CHAPTER – 2

SUICIDES IN INDIA

Each suicide is a personal tragedy that prematurely takes the life of an individual and has a continuing ripple effect, affecting the lives of families, friends and communities. Every year, more than 1,00,000 people commit suicide in our country. There are various causes of suicides like professional/career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addiction to alcohol, financial loss, chronic pain etc. NCRB collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases.

Rate of suicides has been calculated using projected population for the non-census years whereas for the census year 2011, the population in the Census 2011 Report was used.

A total of 1,70,746 suicides were reported in the country during 2024 showing an decrease of 0.4% in comparison to 2023 and the rate of suicides has decreased by 0.8% during 2024 over 2023. **[LIST–2.1]** The incidence and rate of suicides during 2014-2024 is presented in **Table-2.1**.

LIST–2.1

Number of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides during 2020 - 2024

Sl. No.	Year	Total Number of Suicides	Mid-Year Projected Population (in Lakh+)	Rate of Suicides*** (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2020	1,53,052	13533.9$	11.3
2	2021	1,64,033	13671.8$	12.0
3	2022	1,70,924	13797.5$	12.4
4	2023	1,71,418	13923.3$	12.3
5	**2024**	**1,70,746**	**14049.1$**	**12.2**

Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (November, 2019), National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

$ Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (July, 2020), National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

\+ One Lakh = 0.1 Million

*** Rate of Suicides = Incidence of suicides per one lakh (1, 00,000) of population.

As per data provided by States/UTs

Number and Percentage Share of Suicides in States/UTs

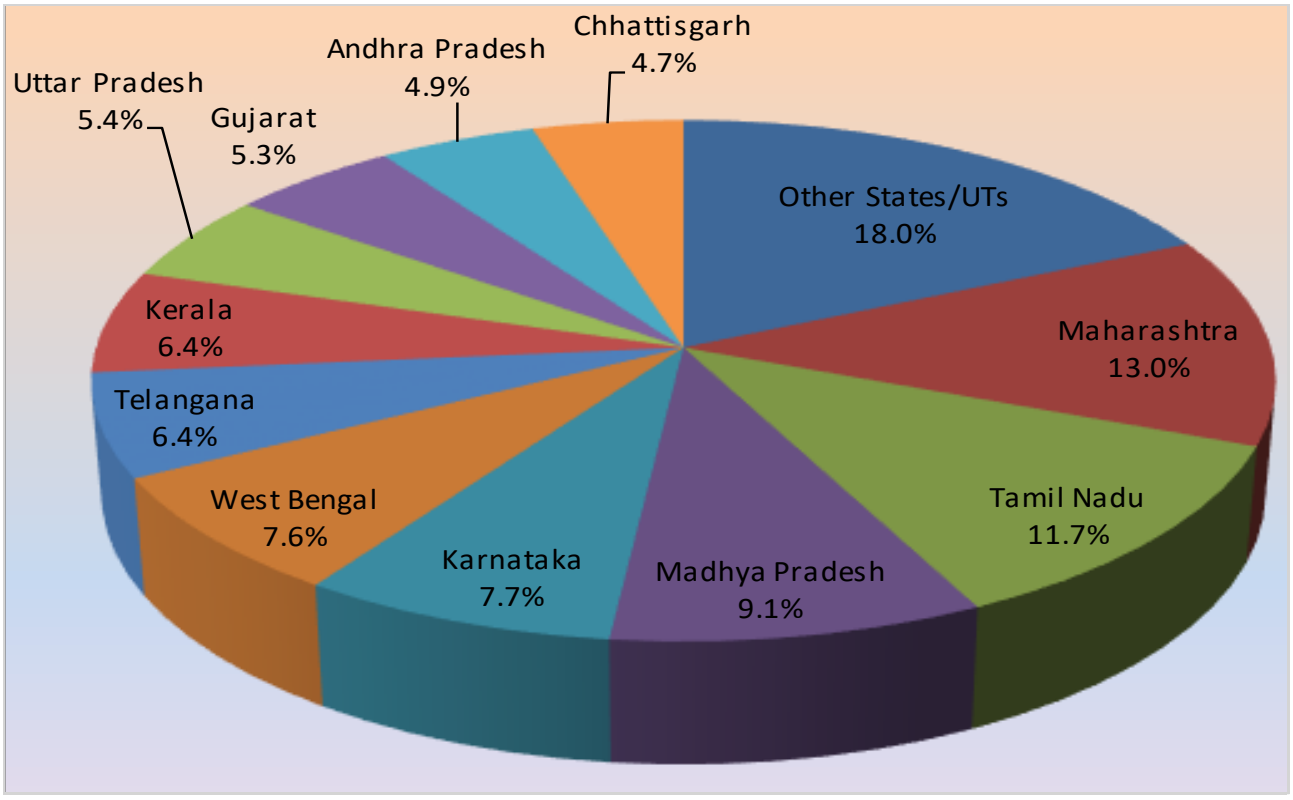
The State/UT and City wise information on the incidents of suicides, its percentage share in total suicides and rate of suicides during the year are presented in **Table–2.2**.

Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (22,174) followed by 19,965 suicides in Tamil Nadu, 15,491 suicides in Madhya Pradesh, 13,151 suicides in Karnataka and 12,931 suicides in West Bengal accounting for 13.0%, 11.7%, 9.1%, 7.7% and 7.6% of total suicides respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 49.0% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 51.0% suicides were reported in the remaining 23 States and 8 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State (17.0% share of country population) has reported comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 5.4% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher number of suicidal deaths during the year 2022 to 2024 are presented in the **LIST–2.2**. Each of these States have continuously accounted for about 7.0% or more of the total suicides reported in the country from 2022 to 2024.

FIGURE–2.1

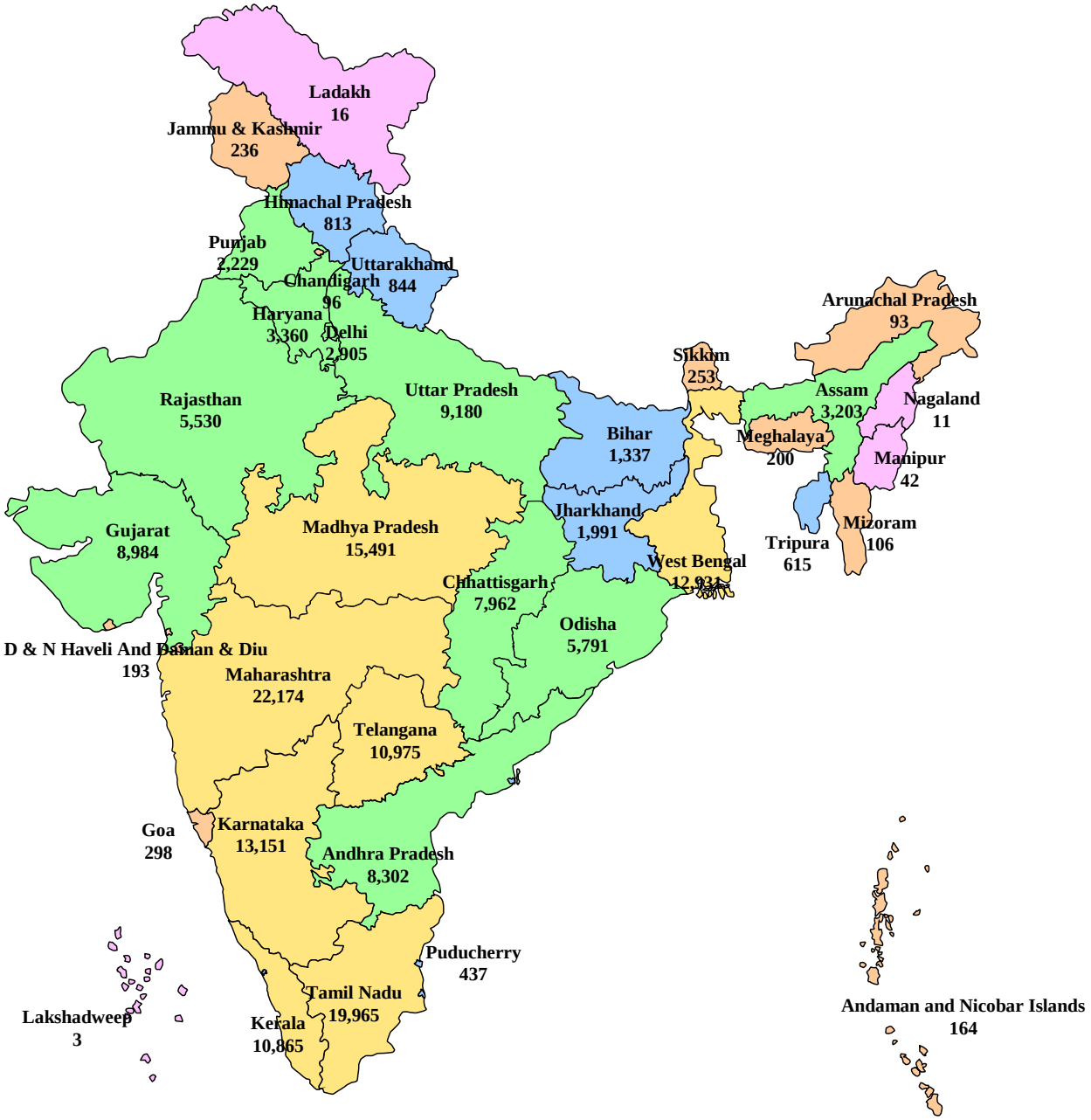
State/UT wise Percentage Share of Suicides in States/UTs during 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Note: Other States/UTs include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya , Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, A & N Island, Chandigarh, D & N Haveli & Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir UT ,Delhi, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry

FIGURE–2.2
STATE/UT – WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUICIDES DURING 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

LIST–2.2
States with Higher Percentage Share of Suicides during 2022 to 2024

Sl. No.	Year					
	2022		2023		2024	
1	Maharashtra	(13.3%)	Maharashtra	(13.2%)	Maharashtra	(13.0%)
2	Tamil Nadu	(11.6%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.4%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.7%)
3	Madhya Pradesh	(9.0%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.1%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.1%)
4	Karnataka	(8.0%)	Karnataka	(7.8%)	Karnataka	(7.7%)
5	West Bengal	(7.4%)	West Bengal	(7.5%)	West Bengal	(7.6%)

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

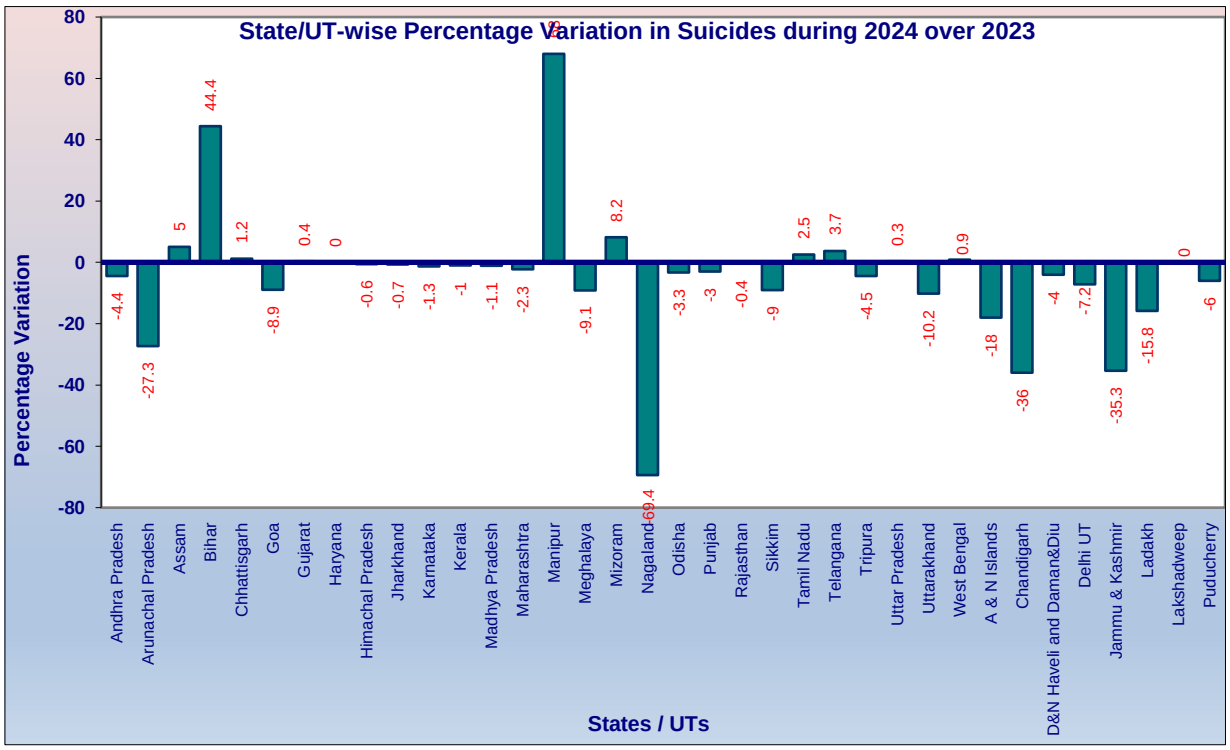
Delhi, which is the most-populous UT, has reported the highest number of suicides (2,905) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (437). A total of 26,150 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country during the 2024.

The States and UTs which have reported higher percentage increase in suicides in 2024 over 2023 were Manipur (68.0%), Bihar (44.4%), Mizoram (8.2%), Assam (5.0%), Telangana (3.7%), Tamil Nadu (2.5%) and Chhattisgarh (1.2%), while highest percentage decrease was reported in Nagaland (69.4%), Chandigarh (36.0%), Jammu & Kashmir (35.3%), Arunachal Pradesh (27.3%), Andman & Nicobar Island (18.0%) and Ladakh (15.8%) **[Table–2.3, Figure-2.3]**.

Rate of Suicides — Trend in States/UTs

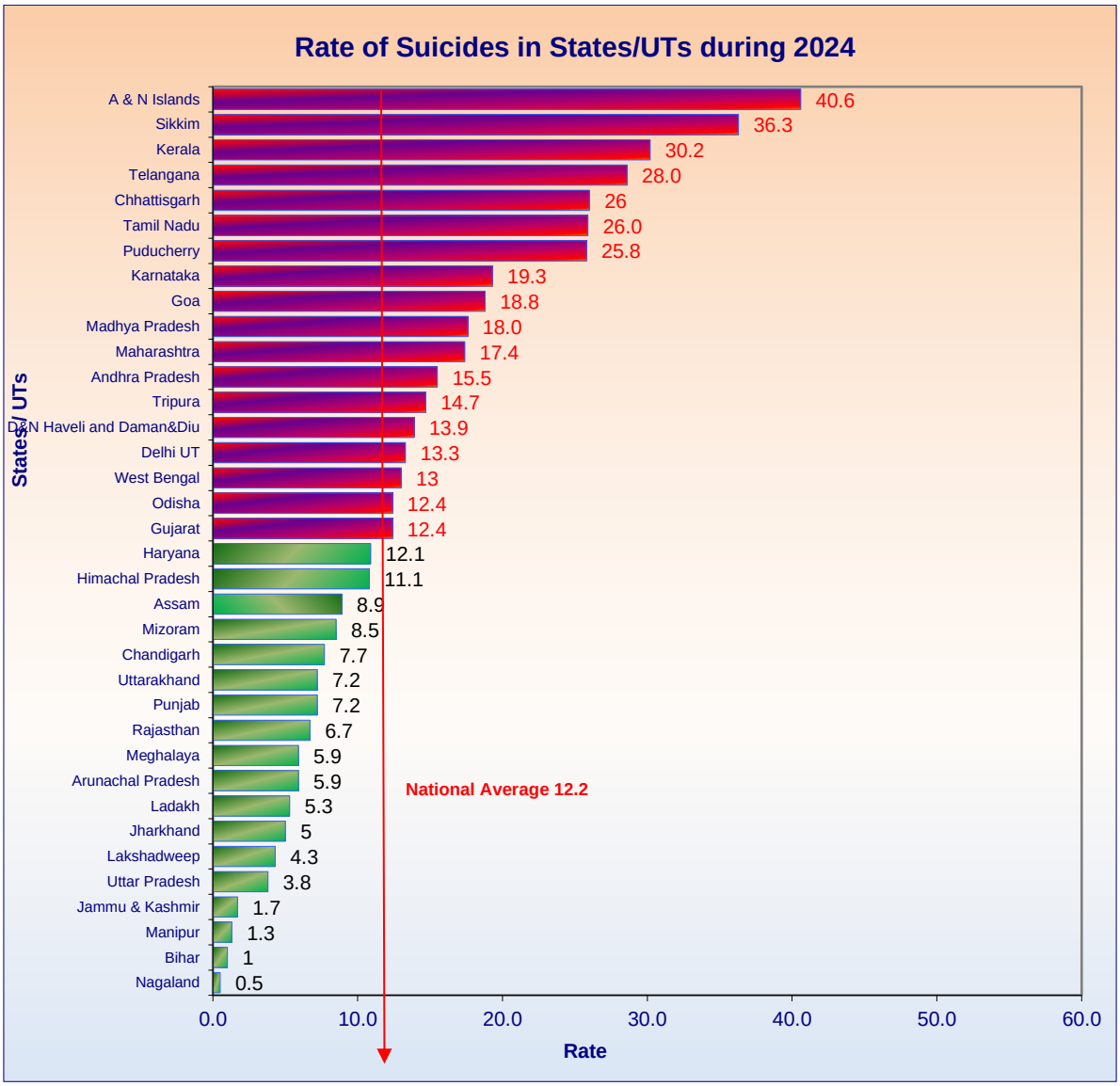
Rate of suicides i.e. the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick for comparison. All India rate of suicides was 12.2 during the year 2024. A & N Islands reported the highest rate of suicide (40.6) followed by Sikkim (36.3), Kerala (30.2), Telangana (28.6) and chhattisgarh (26.0) **[Figure-2.4]**. The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2023 to 2024 are given in **LIST–2.3**.

FIGURE–2.3



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE–2.4



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE–2.5
STATE/UT - WISE SUICIDE RATE DURING



Note:
Suicide Rate means Number of Suicides per One Lakh population.

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

LIST–2.3
States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2022 to 2024

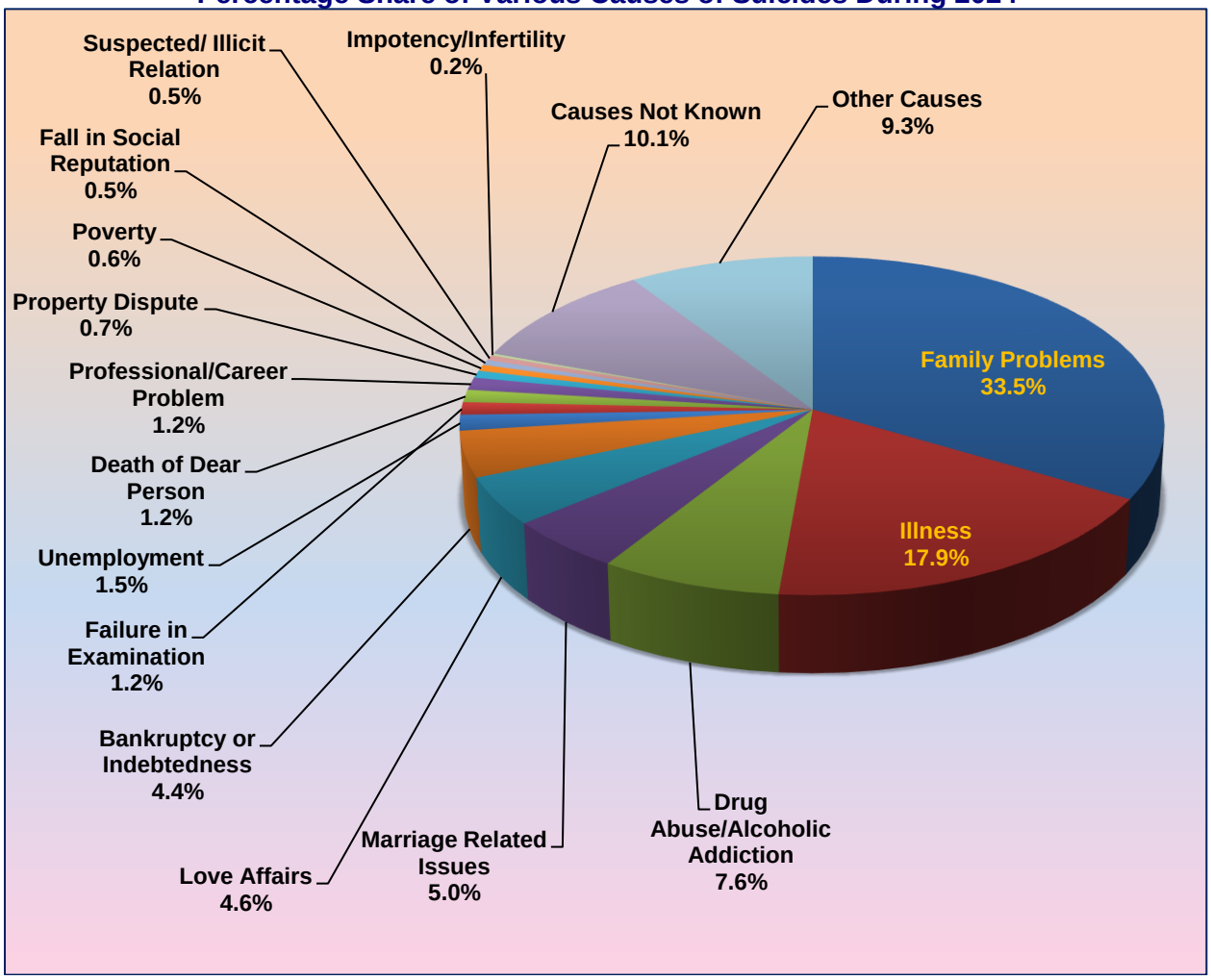
Year					
2022		2023		2024	
Sikkim	43.1	A & N Islands	49.6	A & N Islands	40.6
A & N Islands	42.8	Sikkim	40.2	Sikkim	36.3
Puducherry	29.7	Kerala	30.6	Kerala	30.2
Kerala	28.5	Puducherry	28.0	Telangana	28.6
Chhattisgarh	28.2	Telangana	27.7	Chhattisgarh	26.0
National Rate	**(12.4)**	**National Rate**	**(12.3)**	**National Rate**	**(12.2)**

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness' were the major causes of suicides which accounted for 33.5% and 17.9% of total suicides respectively during 2024. 'Drug Abuse/ Alcoholic Addiction' (7.6%), 'Marriage Related Issues' (5.0%), 'Love Affairs' (4.6%), 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (4.4%), 'Unemployment' (1.5%) ,'Failure in Examination' (1.2%), 'Death of Dear Person' (1.2%)', 'Professional/Career Problem' (1.2%) and 'Property Dispute' (0.7%) were other causes of suicides **[Table–2.4]**.

FIGURE–2.6
Percentage Share of Various Causes of Suicides During 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

* Figure of Suicides due to ideological causes/hero worshiping, physical abuse and illegitimate pregnancy included in Other Causes.

State and UT wise and City wise details on various causes of suicides are presented in **Table–2.5**. The States/UTs which reported more than the All-India average share under the two major causes of suicides i.e. 'Family Problems' and 'Illness' are grouped in the **LIST–2.4**.

Suicide Victims by Gender and Age Group

Age group wise distribution of suicides by causes during 2024 is presented in **Table–2.0**. The overall Male:Female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2024 was 73.5 : 26.5, which is greater as compared to year 2023 (72.8 : 27.2). The proportion of female victims were more in 'Physical Abuse (Rape, etc.)', 'Marriage Related Issues' (specifically in 'Dowry Related Issues'), and 'Impotency/Infertility'. The age group (18 - below 30 years) and persons of 30 years - below 45 years of age were the most vulnerable groups resorting to suicides. These age groups accounted for 33.1% and 32.5% suicides respectively. 'Family Problems' (3,101), 'Love Affairs' (1,671), 'Illness' (1,347) and 'Failure in Examination' (1,071) were the main causes of suicides among children (below 18 years of age).

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Details on professional status of suicide victims are presented in Table–2.6. House-wives accounted for 48.9% of the total female victims (22,113 out of 45,245) and constitute nearly 13.0% of total victims who committed suicides (22,113 out of 1,70,746) during 2024.

Government servants accounted for 1.1% (1,827) as compared to 7.5% (12,811) from Private Sector Enterprises out of 1,70,746 of total victims. Employees from Public Sector Undertakings formed 1.3% (2,267), whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 8.5% (14,488 victims) 8.7% (14,778 victims) of total suicides respectively. Self-employed category accounted for 10.5% of total suicide victims (17,886 out of 1,70,746).

A total of 10,546 persons involved in farming sector (consisting of 4,633 farmers/cultivators and 5,913 agricultural labourers) have committed suicides during 2024, accounting for 6.2% of total suicides victims (1,70,746) in the country. Out of 4,633 farmer/cultivator suicides, a total of 4,481 were male and 152 were female.

LIST–2.4
States & UTs Reporting Higher Share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2024

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
18.0				33.5			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share
1	Lakshadweep	3	100.0	1	Tripura	446	72.5
2	Punjab	1123	50.4	2	Chandigarh	66	68.8
3	Sikkim	87	34.4	3	Odisha	3287	56.8
4	A & N Islands	51	31.1	4	Kerala	5755	53.0
5	Tamil Nadu	5847	29.3	5	Bihar	647	48.4
6	Andhra Pradesh	2049	24.7	6	Rajasthan	2484	44.9
7	Goa	73	24.5	7	Assam	1384	43.2
8	Tripura	138	22.4	8	Telangana	4675	42.6
9	Gujarat	2011	22.4	9	Himachal Pradesh	338	41.6
10	Himachal Pradesh	172	21.2	10	Uttarakhand	345	40.9
11	Madhya Pradesh	3254	21.0	11	Tamil Nadu	7737	38.8
12	Karnataka	2691	20.5	12	Puducherry	163	37.3
13	Haryana	678	20.2	13	Manipur	15	35.7
14	Telangana	2209	20.1	14	Uttar Pradesh	3071	33.5
15	Chhattisgarh	1596	20.0				
16	Meghalaya	38	19.0				

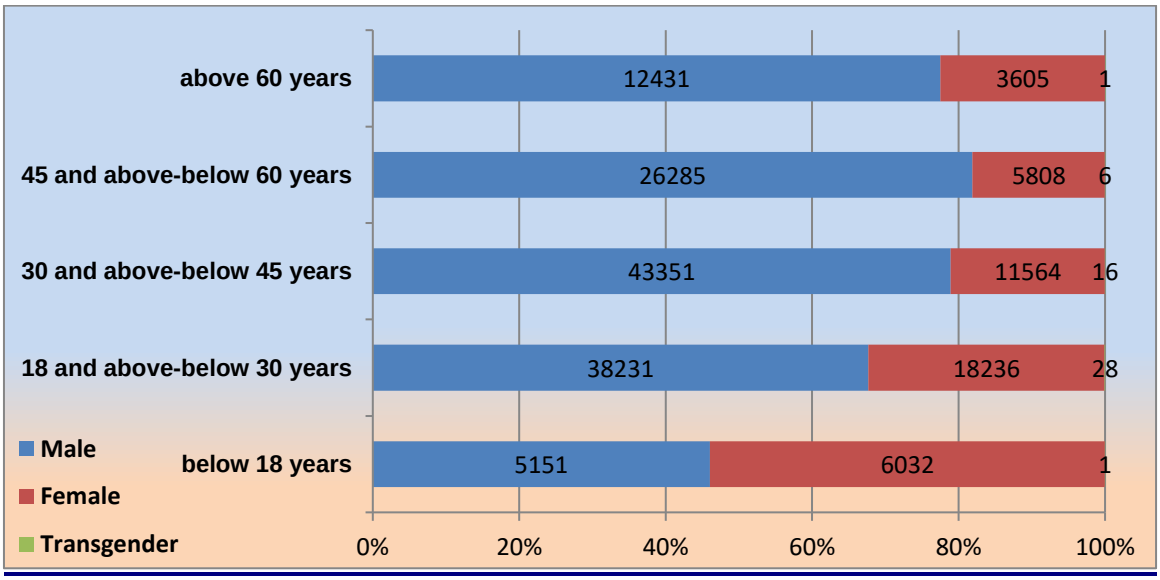
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of 5,913 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2024, 5,352 were male and 561 were female.

Certain States/UTs namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, A & N Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi UT, Ladakh and Lakshadweep reported zero suicides of Farmers/Cultivators as well as Agricultural Labourers.

FIGURE–2.7

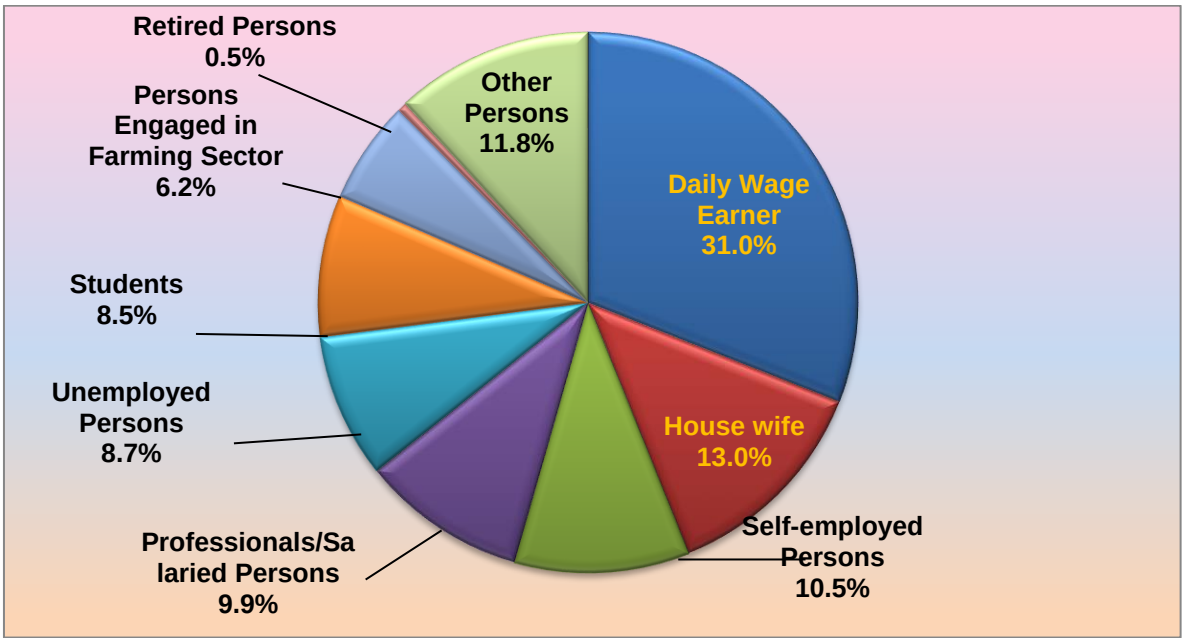
Suicide Victims by Gender and Age Group during 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE–2.8

Percentage Distribution of Suicide Victims by Profession During 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of total 1,25,449 male suicides, maximum suicides were committed by daily wage earners (48,311) followed by self-employed persons (16,582) and Professionals/Salaried Persons (15,096). A total of 45,245 females committed suicides during 2024 in the country. Of females who committed suicides, highest number (22,113) was of house-wives followed by students (6,819) and daily wage earners (4,575). A total of 52 transgender have committed suicide. Out of 52 transgender, 24 were 'Daily Wage earners' followed by 'Unemployed Persons' (11), 'Self-employed Persons' (6), while 11 fall under 'Other' category.

State/UT-wise and profession wise analysis of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.7**. Majority of suicides committed by house-wives were reported in Tamil Nadu (2821 out of 22,113) followed by Maharashtra (2,371 out of 22,113 suicides) and Madhya Pradesh (2,296 suicides) which accounted for 12.8%, 10.7% and 10.4% of total such suicides during 2024 respectively. Majority of suicides committed by government servants were reported in Tamil Nadu (324 out of 1,827 suicides) followed by Karnataka (209 suicides), Madhya Pradesh (164 suicides), Telangana (145 suicides) and Maharashtra (135 suicides) which accounted for 17.7%, 11.4%, 9.0%, 7.9% and 7.4% of total such suicides respectively. Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in Private Sector Enterprises were reported in Maharashtra (2,184 out of 12,811 suicides), Gujarat (1,197 suicides), Karnataka (1,070 suicides), Kerala (1,054 suicides) and Madhya Pradesh (1001 suicides), they accounted for 17.1%, 9.3%, 8.4%, 8.2% and 7.8% of total such suicides respectively. Of total suicides committed by students, 13.2% were reported in Maharashtra (1,909 suicides out of 14,488) followed by 10.9% in Uttar Pradesh (1,585 suicides), 10.0% in Madhya Pradesh (1,447 suicides) and 8.9% in Tamil Nadu (1,287 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by un-employed persons, 16.0% were in Kerala (2,370 out of 14,778 suicides), 13.2% in Odisha (1,949 suicides), 12.0% in Maharashtra (1,767 suicides) and 11.2% in Uttar Pradesh (1,661 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in business activities were reported by Karnataka (16.5%), Maharashtra (10.7%), Madhya Pradesh (9.7%), Tamil Nadu (8.3%), and Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (7.0% each). Majority of victims engaged in farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (36.1%), Karnataka (28.1%), Madhya Pradesh (7.9%), Andhra Pradesh (7.4%), and Tamil Nadu (4.8%).

Marital Status of Suicide Victims

Marital Status of victims is classified in seven categories namely 'Un-married', 'Married', 'Widowed/Widower', 'Divorcee', 'Separated', 'Others' and 'Status Not Known'.

The information on the marital status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.8(I)**. It is observed that 67.5% (1,15,180 out of 1,70,746) of the suicide victims were married while 25.4% were un-married (43,431). Widowed/Widower, Divorcees and Separated have accounted for 1.5% (2,640 victims), 0.6% (1,074 victims) and 0.7% (1,218 victims) of total suicide victims respectively during 2024.

The State/UT-wise information on the marital status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.9**.

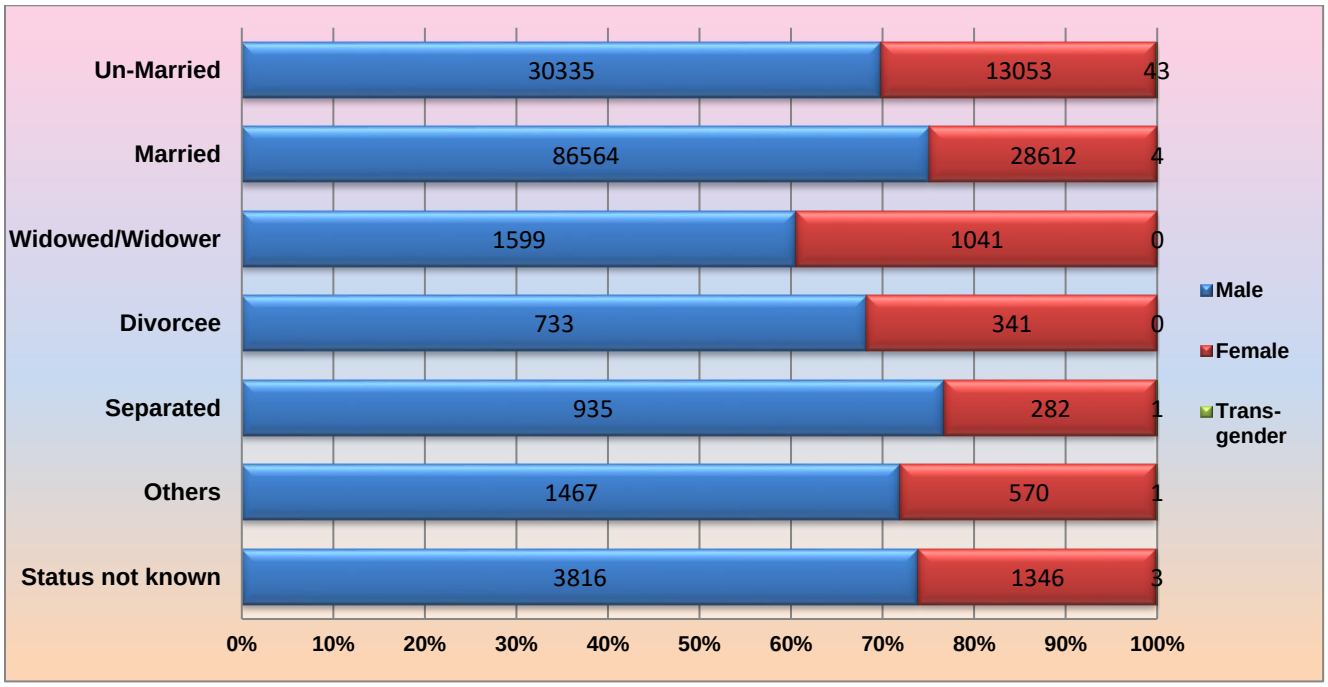
Economic Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the economic status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.8(II)**. 62.9 (1,07,455) of suicide victims in 2024 were having annual income of less than ₹1 lakh. 31.6% (53,994) of suicide victims belong to annual income group of '₹1 lakh to less than ₹5 lakh'. The State/UT wise information on the Economic Status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.10**.

Educational Status of Suicide Victims

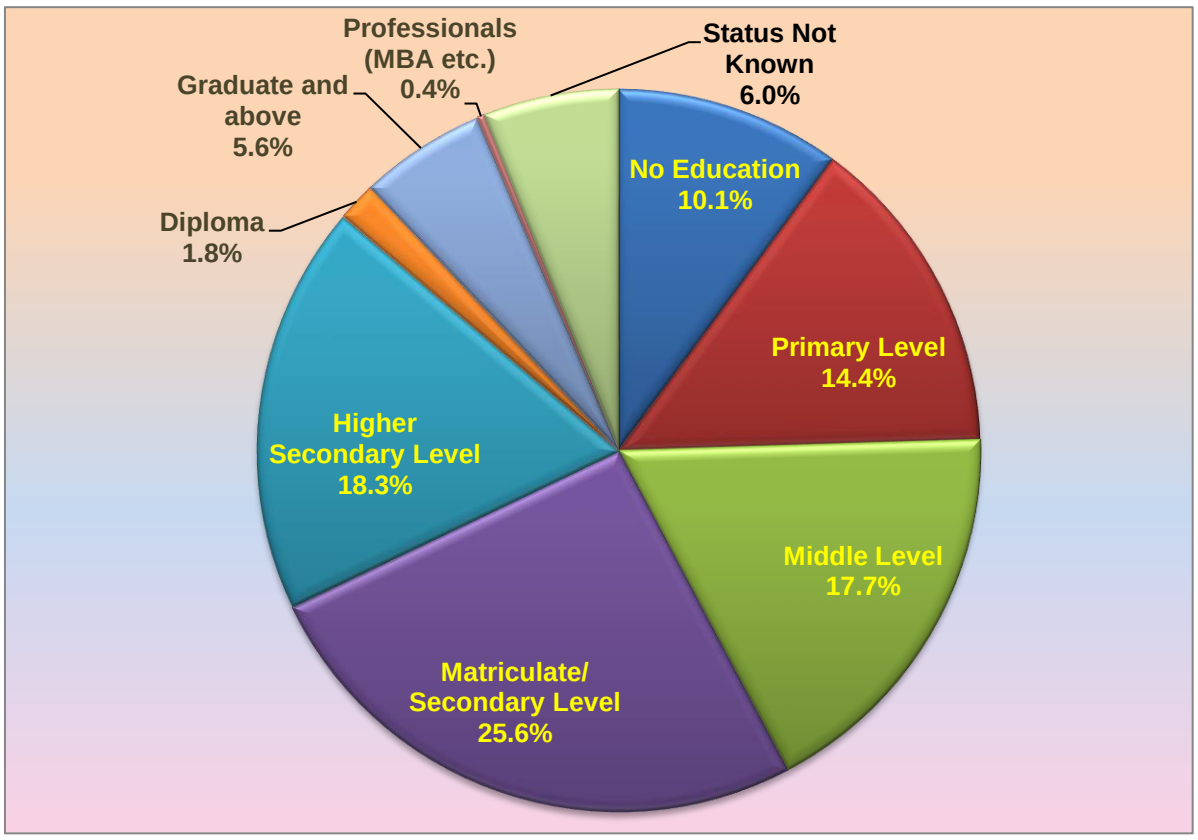
The gender-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(III)**. The maximum numbers of suicide victims (25.6%) (43,782) were educated up to Matriculation/ Secondary level, whereas Middle level educated accounted for 17.7% (30,266), Hr. Secondary / Intermediate/Pre-University educated (18.3%) (31,272), Primary educated (14.4%) (24,642), and Illiterate (10.1%) (17,212). Only 5.6% (9,600 out of 1,70,746 victims) of total suicide victims were graduates and above.

FIGURE–2.9
Distribution of Suicide Victims by Marital Status during 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE–2.10
Percentage Share of Suicide Victims by Educational Status during 2024



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

LIST–2.5

Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level during 2023– 2024

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2022	2023	2024
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	11.5	11.8	10.1
2	Primary Level	14.5	14.8	14.4
3	Middle Level	18.0	18.6	17.7
4	Matriculate/Secondary Level	23.9	24.6	25.6
5	Higher Secondary Level	15.9	17.5	18.3
6	Diploma	1.6	1.7	1.8
7	Graduate & above	5.2	5.5	5.6
8	Professionals (MBA etc.)	0.4	0.4	0.4
9	Status Not Known	9.0	5.2	6.0
10	**Total**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

The State/UT wise information on the Education Status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.11**.

Out of 43,782 suicides committed by persons educated up-to matriculate/secondary level, 17.3% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (12.2%) and Kerala (9.3%). Out of 30,266 suicides committed by persons educated up-to middle level, 12.9% were reported in Tamil Nadu followed by Maharashtra (11.6%) and Madhya Pradesh (10.0%). Out of 20,149 suicides committed by persons with no education 17.2% were reported in Telangana followed by Madhya Pradesh (15.8%) and Tamil Nadu (8.6%) **[Table–2.11].**

Percentage share of suicide victims by educational level during 2022-24 is presented in **LIST–2.5**.

Means Adopted for Committing Suicides

The means adopted for committing suicide varied from the easily available and effective means such as consumption of poison, jumping etc. to more painful means such as self-inflicted injuries, hanging etc. Like previous year, 'Hanging' (62.3%), consuming 'Poison' (24.5%), 'Drowning' (4.4%) and By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains (2.5%) were the prominent means/mode of committing suicide. **[Table– 2.12]**

Percentage share of the means adopted in committing suicide during 2023-24 is presented in **LIST–2.6**.

As mode adopted by suicide victims, the share of 'Fire/Self Immolation' (from 1.5% to 1.2%), 'By Poison' (from 25.0% to 24.5%), and 'By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains' (from 2.8% to 2.5%) have decreased while share of Drowning (4.1% to 4.4%), 'By Jumping' (from 1.0% to 1.1%), 'Hanging' (from 60.9% to 62.3%), By Touching Electric Wire' (from 0.3% to 0.3%) and 'By Consuming sleeping Pills (from 0.4% to 0.4%) have increased during 2024 over 2023. **[LIST–2.6]**

The gender-wise break-up and means adopted for suicide in various States/UTs is presented in **Table–2.13**.

LIST–2.6

Percentage of Means/Mode Adopted by Victims to Commit Suicide during 2023-2024

SL.	Means/Mode Adopted	Percentage & Number	
		2023	2024
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Consuming Sleeping Pills	0.4% (643)	0.4% (684)
2	Drowning	4.1% (7,075)	4.4% (7463)
3	Fire/Self Immolation	1.5% (2,591)	1.2% (2068)
4	Firearms	0.2% (343)	0.2% (315)
5	By Hanging	60.9% (1,04,454)	62.3% (106372)
6	By Poison	25.0% (42,787)	24.5% (41818)
7	By Self inflicting Injury	0.4% (637)	0.3% (476)
8	By Jumping	1.0% (1,685)	1.1% (1866)
9	By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains	2.8% (4,803)	2.5% (4259)
10	By Touching Electric Wire	0.3% (451)	0.3% (461)
11	By Other Means	3.5% (5,949)	2.9% (4964)
12	**Total**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Note: Bracket ( ) refer to Number of victims who have committed suicides

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

The numbers of male victims were more than females in all means of suicide.

Suicides in Cities

City refers to mega city i.e. city having population of 10,00,000 or more.

The numbers of suicides in 53 mega cities show an increasing trend during 2021 to 2022 and decreasing trend during 2023 and further increasing trend during 2023 to 2024. It increased by 8.8% (to 25,891) in 2021 and increased by 1.5% (to 26,282) in 2022. It decreased by 0.7% (to 26,095) in 2023 and increased by % 0.2 (to 26,150) in 2024. Details on year-wise incidents in cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change during 2021 - 2024 may be seen in **LIST–2.7**.

LIST–2.7

Incidence of Suicides in Mega-Cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change over previous year during 2021 – 2024

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities Share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over Previous Year (Incidence)
2021	25,891	15.8	16.1	8.8
2022	26,282	15.4	16.4	1.5
2023	26,095	15.2	16.2	-0.7
2024	26,150	15.3	16.3	0.2

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of the Mega Cities, the four Metropolitan Cities — Delhi City (2,905), Bengaluru (2,403), Chennai (1,525), and Mumbai (1,406) have reported higher number of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 31.5% of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities. Bengaluru has shown an increase of 1.4% (from 2,370 suicides in 2023 suicides to 2,403 suicides in 2024). Delhi City has shown a decline of 7.2% (from 3,131 suicides to 2,905 suicides), Mumbai 0.6% (from 1,415 suicides to 1,406 suicides) and Chennai 0.3% (from 1529 suicides to 1,525 suicides). **[Table–2.3]**

The suicide rate in cities (16.3) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (12.2). Kollam followed by Rajkot have reported the highest suicides rate of 51.5 and 39.3 respectively. **[Table–2.2].**

'Family Problems (other than marriage related issues)' was the major cause of suicide in cities which accounted for 33.6% (8,794) followed by 'Illness' (15.3%) (3,994) victims out of 26,150 victims.

However, a total of 1,239 victims have committed suicide in 53 mega cities due to 'Marriage Related Issues' accounting for 4.7% of total suicides in the cities.

Mass/Family Suicides

This section provides information on the number of cases where family members have committed suicide jointly. Mass/Family Suicides were reported in 12 States/UT during the year 2024. State/UT & City-wise information on mass/family suicides is presented in **Table–2.14.**

A total of 116 cases of mass/family suicides were registered during the year 2024. In these suicides, a total of 270 persons, comprising of 176 married persons and 94 unmarried persons, lost their lives.

Maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported in Tamil Nadu (32 cases) followed by Punjab (12 cases), Andhra Pradesh (11 cases), Bihar & Rajasthan (10 cases each) and Kerala (9 cases) during 2024 with a total 79 persons in Tamil Nadu, 30 persons in Punjab, 25 persons in Andhra Pradesh, 23 persons in Bihar & Rajasthan each and 19 persons in Kerala losing lives. [Table–2.14]

Out of 53 cities, mass/family suicides were reported in 7 cities. These 7 cities have registered 10 cases of mass/family suicides in which 26 persons have committed suicides during 2024. Among these persons, 16 were married and 10 were unmarried persons. **[Table–2.14]**

****