

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, dramatically 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 of the Population Census 2011 was used.

A total of 1,29,887 suicides were reported in the country during 2017 showing a decrease of 0.9% in comparison to 2016 and the rate of suicides has decreased by 0.4 during 2017 over 2016. [Table–2 (A)] The incidence and rate of suicides during 2007-2017 is presented in Table-2.1.

Table – 2 (A)

Number of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides during 2013 - 2017

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	2013	1,34,799	12,287.9	11.0
2	2014	1,31,666	12,440.4	10.6
3	2015	1,33,623	12,591.1	10.6
4	2016	1,31,008	12,739.9	10.3
5	2017	1,29,887	13091.6#	9.9

* Source: The Registrar General of India.

Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (November, 2019), 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**.

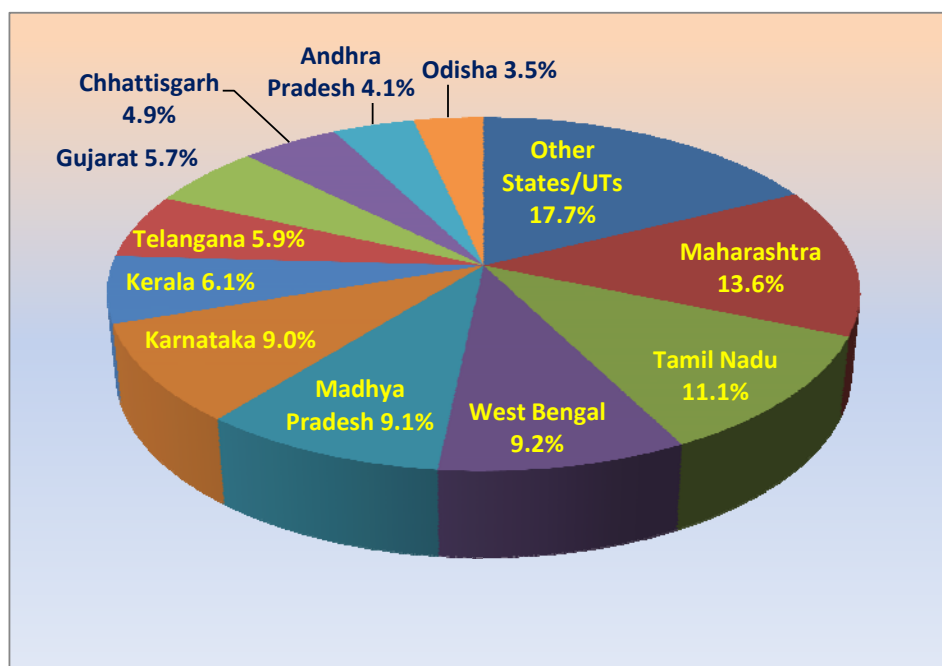
Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (17,646) followed by 14,459 suicides in Tamil Nadu, 12,014 suicides in West Bengal, 11,770 suicides in Madhya Pradesh and 11,716 suicides in Karnataka accounting for 13.6%, 11.1%, 9.2%, 9.1% and 9.0% of total suicides respectively. These 5 States together accounted for 52.0% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 48.0% suicides were reported in

the remaining 24 States and 7 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State (16.8% share of country population) has reported comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.4% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher number of suicidal deaths during the year 2015 to 2017 are presented in the **Table–2(B)**. These States have continuously accounted for about 7.0% or more of the total suicides reported in the country from 2015 to 2017.

Figure – 2.1

State/UT wise Major Percentage Share of Suicides in States during 2017



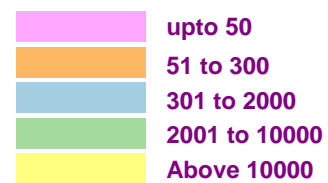
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

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

STATE/UT – WISE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUICIDES DURING 2017



Number of Suicides



Map Powered by DevInfo, UNICEF

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Table – 2 (B)
States with Higher Percentage Share of Suicides during 2015 to 2017

Sl. No.	Year					
	2015		2016		2017	
1	Maharashtra	(12.7%)	Maharashtra	(13.1%)	Maharashtra	(13.6%)
2	Tamil Nadu	(11.8%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.6%)	Tamil Nadu	(11.1%)
3	West Bengal	(10.9%)	West Bengal	(10.3%)	West Bengal	(9.2%)
4	Karnataka	(8.1%)	Karnataka	(8.2%)	Madhya Pradesh	(9.1%)
5	Madhya Pradesh	(7.7%)	Madhya Pradesh	(8.0%)	Karnataka	(9.0%)

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Delhi, which is the most-populous UT, has reported the highest number of suicides (2,462) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (581). Seven UTs together accounted for 2.6% of total suicides in the country. A total of 21,240 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country during the 2017.

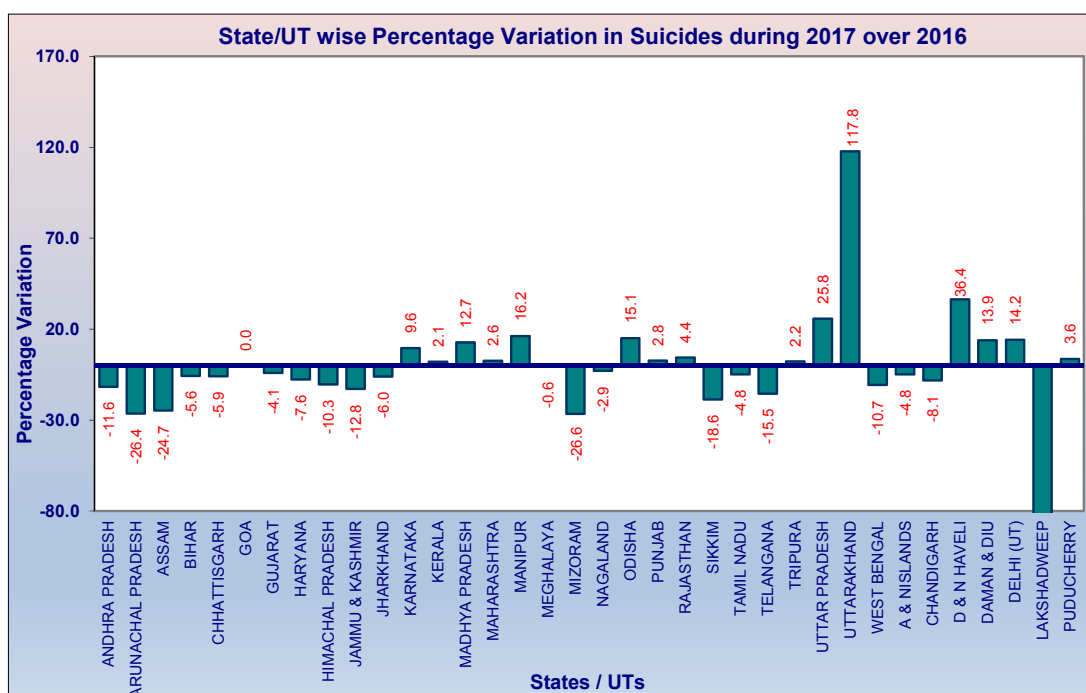
The States and UTs which have reported significant percentage increase in suicides in 2017 over 2016 were Uttarakhand (117.8%), D & N Haveli (36.4%), Uttar Pradesh (25.8%), Manipur (16.2%) and Odisha (15.1%) while highest percentage decrease was reported in Lakshadweep (100.0%), Mizoram (26.6%),

Arunachal Pradesh (26.4%), Assam (24.7%) and Sikkim (18.6%) [Table–2.3].

Rate of Suicides — Trend in States/UTs

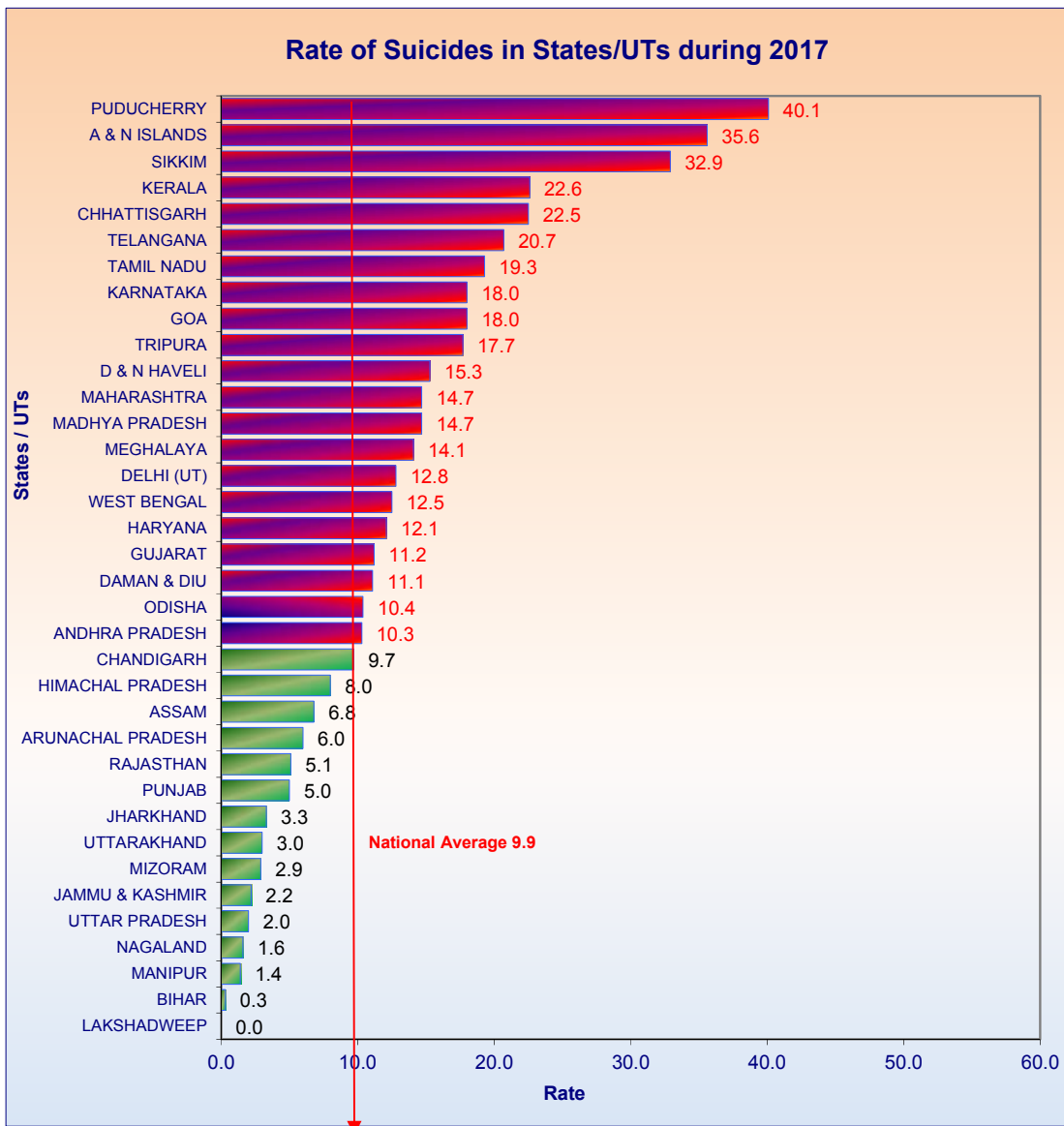
Rate of suicides i.e. the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick for comparison. All India rate of suicides was 9.9 during the year 2017. Puducherry reported the highest rate of suicide (40.1) followed by A & N Islands (35.6), Sikkim (32.9), Kerala (22.6) and Chhattisgarh (22.5). The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2015 to 2017 are given in Table–2(C).

Figure – 2.2



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Figure – 2.3

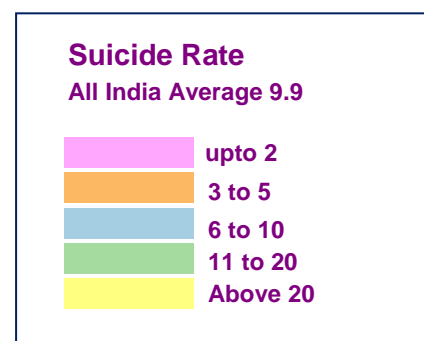


- As per data provided by States/UTs.

STATE/UT - WISE SUICIDE RATE DURING 2017



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



• As per data provided by States/UTs.

Map Powered by DevInfo, UNICEF

Table – 2 (C)
States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2015 to 2017

		Year			
2015		2016		2017	
Puducherry	43.2	Sikkim	40.5	Puducherry	40.1
Sikkim	37.5	Puducherry	33.3	A & N Islands	35.6
A & N Islands	28.9	A & N Islands	26.4	Sikkim	32.9
Chhattisgarh	27.7	Chhattisgarh	25.8	Kerala	22.6
Telangana	27.7	Telangana	24.5	Chhattisgarh	22.5
National Rate	(10.6)	National Rate	(10.3)	National Rate	(9.9)

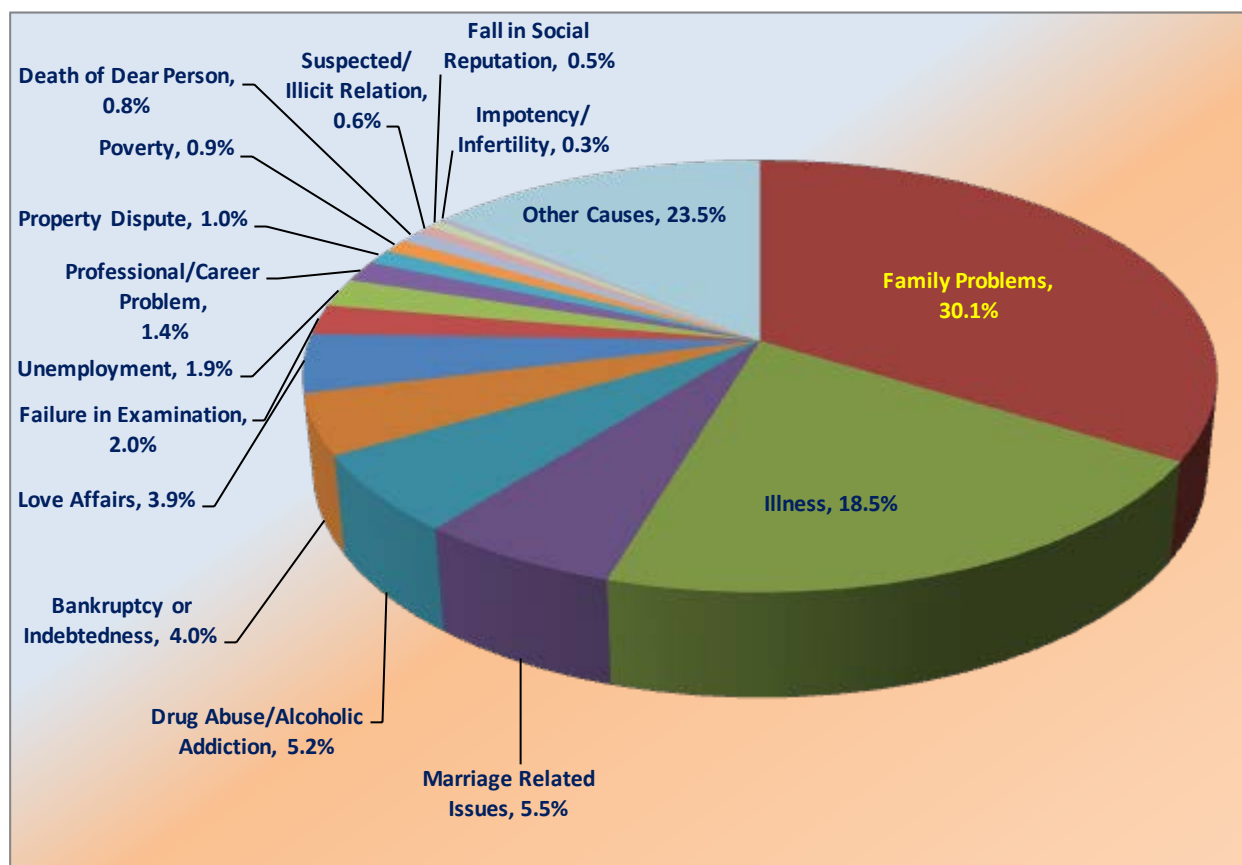
- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness' were the major causes of suicides which accounted for 30.1% and 18.5% of total suicides respectively during 2017. 'Marriage Related Issues' (5.5%), 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' (5.2%)

'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (4.0%), 'Love Affairs' (3.9%), 'Failure in Examination' (2.0%), 'Unemployment' (1.9%), 'Professional/Career Problem' (1.4%) and 'Property Dispute' (1.0%) were other causes of suicides [Table-2.4].

Figure – 2.4
Percentage Share of Various Causes of Suicides During 2017



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

* Figure of Suicides due to Impotency/Infertility, ideological causes/hero worshipping, physical abuse (rape etc.) and illegitimate pregnancy included along with 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. 'Illness' and 'Family Problems' are grouped in the **Table–2(D)**.

Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

Age group wise distribution of suicides by causes during 2017 is presented in **Table–2(E)**. The overall male: female ratio of suicide

15 States/UTs have reported higher percentage share than the All India average in suicides due to 'Illness'. Similarly, 12 States/UTs have reported higher share than the All India average in suicides committed due to 'Family Problems' during the year 2017.

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Details on professional status of suicide victims are presented in **Table–2.6**. Housewives accounted for 52.5% of the total female victims (21,453 out of 40,852) and constitute

Table – 2 (D)
States & UTs Reporting Higher Share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2017

Illness				Family Problems			
All India % Share							
18.5%				30.1%			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% Share
1	Sikkim	81	37.9	1	Chandigarh	73	64.6
2	Punjab	469	31.7	2	Tripura	429	62.0
3	A & N Islands	42	30.2	3	Uttarakhand	157	47.4
4	D & N Haveli	22	29.3	4	Tamil Nadu	6097	42.2
5	Andhra Pradesh	1540	28.8	5	Telangana	3115	40.9
6	Karnataka	3334	28.5	6	Kerala	3147	40.0
7	Puducherry	159	27.4	7	Odisha	1675	37.3
8	Goa	72	26.4	8	Jammu & Kashmir	101	35.2
9	Tamil Nadu	3538	24.5	9	Uttar Pradesh	1549	35.0
10	Tripura	161	23.3	10	Rajasthan	1274	33.2
11	Gujarat	1719	23.2	11	Maharashtra	5689	32.2
12	Kerala	1798	22.8	12	Himachal Pradesh	185	32.1
13	Madhya Pradesh	2635	22.4				
14	Maharashtra	3631	20.6				
15	Mizoram	17	18.7				

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

victims for the year 2017 was 68.5:31.5, showing a marginal increase of male and marginal decrease of female ratio as compared to year 2016 (67.9:32.1). The proportion of female victims were more in 'Marriage Related Issues' specifically in 'Dowry Related Issues', 'Impotency/Infertility' and 'Physical Abuse (rape etc.)'. The age group (18 and above - below 30 years) and persons above 30 years - below 45 years of age were the most vulnerable groups resorting to suicides. These age groups accounted for 34.8% and 31.5% suicides respectively. 'Family Problems' (2,251), 'Failure in Examination' (1,489), 'Illness' (1,113) and 'Love Affairs' (1,006) were the main causes of suicides among children (below 18 years of age).

nearly 16.5% of total victims who committed suicides (21,453 out of 1,29,887) during 2017.

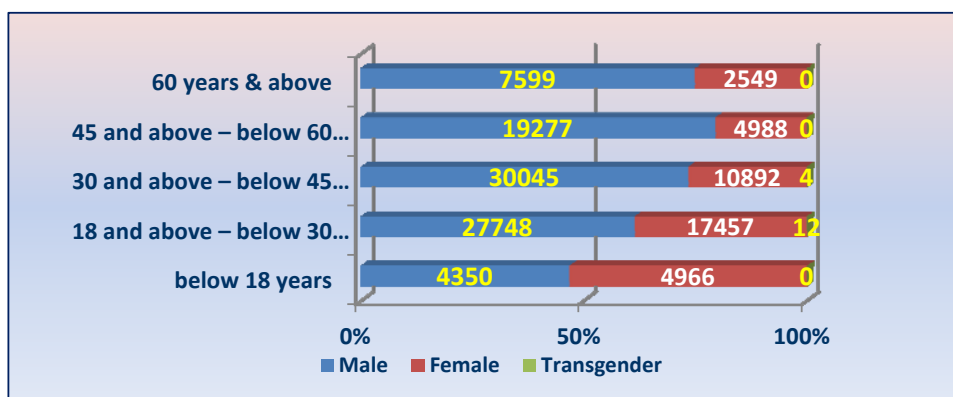
Government servants accounted for 1.3% (1,747 out of 1,29,887) of the total suicide victims as compared to 6.0% (7,750 out of 1,29,887) of total victims from Private Sector Enterprises. Employees from Public Sector Undertakings formed 1.6% (2,042 out of 1,29,887) of the total suicide victims, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 7.6% (9,905 victims) and 9.4% (12,241 victims) of total suicides respectively. Self-employed category accounted for 10.6% of total suicide victims (13,789 out of 1,29,887).

A total of 10,655 persons involved in farming sector (consisting of 5,955 farmers/cultivators and 4,700 agricultural labourers) have committed suicides during 2017, accounting for 8.2% of total suicides victims (1,29,788) in the country. Out of 5,955 farmer/cultivator suicides, a total of 5,633 were male and 322 were female during 2017. Out of 4,700 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2017, 4,219 were

male, 480 were female and 1 was Transgender.

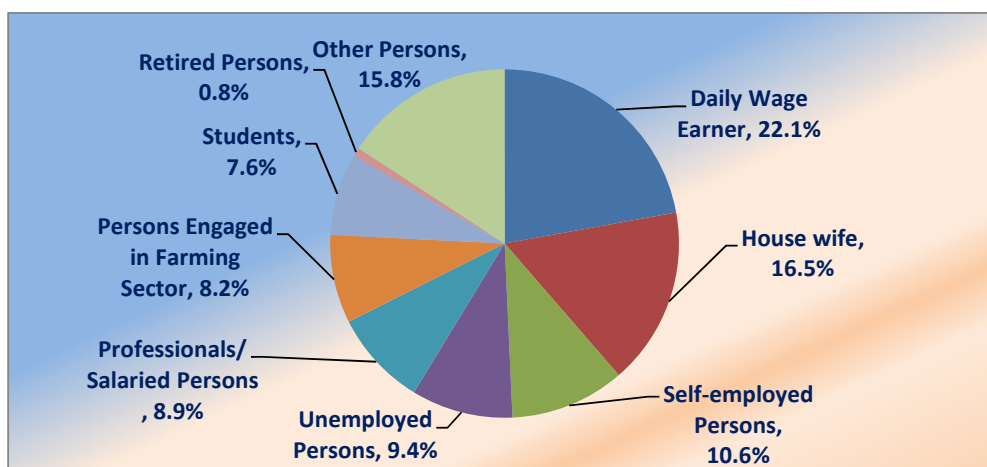
Certain States/UTs namely, West Bengal, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh UT, D & N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi UT, Lakshadweep and Puducherry reported zero suicides of Farmers/Cultivators as well as Agricultural Labourers.

Figure – 2.5
Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group during 2017



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Figure – 2.6
Percentage Distribution of Suicide Victims by Profession During 2017



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Table 2(E)
Age and Gender - wise Distribution of Suicides during 2017
(Cause-wise)

Sl. No.	Cause	Below 18 years				18 yrs. – Below 30 years				30 yrs. – Below 45 years			
		M	F	Tr	T	M	F	Tr	T	M	F	Tr	T
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
1	Bankruptcy or Indebtedness	19	16	0	35	806	94	0	900	2032	152	0	2184
2	Marriage Related Issues (Total)	64	122	0	186	1266	2803	0	4069	1245	1102	0	2347
	2.1 Non Settlement of Marriage	20	57	0	77	537	597	0	1134	440	211	0	651
	2.2 Dowry Related Issues	5	23	0	28	83	1418	0	1501	81	444	0	525
	2.3 Extra Marital Affairs	10	7	0	17	224	234	0	458	283	162	0	445
	2.4 Divorce	2	2	0	4	69	115	0	184	112	92	0	204
	2.5 Others	27	33	0	60	353	439	0	792	329	193	0	522
3	Failure in Examination	742	747	0	1489	618	366	0	984	54	8	0	62
4	Impotency/Infertility	2	7	0	9	43	100	0	143	62	88	0	150
5	Family Problems	960	1291	0	2251	8019	5952	2	13973	8938	4158	0	13096
6	Illness (Total)	458	655	0	1113	3615	2183	4	5802	4829	2065	1	6895
	6.1 AIDS/STD	2	0	0	2	35	8	0	43	77	14	0	91
	6.2 Cancer	4	7	0	11	111	33	0	144	272	90	0	362
	6.3 Paralysis	7	4	0	11	80	24	0	104	218	59	0	277
	6.4 Insanity/ Mental Illness	281	318	0	599	1960	1052	0	3012	2217	911	0	3128
	6.5 Other Prolonged Illness	164	326	0	490	1429	1066	4	2499	2045	991	1	3037
7	Death of Dear Person	38	29	0	67	179	127	1	307	207	117	0	324
8	Drug Abuse/Alcoholic Addiction	45	5	0	50	1691	34	1	1726	2632	60	1	2693
9	Fall in Social Reputation	10	15	0	25	143	47	0	190	172	44	0	216
10	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	5	8	0	13	17	19	0	36	12	9	0	21
11	Love Affairs	375	631	0	1006	2010	1307	0	3317	466	226	0	692
12	Poverty	18	17	0	35	271	68	0	339	399	62	0	461
13	Unemployment	25	12	0	37	1012	139	1	1152	760	81	1	842
14	Property Dispute	34	14	0	48	244	52	0	296	407	52	0	459
15	Suspected/ Illicit Relation (Other than SI. No. 2.3)	11	14	0	25	168	147	0	315	209	115	0	324
16	Illegitimate Pregnancy (Other than SI. No. 2.3)	0	5	0	5	0	20	0	20	0	17	0	17
17	Physical Abuse (Rape, etc.)	5	28	0	33	8	38	0	46	17	7	0	24
18	Professional/Career Problem	34	40	0	74	480	156	0	636	546	83	0	629
19	Causes Not Known	750	681	0	1431	3615	1882	0	5497	3394	1155	1	4550
20	Other Causes	755	629	0	1384	3543	1923	3	5469	3664	1291	0	4955
21	Total	4350	4966	0	9316	27748	17457	12	45217	30045	10892	4	40941

Note: 'M'- refers to Male, 'F'- refers to Female, 'Tr'- refers to Transgender and 'T' – Total
• As per data provided by States/UTs.

Table 2(E)
Age and Gender - wise distribution of Suicides during 2017 (Concluded)
(Cause-wise)

Sl. No.	Cause	45 yrs. – Below 60 years				60 years & above				Total			
		M	F	Tr	T	M	F	Tr	T	M	F	Tr	T
(1)	(2)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
1	Bankruptcy or Indebtedness	1527	91	0	1618	388	26	0	414	4772	379	0	5151
2	Marriage Related Issues (Total)	356	198	0	554	22	18	0	40	2953	4243	0	7196
	2.1 Non Settlement of Marriage	82	23	0	105	1	4	0	5	1080	892	0	1972
	2.2 Dowry Related Issues	12	39	0	51	0	1	0	1	181	1925	0	2106
	2.3 Extra Marital Affairs	59	23	0	82	7	8	0	15	583	434	0	1017
	2.4 Divorce	63	22	0	85	1	0	0	1	247	231	0	478
	2.5 Others	140	91	0	231	13	5	0	18	862	761	0	1623
3	Failure in Examination	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	1418	1122	0	2540
4	Impotency/Infertility	33	18	0	51	5	5	0	10	145	218	0	363
5	Family Problems	5484	1757	0	7241	1832	645	0	2477	25233	13803	2	39038
6	Illness (Total)	4421	1556	0	5977	2944	1257	0	4201	16267	7716	5	23988
	6.1 AIDS/STD	51	16	0	67	14	0	0	14	179	38	0	217
	6.2 Cancer	291	90	0	381	202	75	0	277	880	295	0	1175
	6.3 Paralysis	319	69	0	388	180	68	0	248	804	224	0	1028
	6.4 Insanity/ Mental Illness	1626	615	0	2241	855	411	0	1266	6939	3307	0	10246
	6.5 Other Prolonged Illness	2134	766	0	2900	1693	703	0	2396	7465	3852	5	11322
7	Death of Dear Person	144	84	0	228	92	56	0	148	660	413	1	1074
8	Drug Abuse/Alcoholic Addiction	1719	40	0	1759	464	13	0	477	6551	152	2	6705
9	Fall in Social Reputation	123	14	0	137	35	4	0	39	483	124	0	607
10	Ideological Causes/ Hero Worshipping	18	1	0	19	4	1	0	5	56	38	0	94
11	Love Affairs	72	11	0	83	2	0	0	2	2925	2175	0	5100
12	Poverty	242	20	0	262	85	16	0	101	1015	183	0	1198
13	Unemployment	270	37	0	307	54	12	0	66	2121	281	2	2404
14	Property Dispute	334	58	0	392	85	21	0	106	1104	197	0	1301
15	Suspected/ Illicit Relation (Other than Sl. No. 2.3)	88	19	0	107	3	0	0	3	479	295	0	774
16	Illegitimate Pregnancy (Other than Sl. No. 2.3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42
17	Physical Abuse (Rape, etc.)	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	34	73	0	107
18	Professional/Career Problem	379	55	0	434	75	27	0	102	1514	361	0	1875
19	Causes Not Known	1758	439	0	2197	612	192	0	804	10129	4349	1	14479
20	Other Causes	2305	589	0	2894	893	256	0	1149	11160	4688	3	15851
21	Total	19277	4988	0	24265	7599	2549	0	10148	89019	40852	16	129887

Note: 'M'- refers to Male, 'F'- refers to Female, 'Tr'- refers to Transgender and 'T' – Total
 • As per data provided by States/UTs.

Out of total 89,019 male suicides, maximum suicides were committed by daily wage earners (25,159) followed by self-employed persons (12,497) and Unemployed Persons (10,249). A total of 40,852 females committed suicides during 2017 in the country. 21,453 females who committed suicides were house-wives followed by students (4,711) and daily wage earners (3,578). A total of 16 transgender have committed suicide. Out of 16 transgender, 4 were daily wage earners, 3 were Professional/Salaried Persons, 2 were Unemployed Persons & 1 was Persons Engaged in Farming Sector while profession of 6 falls under 'Other Professions'.

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 Madhya Pradesh (2,904 out of 21,453 suicides) followed by Maharashtra (2,599 suicides) and Tamil Nadu (2,385 suicides) which accounted for 13.5%, 12.1% and 11.1% of total such suicides during 2017 respectively. Majority of suicides committed by government servants were reported in Madhya Pradesh (200 out of 1,747 suicides) followed by Maharashtra (151 suicides), Haryana (148 suicides), Tamil Nadu (142 suicides) and Karnataka (131 suicides) which accounted for 11.4%, 8.6%, 8.5%, 8.1% and 7.5% of total such suicides respectively. Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in Private Sector Enterprises were reported in Maharashtra (1,555 out of 7,750 suicides), Tamil Nadu (1,276 suicides), Gujarat (729 suicides), Karnataka (720 suicides) and Kerala (473 suicides), they accounted for 20.1%, 16.5%, 9.4%, 9.3% and 6.1% of total such suicides respectively. 14.5% of total suicides committed by students were reported in Maharashtra (1,437 suicides) followed by 9.6% in Madhya Pradesh (953 suicides), 8.2% in Tamil Nadu (810 suicides), 7.9% in West Bengal (779 suicides) and 7.1% in Karnataka (702 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by un-employed persons, 12.2% were in Kerala (1,499 out of 12,241 suicides), 10.7% in Maharashtra (1,307 suicides), 9.8% in Karnataka (1,204 suicides), 9.4% in Tamil Nadu (1,148 suicides) and 7.0% in West Bengal (857 suicides). Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in business activities were reported by Maharashtra (12.4%), Tamil Nadu (12.2%), Karnataka (10.5%), West Bengal (10.0%) and

Madhya Pradesh (7.5%). Majority of victims engaged in farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (34.7%), Karnataka (20.3%), Madhya Pradesh (9.0%), Telangana (8.0%) and Andhra Pradesh (7.7%).

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 68.9% (89,537 out of 1,29,887) of the suicide victims were married while 22.2% were un-married (28,809). Widowed/Widower, Separated and Divorcees have accounted for 1.8% (2390 victims), 0.9% (1,226 victims) and 0.6% (836 victims) of total suicide victims respectively during 2017.

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

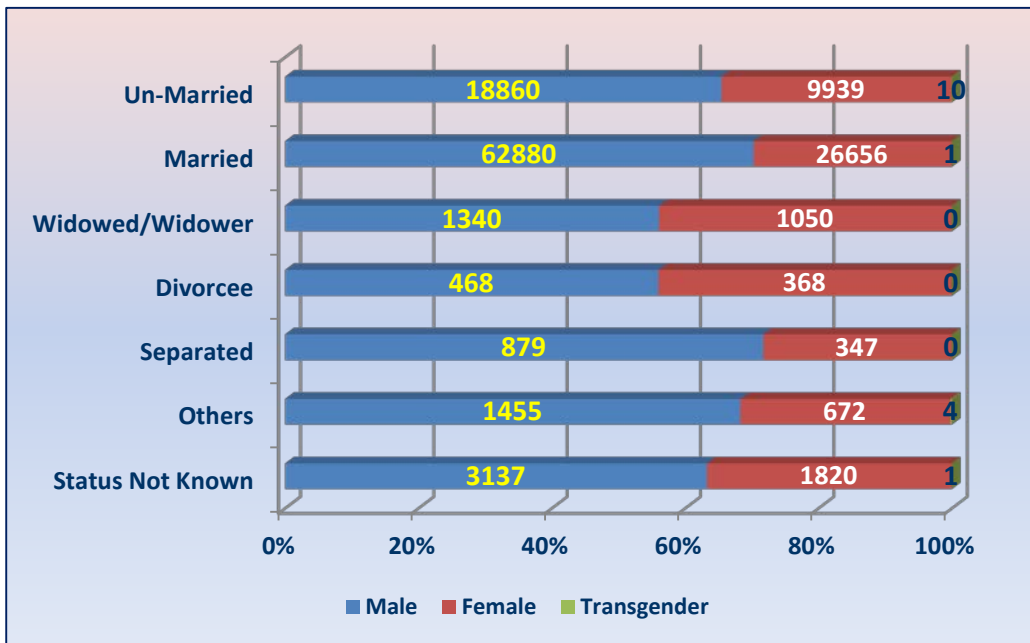
Economic Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the economic status of suicide victims is presented in **Table- 2.8(II)**. 65.4% of suicide victims in 2017 were having annual income of less than ₹1 lakh (84,934 out of 1,29,887 victims). 30.0% (38,958 out of 1,29,887 victims) of suicide victims belong to annual income group of ₹1 lakh & above 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

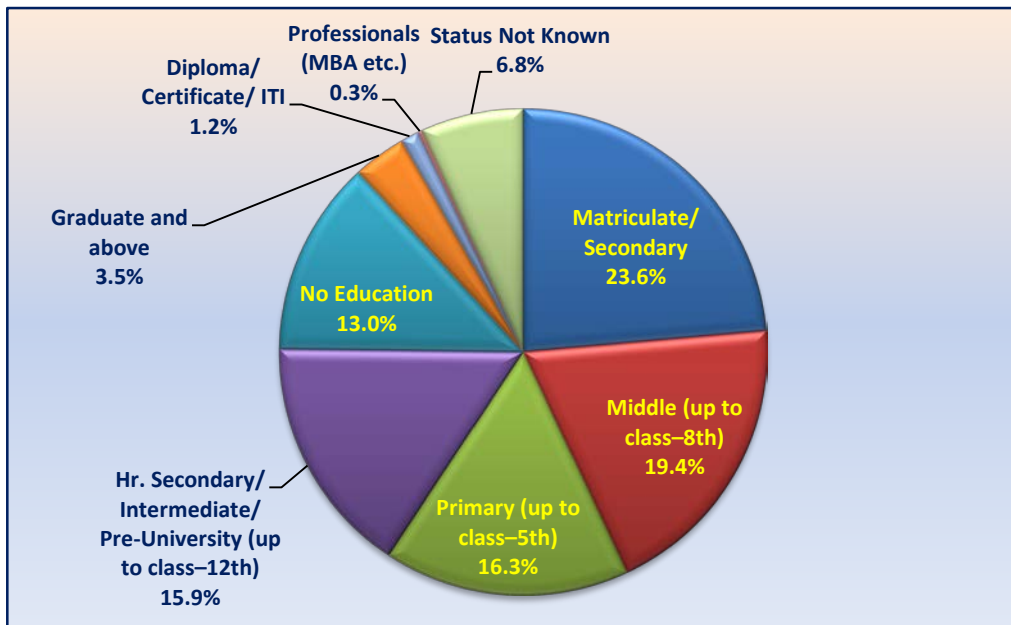
The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table-2.8(III)**. The maximum numbers of suicide victims (23.6%) (30,664 out of 1,29,887 victims) were educated up to Matriculation/Secondary level. Middle level educated, Primary educated and Illiterate persons accounted for 19.4% (25,192 out of 1,29,887 victims), 16.3% (21,225 out of 1,29,887 victims) and 13.0% (16,942 out of 1,29,887 victims) respectively of total suicide victims during 2017. Only 3.5% (4,552 out of 1,29,887 victims) of total suicide victims were graduates and above during 2017.

Figure – 2.7
Distribution of Suicide Victims by Social Status during 2017



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Figure – 2.8
Percentage Share of Suicide Victims by Educational Status during 2017



- As per data provided by States/UTs.

Table – 2 (F)
Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level during 2015 – 2017

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2015	2016	2017
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	13.8	13.8	13.0
2	Primary Level	19.7	18.3	16.3
3	Middle Level	21.2	20.1	19.4
4	Matriculate/Secondary Level	21.7	22.6	23.6
5	Higher Secondary Level	11.9	12.8	15.9
6	Diploma	1.2	1.1	1.2
7	Graduate & above	2.8	3.1	3.5
8	Professionals (MBA etc.)	0.4	0.2	0.3
9	Status Not Known	7.4	8.1	6.8
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 30,664 suicides committed by persons educated up-to matriculate/secondary level, 17.3% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (11.6%) and Kerala (10.1%). Out of 25,192 suicides committed by persons educated up-to middle level, 14.3% were reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu (12.7%) and Madhya Pradesh (9.9%). Out of 16,942 suicides committed by persons with no education 14.7% were reported in Telangana followed by Madhya Pradesh (13.2%) and Tamil Nadu (11.4%) [**Table–2.11**].

Percentage share of suicide victims by educational level during 2015-17 is presented in **Table–2(F)**.

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' (49.8%), consuming 'Poison' (27.5%), 'Fire/Self-Immolation' (5.3%) and 'Drowning' (4.8%) were the prominent means/mode of committing suicide. [**Table – 2.12**]

Percentage share of the means adopted in committing suicide during 2016-17 is presented in **Table–2(G)**.

During the year 2017, the share of 'Fire/Self Immolation (from 7.0% in 2016 to 5.3% in 2017) and 'By Touching Electric Wire (from 0.5% in 2016 to 0.4% in 2017) as mode adopted by suicide victims has decreased while share of 'Consuming Sleeping Pills' (from 0.5% in 2016 to 0.8% in 2017), 'Hanging' (from 46.2% in 2016 to 49.8% in 2017), 'By Poison (from 26.6% in 2016 to 27.5% in 2017), 'By Self inflicting injury' (from 0.6% in 2016 to 0.8% in 2017) and 'By Coming Under Running Vehicle/Train' (from 2.2% in 2016 to 2.9% in 2017) have increased during 2017 over 2016. [**Table – 2(G)**]

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

Table – 2 (G)
Percentage of Means/Mode Adopted by Victims to Commit Suicide during 2016-2017

SL.	Means/Mode Adopted	Percentage & Number	
		2016	2017
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Consuming Sleeping Pills	0.5% (704)	0.8% (1,015)
2	Drowning	4.8% (6,263)	4.8% (6,235)
3	Fire/Self Immolation	7.0% (9,208)	5.3% (6,858)
4	Firearms	0.4% (492)	0.4% (480)
5	By Hanging	46.2% (60,494)	49.8% (64,705)
6	By Poison	26.6% (34,869)	27.5% (35,671)
7	By Self inflicting Injury	0.6% (769)	0.8% (975)
8	By Jumping	1.7% (2,265)	1.7% (2,203)
9	By Coming under Running Vehicles/Trains	2.2% (2,884)	2.9% (3,816)
10	By Touching Electric Wire	0.5% (647)	0.4% (560)
11	By Other Means	9.5% (12,413)	5.7% (7,369)
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 (4,431 out of 6,858).

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 mixed trend during 2014 to 2017. It slightly increased by 0.3% (from 19,597 in 2014 to 19,665 in 2015) and increased by 6.2% (from 19,665 in 2015 to 20,879 in 2016). It increased by 1.8% (from 20,879 in 2016 to 21,240 in 2017). Details on year-wise incidents in cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change during 2014- 2017 may be seen in **Table-2(H)**.

'Family Problems (other than marriage related issues)' was the major cause of suicide in cities which accounted for 32.6% (6,924 out of 21,240) of total suicides followed by 'Illness' (18.4%) (3,917 victims out of 21,240 victims). However, a total of 1,010 victims have committed suicide in 53 mega cities due to 'Marriage Related Issues' accounting for 4.8% 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. Out of 36 States/UTs, Mass/Family Suicides were reported in 12 States during the year 2017. State/UT & City-wise information on mass/family suicides is presented in **Table-2.14**.

Table – 2 (H)
Incidence of Suicides in Mega-Cities, percentage share to All-India, rate of suicides and percentage change over previous year during 2014- 2017

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities Share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over Previous Year (Incidence)
2014	19,597	14.9	12.2	-
2015	19,665	14.7	12.2	0.3
2016	20,879	15.9	13.0	6.2
2017	21,240	16.4	13.2	1.8

- As per data provided by States/UTs.

The four Metropolitan Cities — Chennai (2,229), Delhi City (2,189), Bengaluru (2,032) and Mumbai (1,155) have reported higher number of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 35.8% of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities. Kolkata and Mumbai Cities have shown a declining trend during 2017 over 2016. Delhi City has shown an increase of 15.3% (from 1,899 suicides in 2016 to 2,189 suicides in 2017) and Chennai has observed an increase of 9.9% (from 2,029 suicides in 2016 to 2,229 suicides in 2017). [**Table - 2.3**].

The suicide rate in cities (13.2) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (9.9). Kollam followed by Durg-Bhilainagar have reported the highest suicides rate of 37.2 and 32.0 respectively. [**Table-2.2**].

A total of 63 cases of mass/family suicides were registered during the year 2017. In these 63 cases of mass/family suicides, a total of 177 persons, comprising of 118 married persons and 59 unmarried persons, have committed suicides during 2017.

Maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported Andhra Pradesh (13 cases) followed by Tamil Nadu (12 cases), Kerala (8 cases), Madhya Pradesh & Punjab (7 cases each) during 2017. A total of 33 persons in Andhra Pradesh, 30 persons in Tamil Nadu, 22 persons in Kerala and 18 persons in Uttarakhand have committed mass/family suicides during 2017 [**Table-2.14**].

Out of 53 cities, mass/family suicides were reported in 4 cities. These four cities have registered 9 cases of mass/family suicides in which 28 persons have committed suicides during 2017. Among these 28 persons, 20 were married and 8 were unmarried persons [**Table-2.14**].
