

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 1,64,033 suicides were reported in the country during 2021 showing an increase of 7.2% in comparison to 2020 and the rate of suicides has increased by 6.2% during 2021 over 2020. **[LIST–2.1]** The incidence and rate of suicides during 2010-2021 is presented in **Table-2.1**.

LIST–2.1

Number of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides during 2017 - 2021

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	2017	1,29,887	13091.6 [#]	9.9
2	2018	1,34,516	13233.8 [#]	10.2
3	2019	1,39,123	13376.1 [#]	10.4
4	2020	1,53,052	13533.9 ^{\$}	11.3
5	2021	1,64,033	13671.8^{\$}	12.0

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**.

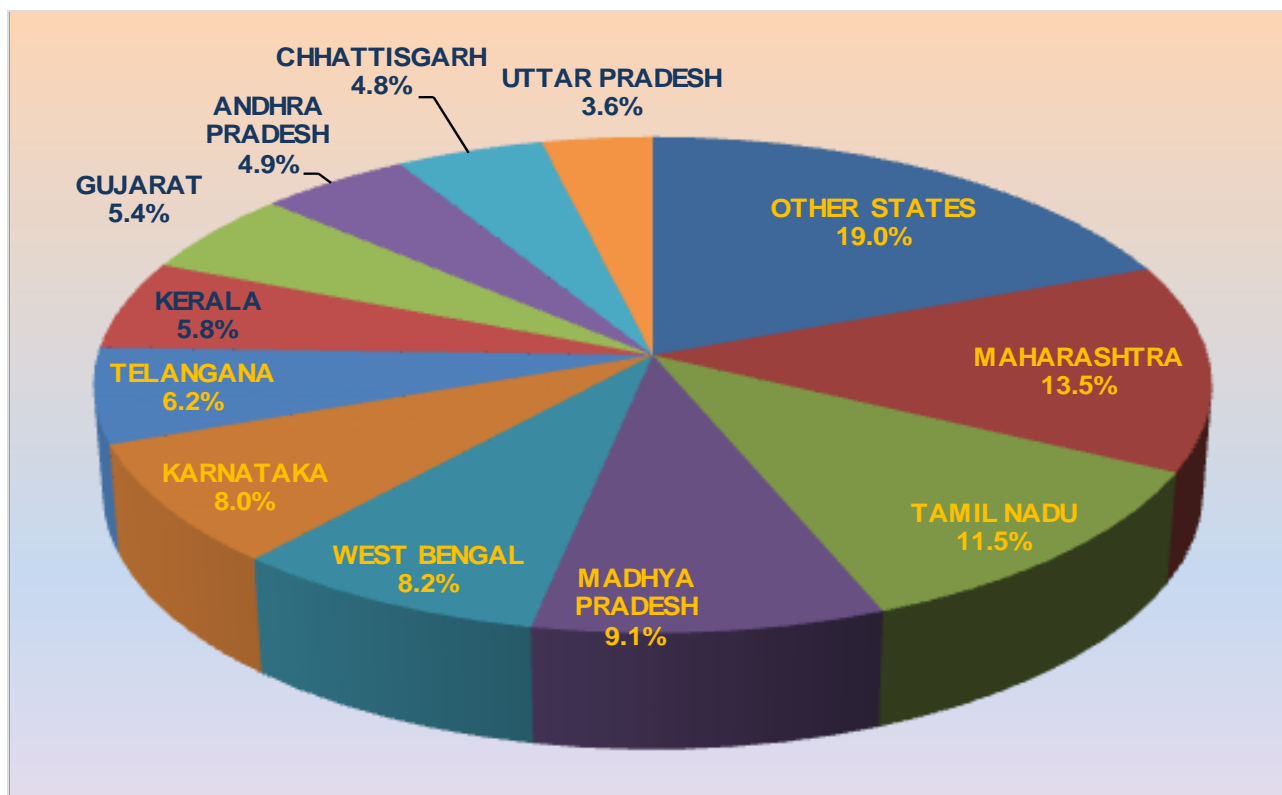
Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (22,207) followed by 18,925 suicides in Tamil Nadu, 14,965 suicides in Madhya Pradesh, 13,500 suicides in West Bengal and 13,056 suicides in Karnataka accounting for 13.5%, 11.5%, 9.1%, 8.2% and 8.0% of total suicides respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 50.4% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 49.6% suicides were reported in

the remaining 23 States and 8 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State (16.9% share of country population) has reported comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.6% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher number of suicidal deaths during the year 2019 to 2021 are presented in the **LIST-2.2**. Each of these States have continuously accounted for about 8.0% or more of the total suicides reported in the country from 2019 to 2021.

FIGURE-2.1

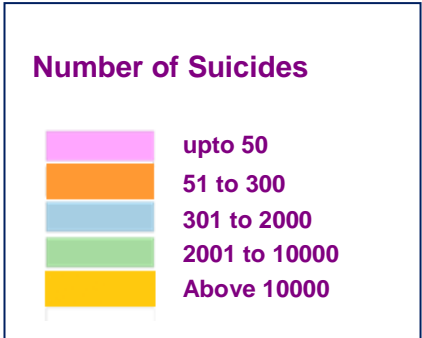
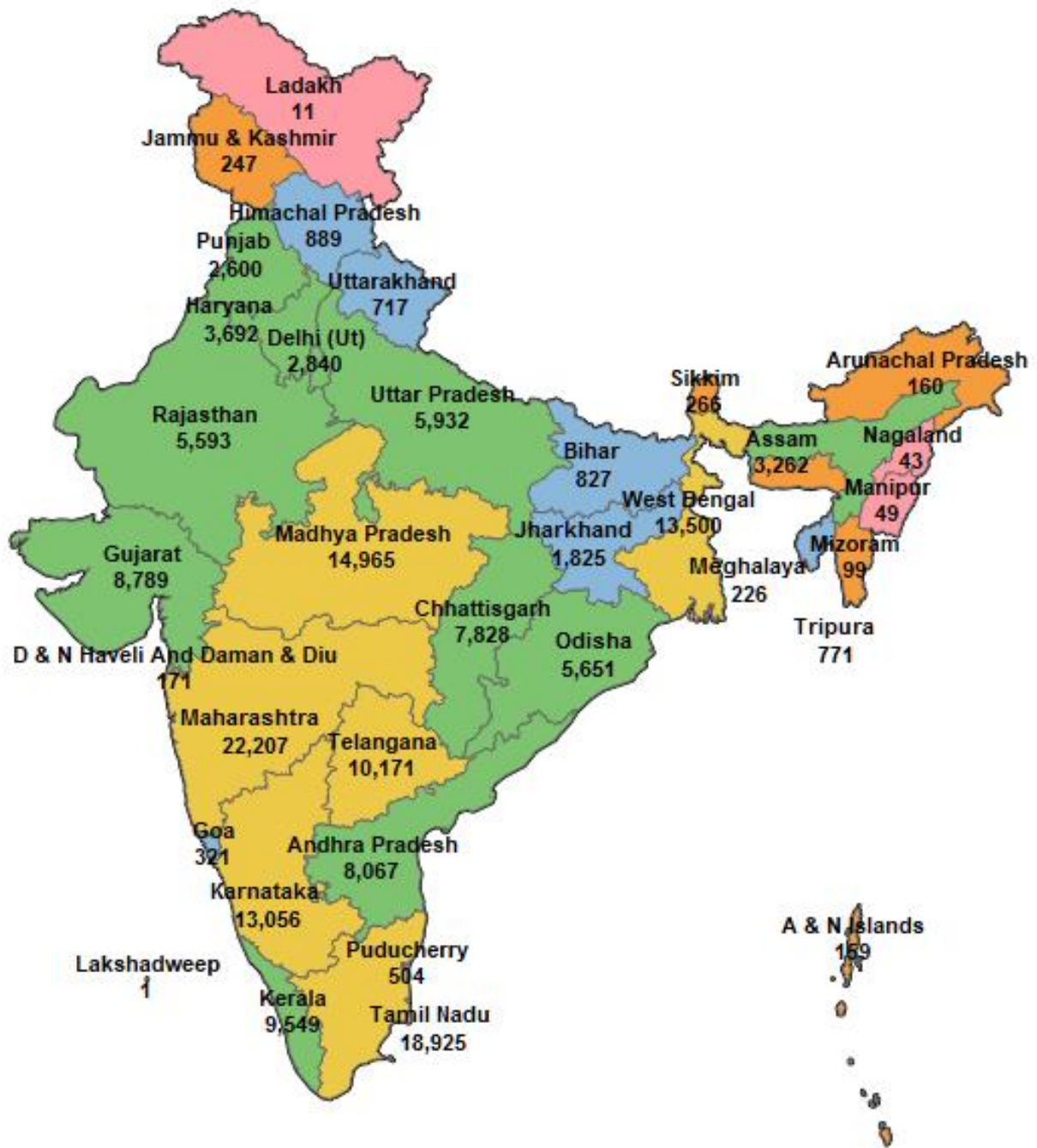
State/UT wise Major Percentage Share of Suicides in States during 2021



- 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, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, A & N Island, Chandigarh, D & N Haveli & Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry

FIGURE-2.2
STATE/UT – WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUICIDES DURING 2021



• As per data provided by States/UTs.

LIST-2.2
States with Higher Percentage Share of Suicides during 2019 to 2021

Sl. No.	Year					
	2019		2020		2021	
1	Maharashtra	(13.6%)	Maharashtra	(13.0%)	Maharashtra	(13.5%)
2	Tamil Nadu	(9.7%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.0%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.5%)
3	West Bengal	(9.1%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.5%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.1%)
4	Madhya Pradesh	(9.0%)	West Bengal	(8.6%)	West Bengal	(8.2%)
5	Karnataka	(8.1%)	Karnataka	(8.0%)	Karnataka	(8.0%)

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Delhi, which is the most-populous UT, has reported the highest number of suicides (2,840) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (504). A total of 25,891 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country during the 2021.

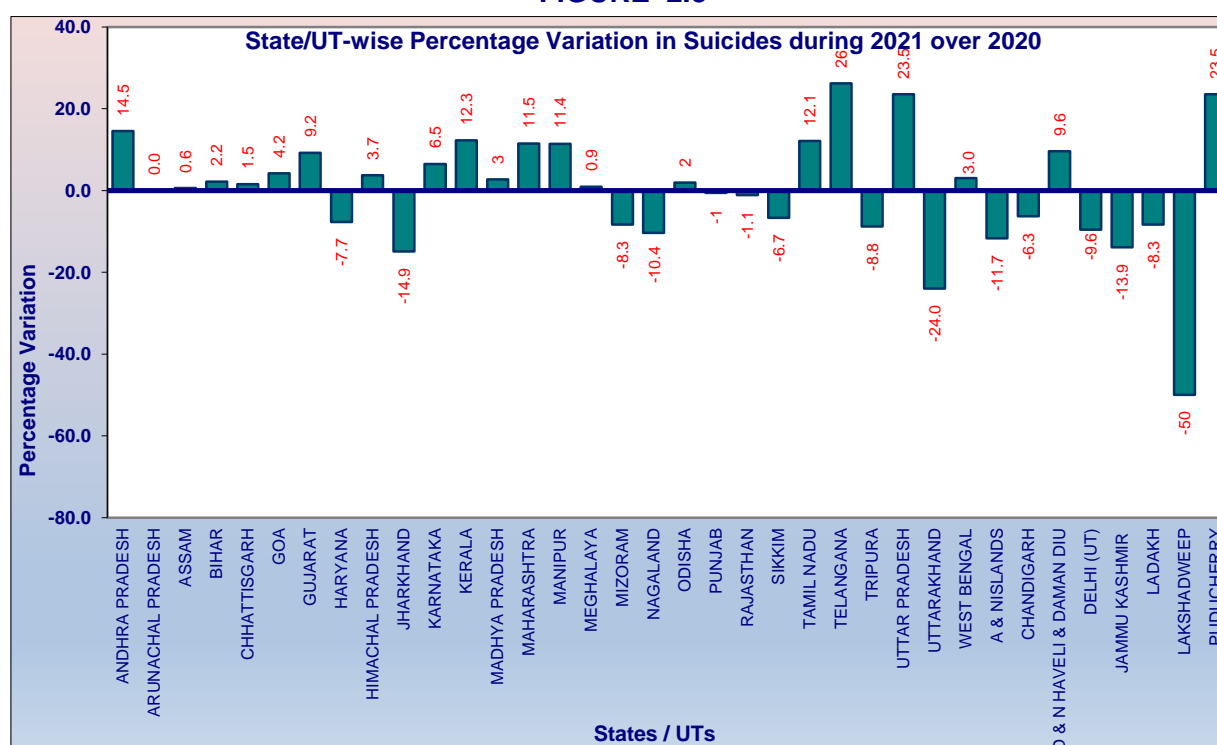
The States and UTs which have reported higher percentage increase in suicides in 2021 over 2020 were Telangana (26.2%), Uttar Pradesh (23.5%), Puducherry (23.5%), Andhra Pradesh (14.5%), Kerala (12.3%), Tamil Nadu (12.1%), Maharashtra (11.5%) and Manipur (11.4%) while highest percentage decrease was reported in Lakshadweep (50.0%), Uttarakhand (24.0%), Jharkhand (15.0%),

Jammu & Kashmir (13.9%) and A & N Islands (11.7%) [Table-2.3, Figure-2.3].

Rate of Suicides — Trend in States/UTs

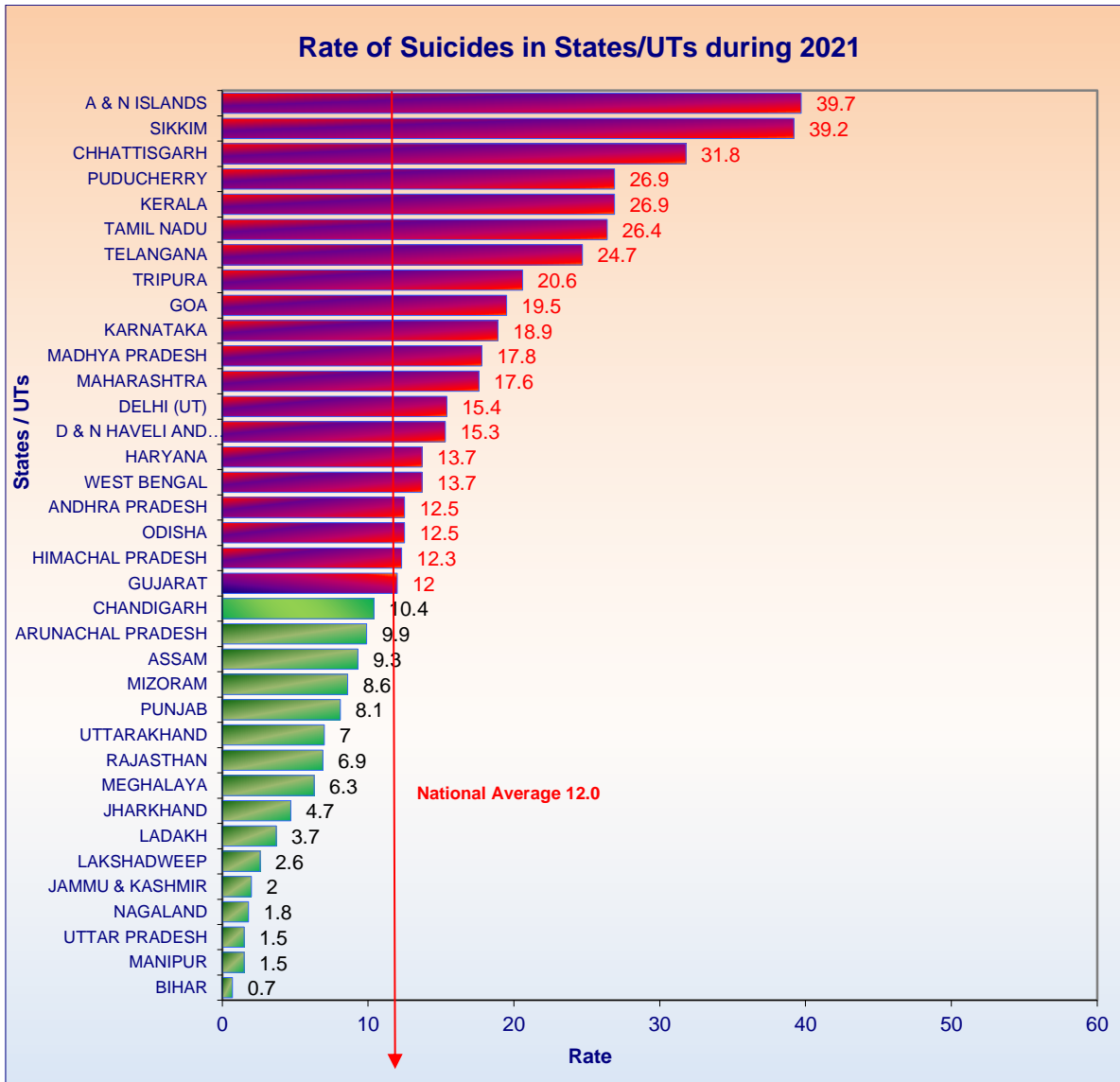
Rate of suicides i.e. the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick for comparison. All India rate of suicides was 12.0 during the year 2021. A & N Islands reported the highest rate of suicide (39.7) followed by Sikkim (39.2), Puducherry (31.8), Telangana (26.9) and Kerala (26.9) [Figure-2.4]. The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2019 to 2021 are given in LIST-2.3.

FIGURE-2.3



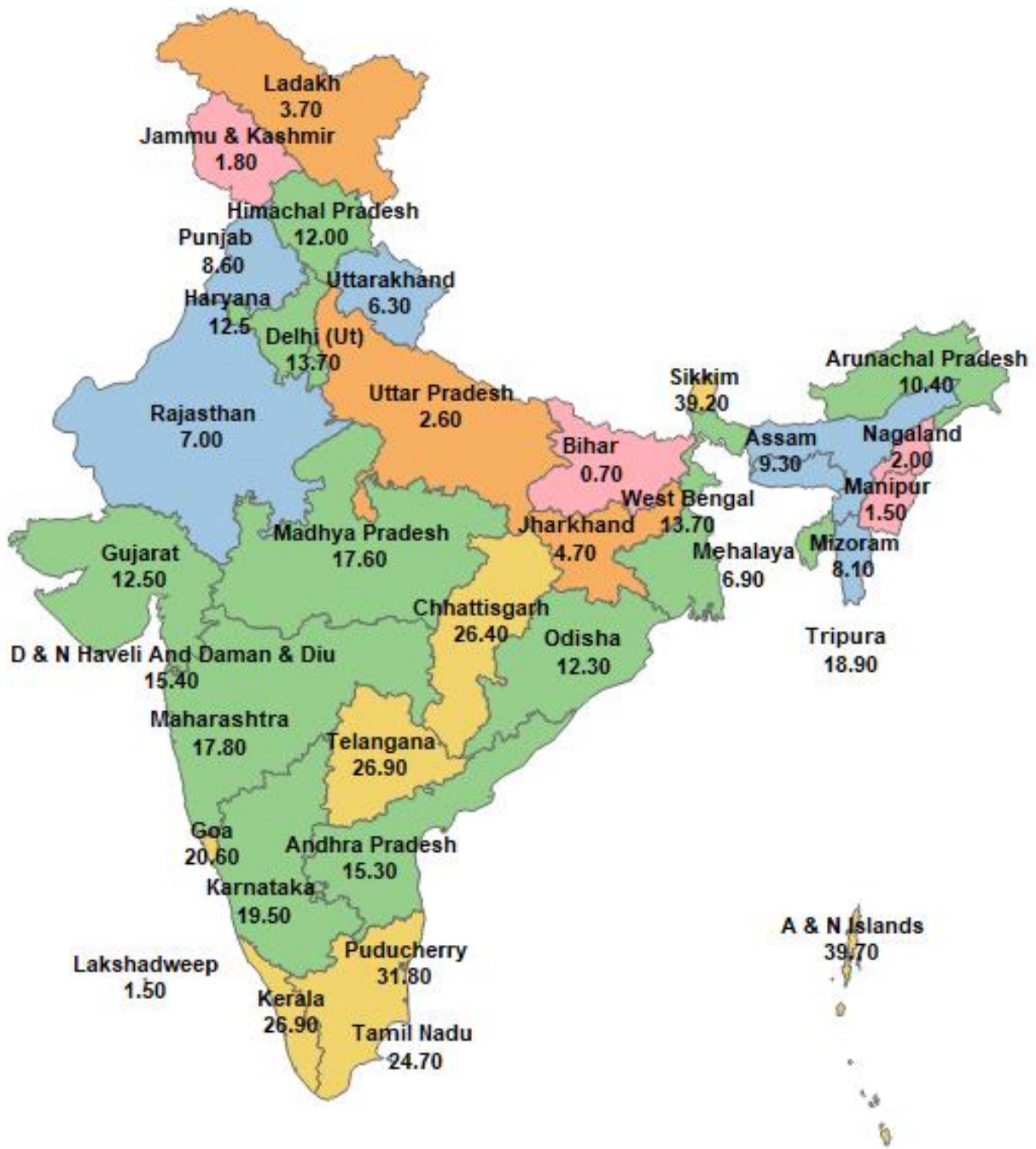
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE-2.4

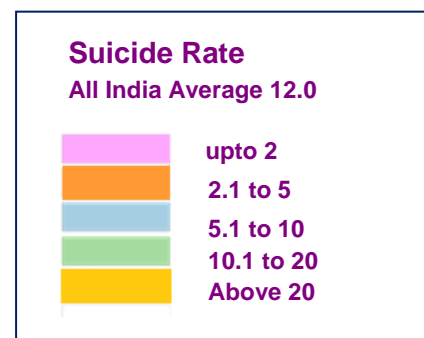


- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE-2.5
STATE/UT - WISE SUICIDE RATE DURING 2021



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 2019 to 2021

	Year					
	2019		2020		2021	
A & N Islands	45.5	A & N Islands	45.0	A & N Islands	39.7	
Sikkim	33.1	Sikkim	42.5	Sikkim	39.2	
Puducherry	32.5	Chhattisgarh	26.4	Puducherry	31.8	
Chhattisgarh	26.4	Puducherry	26.3	Telangana	26.9	
Kerala	24.3	Kerala	24.0	Kerala	26.9	
National Rate	(10.4)	National Rate	(11.3)	National Rate	(12.0)	

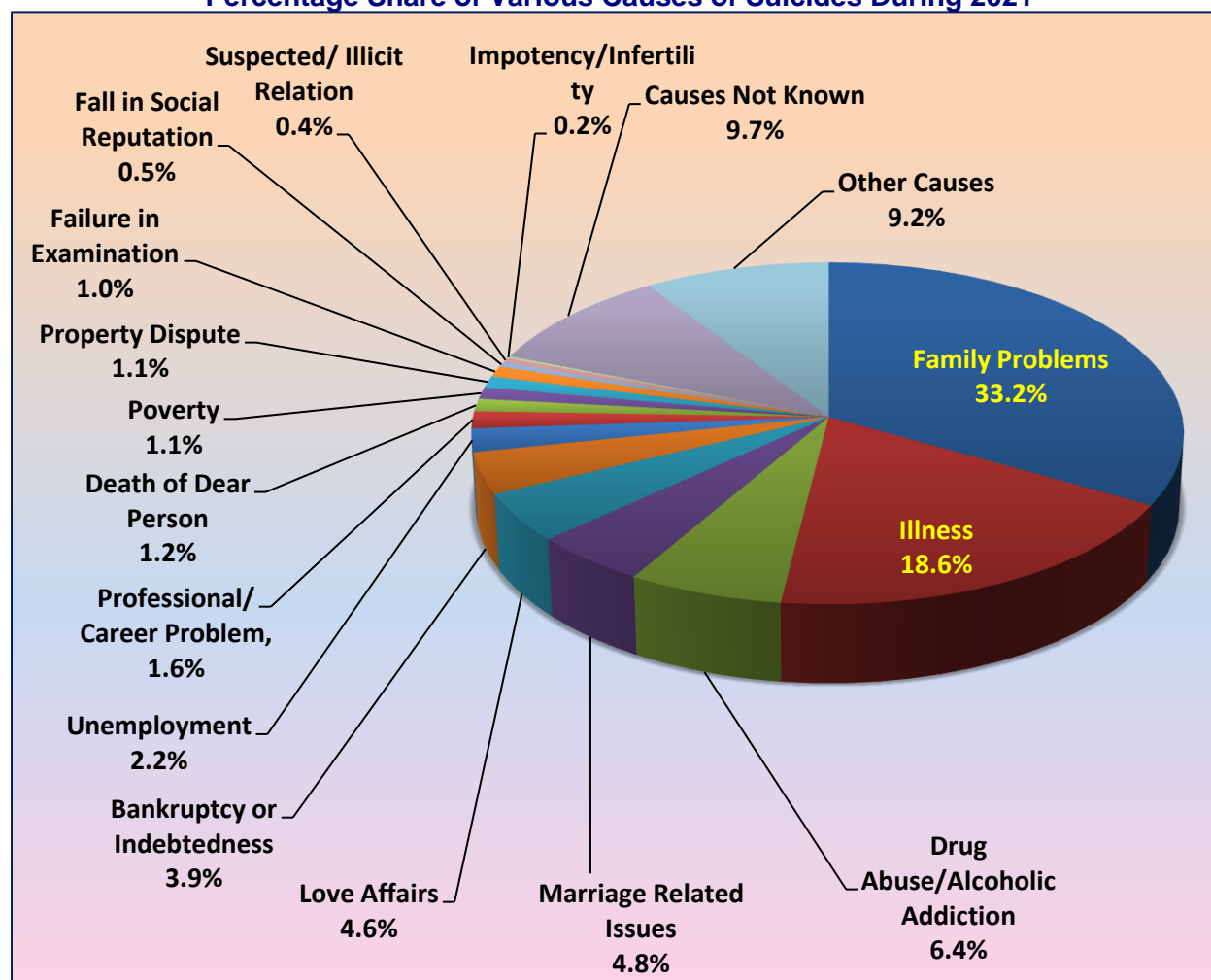
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness' were the major causes of suicides which accounted for 33.2% and 18.6% of total suicides respectively during 2021. 'Drug Abuse/Alcoholic Addiction' (6.4%), 'Marriage Related Issues' (4.8%), 'Love Affairs' (4.6%), 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (3.9%), 'Unemployment' (2.2%), 'Failure in Examination' (1.0%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (1.6%) and 'Poverty' (1.1%) were other causes of suicides [Table-2.4].

(4.8%), 'Love Affairs' (4.6%), 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (3.9%), 'Unemployment' (2.2%), 'Failure in Examination' (1.0%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (1.6%) and 'Poverty' (1.1%) were other causes of suicides [Table-2.4].

FIGURE-2.6
Percentage Share of Various Causes of Suicides During 2021



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

* Figure of Suicides due to ideological causes/hero worshipping, physical abuse (rape etc.) 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 Sex and Age Group

Age group wise distribution of suicides by causes during 2021 is presented in **Table–2.0**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Details on professional status of suicide victims are presented in **Table–2.6**. Housewives accounted for 51.5% of the total female victims (23,179 out of 45,026) and constitute nearly 14.1% of total victims who committed suicides (23,179 out of 1,64,033) during 2021.

Government servants accounted for 1.2% (1,898) as compared to 7.0% (11,431) from Private Sector Enterprises out of 1,64,033 of

LIST–2.4
States & UTs Reporting Higher Share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2021

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
18.6				33.2			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share
1	PUNJAB	1164	44.8	1	ODISHA	4033	71.4
2	SIKKIM	119	44.7	2	TRIPURA	544	70.6
3	A & N ISLANDS	53	33.3	3	KERALA	4552	47.7
4	ANDHRA PRADESH	2469	30.6	4	HIMACHAL PRADESH	415	46.7
5	TAMIL NADU	5386	28.5	5	TELANGANA	4464	43.9
6	HIMACHAL PRADESH	230	25.9	6	TAMIL NADU	8073	42.7
7	KARNATAKA	3042	23.3	7	BIHAR	350	42.3
8	MIZORAM	23	23.2	8	RAJASTHAN	2270	40.6
9	GOA	73	22.7	9	CHANDIGARH	46	38.3
10	PUDUCHERRY	113	22.4	10	UTTAR PRADESH	2235	37.7
11	KERALA	2006	21.0	11	ASSAM	1191	36.5
12	MADHYA PRADESH	3132	20.9	12	MAHARASHTRA	7693	34.6
13	HARYANA	768	20.8				
14	GUJARAT	1788	20.3				
15	TRIPURA	144	18.7				

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

victims for the year 2021 was 72.5 : 27.4, which is more as compared to year 2020 (70.9 : 29.1). The proportion of female victims were more in ‘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 34.5% and 31.7% suicides respectively. ‘Family Problems’ (3,233), ‘Love Affairs’ (1,495) and ‘Illness’ (1,408) were the main causes of suicides among children (below 18 years of age).

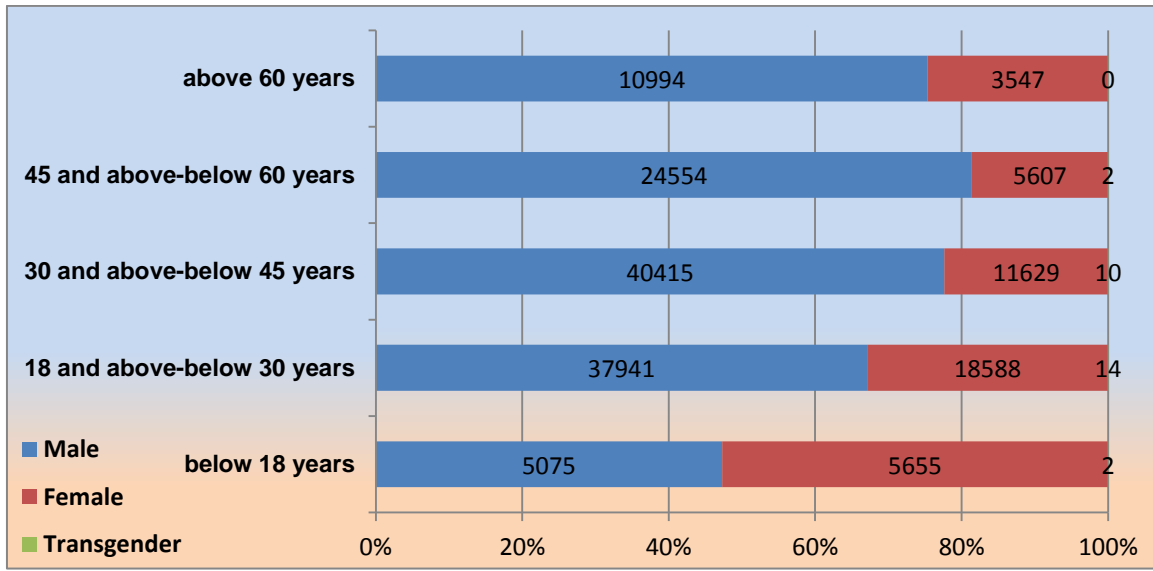
total victims. Employees from Public Sector Undertakings formed 1.5% (2,541), whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 8.0% (13,089 victims) and 8.4% (13,714 victims) of total suicides respectively. Self-employed category accounted for 12.3% of total suicide victims (20,231 out of 1,64,033).

A total of 10,881 persons involved in farming sector (consisting of 5,318 farmers/cultivators and 5,563 agricultural labourers) have committed suicides during 2021, accounting for 6.6% of total suicides victims (1,64,033) in the country. Out of 5,318 farmer/cultivator suicides, a total of 5,107 were male and 211 were female.

Out of 5,563 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2021, 5,121 were male and 442 were female.

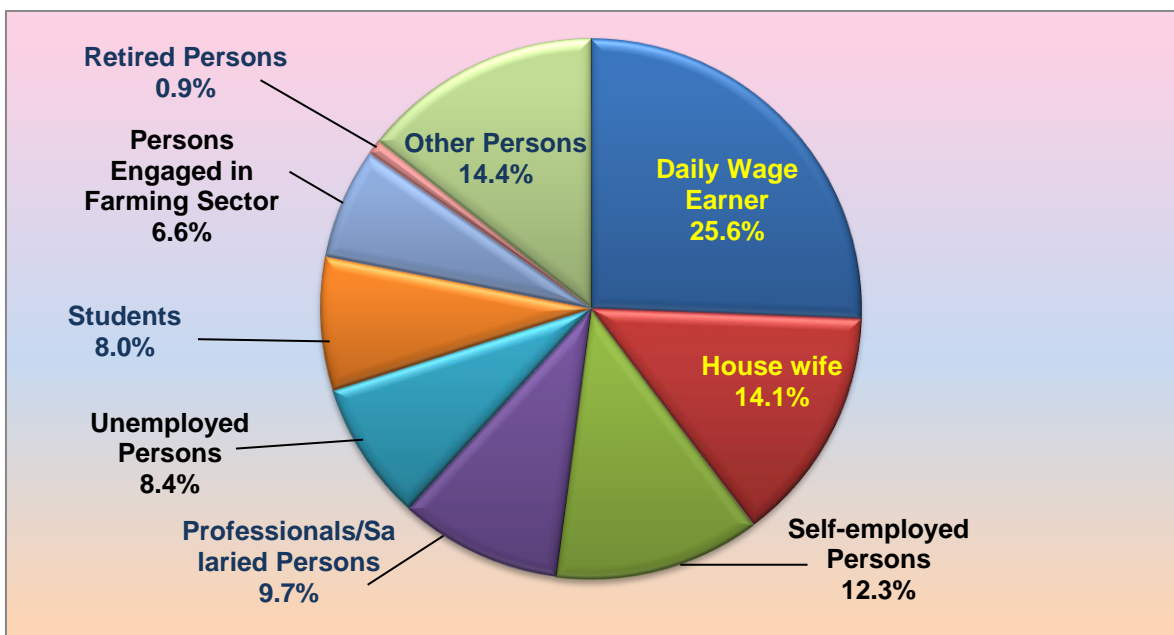
Certain States/UTs namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry reported zero suicides of Farmers/Cultivators as well as Agricultural Labourers.

FIGURE-2.7
Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group during 2021



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE-2.8
Percentage Distribution of Suicide Victims by Profession During 2021



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of total 1,18,979 male suicides, maximum suicides were committed by daily wage earners (37,751) followed by self-employed persons (18,803) and Unemployed Persons (11,724). A total of 45,026 females committed suicides during 2021 in the country. Of females who committed suicides, highest number (23,178) was of house-wives followed by students (5,693) and daily wage earners (4,246). A total of 28 transgender have committed suicide. Out of 28 transgender, 9 were 'Unemployed Persons' and 7 were 'Daily Wage Earners', 2 were 'Self-employed Persons' and 1 each under 'House-wives' and 'Professional/Salaried Persons', while 8 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 (3,221 out of 23,179) followed by Madhya Pradesh (3,055 out of 23,179 suicides) and Maharashtra (2,861 suicides) which accounted for 13.9%, 13.2% and 12.3% of total such suicides during 2021 respectively. Majority of suicides committed by government servants were reported in Tamil Nadu (284 out of 1,898 suicides) followed by Maharashtra (225 suicides), Karnataka (160 suicides), Madhya Pradesh (145 suicides) and Rajasthan (125 suicides) which accounted for 15.0%, 11.9%, 8.4%, 7.6% and 6.6% of total such suicides respectively. Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in Private Sector Enterprises were reported in Maharashtra (2,139 out of 11,431 suicides), Tamil Nadu (1,196 suicides), Karnataka (1,079 suicides), Telangana (952 suicides) and Kerala (900 suicides), they accounted for 18.7%, 10.5%, 9.4%, 8.3% and 7.9% of total such suicides respectively. Of total suicides committed by students, 14.0% were reported in Maharashtra (1,834 suicides out of 13,089) followed by 10.0% in Madhya Pradesh (1,308 suicides), 9.5% in Tamil Nadu (1,246 suicides) and 6.5% in Karnataka (855 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by un-employed persons, 12.6% were in Maharashtra (1,734 out of 13,714 suicides), 12.1% in Tamil Nadu (1,657 suicides), 12.1% in Kerala (1,654 suicides) and 8.2% in Karnataka (1,129 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in business activities were reported by Karnataka (14.3%), Maharashtra (13.2%),

Madhya Pradesh (11.3%), Tamil Nadu (9.4%), and Telangana (7.5%). Majority of victims engaged in farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (37.3%), Karnataka (19.9%), Andhra Pradesh (9.8%), Madhya Pradesh (6.2%) and Tamil Nadu (5.5%).

Social Status of Suicide Victims

Social 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 social status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(I)**. It is observed that 66.9% (1,09,749 out of 1,64,033) of the suicide victims were married while 24.0% were un-married (39,421). Widowed/Widower, Divorcees and Separated have accounted for 1.5% (2,485 victims), 0.5% (788 victims) and 0.5% (871 victims) of total suicide victims respectively during 2021.

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

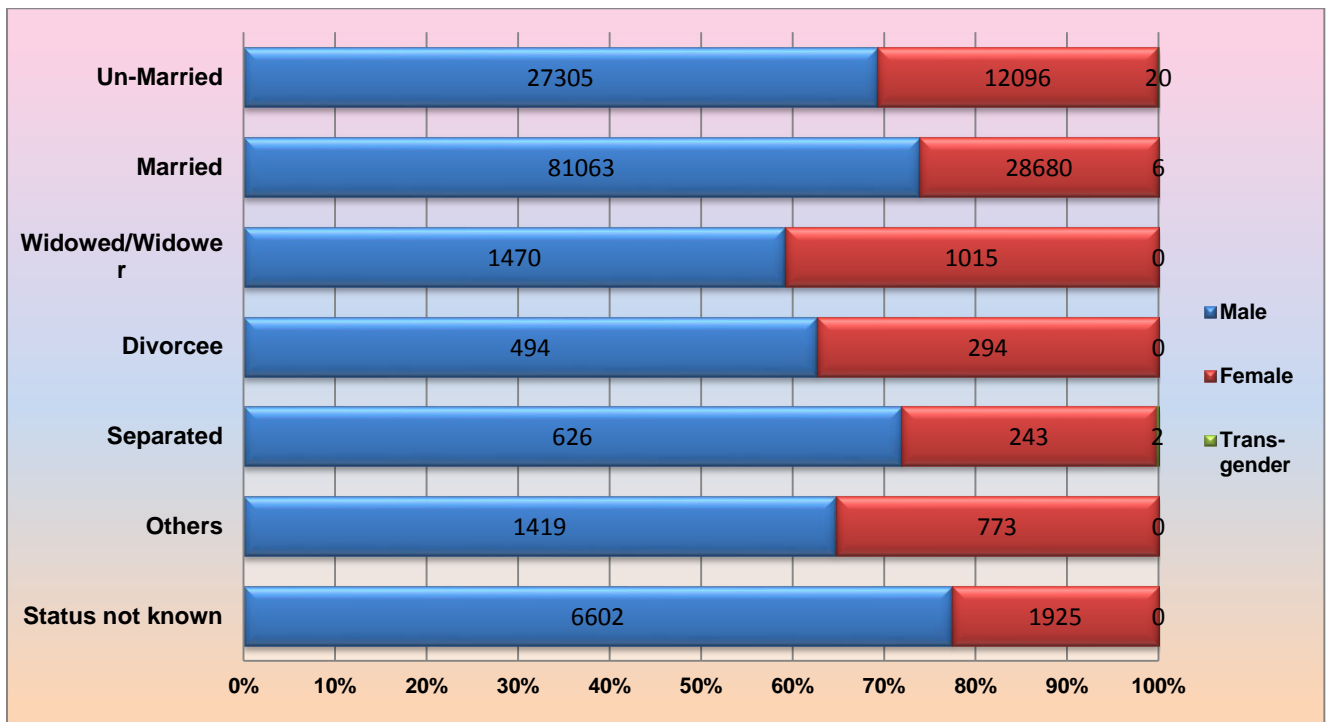
Economic Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the economic status of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(II)**. 64.2% (1,05,242) of suicide victims in 2021 were having annual income of less than ₹1 lakh. 31.6% (51,812) 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

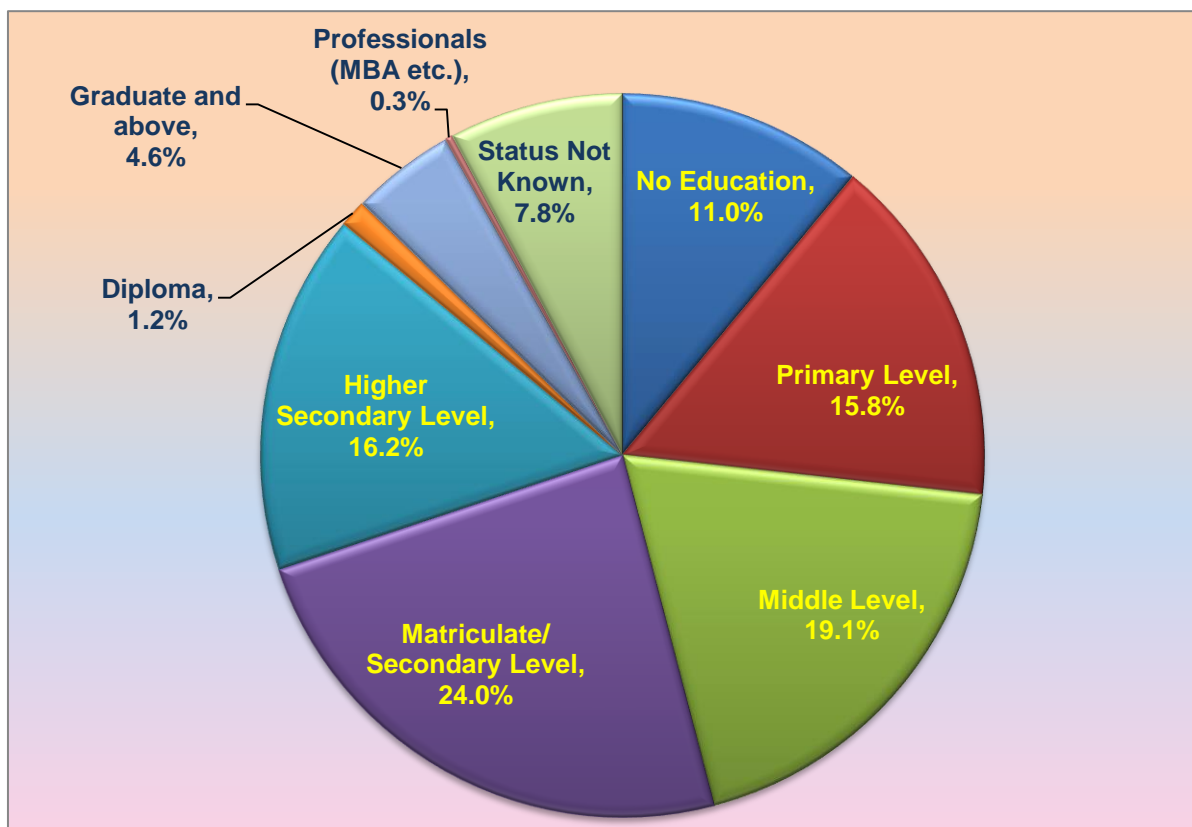
The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(III)**. The maximum numbers of suicide victims (24.0%) (39,333) were educated up to Matriculation/ Secondary level, whereas Middle level educated accounted for 19.1% (31,404), Primary educated (15.8%) (25,878), Hr. Secondary / Intermediate/Pre-University educated (16.2%) (26,492) and Illiterate (11.0%) (18,018). Only 4.6% (7,613 out of 1,64,033 victims) of total suicide victims were graduates and above.

FIGURE-2.9
Distribution of Suicide Victims by Social Status during 2021



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

FIGURE-2.10
Percentage Share of Suicide Victims by Educational Status during 2021



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

LIST-2.5

Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level during 2019– 2021

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2019	2020	2021
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	12.6	12.6	11.0
2	Primary Level	16.3	15.8	15.8
3	Middle Level	19.6	19.5	19.1
4	Matriculate/Secondary Level	23.3	23.4	24.0
5	Higher Secondary Level	14.0	15.9	16.2
6	Diploma	1.2	1.3	1.2
7	Graduate & above	3.7	4.0	4.6
8	Professionals (MBA etc.)	0.2	0.3	0.3
9	Status Not Known	8.9	7.2	7.8
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 39,333 suicides committed by persons educated up-to matriculate/secondary level, 17.8% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (11.8%) and Kerala (9.6%). Out of 31,404 suicides committed by persons educated up-to middle level, 13.8% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (12.9%) and Madhya Pradesh (10.7%). Out of 18,018 suicides committed by persons with no education 14.2% were reported in Telangana followed by Madhya Pradesh (13.7%) and Tamil Nadu (9.7%) [**Table-2.11**].

Percentage share of suicide victims by educational level during 2019-21 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' (57.0%), consuming 'Poison' (25.1%), 'Drowning' (5.1%) and 'Fire/Self-Immolation' (2.6%) were the prominent means/mode of committing suicide. [**Table-2.12**]

Percentage share of the means adopted in committing suicide during 2020-21 is presented in **LIST-2.6**.

As mode adopted by suicide victims, the share of Consuming Sleeping Pills (from 0.6% to 0.4%), Drowning (5.2% to 5.1%), 'Fire/Self Immolation' (from 3.0% to 2.6%) ,Firearms (from 0.3% to 0.2%), 'Hanging' (from 57.8% to 57.0%), 'By Jumping' (from 1.2% to 1.1%) has decreased while shares of 'By Poison' (from 25.0% to 25.1%) and 'By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains' (from 1.7% to 2.4%) have increased during 2021 over 2020. [**LIST-2.6**]

The sex-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 2020-2021

SL.	Means/Mode Adopted	Percentage & Number	
		2020	2021
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Consuming Sleeping Pills	0.6% (882)	0.4% (737)
2	Drowning	5.2% (7,977)	5.1% (8,370)
3	Fire/Self Immolation	3.0% (4,603)	2.6% (4,195)
4	Firearms	0.3% (444)	0.2% (386)
5	By Hanging	57.8% (88,460)	57.0% (93,580)
6	By Poison	25.0% (38,336)	25.1% (41,197)
7	By Self inflicting Injury	0.3% (457)	0.3% (492)
8	By Jumping	1.2% (1,843)	1.1% (1,757)
9	By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains	1.7% (2,626)	2.4% (3,974)
10	By Touching Electric Wire	0.4% (629)	0.4% (627)
11	By Other Means	4.4% (6,795)	5.3% (8,718)
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 number of male victims were more than females in all means of suicide except those who committed suicides by 'Fire/Self-

immolation' where share of female victims was more (2,435 out of 4,195).

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 2018 to 2021. It increased by 0.8% (to 21,408) in 2018 and increased by 4.6% (to 22,390) in 2019. It increased by 6.5% (to 23,855) in 2020 and increased by 8.5% (to 25,891) in 2021. Details on year-wise incidents in cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change during 2018 - 2021 may be seen in **LIST-2.7**.

followed by 'Illness' (17.4%) (4,509) victims out of 25,891 victims.

However, a total of 1,032 victims have committed suicide in 53 mega cities due to 'Marriage Related Issues' accounting for 4.0% 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 during the year 2021. State/UT & City-wise information on mass/family suicides is presented in **Table-2.14**.

LIST-2.7

Incidence of Suicides in Mega-Cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change over previous year during 2018 – 2021

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities Share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over Previous Year (Incidence)
2018	21,408	15.9	13.3	0.8
2019	22,390	16.1	13.9	4.6
2020	23,855	15.6	14.8	6.5
2021	25,891	15.8	16.1	8.8

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of the Mega Cities, the four Metropolitan Cities — Delhi City (2,760), Chennai (2,699), Bengaluru (2,292) and Mumbai (1,436) have reported higher number of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 35.5% of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities. Delhi City has shown a decline during 2021 over 2020. Chennai has shown an increase of 11.1% (from 2,430 suicides to 2,699 suicides), Bengaluru 4.4% (from 2,196 suicides to 2,292 suicides) and Mumbai has observed an increase of 12.0% (from 1,282 suicides to 1,436 suicides). **[Table-2.3]**

The suicide rate in cities (16.1) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (12.0). Kollam followed by Asansol have reported the highest suicides rate of 43.9 and 38.5 respectively. **[Table-2.2]**.

'Family Problems (other than marriage related issues)' was the major cause of suicide in cities which accounted for 34.7% (8,976)

A total of 131 cases of mass/family suicides were registered during the year 2021. In these suicides, a total of 340 persons, comprising of 197 married persons and 143 unmarried persons, lost their lives.

Maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported in Tamil Nadu (33 cases) followed by Rajasthan (25 cases), Andhra Pradesh (22 cases), Kerala (12 cases) and Karnataka (10 cases) during 2021 with a total 80 persons in Tamil Nadu, 67 persons in Rajasthan, 56 persons in Andhra Pradesh, 31 persons in Karnataka and 26 persons in Kerala losing lives. **[Table-2.14]**

Out of 53 cities, mass/family suicides were reported in 11 cities. These 11 cities have registered 29 cases of mass/family suicides in which 75 persons have committed suicides during 2021. Among these persons, 44 were married and 31 were unmarried persons. **[Table-2.14]**
