

ONS Registration of Deaths by Suicide 2024

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ONS Suicides in England and Wales: 2022, 2023 & 2024 registrations

Registered deaths in England and Wales from suicide:

- In 2022, there were 5,642 suicides registered; an increase of 59 (1%) on 2021
- In 2023, there were 6,069 suicides registered; an increase of 427 (7.5%) on 2022
- **In 2024, there were 6,190 suicides registered; an increase of 121 (2%) on 2023**

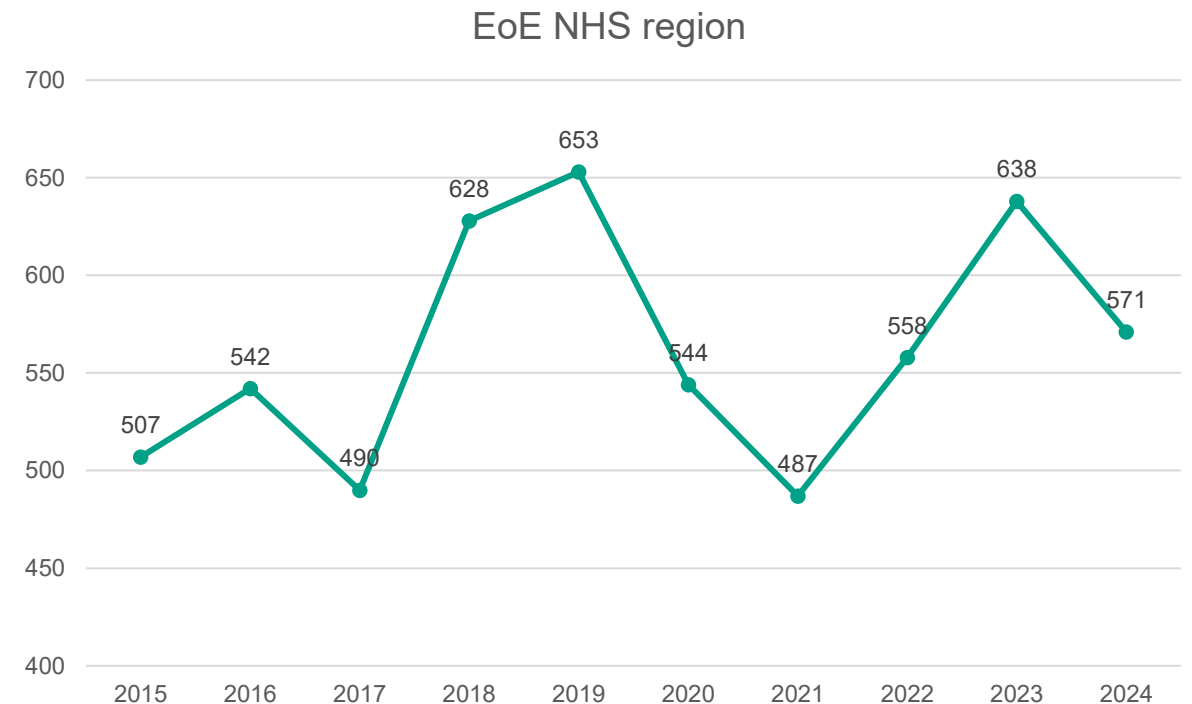
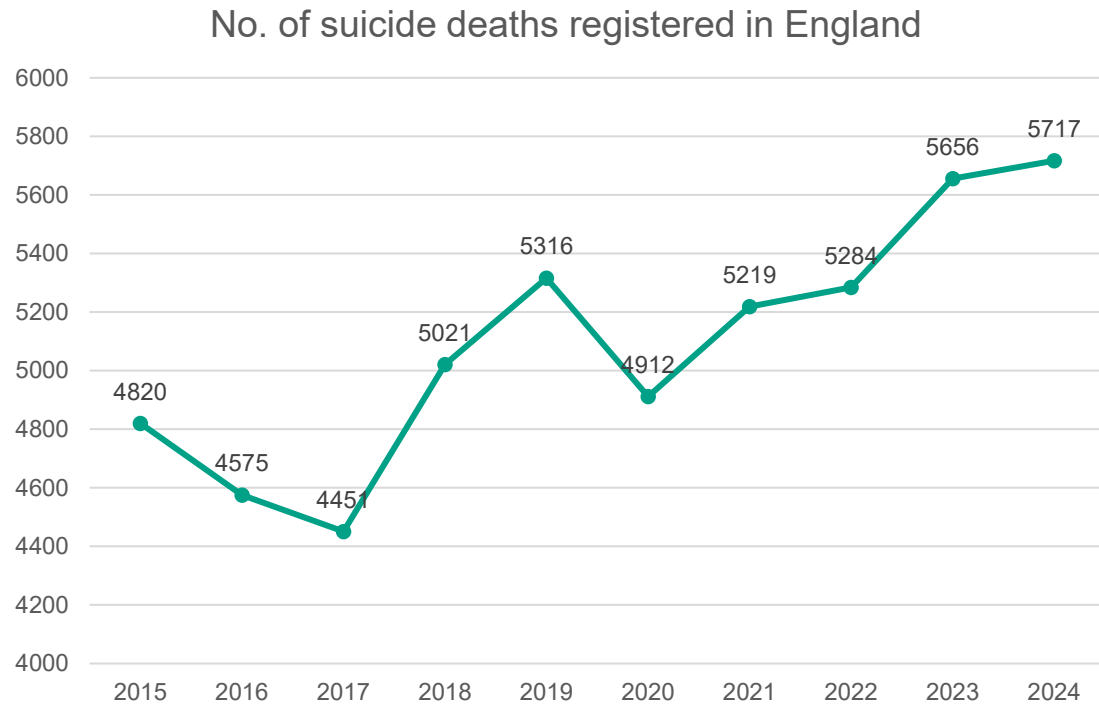
East of England (including Milton Keynes):

- In 2022 there were 558 suicides registered - an increase of 71 registrations (14.5%) on 2021
- In 2023 there were 638 suicides registered - an increase of 80 registrations (14.3%) from 2022
- **In 2024 there were 571 suicides registered – a decrease of 67 (10.5%) on 2023 registrations**

Registration Delay

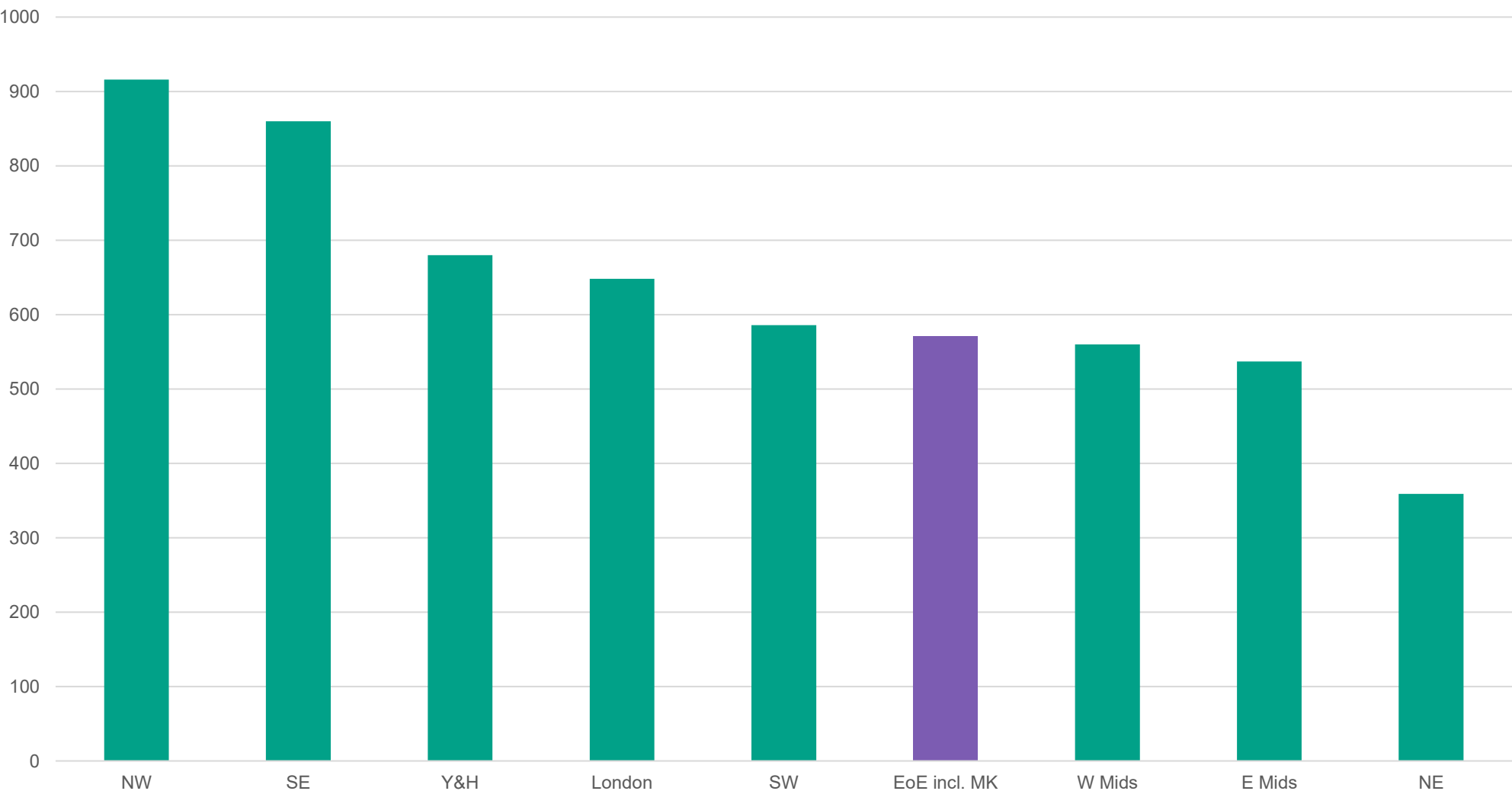
- Deaths by suicide are certified by a coroner and cannot be registered until the inquest is complete. This results in a delay between the date the death occurred and the date of registration.
- Due to Coroner delays, 39% of deaths registered in England in 2024 had a date of death in the same year; 50% occurred in 2023 and the remaining deaths occurred in 2022 or earlier.
- For suicides, the median registration delay for deaths registered in 2024 in England was 199 days.
- In the East of England (incl. MK), the **median delay was 205 days**, up one from 204 in 2023.

Number of suicides registered 2015-2024: England and EoE



- Both England and EoE saw increases 2018-2019.
- England's rise has been more consistent since 2020 while EoE shows more fluctuation.
- The number registered in EoE has decreased in 2024, not following the national upward trend.

Number of suicides registered 2024: Regions

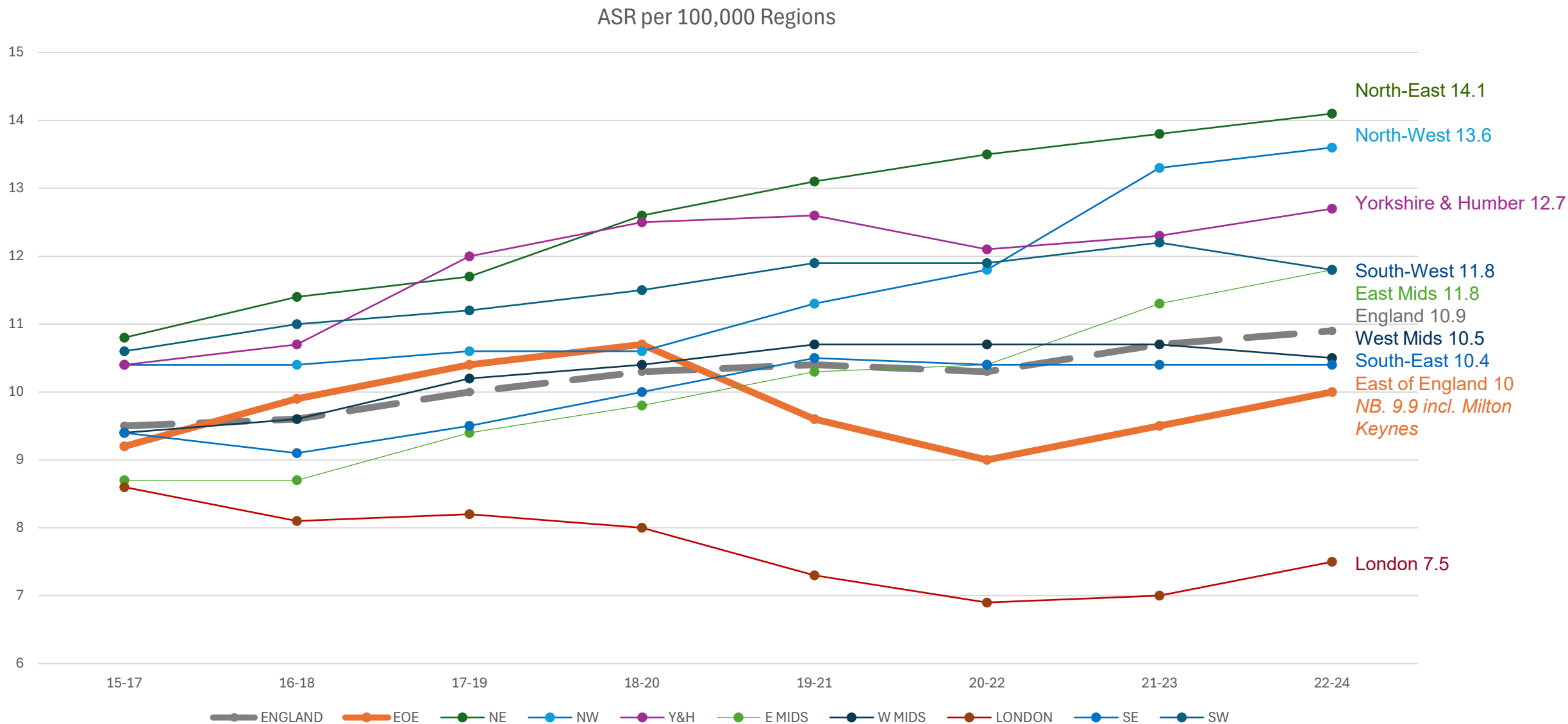


In 2024, EoE tracked 6th of nine regions for number of suicide deaths registered.

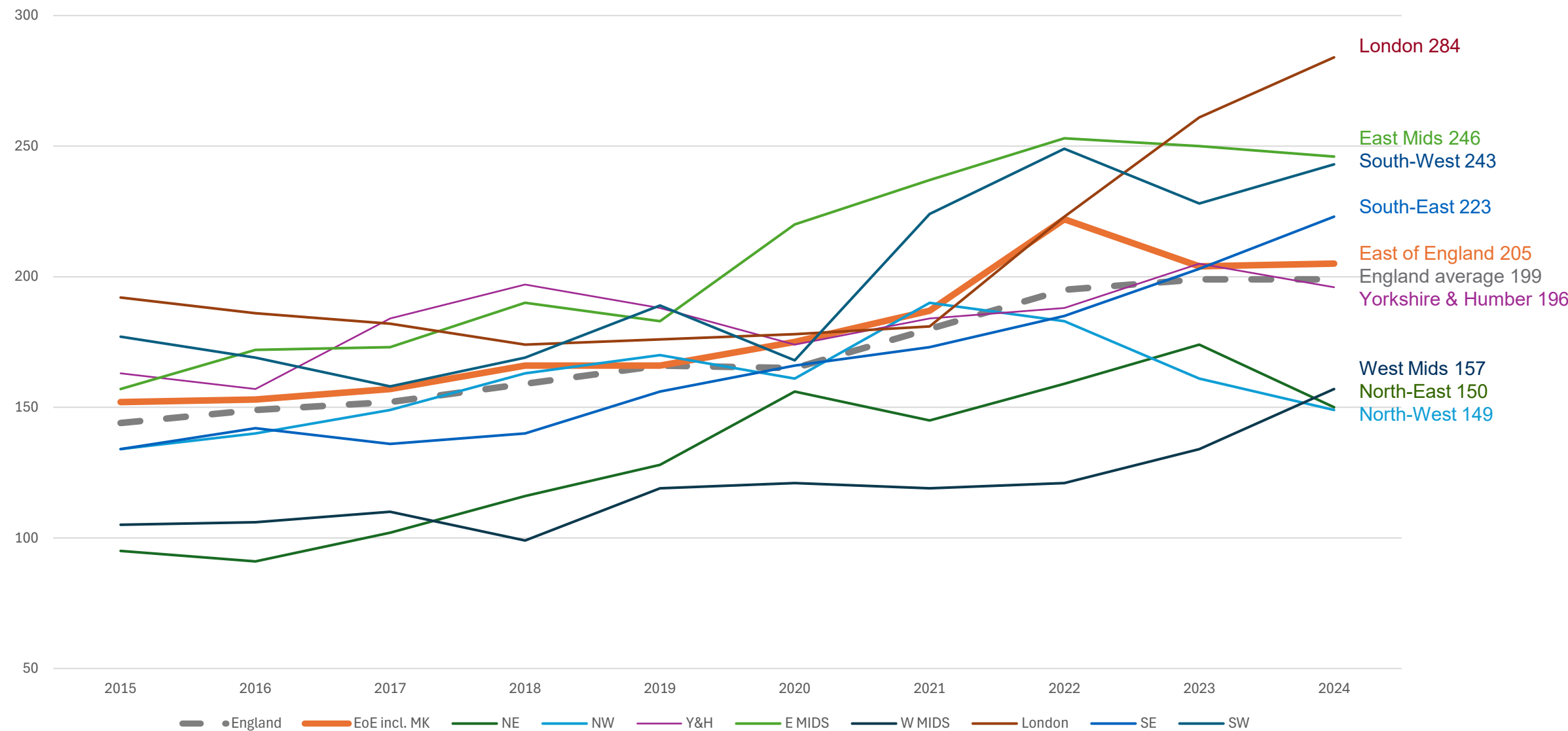
EoE had **second lowest ASR for '24 registrations**, and the **second lowest rolling ASR 2022-24**; higher only than London which is viewed as an outlier.



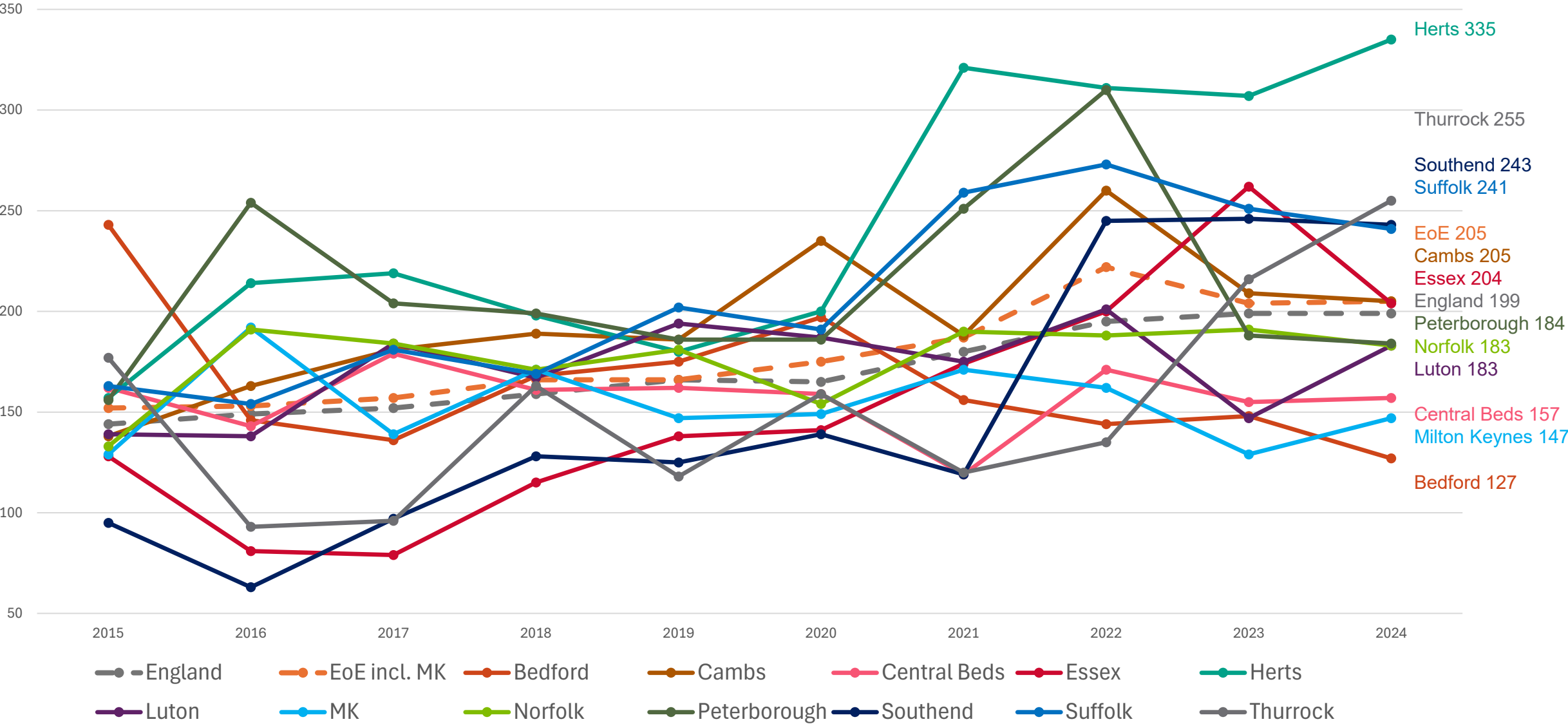
Rolling ASR per 100,000: England and Regions over time



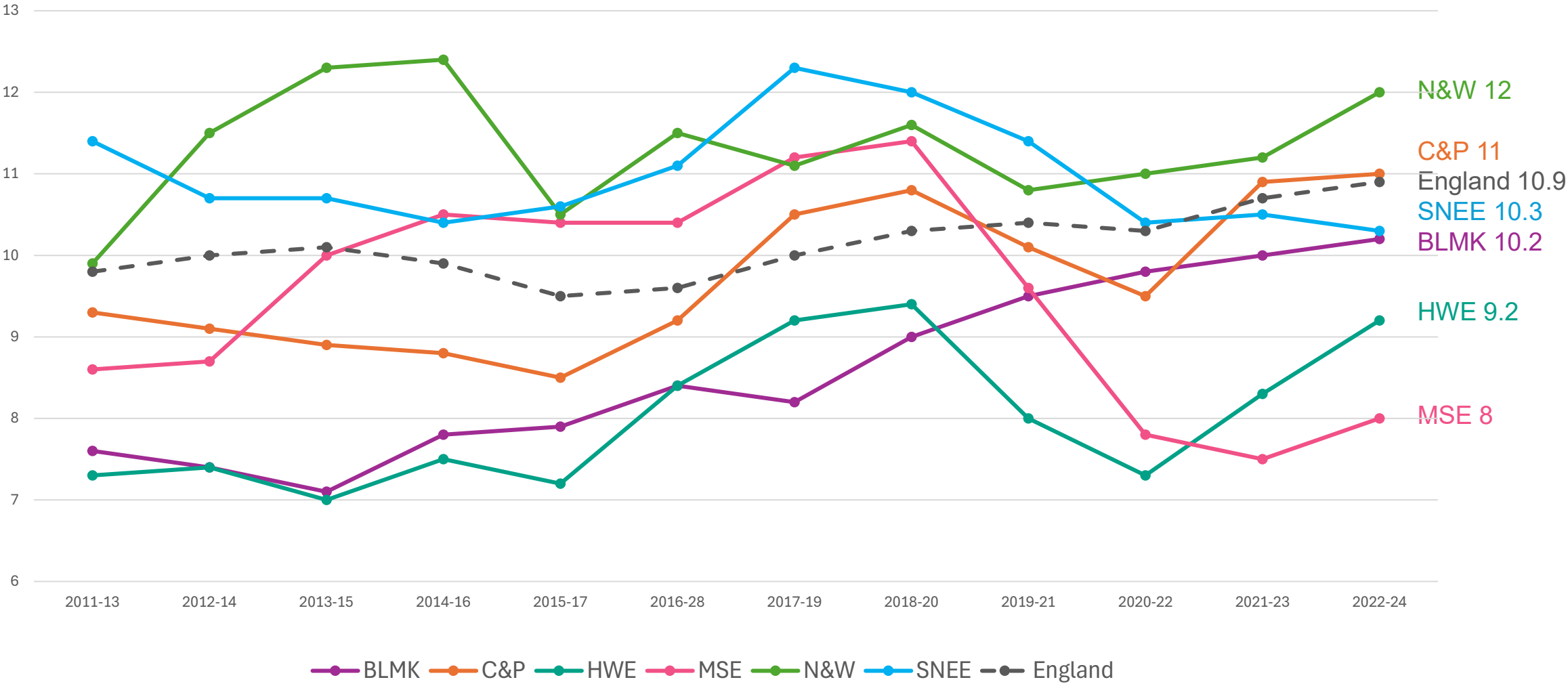
Median Coroner Registration Delays: England and Regions



Median Registration Delay: EoE Local Authorities



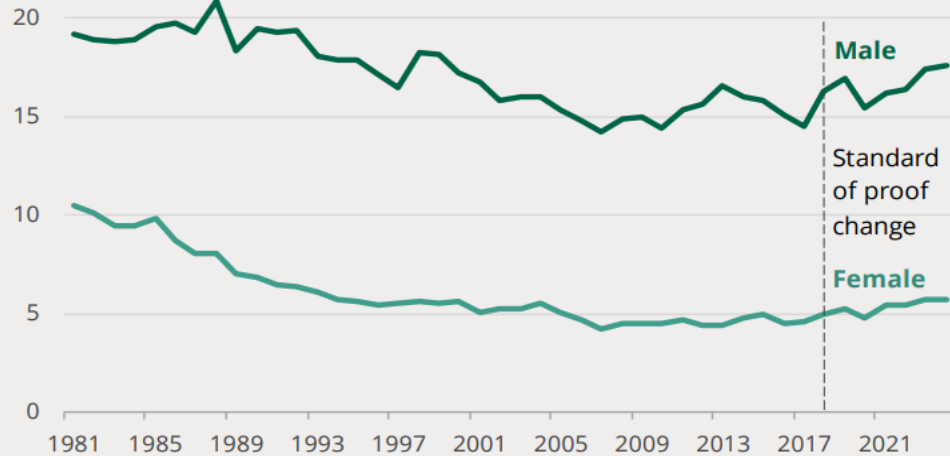
Rolling ASR per 100,000: ICB Suicide Rate (Persons)



Gender demographic

Suicide by sex in England and Wales

Age-standardised rate per 100,000 population, by year of registration

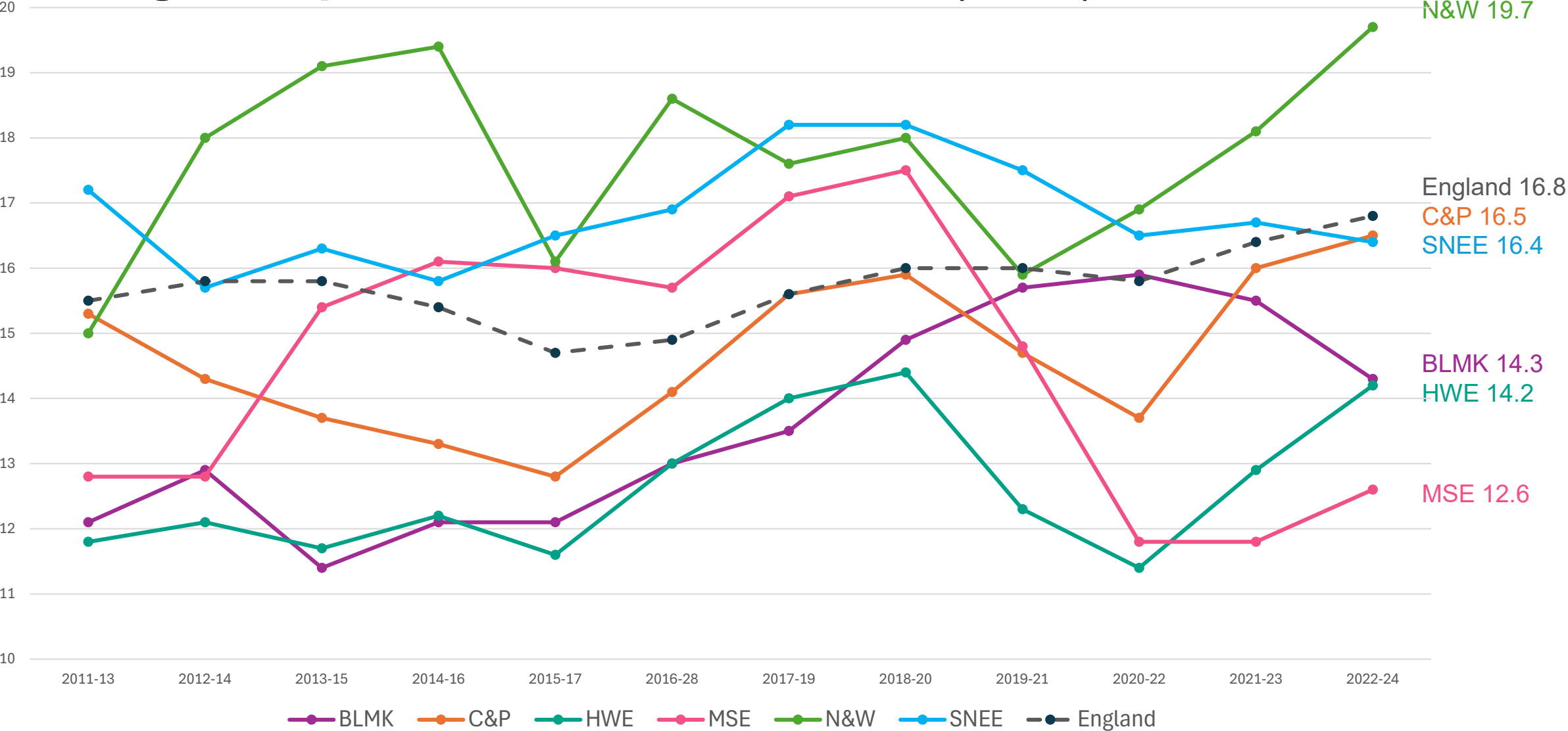


Suicide in England and Wales is around three times more common among men than among women. The gap between sexes has increased since 1981 and is higher than the global gap between sexes recorded by the World Bank.

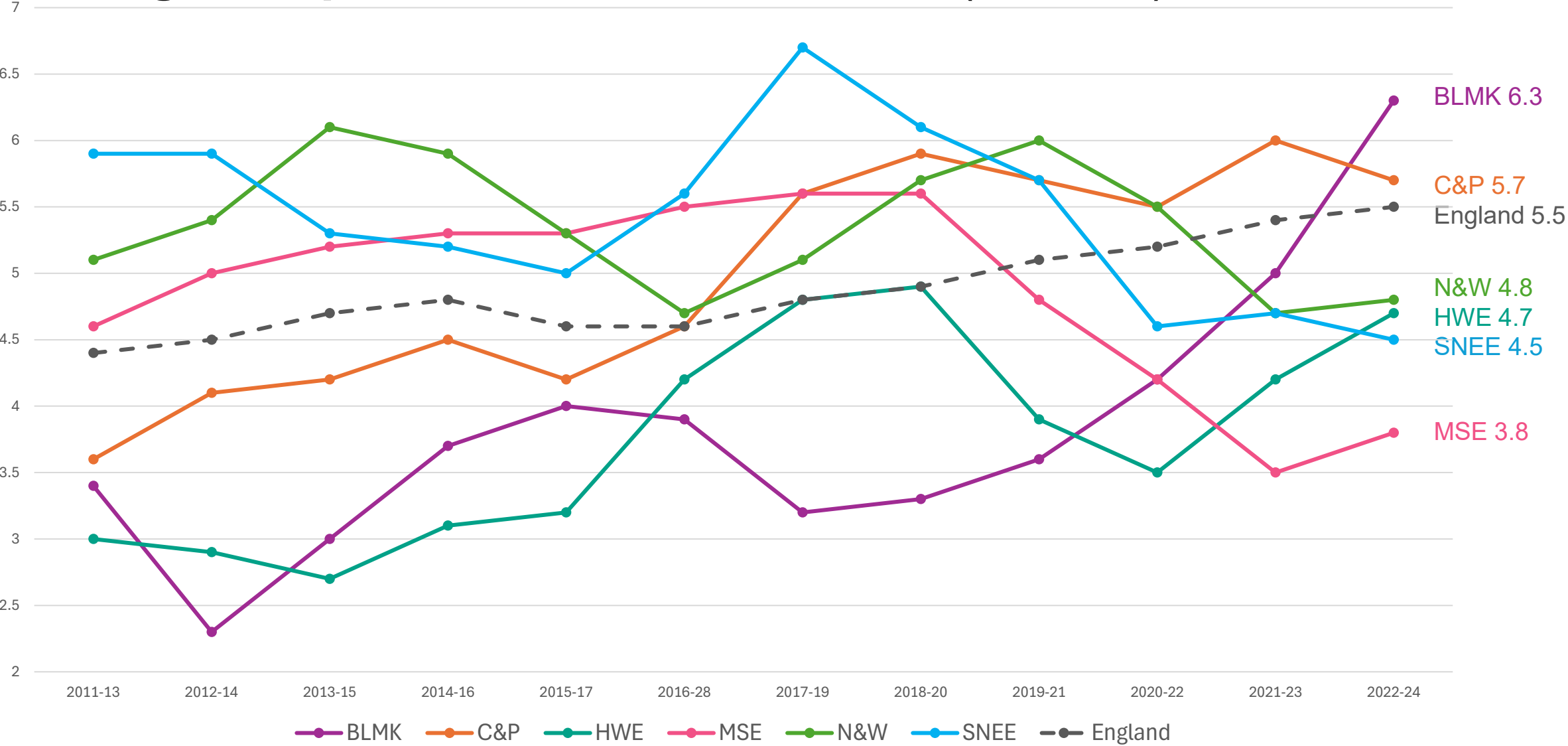
Within our region, BLMK shows the most even gender split with the male rate 2.3 times that of females. Most other ICBs are around 3 times higher in the male rate (C&P 2.9, HWE 3, MSE 3.3, SNEE 3.6). N&W male rate is 4.1 times that of females.



Rolling ASR per 100,000: Suicide Rate (Male)



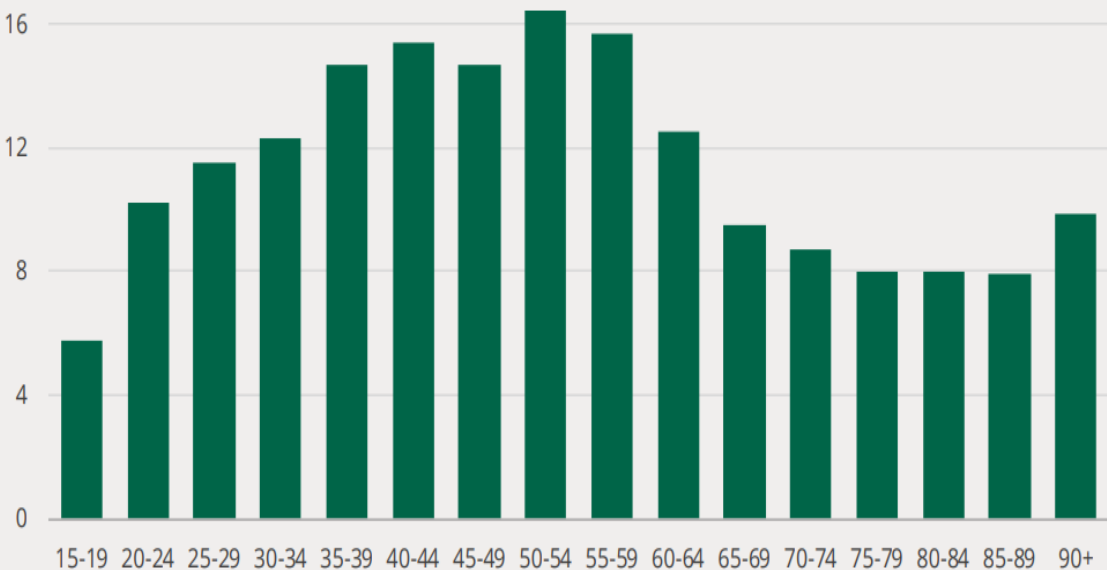
Rolling ASR per 100,000: Suicide Rate (Female)



Suicide by age and gender, England and Wales

Suicide by age group, England and Wales

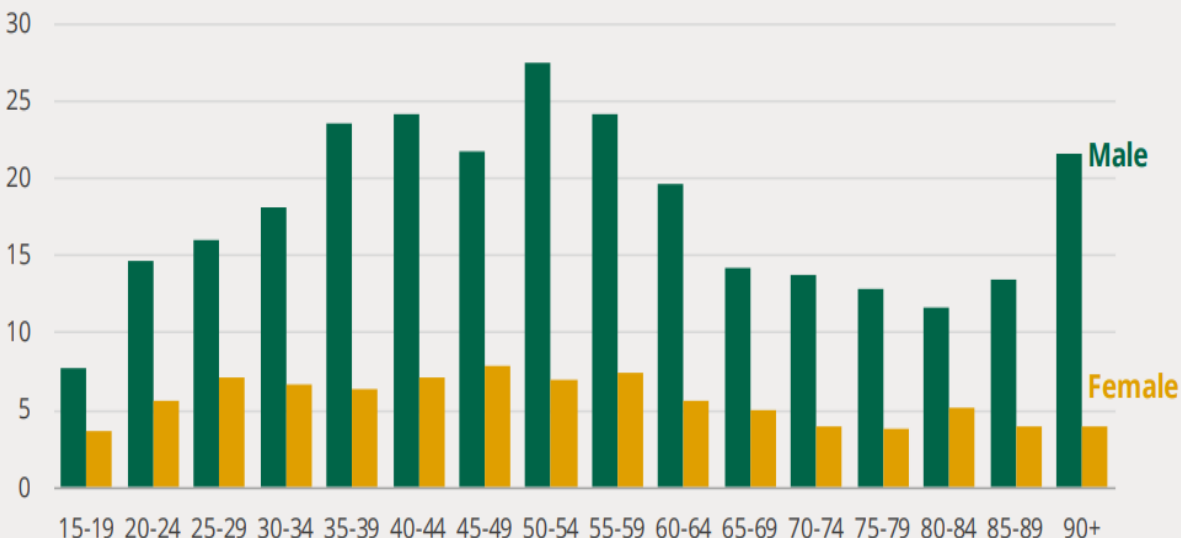
Age-specific rate per 100,000 population, 2024



In 2024, risk of suicide was highest among people aged between 50 and 54 (17.0 deaths per 100,000 people) and lowest among people aged between 15 and 19 (5.8 deaths per 100,000 people).

Suicide by sex and age group, England and Wales

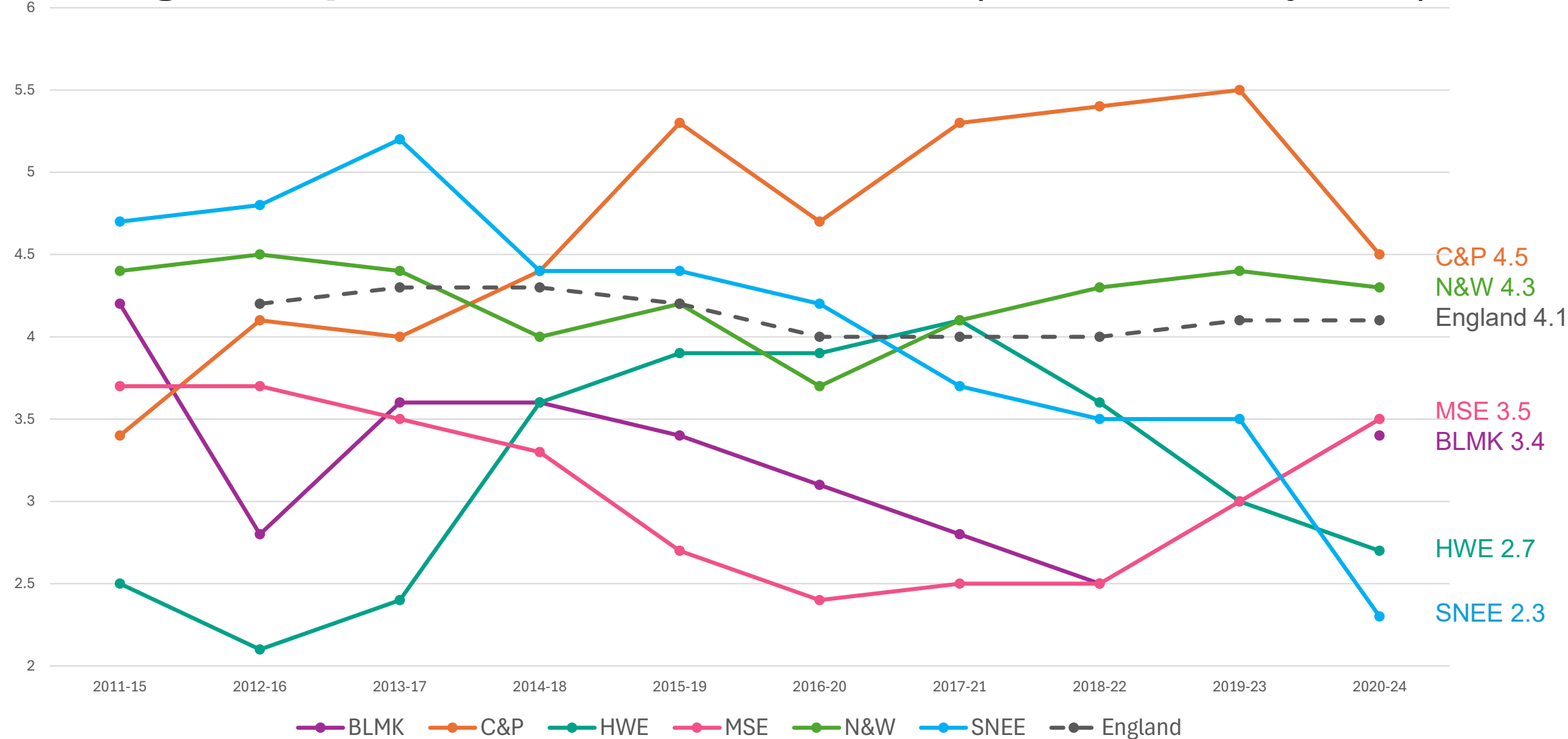
Age-specific rate per 100,000 population, 2024



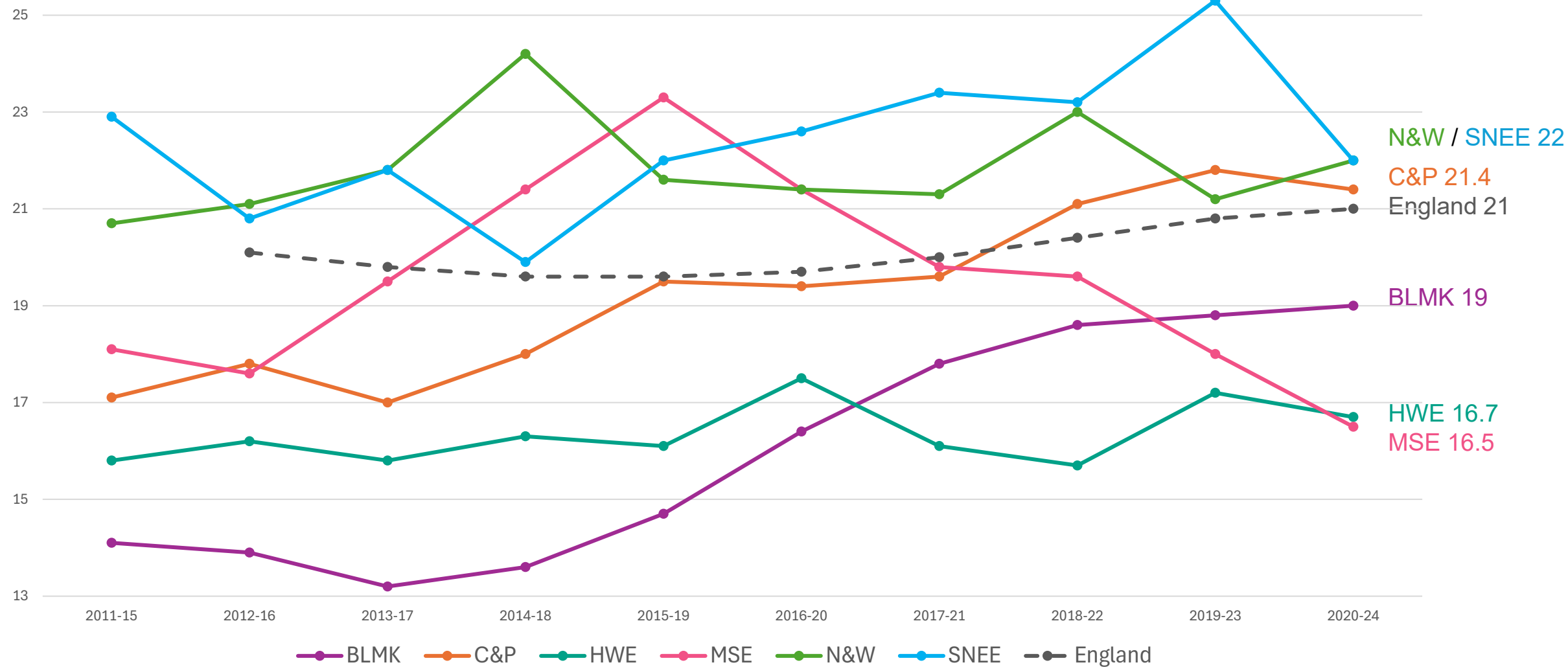
Although the suicide rate is lower among younger age groups, in the context of lower general mortality rates among young people, suicide was the leading cause of death for both men and women aged 20 to 34 in 2024.



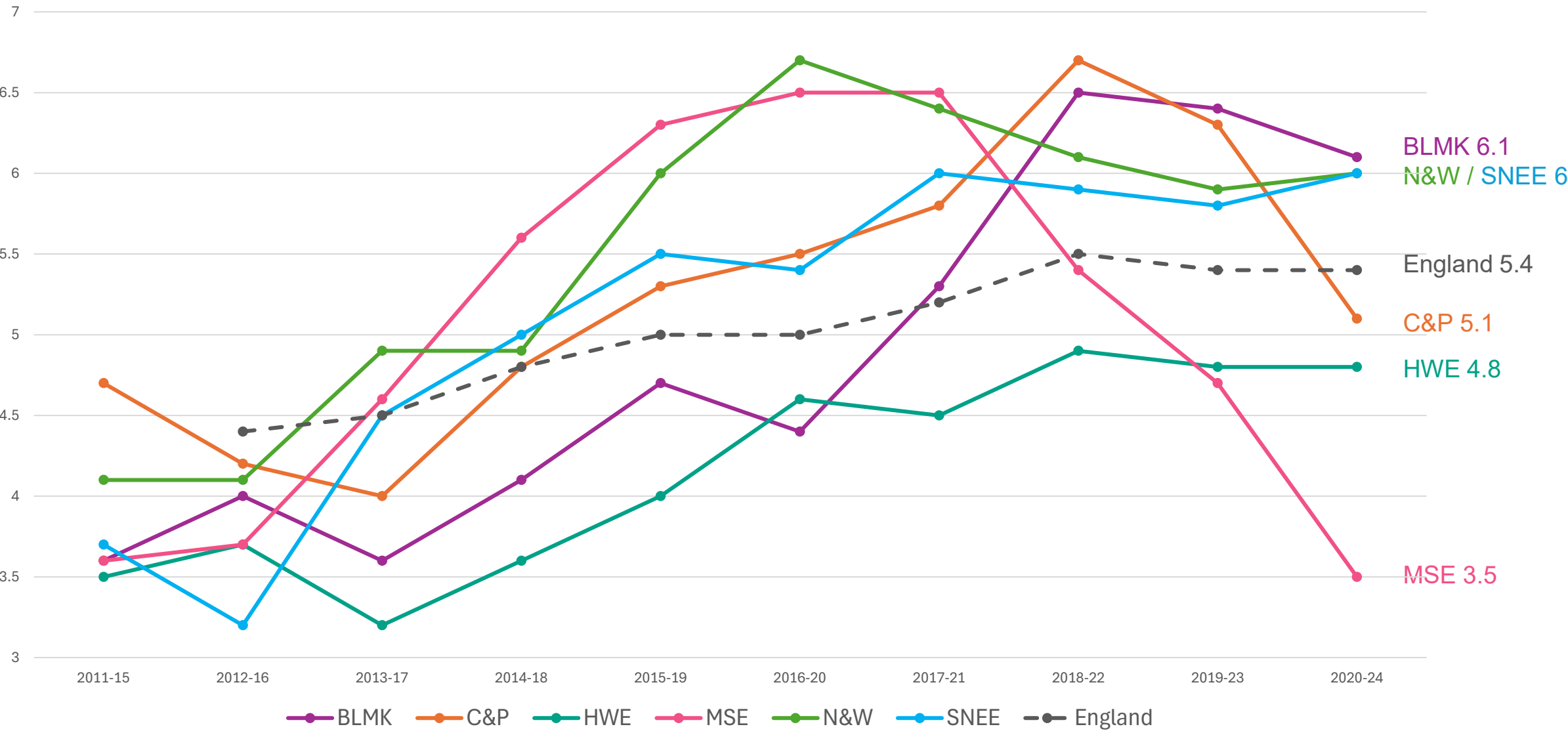
Rolling ASR per 100,000: Suicide Rate (Female 65+ years)



Rolling ASR per 100,000: Suicide Rate (Male 45-64 years)



Rolling ASR per 100,000: Suicide Rate (Persons, 10-24 years)



Data Summary

- **England's** overall number of suicides shows an **upward trend** from 2015 to 2024, with notable fluctuation in intervening years. Across England and Wales, there were 1%, 7.5% and 2% increases in registrations in 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively.
- In **EoE** there were increases of 14.5% and 14.3% in 2022 and 2023, followed by a **decrease of 10.5% in 2024**. Increasing registrations in Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire appear to be reversing in 2024, with reductions of ~23% in Herts, ~20% in Essex and ~16% in Cambs. **Reductions in 7 of our 12 local authority areas**.
- 2023-24 increases were seen in areas including Luton (~33% from 14 to 21) and Norfolk (~19% from 91 to 112). There is **high local diversity and fluctuation year on year** due to small population numbers, and **nRTSSS data for 2025 shows a reduction** in suspected suicide in Norfolk and BLMK.
- Demographic **most at risk: males 45-64**; demographic with **lowest current rate: females 65+**.
- **EoE has the second lowest rolling three-year rate per 100,000 at 9.9** (NHS region, not statistical region), and the second lowest ASR for registration of deaths by suicide in 2024 amongst the English regions (9.6); higher than only London.

Caution:

- **Delays in Coroners Offices' registering deaths can mask in the rolling rate per 100,000**. Median delays for East of England = 205 days, however there is variation from 127 – 335 days. Delays in Hertfordshire (335) are 136 days (68%) higher than the England average.



Risk Factors – all age

- **Demographic factors**
 - Male; middle age; living alone or social isolation
- **Social and economic stressors**
 - Relationship breakdown; financial hardship; work-related problems
- **Health problems**
 - Chronic pain; disabling conditions; long-term physical illness
- **Trauma and adverse life events**
 - Traumatic childhood events; recent major life events; bereavement
- **High risk / vulnerable groups**
 - Migrants; refugees; LGBTQ+; prison populations, or others experiencing discrimination or exclusion
- **Existing or prior MH conditions**
 - Including depression, anxiety, SMI
- **Substance use**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Neurodivergence**
 - Autism, ADHD, some other neurodevelopmental conditions
- **Contact with the criminal justice system**
- **Media portrayals**

[Risk factors for suicide in children and young people in England - Office for National Statistics](#)



Protective Factors

- Individual
 - Good self esteem; sense of purpose of meaning in life; strong coping skills
- Social and relational
 - Feeling connected to others; supportive relationships
- Community and environmental
 - Access to mental health support and crisis services; positive engagement with services
- Structural and societal
 - Stable employment or meaningful activity; reduced stigma and supportive cultural attitudes
- For young people...
 - Positive school engagement; healthy peer relationships; early identification and additional support



Recommendations

- Review published suicide registration data on [fingertips](#)
- Work with local public health leads to understand local demographics and learning from Coroner audits
- Strengthen data sharing and information flow for timely learning to inform local commissioning, priority action and activity
- If you have concerns; don't be afraid to ask if someone is feeling suicidal
- Robust, collaborative safety planning in crisis contacts
- Postvention support for staff and teams following a suicide death

