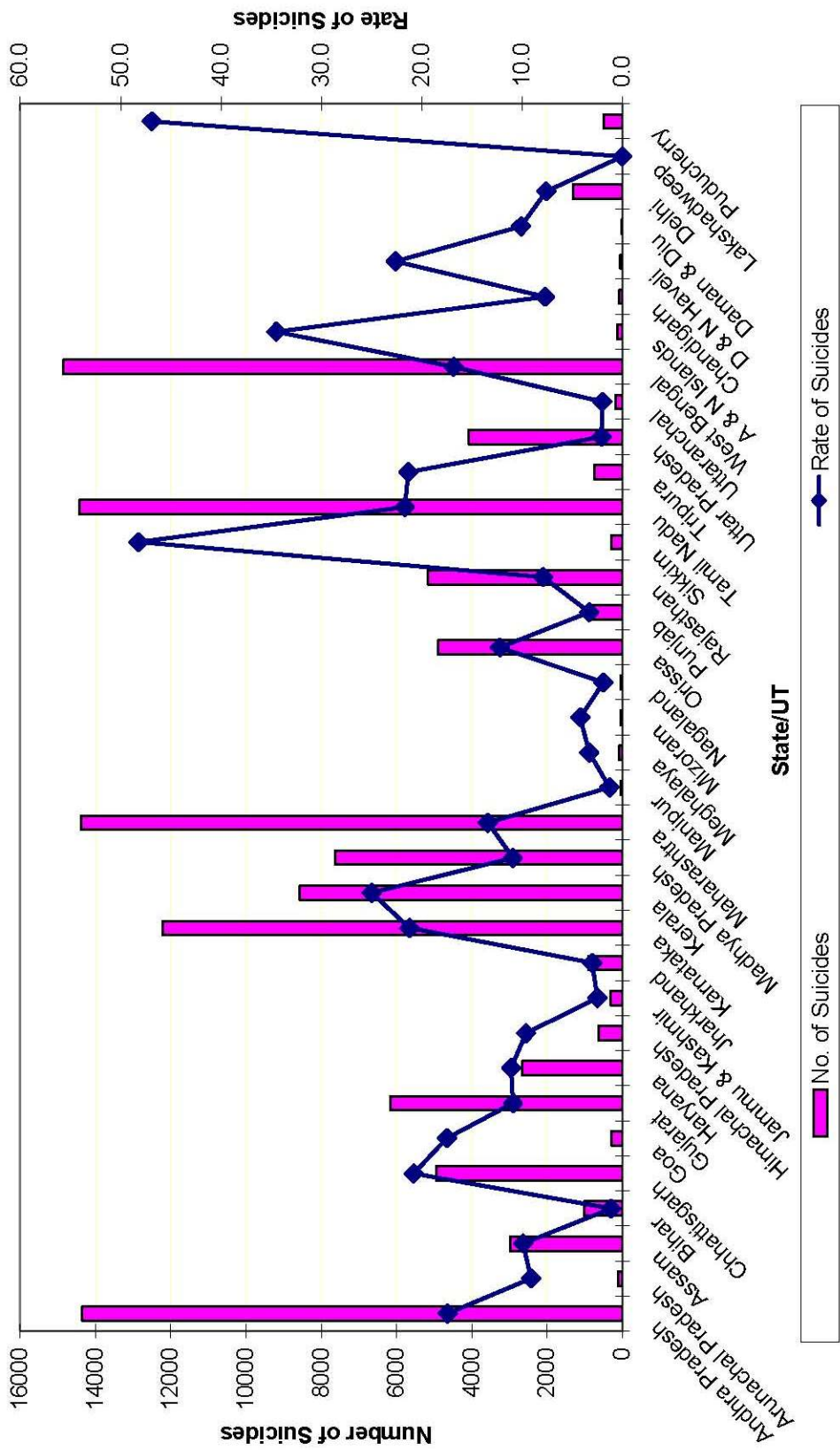


Incidence and Rate of Suicides-2008



CHAPTER – 2

SUICIDES IN INDIA

Incidence and Rate of Suicides during the Decade (1998-2008)

More than one lakh persons (1,25,017) in the country lost their lives by committing suicide during the year 2008. This indicates an increase of 1.9% over the previous year's figure (1,22,637). [Table–2.1]

The number of suicides in the country during the decade (1998–2008) has recorded an

increase of 19.4% (from 1,04,713 in 1998 to 1,25,017 in 2008). The increase in incidence of suicides was reported each year during the decade except in 2000 and 2001. The population has increased by 18.8% during the decade but the rate of suicides in 2008 was 10.8 which is the same as in 1998. The rate of suicides has shown a declining trend since 1999 to 2003. A mixed trend was observed during 2003 to 2008. [Table–2.1 and 2(A)]

Table – 2 (A)

Incidence of Suicides, Growth of Population and Rate of Suicides During 2004 to 2008

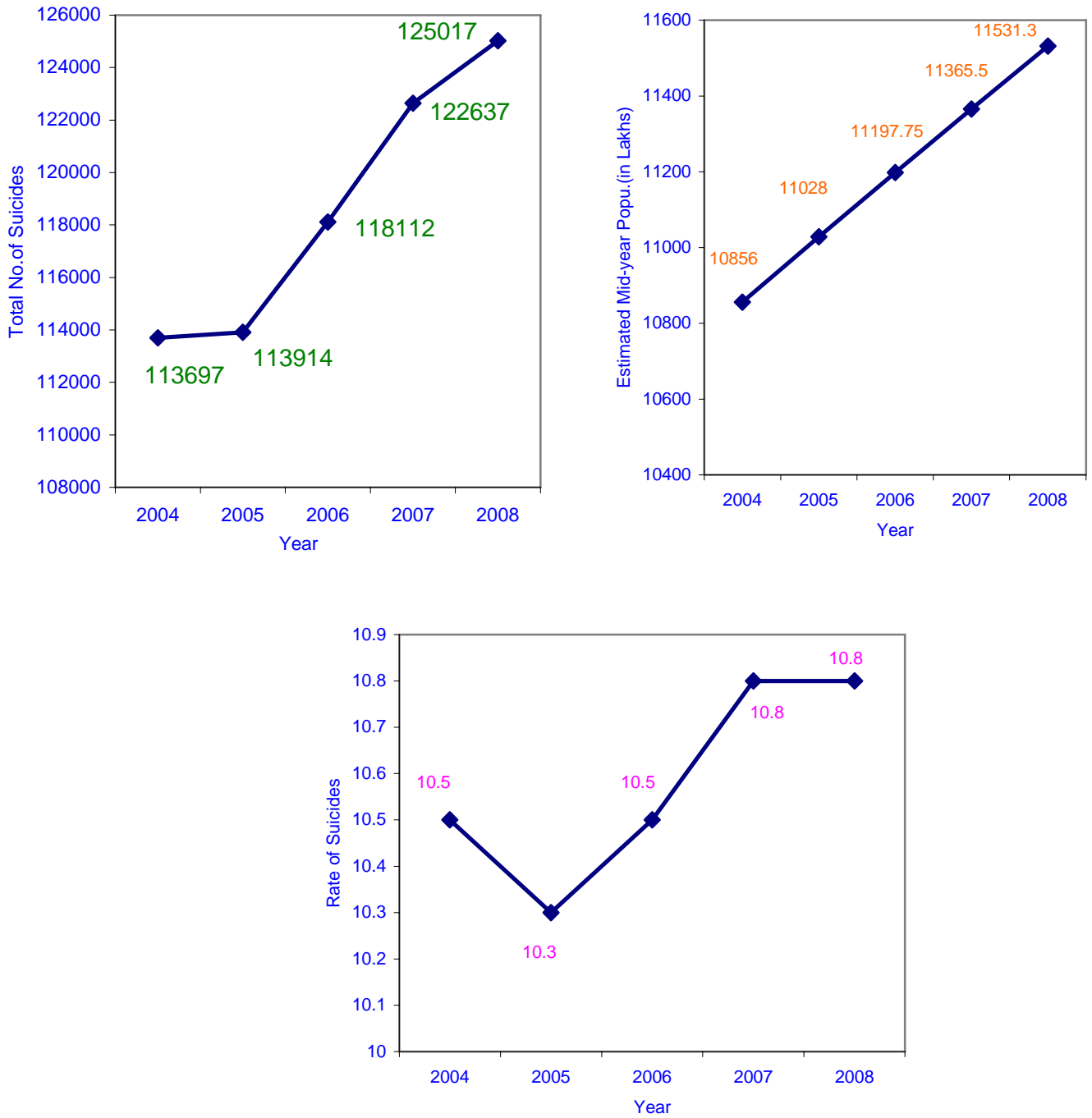
Sl. No.	Year	Total number of Suicides	Estimated Mid-Year Population* (in Lakhs)**	Rate of Suicides (Col.3/Col.4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	2004	113697	10856	10.5
2	2005	113914	11028	10.3
3	2006	118112	11197.75	10.5
4	2007	122637	11365.5	10.8
5	2008	125017	11531.3	10.8

* – Source: The Registrar General of India

** – One Lakh = 0.1 Million

Figure – 2.1

Growth in Incidence of Suicides, Population and Rate of Suicides During 2004 to 2008



Incidence and Percentage Share of Suicides in States/UTs

The State/UT and City wise information on the number of suicides reported, its percentage share in total suicides and rate of suicides during the year are presented in **Table-2.2**. West Bengal has reported the highest number of suicides (14,852) accounting for 11.9% of total suicides followed by Tamil Nadu (14,425), Maharashtra (14,374) and Andhra Pradesh (14,354) each accounting for nearly 11.5% of the total suicides in the country and Karnataka (12,222) accounting for 9.8% of the suicides in the country. These 5 States together accounted for 56.2% of the total suicides reported in the country. The remaining 43.8% suicides were reported in the rest of 23 States and 7 UTs. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state (16.6%

share of population) has reported comparatively lower percentage of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.3% of the total suicides reported in the country.

The States which have witnessed significantly higher cases of suicidal deaths during the year 2006 to 2008 are presented in the **Table-2(B)**. These States have accounted for about 10% or more of the total suicides reported in the country during 2006 to 2008. All the five States viz. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have registered consistently higher number of suicidal deaths during the last few years.

Figure – 2.2

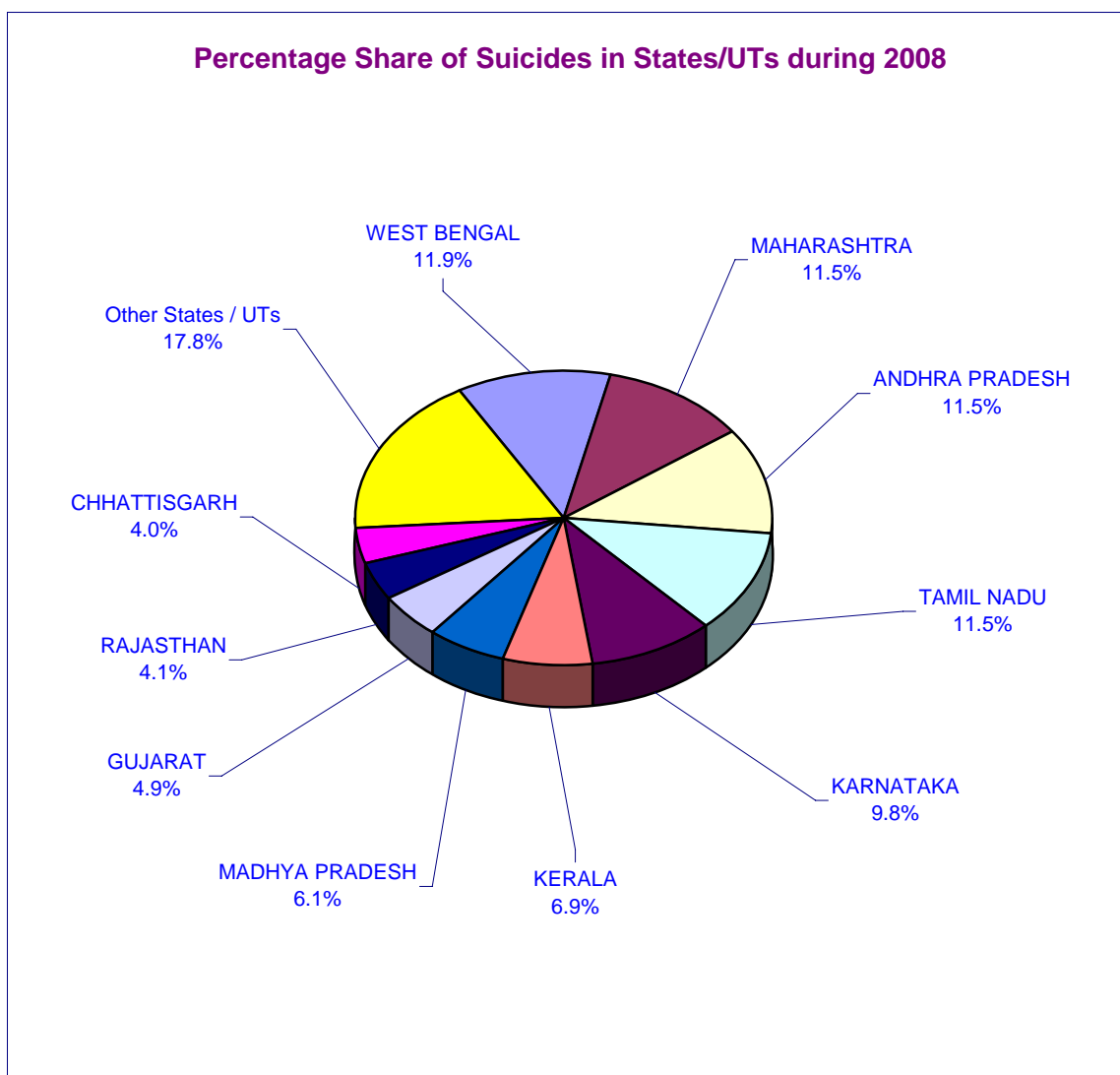


Table – 2 (B)
States with higher percentage share of Suicides during 2006 to 2008

Sl. No.	Year					
	2006		2007		2008	
1	West Bengal	(13.3)	Maharashtra	(12.4)	West Bengal	(11.9)
2	Maharashtra	(13.1)	Andhra Pradesh	(12.1)	Andhra Pradesh	(11.5)
3	Andhra Pradesh	(11.2)	West Bengal	(12.1)	Maharashtra	(11.5)
4	Tamil Nadu	(10.5)	Tamil Nadu	(11.3)	Tamil Nadu	(11.5)
5	Karnataka	(10.3)	Karnataka	(10.0)	Karnataka	(9.8)

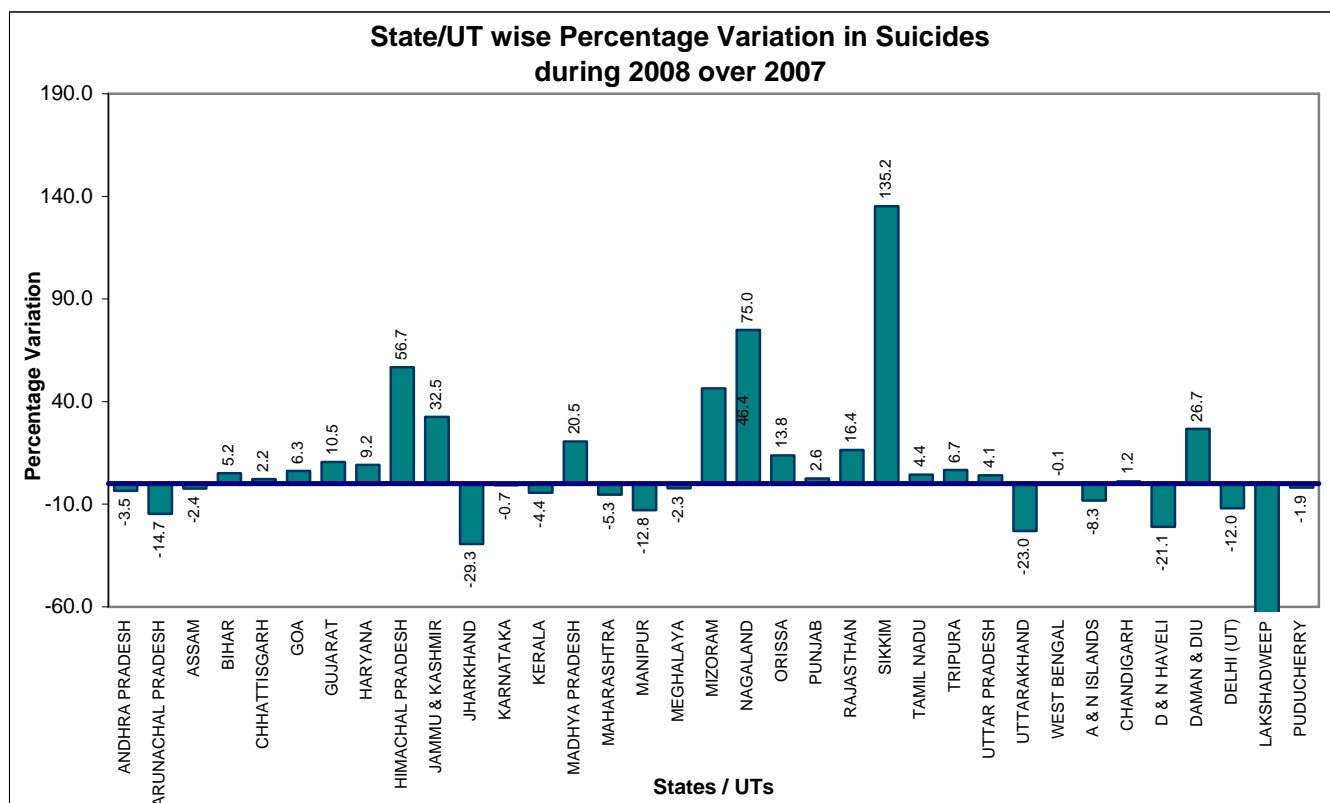
West Bengal has reported the highest number of suicidal deaths in 2006, third highest number of suicides in 2007 and the highest number of such deaths in 2008 accounting for 13.3%, 12.1% and 11.9% of total such deaths in the country in 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Delhi has reported the highest number of suicides (1,303) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (507). Seven UTs together accounted for 1.7% of total suicides in the country. 35 mega cities on the contrary,

accounted for 10.4% of the total suicides in the country.

The States and UTs which have reported significant increase in Suicides in 2008 over 2007 were Sikkim (from 122 in 2007 to 287 in 2008 – an increase of 135.2%), followed by Nagaland (an increase of 75.0%), Himachal Pradesh (56.7%), Mizoram (46.4%), Jammu & Kashmir (32.5%), Daman & Diu (26.7%), Madhya Pradesh (20.5%), Rajasthan (16.4%), Orissa (13.8%) and Gujarat (10.5%) as compared to national average of 1.9%. **(Table–2.3)**

Figure – 2.3



Mass/Family Suicides

An attempt has been made this year also to collect information on the number of cases where family members have committed suicide jointly under a common pact. Four States viz. Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal did not furnish this information. The available information is presented in **Table–2(C)**. 484 deaths at the national level under common pact of Mass/Family suicides consisting of 202 males and 282 females were reported as per the information available. Nine cities viz. Amritsar, Asansol, Bengaluru, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow and Ludhiana also did not furnish information. The available statistics reveal that there were 28 mass suicidal deaths consisting of 14 males

and an equal number of females in mega cities. The highest number of cases were reported from Bihar (102) followed by Rajasthan (86) and Andhra Pradesh (40) out of 290 cases.

Rate of Suicides — Trends in States/UTs

Rate of suicides, i.e., the number of suicides per one lakh population, has been widely accepted as a standard yardstick. The All India rate of suicides was 10.8 during the year which is the same as in the year 2007. Sikkim reported the highest rate of suicide (48.2) followed by Puducherry (46.9), A & N Islands (34.5), Kerala (25.0) and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (22.6). The details of States/UTs which have recorded higher rate of suicides during 2006 to 2008 are given in **Table–2(D)**.

Figure – 2.4

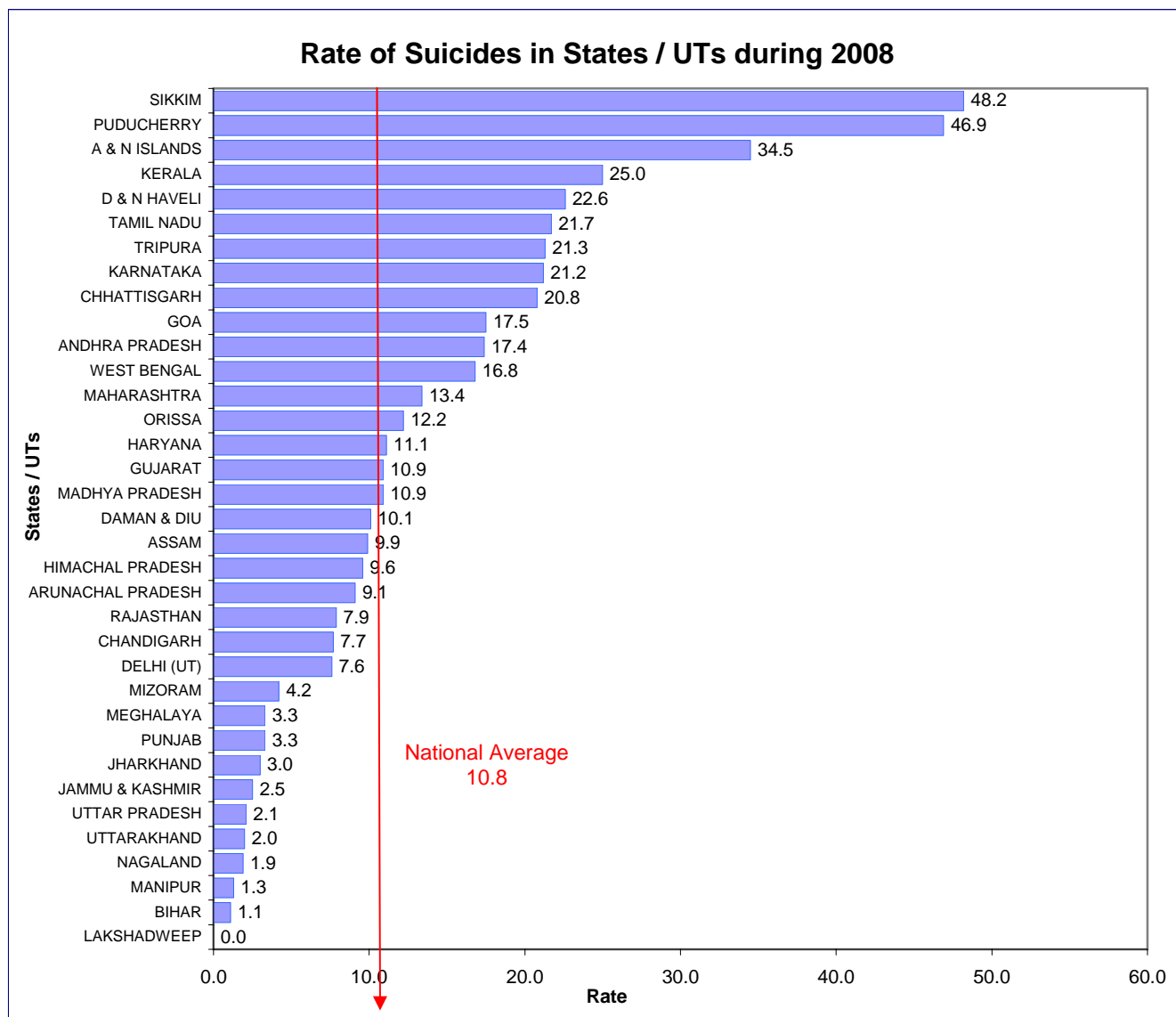


Table – 2 (C)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2008

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total Victims
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
STATES:							
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	40	33	38	5	21	97
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BIHAR	102	33	22	3	44	102
5	CHHATTISGARH	5	1	2	1	2	6
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	6	7	4	7	6	24
8	HARYANA	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	JHARKHAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	KARNATAKA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	KERALA	21	14	22	2	7	45
14	MADHYA PRADESH	10	7	14	1	7	29
15	MAHARASHTRA	7	12	8	0	0	20
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	ORISSA	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	RAJASTHAN	86	46	42	11	24	123
23	SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	TAMIL NADU	12	11	13	6	4	34
25	TRIPURA	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	WEST BENGAL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	TOTAL (STATES)	289	164	165	36	115	480
UNION TERRITORIES:							
29	A & N ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	CHANDIGARH	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	DELHI (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	PUDUCHERRY	1	1	1	1	1	4
	TOTAL(UTs)	1	1	1	1	1	4
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	290	165	166	37	116	484

Table – 2 (C) (Concluded)
State/UT/City wise Distribution of Family Suicides during 2008

Sl. No.	City	No. Of Cases	Adults		Minor*		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
CITIES:							
36	AGRA	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	AHMEDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	ALLAHABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	AMRITSAR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	ASANSOL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
41	BENGALURU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
42	BHOPAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	CHENNAI	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	COIMBATORE	3	3	4	2	2	11
45	DELHI (CITY)	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	DHANBAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	FARIDABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	HYDERABAD	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	INDORE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	JABALPUR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	JAIPUR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
52	JAMSHEDPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	KANPUR	1	1	1	0	0	2
54	KOCHI	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	KOLKATA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
56	LUCKNOW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
57	LUDHIANA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
58	MADURAI	0	0	0	0	0	0
59	MEERUT	0	0	0	0	0	0
60	MUMBAI	1	2	2	0	0	4
61	NAGPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	NASIK	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	PATNA	0	0	0	0	0	0
64	PUNE	1	2	1	0	0	3
65	RAJKOT	1	2	1	1	2	6
66	SURAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	VADODARA	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	VARANASI	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	VIJAYAWADA	1	1	1	0	0	2
70	VISHAKHAPATNAM	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (CITIES)		8	11	10	3	4	28

Note : N.A. stand for data not available.

* Below 18 years of age.

Table – 2 (D)

States/UTs with Higher Suicide Rate during 2006 to 2008					
		Year			
2006		2007		2008	
Puducherry	50.2	Puducherry	48.6	Sikkim	48.2
A & N Islands	33.6	A & N Islands	38.5	Puducherry	46.9
Kerala	26.8	D & N Haveli	29.6	A & N Islands	34.5
Sikkim	25.0	Kerala	26.3	Kerala	25.0
Tripura	22.3	Karnataka	21.6	D & N Haveli	22.6
National Rate	(10.5)	National Rate	(10.8)	National Rate	(10.8)

Puducherry, A & N Islands and Kerala continued to report higher suicide rates during the last 3 years. While Kerala has recorded suicide rates more than twice the national average during the last three years, UTs of Puducherry and A & N Islands have recorded more than 4 and 3 times of the national average respectively.

Causes of Suicides

'Family Problems' and 'Illness', accounting for 23.8% and 21.9% respectively, were the major causes of suicides among the specified

causes. 'Love Affairs' (3.0%), 'Bankruptcy', 'Dowry Dispute' and 'Poverty' (2.4% each) were the other causes driving people towards suicides.

Suicides due to 'Illness', 'Drug Abuse/Addiction' and 'Poverty' have shown an increasing trend during last 3 years. Suicides due to 'Property Dispute' have shown a declining trend during last 3 years whereas suicides due to all the other specified reasons have shown a mixed trend during this period. [Table-2(E)]

Figure – 2.5

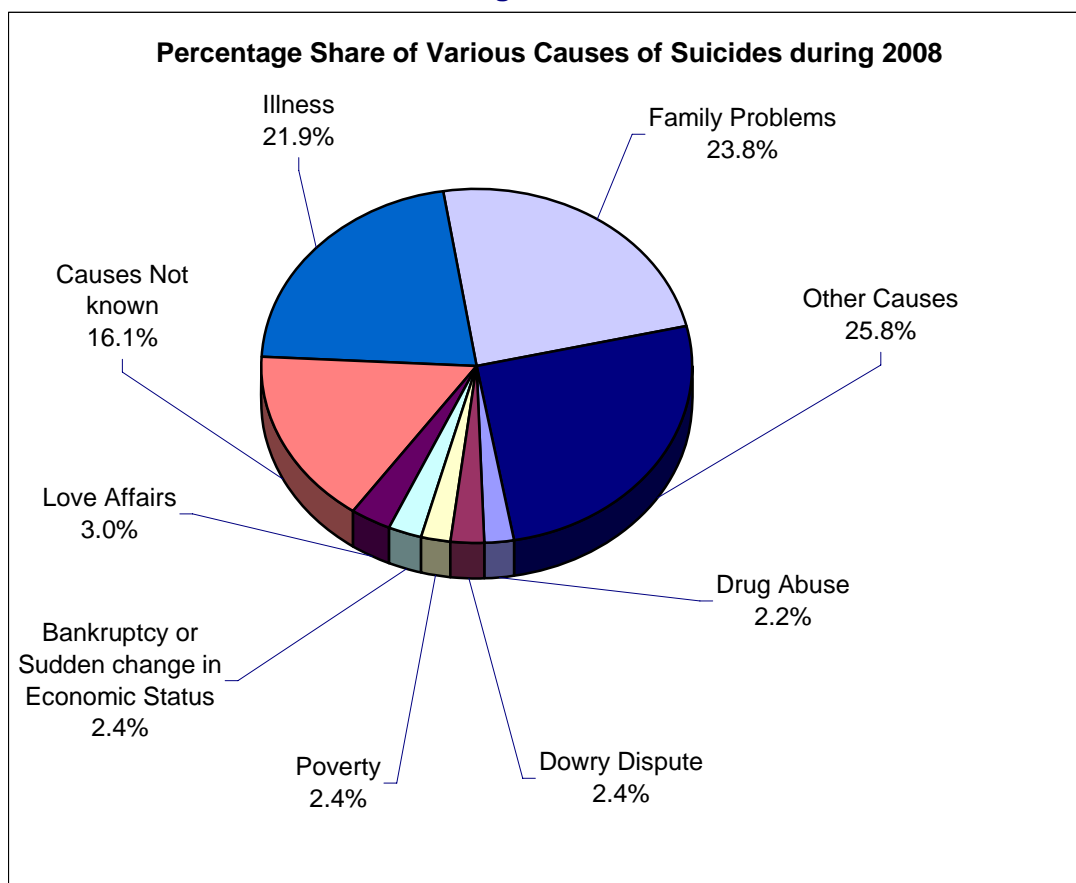


Table – 2 (E)
Suicides and their Share by Causes during 2006 - 2008 (All India)

Sl. No.	Cause	2006		2007		2008		% Variation in 2007 Over 2006
		Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	Suicides	% Share	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	3320	2.8	3312	2.7	2970	2.4	-10.3
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	1134	1.0	1299	1.1	1264	1.0	-2.7
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	865	0.7	984	0.8	949	0.8	-3.6
4	Not having Children(Barrenness/Impotency)	642	0.5	801	0.7	743	0.6	-7.2
5	Illness	26619	22.5	27332	22.3	27410	21.9	0.3
	(i) AIDS/STD	793	0.7	952	0.8	815	0.7	-14.4
	(ii) Cancer	747	0.6	794	0.6	741	0.6	-6.7
	(iii) Paralysis	537	0.5	496	0.4	652	0.5	31.5
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	8045	6.8	8638	7.0	8699	7.0	0.7
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	16497	14.0	16452	13.4	16651	13.3	1.2
6	Death of Dear Person	879	0.7	719	0.6	1019	0.8	41.7
7	Dowry Dispute	2336	2.0	3148	2.6	3038	2.4	-3.5
8	Divorce	394	0.3	335	0.3	410	0.3	22.4
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	2188	1.9	2332	1.9	2730	2.2	17.1
10	Failure in Examination	2378	2.0	1976	1.6	2189	1.8	10.8
11	Fall in Social Reputation	1345	1.1	1105	0.9	1151	0.9	4.2
12	Family Problems	30771	26.1	29238	23.8	29777	23.8	1.8
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	289	0.2	261	0.2	392	0.3	50.2
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	267	0.2	158	0.1	238	0.2	50.6
15	Love Affairs	4064	3.4	3383	2.8	3774	3.0	11.6
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	315	0.3	305	0.2	367	0.3	20.3
17	Poverty	2643	2.2	2809	2.3	3006	2.4	7.0
18	Professional/Career Problem	1091	0.9	1273	1.0	1176	0.9	-7.6
19	Property Dispute	2244	1.9	1411	1.2	1394	1.1	-1.2
20	Unemployment	1891	1.6	2394	2.0	2080	1.7	-13.1
21	Causes Not known	17159	14.5	20409	16.6	20124	16.1	-1.4
22	Other Causes	15278	12.9	17653	14.4	18668	14.9	5.7
	Total	118112	100.0	122637	100.0	125017	100.0	1.9

The number of suicides due to 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' and 'Ideological Causes / Hero Worshipping' showed a sharp increase of 50.6% and 50.2% respectively as compared to previous year, followed by 'Death of Dear Person' (41.7%), 'Divorce' (22.4%), 'Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc)' (20.3%), 'Drug Abuse / Addiction' (17.1%) and 'Failure in Examination' (10.8%). State, UT and City-

(27.4%), Tamil Nadu (26.4%), D & N Haveli (25.9%), Gujarat (24.1%) and Goa (23.7%).

7.2% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status'. 'Cancellation / Non-Settlement of Marriage' contributed 8.7% of suicides in Sikkim. 21.7% suicides in D & N Haveli, 20.3% in Punjab, 15.8% in Daman & Diu and 15.3%

Table – 2 (F)
States & UTs reporting higher share of Suicides due to Illness and Family Problems during 2008

Illness				Family Problems			
All India% Share							
21.9%				23.8%			
Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share	Sl. No.	State/UT	Suicides	% age Share
1	A & N Islands	56	39.2	1	Tripura	337	44.8
2	Punjab	303	34.9	2	Kerala	3737	43.6
3	Kerala	2739	32.0	3	Puducherry	207	40.8
4	Andhra Pradesh	4403	30.7	4	Maharashtra	5292	36.8
5	Puducherry	148	29.2	5	Chandigarh	29	34.9
6	Maharashtra	3993	27.8	6	D & N Haveli	19	31.7
7	Karnataka	3348	27.4	7	Tamil Nadu	3885	26.9
8	Tamil Nadu	3807	26.4	8	Orissa	1204	24.6
9	D & N Haveli	15	25.0				
10	Gujarat	1484	24.1				
11	Goa	68	23.7				

wise details on various causes of suicides are presented in **Table–2.10**. 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(F)**. Eleven States/UTs have reported higher percentage share than the All India average in suicides with causes such as 'Illness'.

Similarly, eight States/UTs have reported higher share than the All India average in suicides caused due to 'Family Problems' during the year.

The States/UTs which reported higher share of suicides due to 'Illness' after A & N Islands (39.2%) were Punjab (34.9%), Kerala (32.0%), Andhra Pradesh (30.7%), Puducherry (29.2%), Maharashtra (27.8%), Karnataka

suicides in Goa and Kerala each were due to 'Insanity/Mental Illness'. Similarly, 10.1% suicides in Uttar Pradesh and 9.9% suicides in Madhya Pradesh were due to 'Dowry Dispute'. 'Drug Abuse / Addiction' accounted for 17.1% suicides in Mizoram and 7.2% suicides in Maharashtra. 6.0% suicides in Chandigarh were due to 'Failure in Examination', 4.1% suicides in Himachal Pradesh were due to 'Fall in Social Reputation' and 5.0% suicides in Haryana were due to 'Ideological Causes / Hero Worship'. 13.2% suicides in Assam and 11.2% suicides in Tripura were due to 'Love Affairs'. 10.5% suicides in Andhra Pradesh were on account of 'Poverty'. 7.0% suicides in Assam and 10.8% suicides in Chandigarh were on account of 'Property Dispute' and 'Unemployment' respectively.

Suicide Victims by Sex and Age Group

Distribution of suicides by causes and sex during 2008 is presented in **Table-2(G)**. The overall male : female ratio of suicide victims for the year 2008 was 64:36 as compared to 65:35 in the year 2007. The proportion of Boys : Girls suicide victims (upto 14 years of age) was 49:51 i.e. almost equal number of young girls have committed suicide as their male counterparts. The proportion of female victims was comparatively more under the heads 'Dowry Dispute' (98.1%), 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' (91.6%), 'Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc)' (72.8%), 'Barrenness / Impotency (Not having children)' (65.5%), 'Divorce' (62.2%), 'Cancellation/Non-settlement of marriage' (53.5%) and 'Suspected/Illicit Relation' (50.8%). It is observed that social and economic causes have led most of the males to commit suicide whereas emotional and personal causes have mainly driven females to end their lives. Youths (15-29 years) and lower middle-aged people (30-44 years) were the prime groups taking recourse to the path of suicides. Around 35.7% suicide victims were youths in the age group of 15-29 years and 34.8% were middle aged persons in the age group 30-44 years. Among the specified

causes, 'Family Problems' (330), 'Failure in Examination' (313) and 'Illness' (267) were the main cause of suicides among children (2,381). 'Family Problems' have driven 10,027 youths (15-29 years), 11,363 lower middle aged people (30-44 years) and 6,143 upper middle aged persons (45-59 years) to commit suicide. Nearly 40.7% (3,760 out of 9,230) of suicides committed by Senior citizens (above 60 years & above) were due to 'Illness'. Senior citizens have accounted for 7.4% of the total victims.

Age-group wise distribution of suicide victims at State/UT/City level is given in **Table-2.5**. It is observed that 21.7% (516 out of 2,381) of children (upto 14 years) who committed suicides belonged to West Bengal. 15.6% (1,441 out of 9,230) senior citizens (above 60 years) belonged to Kerala.

56.4% (62 out of 110) victims in Arunachal Pradesh and 55.1% (718 out of 1,303) victims in Delhi UT were young (15-29 years) as compared to the national average of 35.7%. 52.4% of the victims (22 out of 42) in Nagaland were middle aged (30-44 years) against the national average of 34.8%.

Figure – 2.6

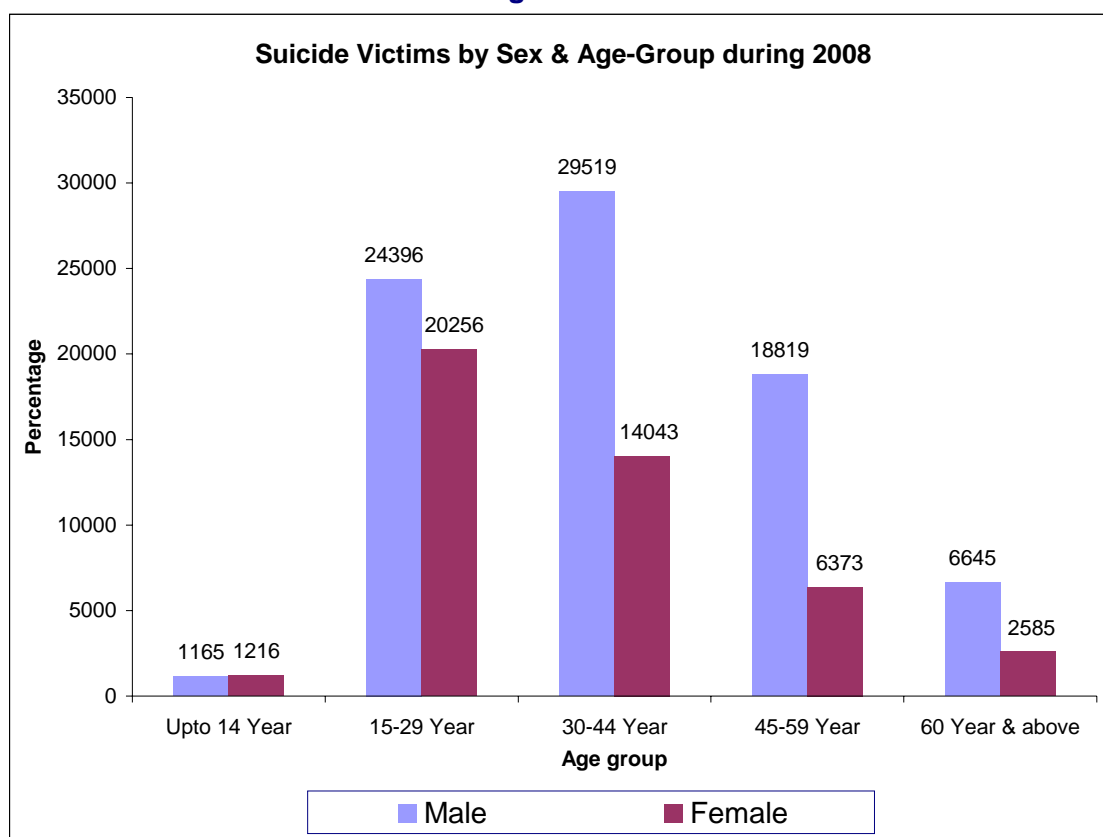


Table – 2 (G)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise) during 2008

Sl. No.	Cause	Upto 14 Years			15-29 Years			30-44 Years		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	2	2	4	429	76	505	1144	116	1260
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	3	10	13	265	339	604	270	237	507
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	4	7	11	261	376	637	146	114	260
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	0	0	0	31	173	204	178	270	448
5	Illness	108	159	267	4169	3172	7341	5964	3134	9098
	(i) AIDS/STD	1	0	1	57	37	94	204	105	309
	(ii) Cancer	0	2	2	32	18	50	125	70	195
	(iii) Paralysis	4	1	5	82	51	133	102	55	157
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	51	62	113	1483	1034	2517	2039	1045	3084
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	52	94	146	2523	2060	4583	3525	1880	5405
6	Death of Dear Person	8	9	17	128	316	444	165	116	281
7	Dowry Dispute	2	10	12	31	2184	2215	19	740	759
8	Divorce	1	0	1	23	121	144	89	108	197
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	5	2	7	637	31	668	1135	54	1189
10	Failure in Examination	154	159	313	1011	770	1781	53	25	78
11	Social Disrepute	2	5	7	261	173	434	295	119	414
12	Family Problems	137	193	330	5215	4812	10027	7368	3995	11363
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	0	0	0	60	77	137	106	56	162
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	5	5	10	147	157	10	62	72
15	Love Affairs	17	75	92	1417	1468	2885	435	291	726
16	Physical Abuse (Rape, Incest etc.)	1	6	7	32	168	200	47	71	118
17	Poverty	5	12	17	467	249	716	907	267	1174
18	Professional/Career Problem	0	2	2	248	54	302	427	51	478
19	Property Dispute	6	0	6	226	112	338	435	124	559
20	Unemployment	1	2	3	857	120	977	777	63	840
21	Causes Not Known	341	309	650	4628	2816	7444	4759	1983	6742
22	Other Causes	368	249	617	3982	2474	6456	4759	2026	6785
	Total	1165	1216	2381	24396	20256	44652	29519	14043	43562

-Table – 2 (G) (Concluded)
Distribution of Suicides by Causes and Sex
(Age-Group-wise)

Sl. No.	Cause	45-59 Years			60 Years & above			Total		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
1	Bankruptcy or Sudden change in Economic Status	877	80	957	229	15	244	2681	289	2970
2	Suspected/Illicit Relation	76	47	123	8	9	17	622	642	1264
3	Cancellation/Non-Settlement of Marriage	28	9	37	2	2	4	441	508	949
4	Barrenness/Impotency (Not having Children)	41	43	84	6	1	7	256	487	743
5	Illness	4913	2031	6944	2591	1169	3760	17745	9665	27410
	(i) AIDS/STD	221	70	291	94	26	120	577	238	815
	(ii) Cancer	222	104	326	130	38	168	509	232	741
	(iii) Paralysis	134	53	187	130	40	170	452	200	652
	(iv) Insanity/Mental Illness	1403	694	2097	573	315	888	5549	3150	8699
	(v) Other Prolonged Illness	2973	1114	4087	1673	757	2430	10746	5905	16651
6	Death of Dear Person	139	59	198	56	23	79	496	523	1019
7	Dowry Dispute	4	46	50	1	1	2	57	2981	3038
8	Divorce	42	26	68	0	0	0	155	255	410
9	Drug Abuse/Addiction	654	30	684	173	9	182	2604	126	2730
10	Failure in Examination	10	4	14	3	0	3	1231	958	2189
11	Social Disrepute	171	51	222	61	13	74	790	361	1151
12	Family Problems	4434	1709	6143	1348	566	1914	18502	11275	29777
13	Ideological Causes/Hero Worshipping	51	23	74	15	4	19	232	160	392
14	Illegitimate Pregnancy	0	4	4	0	0	0	20	218	238
15	Love Affairs	39	27	66	4	1	5	1912	1862	3774
16	Physical Abuse (Rape Incest etc.)	16	21	37	4	1	5	100	267	367
17	Poverty	691	161	852	206	41	247	2276	730	3006
18	Professional/Career Problem	288	32	320	68	6	74	1031	145	1176
19	Property Dispute	312	75	387	79	25	104	1058	336	1394
20	Unemployment	242	13	255	5	0	5	1882	198	2080
21	Causes Not Known	2943	936	3879	1024	385	1409	13695	6429	20124
22	Other Causes	2808	942	3750	753	307	1060	12670	5998	18668
Total		18819	6373	25192	6645	2585	9230	80544	44473	125017

Professional Status of Suicide Victims

Information regarding professional status of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.6**. Housewives (24,367) accounted for 54.8% of the total female victims and nearly 19.5% of total victims committing suicides. Government servants were merely 1.7% of the total suicide victims.

Private and Public Sector personnel have accounted for 8.4% and 2.5% of the total suicide victims respectively, whereas students and un-employed victims accounted for 4.8% and 7.2% respectively. Self employed category accounted for 39.8% of victims. It comprised of 13.0% engaged in Farming/Agriculture activities, 5.6% engaged in Business and 2.7% Professionals.

State/UT-wise and Profession wise analysis [**Table–2.11**] of suicide victims reveals that 38.3% victims of suicide in D & N Haveli were housewives. Government servants accounted for 23.6% and 20.6% of suicide victims in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur respectively. 42.1% suicide victims in Daman & Diu and 30.8% suicide victims in A & N Islands were in Private Service. Students formed 13.4% and 13.3% of suicide victims in Delhi and Chandigarh respectively. 29.4% suicide victims in Manipur and 27.7% suicide victims in Chandigarh were unemployed. 14.4% suicide victims in Assam were engaged in business activity. 35.9% suicide victims in Chhattisgarh were engaged in farming / agriculture activities.

Age-wise profile of professional status of victims during the year 2008 shows that nearly 44.3% of 'Housewives', 43.1% of 'Unemployed' and 77.2% of Students who had

committed suicides during 2008 were in the age-group 15-29 years.

Social Status of Suicide Victims

The information on the marital status of suicide victims has been presented in **Table–2.7**. It was observed that 70.3% of the suicide victims were married while 22.1% were unmarried. Divorcees and Separated have accounted for about 3.3% of the total suicide victims. The proportion of Widow & Widower victims was around 4.3%.

The State/UT-wise distribution of suicide victims by Marital Status is presented in **Table–2.12**. It was observed that 42.9% of victims in Nagaland and 42.1% of suicide victims in Daman & Diu were unmarried against 22.1% at the National level. 77.9% suicide victims in Kerala and 77.7% suicide victims in Tripura on the contrary were married against the National average of 70.3%.

Educational Status of Suicide Victims

The sex-wise and education-wise break-up of suicide victims is presented in **Table–2.8**. The maximum number of suicide victims was educated up to Primary level (25.3%). Illiterate and Middle educated persons accounted for 20.7% suicide victims and 23.7% respectively. Only 2.6% suicide victims were graduates and post-graduates. 38.3% suicide victims in D & N Haveli were illiterate. 47.6% suicide victims in Nagaland had education upto primary level. 67.3% suicide victims in Puducherry and 50.0% suicide victims in Manipur had middle level education. 42.1% suicide victims in Daman & Diu and 41.3% suicide victims in Himachal Pradesh had education upto Matriculation / Higher Secondary [**Table–2.13**]

Figure – 2.7

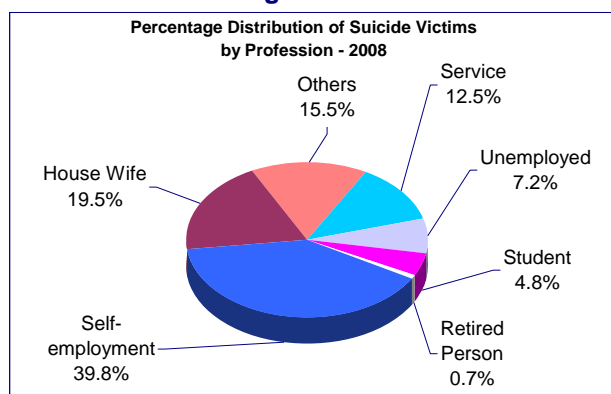


Figure – 2.8

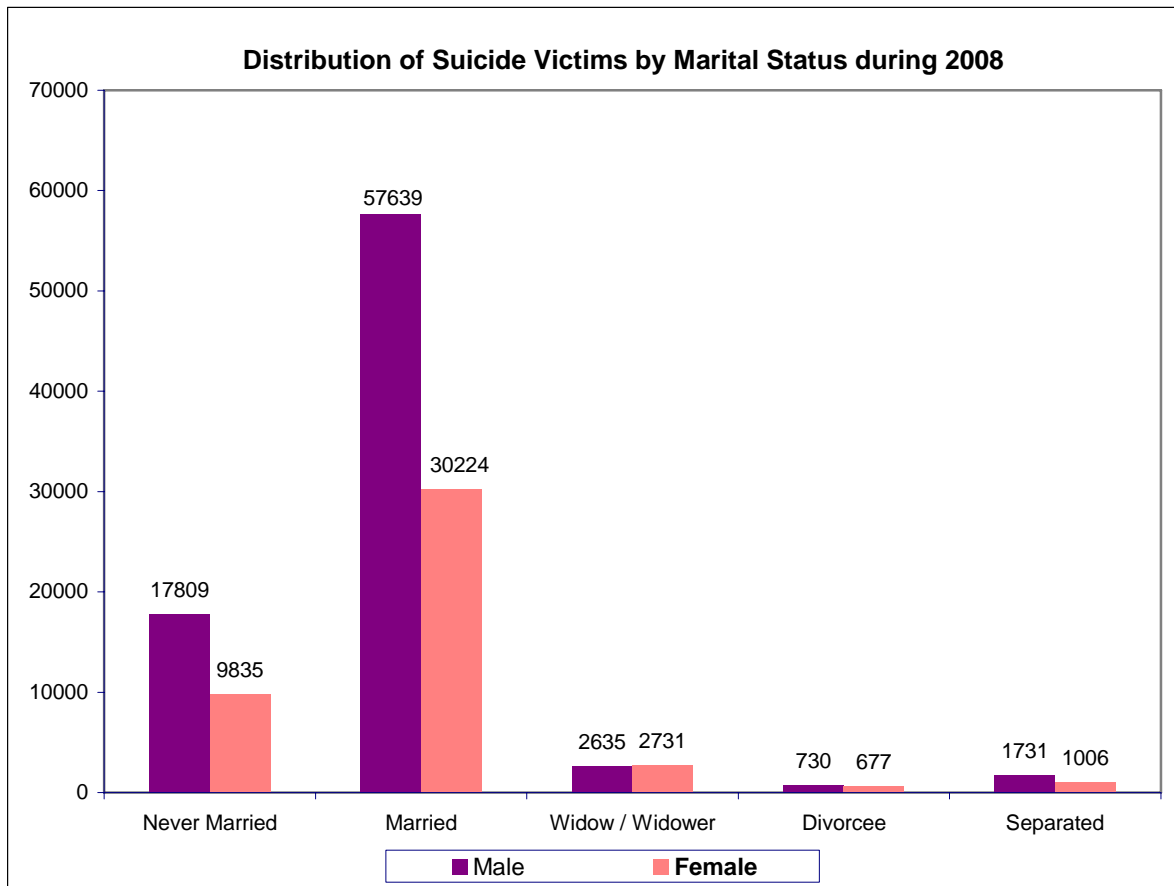


Figure – 2.9

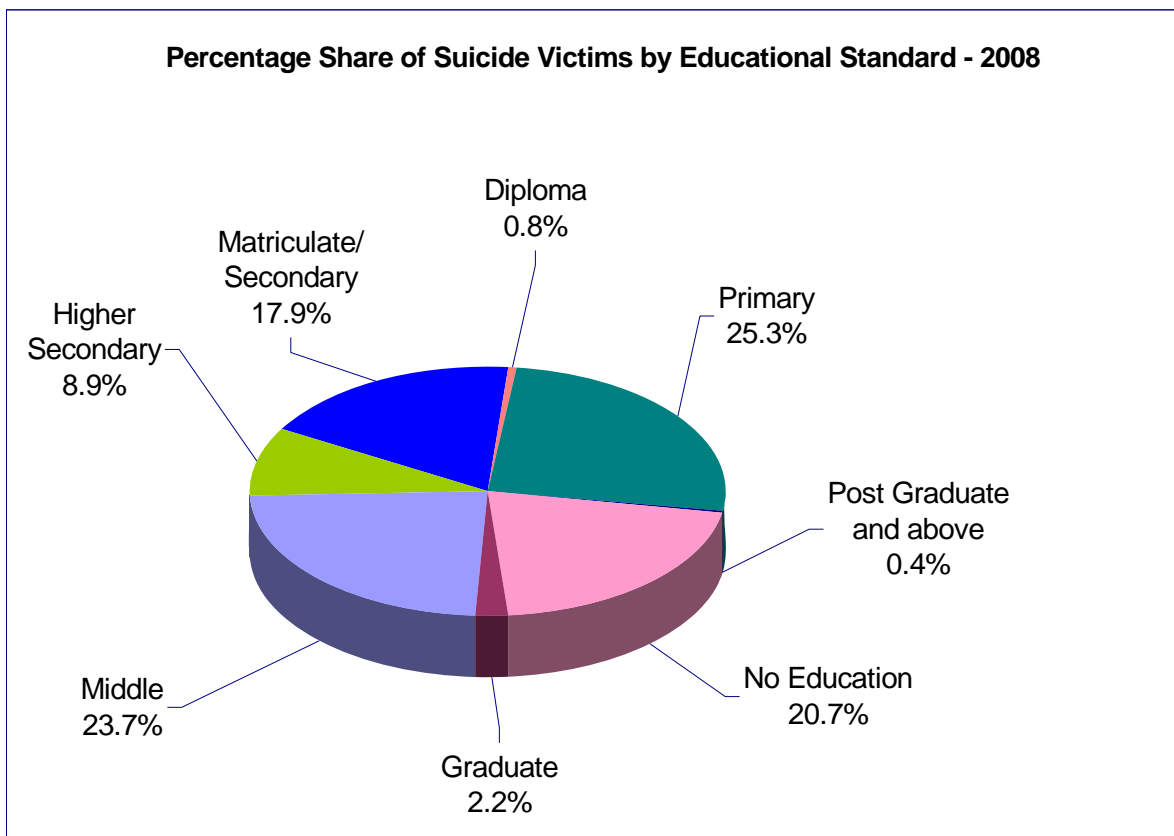


Table – 2 (H)
Percentage of Suicide Victims by Educational Level — 2006-2008

Sl.No.	Educational Level	Percentage Share		
		2006	2007	2008
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	No Education	21.3	21.8	20.7
2	Primary	24.1	25.2	25.3
3	Middle	24.5	24.2	23.7
4	Matriculate/Secondary	18.2	17.6	17.9
5	Higher Secondary	8.8	8.1	8.9
6	Diploma	0.9	0.9	0.8
7	Graduate	1.9	1.9	2.2
8	Post-Graduate & above	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

Means Adopted for Committing Suicides

The means adopted for committing suicide varied from the easily available means such as consumption of poison, jumping into the well,

number of victims who terminated their lives by hanging have been reported from Arunachal Pradesh (93.6%), A & N Islands (83.9%), Meghalaya (77.6%) and Mizoram (70.7%). Share of suicides by 'Drowning' has decreased from

Table – 2 (I)
Percentage share of the Means adopted in Committing Suicides during 2006-2008

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	% Share		
		2006	2007	2008
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Alcoholism	1.1	1.1	1.2
2	Drowning	7.3	6.8	6.7
3	Fire/self immolation	8.7	8.5	8.8
4	Fire arms	0.3	0.6	0.4
5	Hanging	32.8	31.7	32.2
6	Poisoning	35.5	34.8	34.8
	i) Consumption of insecticides	19.4	19.7	19.1
	ii) Other poisons	15.9	15.1	15.5
7	Self infliction of injury	0.2	0.2	0.3
8	Jumping from	1.2	1.0	0.9
	i) Buildings	0.4	0.7	0.5
	ii) Other sites	0.7	0.3	0.4
9	Jumping off from moving vehicles/trains	0.8	0.5	0.4
10	Machine	0.1	0.1	0.1
11	Over dose of sleeping pills	0.7	0.7	0.5
12	Self electrocution	0.5	0.6	0.8
13	Coming under running vehicles/train	3.2	3.6	3.0
14	Other means	8.0	9.7	10.1
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

etc. to more painful means such as self inflicted injuries, hanging, shooting, etc. Suicide by Consuming Poison (34.8%), Hanging (32.2%), Self Immolation (8.8%) and Drowning (6.7%) were the prominent means of committing suicides (Table-2.9) as in past. Substantial

6.8% to 6.7% in 2008 while share of 'Poisoning' has remained static at 34.8%. Share of 'Self Immolation' has increased from 8.5% to 8.8% in 2008. The State/UT's share of suicides by 'Hanging' and 'Poisoning' is presented in Table-2(J).

Table – 2 (J)
States/UTs having higher Percentage share of Suicides Committed
by Consumption of Poison and Hanging than National Average — 2008

Consumption of Poison				By Hanging			
All-India Share (34.8%)				All-India Share (32.2%)			
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share	Sl. No.	States/UTs	Cases	% share
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Andhra Pradesh	7122	49.6	1	Arunachal Pradesh	103	93.6
2	Himachal Pradesh	282	44.8	2	A & N Islands	120	83.9
3	Tripura	312	41.5	3	Meghalaya	66	77.6
4	Jammu & Kashmir	128	41.3	4	Mizoram	29	70.7
5	Manipur	14	41.2	5	Delhi (UT)	861	66.1
6	Gujarat	2496	40.5	6	Chandigarh	54	65.1
7	West Bengal	5741	38.7	7	D & N Haveli	39	65.0
8	Orissa	1865	38.0	8	Puducherry	328	64.7
9	Uttarakhand	71	37.2	9	Nagaland	24	57.1
10	Maharashtra	5309	36.9	10	Goa	162	56.4
				11	Daman & Diu	10	52.6
				12	Kerala	4329	50.5
				13	Tripura	364	48.4
				14	Manipur	16	47.1
				15	Sikkim	129	44.9
				16	Chhattisgarh	2156	43.6
				17	Assam	1256	42.0
				18	Maharashtra	5421	37.7
				19	West Bengal	5359	36.1
				20	Madhya Pradesh	2709	35.5

Table – 2 (K)
Distribution of Age-group wise & Sex wise Suicides Classified according to Means Adopted during 2008

Sl. No.	Means Adopted	Upto 14 Years			15-29 Years			30-44 Years		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1	Excessive Alcoholism	4	0	4	268	61	329	587	61	648
2	Drowning	181	190	371	1515	1227	2742	1904	968	2872
3	Fire/Self Immolation	47	115	162	1201	3644	4845	1604	2118	3722
4	Fire-Arms	3	3	6	115	59	174	153	36	189
5	Hanging	298	300	598	8800	6256	15056	10218	4091	14309
6	Poisoning	280	337	617	8765	6863	15628	10158	5010	15168
	(i) Consumption of Insecticides	159	190	349	4866	3754	8620	5732	2572	8304
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	120	144	264	3857	3066	6923	4362	2422	6784
7	Self Infliction of injury	2	3	5	66	62	128	80	26	106
8	Jumping	14	15	29	263	100	363	323	90	413
	(i) From Building	5	4	9	139	65	204	214	62	276
	(ii) From Other sites	9	11	20	124	36	160	109	28	137
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	3	3	6	127	59	186	149	42	191
10	By Machine	0	0	0	26	3	29	34	8	42
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	8	1	9	75	113	188	140	81	221
12	Self-electrocution	27	5	32	289	55	344	302	59	361
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	30	25	55	804	325	1129	977	261	1238
14	Other means	269	222	491	2124	1471	3595	2954	1208	4162
Total		1165	1216	2381	24396	20256	44652	29519	14043	43562
Percentage		0.9	1.0	1.9	19.5	16.2	35.7	23.6	11.2	34.8

Table – 2 (K) (Concluded)

SI. No.	Means Adopted	45-59 Years			60 Years & above			Total			Percentage of Male to Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	
1	Excessive Alcoholism	385	27	412	120	10	130	1364	159	1523	89.6
2	Drowning	1075	470	1545	515	306	821	5190	3161	8351	62.1
3	Fire/Self Immolation	875	765	1640	255	362	617	3982	7004	10986	36.2
4	Fire-Arms	63	16	79	18	13	31	352	127	479	73.5
5	Hanging	6004	1735	7739	2012	554	2566	27332	12936	40268	67.9
6	Poisoning	6779	2247	9026	2252	867	3119	28234	15324	43558	64.8
	(i) Consumption of insecticides	3704	1121	4825	1305	492	1797	15766	8129	23895	66
	(ii) Consumption of other Poison	3056	1112	4168	927	358	1285	12322	7102	19424	63.4
7	Self Infliction of injury	35	16	51	23	18	41	206	125	331	62.2
8	Jumping	183	52	235	61	33	94	844	290	1134	74.4
	(i) From Building	100	30	130	26	25	51	484	186	670	72.2
	(ii) From Other sites	83	22	105	35	8	43	360	105	465	77.4
9	Jumping off Moving Vehicles/Trains	79	11	90	18	6	24	376	121	497	75.7
10	By Machine	26	15	41	3	2	5	89	28	117	76.1
11	Overdose of sleeping pills	107	55	162	50	30	80	380	280	660	57.6
12	Self electrocution	169	39	208	30	10	40	817	168	985	82.9
13	Coming under running vehicles/trains	843	121	964	262	49	311	2916	781	3697	78.9
14	Other means	2215	818	3033	1046	342	1388	8608	4061	12669	67.9
Total		18819	6373	25192	6645	2585	9230	80544	44473	125017	64.4
Percentage		15.1	5.1	20.2	5.3	2.1	7.4	64.4	35.6	100.0	

The sex-wise break-up and percentage distribution of the means adopted for suicides in various States/UTs & Cities is presented in **Table-2.14**. The number of male victims was more than females for all means of suicides except those committed by 'Self immolation' where share of female victims was more (63.8%).

2004 to 2007. Thereafter, the number of suicides in cities has decreased from 14,336 in 2007 to 13,071 in 2008. The rate of suicides has been hovering around 11 during 2004 and 2005; it was around 13 in 2006 and 2007 and declined to around 12 in 2008.

The four Metropolitan Cities — Bengaluru

Table – 2 (L)

Year	Suicides in Cities	Cities share to All India	Rate in Cities	% Variation over previous year (incidence)
2004	11708	10.3	10.9	- 2.6
2005	12331	10.8	11.4	5.3
2006	13844	11.7	12.8	12.3
2007	14336	11.7	13.3	3.6
2008	13071	10.6	12.1	- 8.8

17.8% suicides in Goa were committed by 'Drowning'. 'Coming under Running Vehicles / Trains' was the preferred means of committing suicides in Punjab where it accounted for 46.5% of all suicides.

Suicides in Cities

The number of suicides in 35 mega cities have reported an increasing trend during the year

(2,396), Chennai (1,309), Mumbai (1,111) and Delhi (1,107) have reported higher number of Suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 45% of the total suicides reported from 35 mega cities. Amritsar city reported high increase 69.2% (from 26 suicides in 2007 to 44 suicides in 2008). Chennai city has reported a decline of 43.4% (2,313 suicides in 2007 to 1,309 suicides in 2008) over 2007.

Table – 2 (M)
Comparative Percentage Distribution of Suicides by Causes in Cities and All-India (Major Causes)

Sl. No.	Cause of Suicide	No. of Cases (in 2008)		Share in total suicides reported in	
		Cities	All-India	Cities	All-India
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Family Problems	3036	29777	23.2	23.8
2.	Total Illness	2417	20124	18.5	16.1
3.	Insanity/Mental Illness*	754	8699	5.8	7.0
4.	Love Affairs	399	3774	3.1	3.0
5.	Bankruptcy or Sudden Change in Economic Status	254	2970	1.9	2.4
6.	Dowry Dispute	261	3038	2.0	2.4
7.	Poverty	362	2189	2.8	1.8
8.	Unemployment	481	2080	3.7	1.7
9.	Drug Abuse/Addiction	303	3006	2.3	2.4
10.	Failure in Examination	314	2730	2.4	2.2
Total		7827	69688	59.9	55.8

* included in total illness

The suicide rate in cities (12.1) was higher as compared to All-India suicide rate (10.8). Bengaluru has reported the highest rate of suicides (42.1) followed by Rajkot city (31.5). Indore city and Kolkata had the lowest rate at 2.0 and 1.4 respectively among 35 cities.

Nearly 18.5% of suicides were committed due to 'Illness' as against 16.1% of such suicides at National level as per causal analysis of suicides in cities. Similarly, the share of suicides due to 'Love Affairs', 'Poverty', 'Unemployment' and 'Failure in Examination' was comparatively higher than their respective National averages.

'Family Problems' claimed 42.0% suicides in Allahabad and were the major cause of suicides in Vijayawada (41.7%), Indore (40.6%), Coimbatore (37.3%), Nagpur (37.1%), Surat (36.3%), Mumbai (35.3%), Madurai (35.1%) and Kanpur (33.7%). 'Failure in Examination' accounted for 16.9% of suicide victims in Lucknow, 15.9% of suicide victims in Faridabad and 15.0% of suicide victims in Jamshedpur. 'Suspected/Illicit Relations' were responsible for 12.0% of suicides in Varanasi and 10.0% of suicides in Jamshedpur. About 9.9% suicides committed in Meerut were due to 'Illness (AIDS/STD)' while 'Illness (Paralysis)' accounted for 13.6% of suicides in Agra. 'Illness (Insanity)' was the reason of 25.0% of suicides in Amritsar, 23.5% of suicides in Ludhiana and Kolkata each and 21.0% of suicides in Kochi. 'Death of a dear person' prompted 8.4% suicides in Jabalpur. 'Dowry Dispute' contributed 38.7% of suicides in Varanasi while 'Drug Addiction' accounted for 20.5% of suicides in Amritsar. 12.5% of suicides in Jamshedpur were due to 'Fall in Social Reputation' whereas 'Illegitimate Pregnancy' accounted for 8.8% of suicides in Jabalpur. 'Love Affairs' accounted for 19.8% of suicides in Meerut, 13.3% of suicide victims in Varanasi, 12.5% of suicides in Indore and 10.0% of suicides in Asansol. 'Poverty' was the reason for 14.8% of the suicides in Ludhiana while 14.3% of suicides in Jabalpur were due to 'Professional / Career Problem'. 29.0% of suicides in Bhopal were due to 'Unemployment'. [Table-2.10]

42.3% suicide victims were housewives in Dhanbad while 15.4% were Government servants in Jabalpur. In Nagpur and Surat 37.6% and 33.5% respectively of suicide victims were private employees. 19.5% suicide victims in Faridabad were employees of PSUs. 19.8% suicides in Meerut were committed by students. 23.7% suicide victims in Rajkot, 22.7% in Asansol and 20.5% in Delhi city were unemployed. 43.2% suicide victims in Amritsar were engaged in Business activity. 20.0% victims in Jamshedpur were engaged in Professional activities. 43.3% of suicide victims in Lucknow were engaged in Farming / Agriculture activity. [Table-2.11]

'Educational Profile' of suicide victims revealed that 63.4% of suicide victims in Allahabad and 49.8% of suicide victims in Bhopal were illiterate. 52.2% of suicide victims in Rajkot, 45.5% of suicide victims in Patna and 40.6% of suicide victims in Surat were educated upto Primary level. 41.6% of suicide victims in Coimbatore had education upto Middle level. 61.5% of suicide victims in Dhanbad and 59.1% of suicide victims in Amritsar were educated upto Matriculate / Secondary level. 38.1% suicide victims in Faridabad and 33.0% in Jabalpur were educated upto Higher Secondary / Intermediate / Pre-University level. 16.9% suicide victims in Lucknow and 14.3% suicide victims in Meerut were Diploma holders. 45.8% suicide victims in Kolkata were Graduates while 12.1% suicide victims in Meerut and 10.7% suicide victims in Varanasi had education upto Post Graduation or above. [Table-2.13]

The pattern of suicides reported from 35 cities showed that 'Hanging' (45.7%), 'Poisoning' (21.3%) and 'Self Immolation' (13.2%) were the prominent means adopted by the suicide victims in the cities. 'Hanging' claimed 70.4% of suicide victims in Kochi. 47.7% suicide victims consumed insecticides in Amritsar, In Patna, 42.4% suicide victims immolated themselves whereas 25.8% suicides were committed by 'Drowning'. 12.5% suicides were committed by 'Over Alcoholism' in Meerut. [Table-2.14]
