

Europe sees 70,000 suicides every year. Rates in Northern EU countries are higher than those in most Mediterranean countries. The male suicide rate is usually two to three times that of the female rate, which is the reverse of parasuicide. Epidemiological analyses show that most countries reported a significant downward trend in suicide mortality although in many countries there has been an increase in suicides among young people. The overall highest suicide rates are among elderly males. The suicide rates in Norway are comparable to its neighboring countries, but Norway has seen an alarming increase in suicides among the young, male population. This rate is significantly higher than in Denmark and Sweden.

It has been shown in many studies that the main risk factors for suicide are being mentally ill, being a substance abuser and being male and divorced and living alone. Newer studies suggest higher rates among homosexuals and among intercountry