

Please note the following notes regarding methodology and data limitations:

The cohort provided was restricted to deaths that had been reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel where 'Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm' was recorded as the primary category of death, therefore, this will be an underestimate of the total deaths that occurred between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2025. This is because a proportion of the deaths have not yet been reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel. The definition of 'Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm' is included on the child death analysis form: [Child death reviews: forms for reporting child deaths - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/forms/child-death-reviews-forms-for-reporting-child-deaths)

The deaths identified for part 1 were then used to further analyse the data presented in parts 2 and 3.

The cohort reported here and the methodology taken to identify the deaths, and therefore the figures reported, may differ to other NCMD publications.

For part 2, to ensure complete reporting, deaths where the child identified as LGBTQ+ were identified in the data using a combination of narrative fields and dropdown questions. Deaths were included where the sex registered at birth was different to the gender at death, or the field 'Which of the following best describes the child's sexual orientation?' was recorded as 'Gay or Lesbian', 'Sexually attracted to neither gender', 'Bisexual', or 'Other'. We also validated and included appropriate cases where the narrative fields available in NCMD contained one or more keyword: 'identifies', 'identity', 'lesbian', 'gay', 'bisexual', '*gender', or 'queer'.

For part 3, deaths identified in part 2 where the child was trans (used as the umbrella term for transgender, nonbinary, gender questioning, gender transitioning, or gender dysphoria) were included. These deaths were all included in response to part 2.

For part 3.b.i, we searched narrative fields available in NCMD for the terms 'gender dysphoria'. We searched the contributory factors text recorded by the Child Death Overview Panels for the same term (3.b.ii).

For part 3.c.i, we searched narrative fields available in NCMD for the terms 'gender distress', 'gender-related distress' or 'gender related distress', or where the case had 'Gender identity concerns / distress' selected in response to the question 'Were any of the following factors present in this case?'. We searched the contributory factors text recorded by the Child Death Overview Panels for the same terms (3.c.ii).

Please note that the same young person may be included in the response to multiple questions as they were treated as independent questions.

Please note that the analysis conducted using text searches has limitations. Cases can only be identified via this search where there is an exact match to the terms listed. The search may not identify cases where a different phrase was used to report the same characteristic. In addition, the search is restricted to information

recorded in free text fields and is not a comprehensive review of all information that was available for the review by the Child Death Overview Panel.

Part 1

How many children under the age of 18 years died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm?

For child (0-17 years, inclusive) deaths that occurred between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2025, there were 647 deaths where 'Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm' was recorded as the primary category of death by a Child Death Overview Panel in England, before 25 November 2025.

Part 2

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm who were recorded as identifying as LGBTQ+ when they died

From the information available, there were 107 deaths where the child identified as LGBTQ+.

Part 3a

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm who were recorded as identifying as trans

From the information available, there were 46 deaths where the child identified as trans.

Part 3bi

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm where the information in the case recorded gender dysphoria

From the information available, there were 11 deaths identified where the information in the case recorded gender dysphoria.

Part 3bii

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm where gender dysphoria was recorded as contributory to the child's suicide

From the information available, there were 6 deaths where gender dysphoria was recorded as a factor that may have contributed to vulnerability, ill health or death by the Child Death Overview Panel

Part 3ci

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm where the information in the case recorded that the individual had experienced gender-related distress

From the information available, there were 3 deaths where gender-related distress was recorded in the case information.

Part 3cii

The number of children under the age of 18 years who died by suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm where gender-related distress was recorded as contributory to the child's suicide

From the information available, there were 0 deaths where gender-related distress was recorded as a factor that may have contributed to vulnerability, ill health or death by the Child Death Overview Panel.