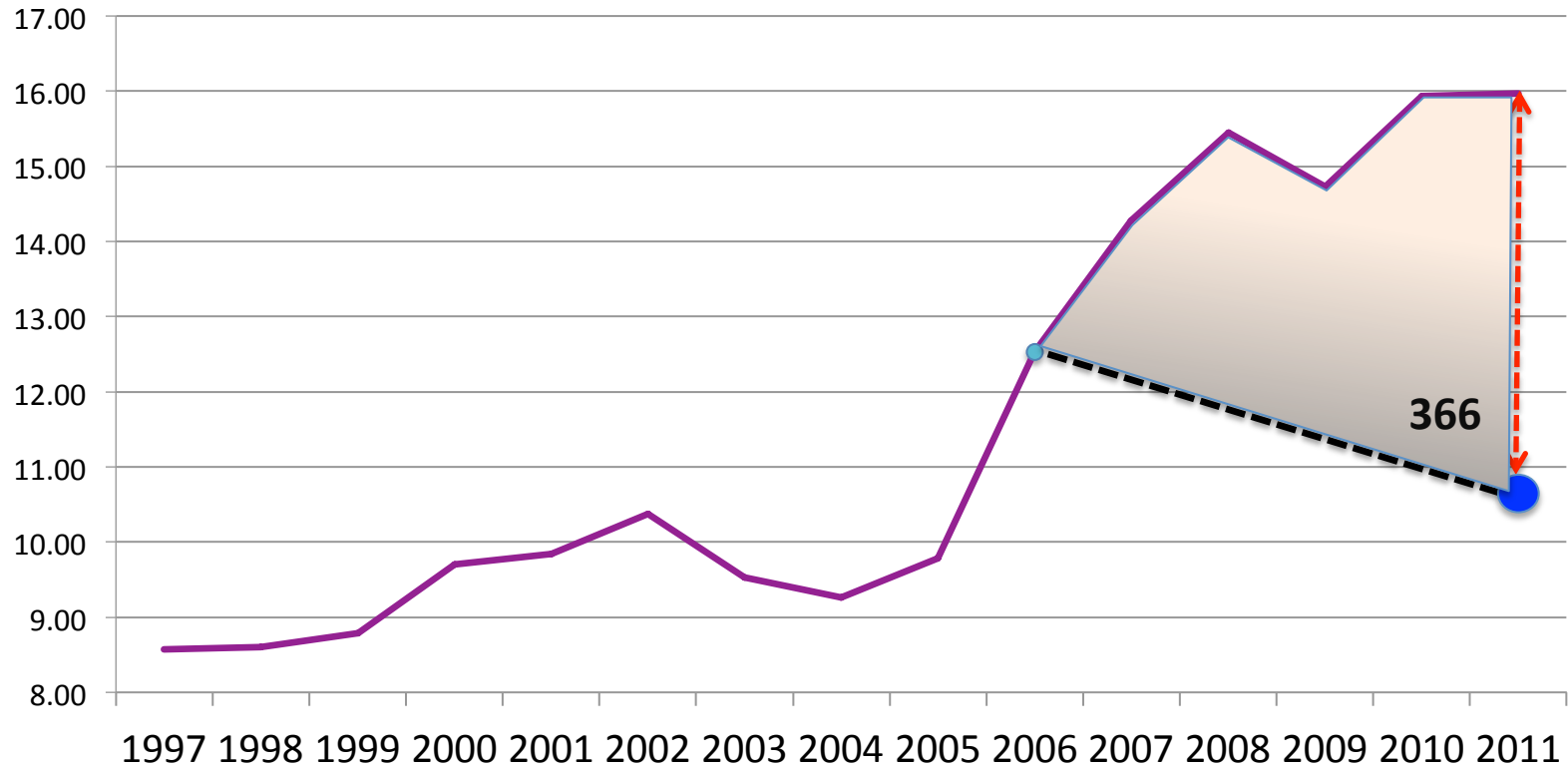
N. Ireland suicide rates per 100,000 population



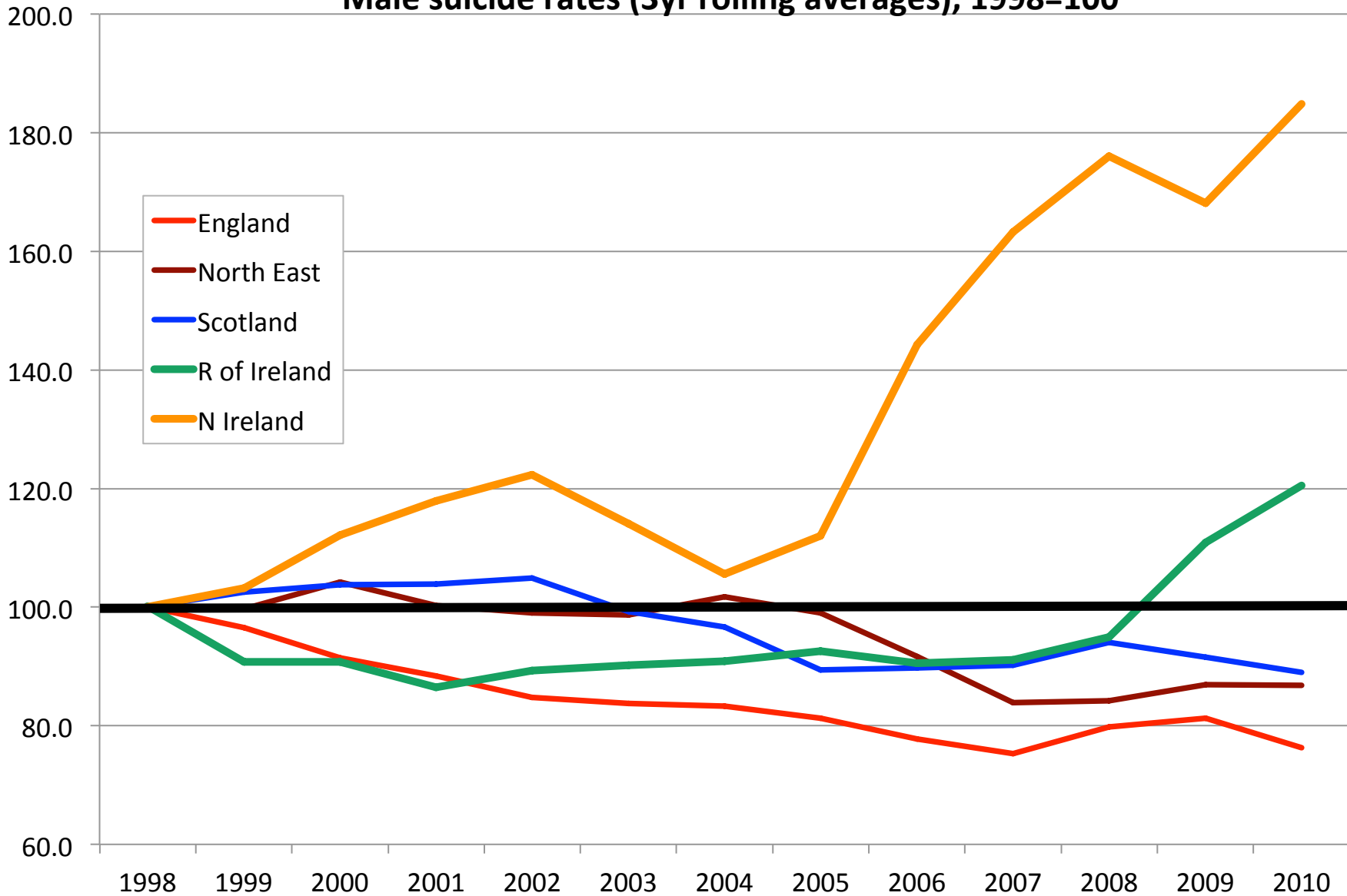
Challenge of Suicide



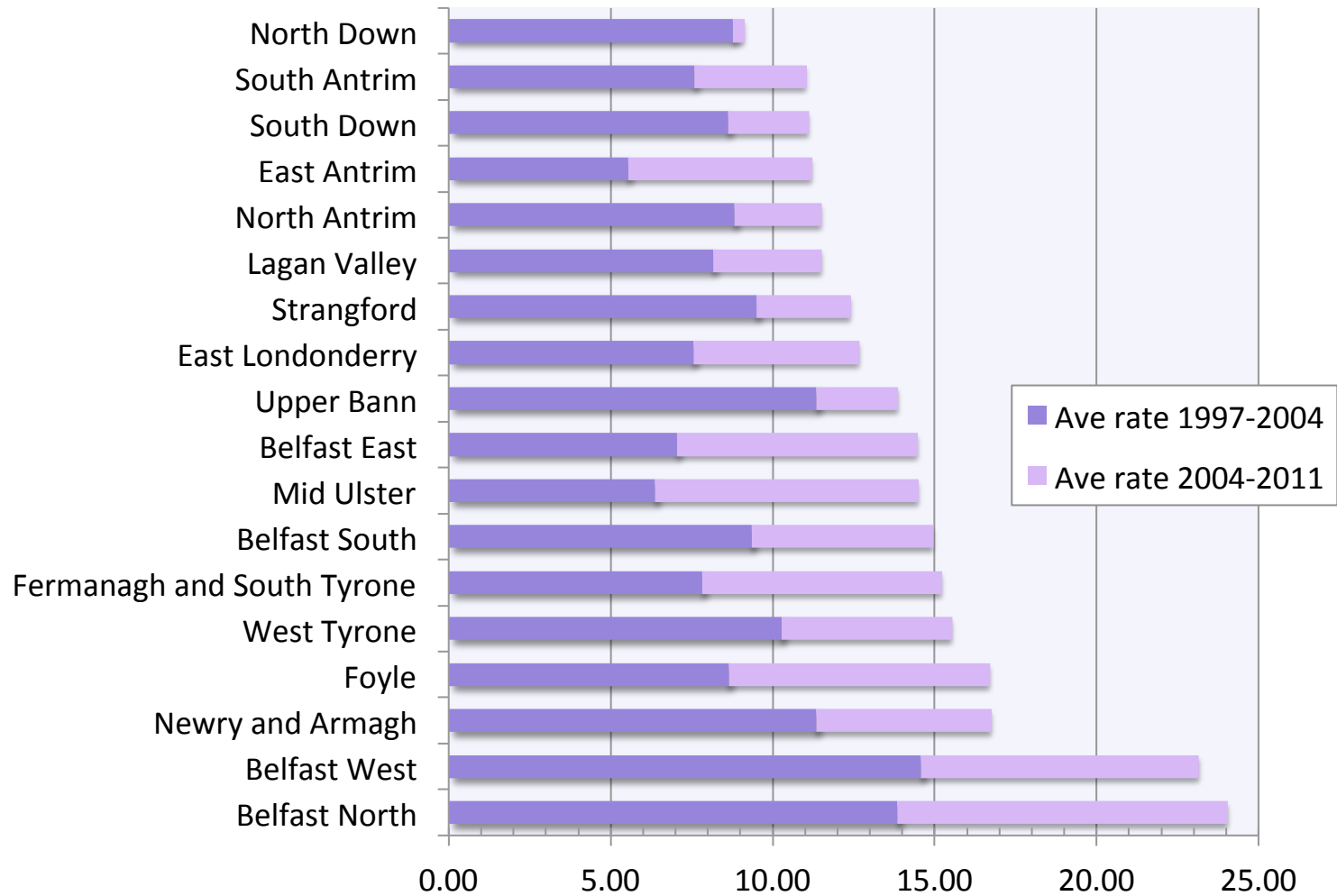
All persons suicide rate and impact of prevention strategy

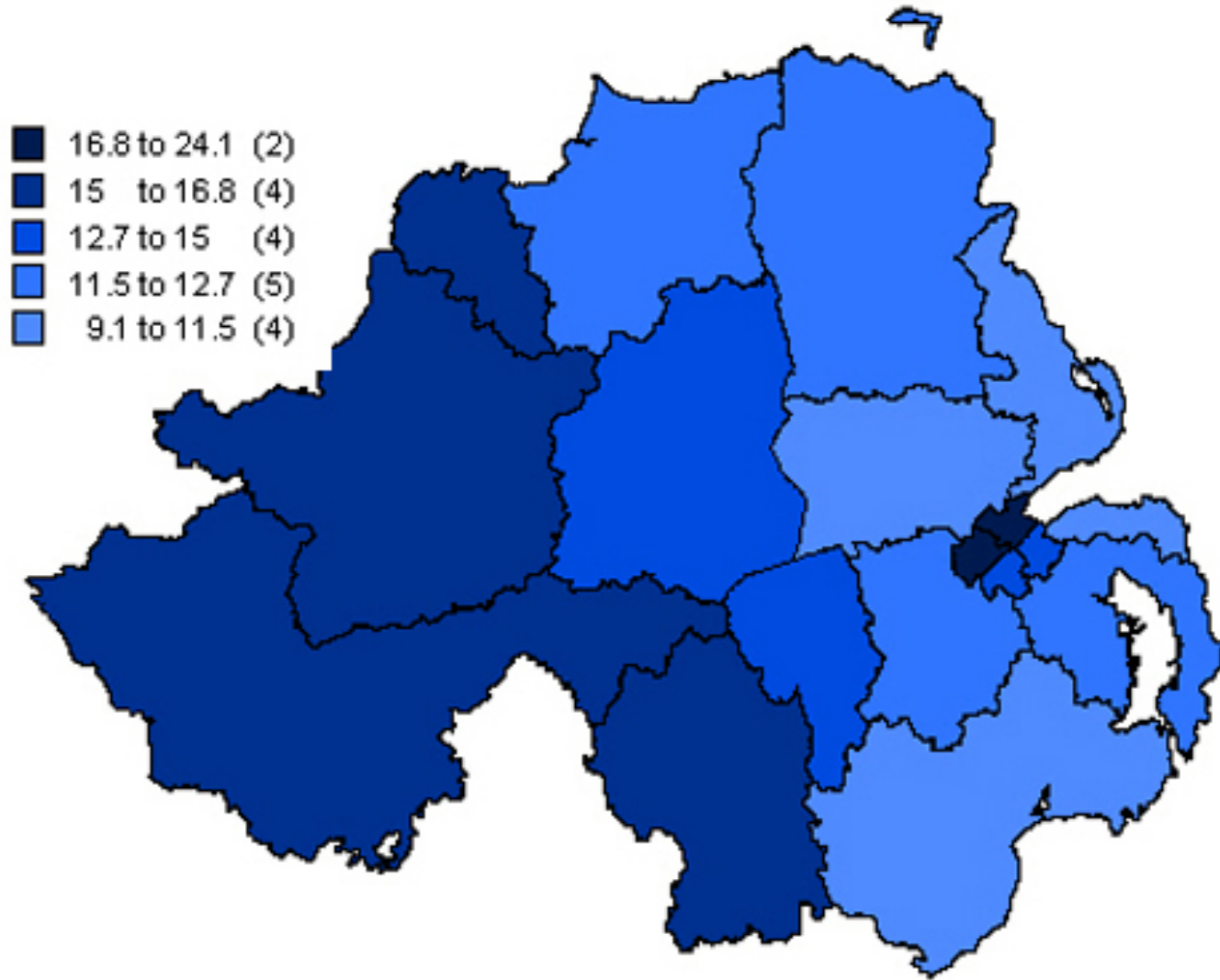


Male suicide rates (3yr rolling averages), 1998=100

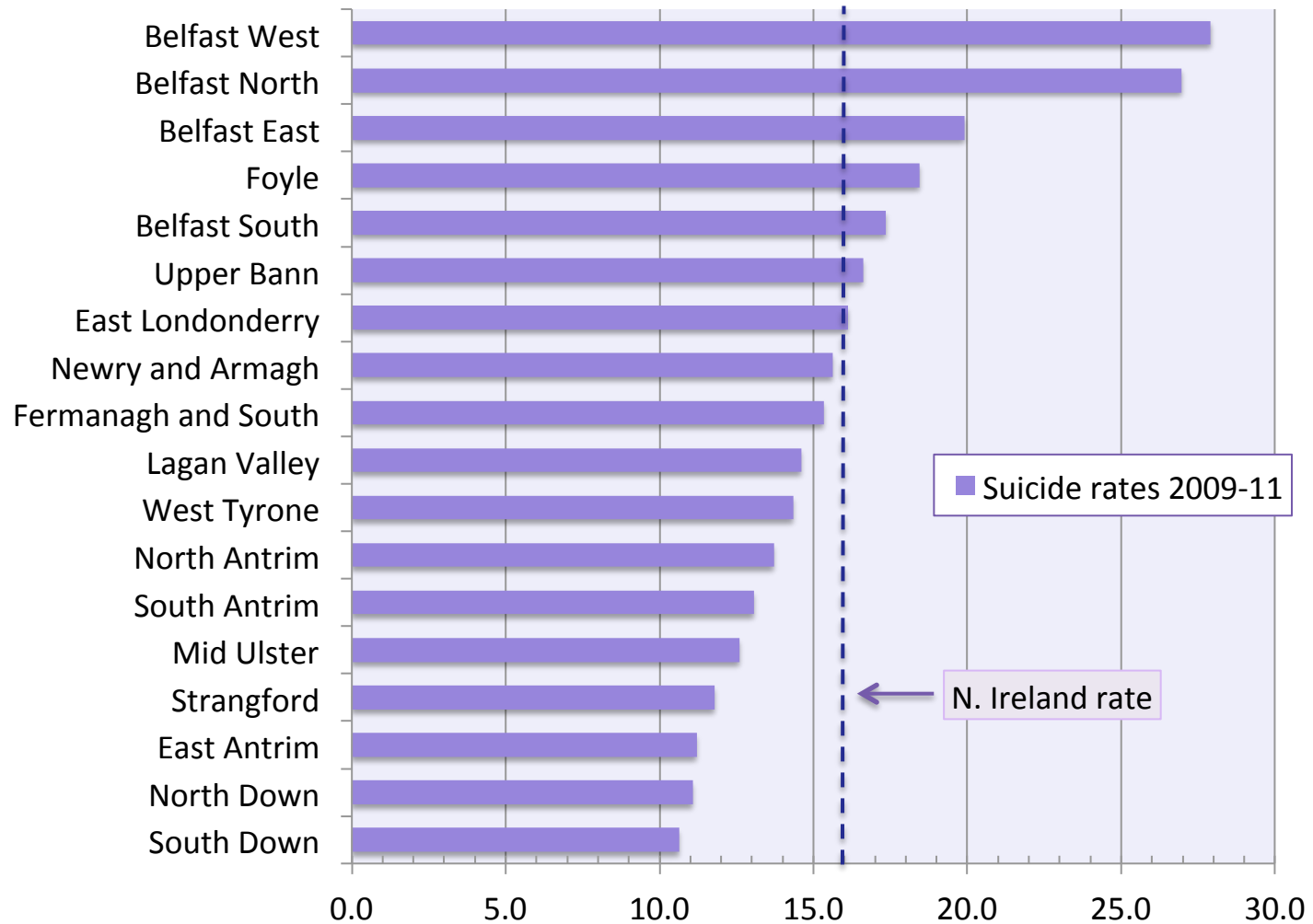


Suicide rates, Westminster constituencies 1997-2004 and 2004-2011

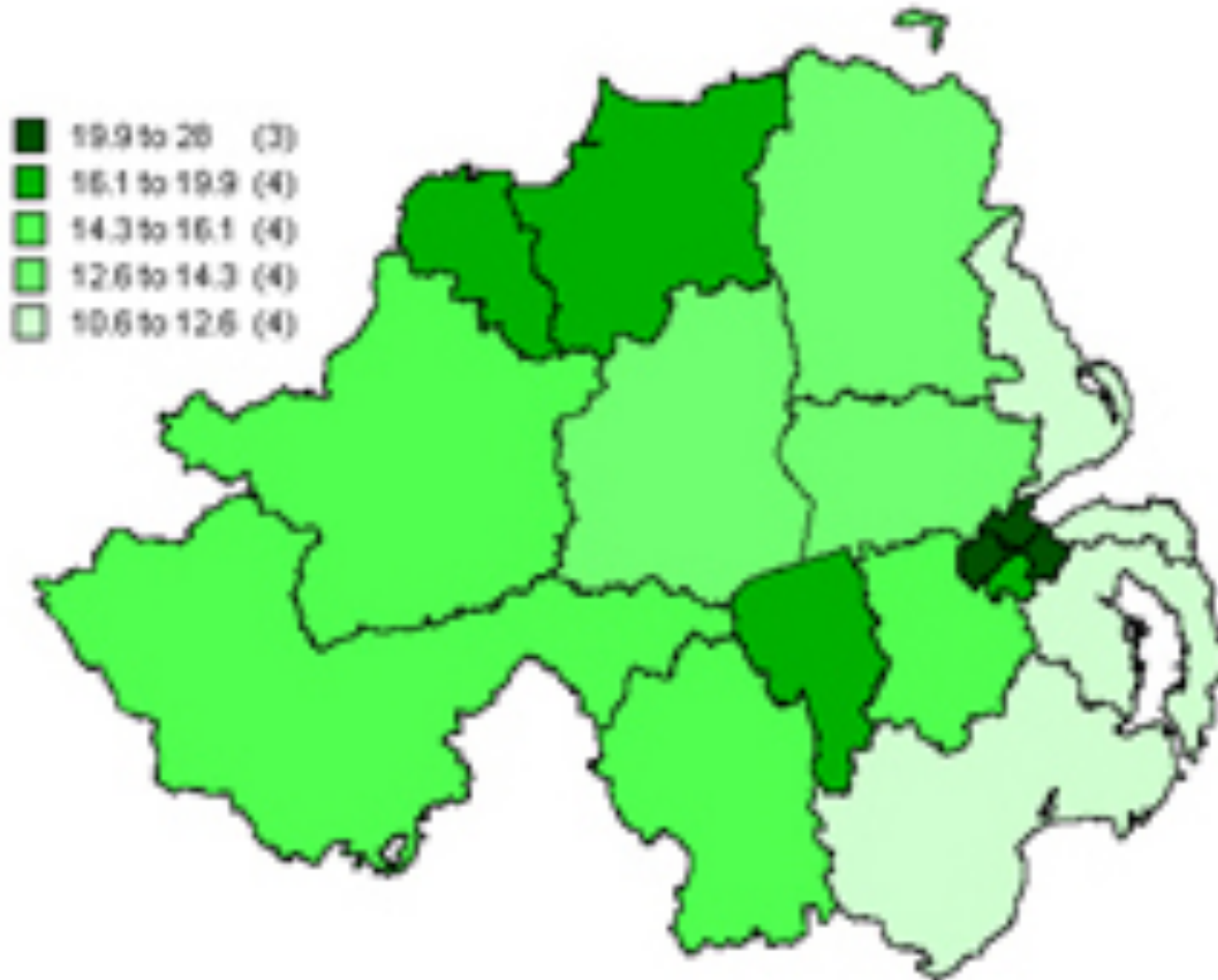




Suicide rates, Westminster constituencies, 2009-11



Suicide rates, Westminster constituencies, 2009-11



Explanations:

1. Changes in reporting and recording
2. Changes in mental illness and/or service provision
3. Changes in behaviour: alcohol and drugs
4. Changes in protective factors: religion, family life and normative expectations
5. Economic change: recession and unemployment
6. Legacy of conflict

Implications of suicide as legacy of conflict :

1. Alter perspectives on prevention
2. Adjust identification of at-risk individuals, groups and communities
3. Improve data analysis and sociological autopsy to sharpen understanding of risk and the disconnect between services and those in need
4. Inform ongoing suicide awareness training among gatekeepers of services and resources
5. Change focus of public health strategies to address mass medication in middle and older age groups