

Suicide in Singapore

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Background

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) Crude Suicide Rate in 2021 were estimated to be 8.1 (7.6-10.3) per 100,000 in Singapore, with males comprising 11.1 per 100, 000 and females at 4.9 per 100,000. This referred to the suicide mortality rate per 100,000 (official estimate updated 8 January 2024);
- Calculated as the number of suicide deaths in a year, divided by the population and multiplied by 100 000, based on global suicide patterns and included adjustments for missing data and underreporting (1).

Objectives

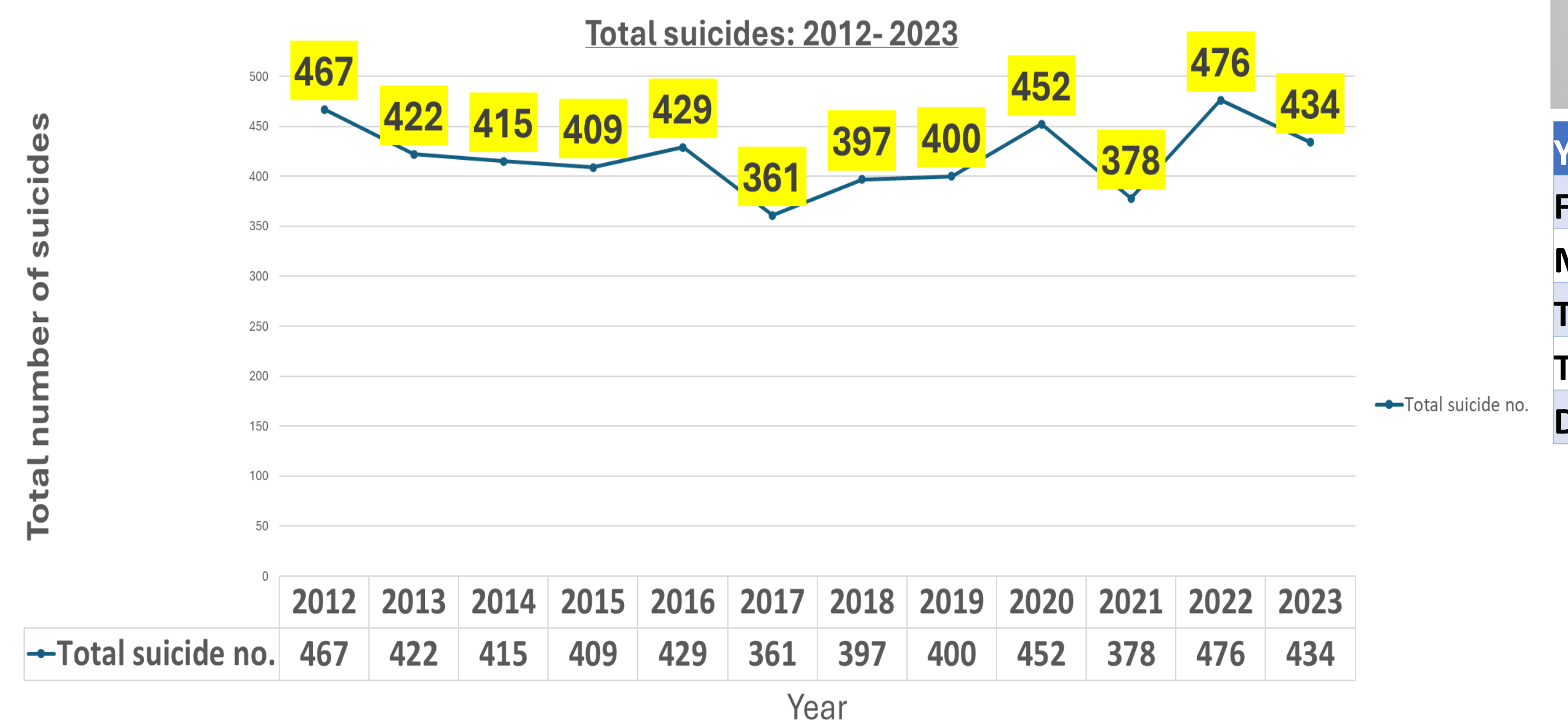
- To examine the actual number of deaths from suicide over a 10-year period (2014-2023) from the yearly report on registration of births and deaths, Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore (2).

Methodology

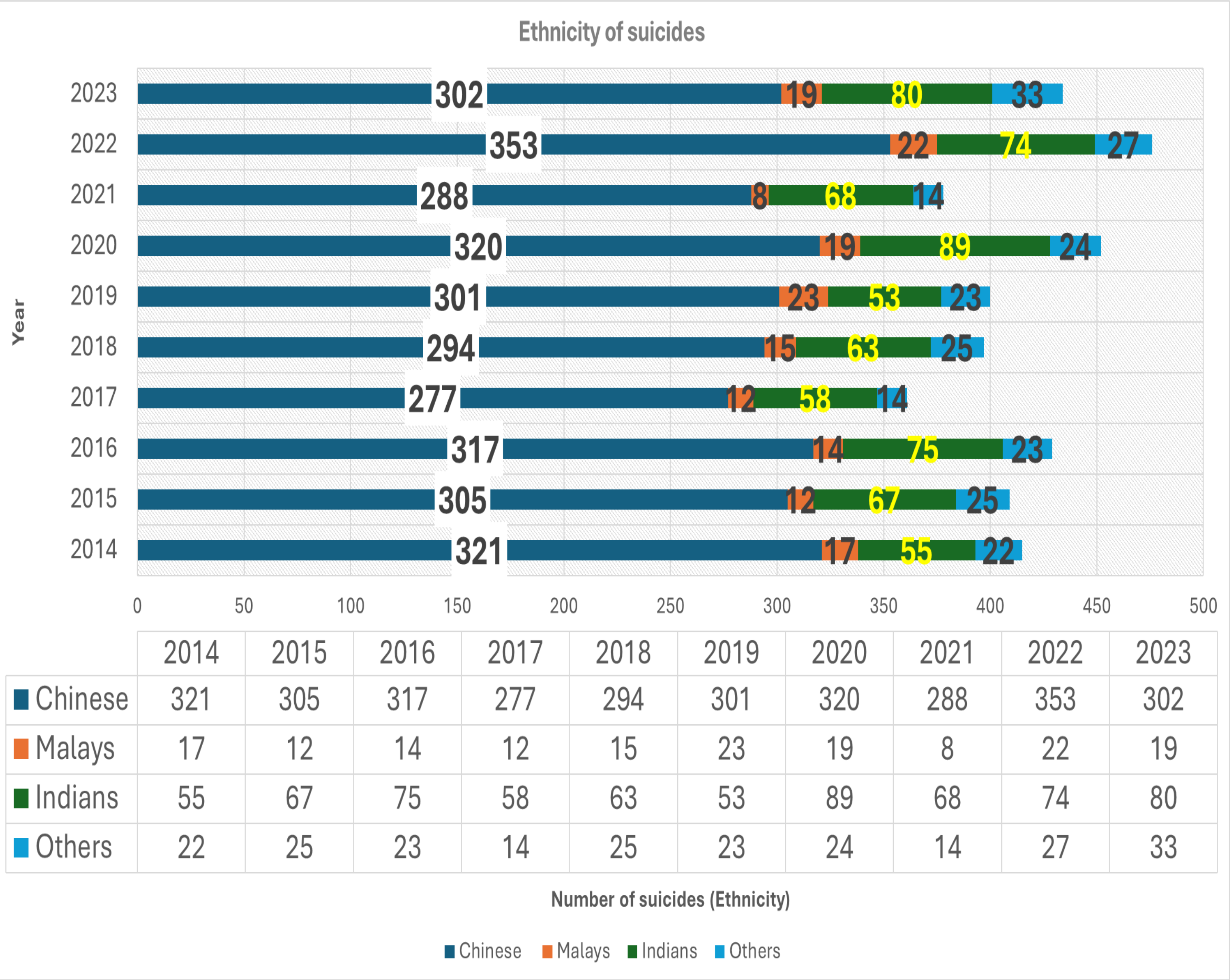
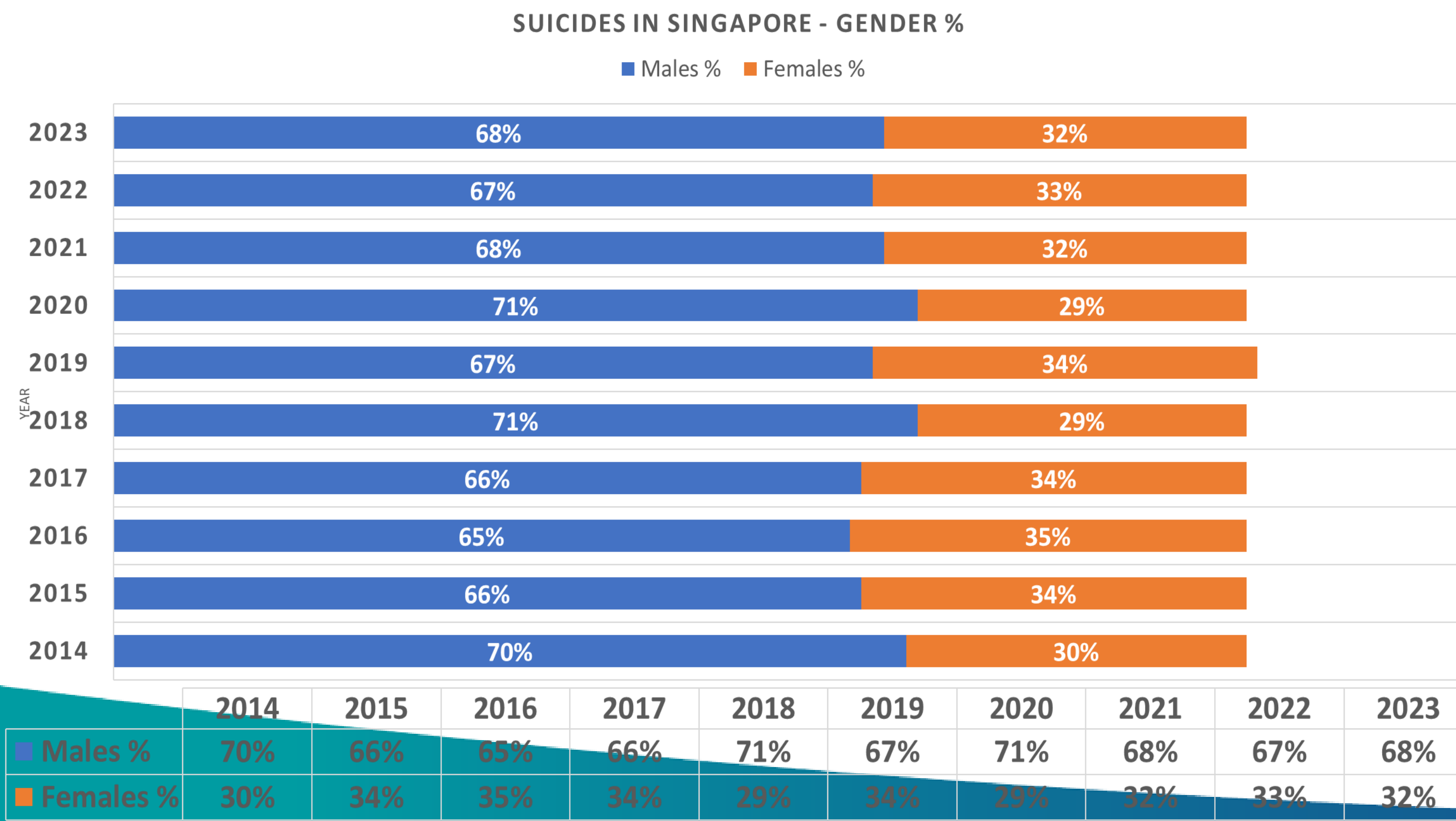
- The actual suicide death rate was defined as the number of resident deaths caused by suicide per 100,000 resident population (2).

Results

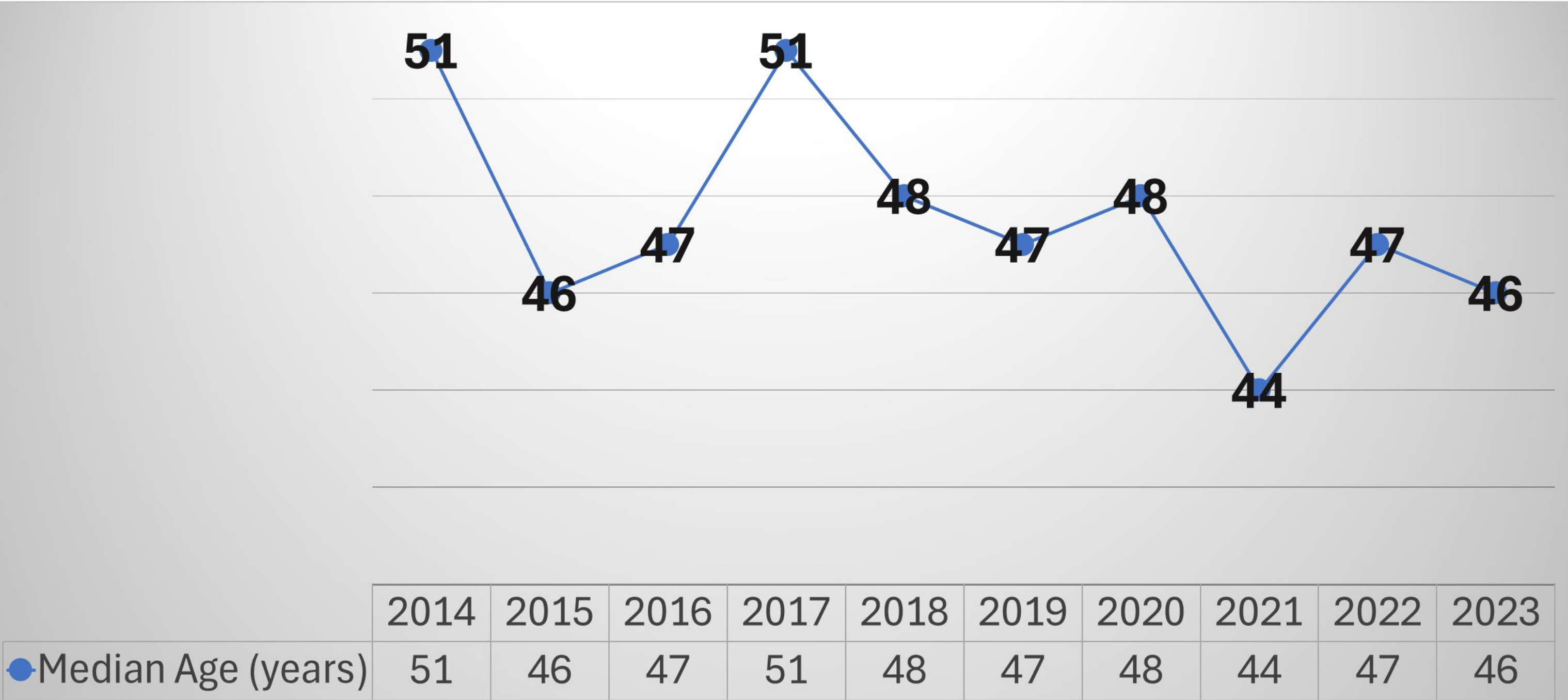
•The number of suicides over ten years (2014- 2023) ranged from 361 to 476 suicides (7.7 to 9.2 per 100,000 resident population). In 2022, there was a spike of 476 suicides during the Covid pandemic. 2017 had the lowest number of suicides at 361 suicides (7.7 per 100,000 resident population). Males comprised 65-70% of the suicides compared to females with a majority of Chinese ethnicity. In 2023 (finalised data), there were a total of 434 suicides comprising of 297 male suicides, and 137 female suicides. Chinese ethnicity comprised 302 Suicides (70%). The median age of suicides (finalised) for 2023 was 46 years old. The current provisional (not finalised) data for 2024 were: 314 suicides (5.91 per 100 000 resident population), 202 Males (64%) and 112 Females (36%). Median age was 42.9 years old, with 76% Chinese (226), 4% Malays (14), 16% Indians (50) and 8% Others (24).



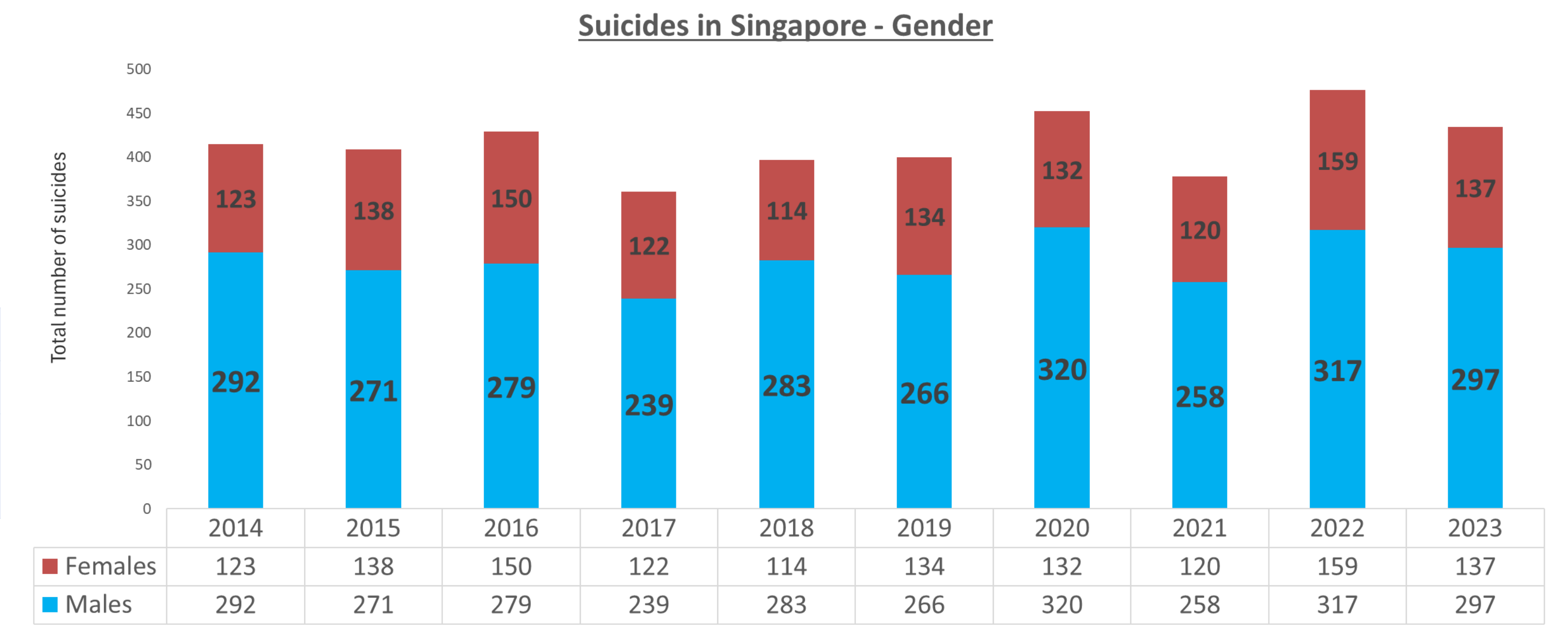
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total suicide no.	467	422	415	409	429	361	397	400	452	378	476	434
Death Rate (per 100,000 residents)	10.3	9.3	9.2	8.4	8.5	7.7	8.4	8	8.9	7.8	9.08	8.19



Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chinese	321	305	317	277	294	301	320	288	353	302
% Chinese suicides	77%	75%	74%	77%	74%	75%	71%	76%	74%	70%
Total suicide no.	415	409	429	361	397	400	452	378	476	434



Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female Median age (years)	44.2	44.7	51.7	48.8	44.6	48.9	40.6	51	49.8
Male Median age (years)	45.9	47.5	50.1	47.8	48.6	47.6	45.9	43.2	45.4
Total Median Age (years)	45.9	47.1	50.9	47.9	47.1	47.7	44	47.4	46.3
Total suicide no.	409	429	361	397	400	452	378	476	434
Death Rate (per 100,000 pop)	8.4	8.5	7.7	8.4	8	8.9	7.8	9.1	8.19



Project Hayat was launched in 2024 as a national strategy of suicide prevention.

Suicide prevention is a part of the National Mental Health and Well-being Strategy (2023) via a Tiered Care Model. The use of standardized screening and assessment tools (Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale C-SSRS) and referral pathways for triage and improved care coordination. National Mindline 1771 was launched in June 2025 for providing accessible, 24/7 mental health support.

References:

1. World Health Organization.
2. Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The Report on Registration of Births and Deaths 2014 – 2024.