

Table S 1: Details of the unweighted and weighted numbers of suicide deaths for each year, for each of South Africa's nine provinces are provided as complementary materials

	Description	Date range	Duration (days)
Alert level 5	Drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus and save lives	1 April – 30 April 2020	30
Alert level 4	Extreme precautions to limit community transmission and outbreaks, while allowing some activity to resume	1 May – 31 May 2020	31
Alert level 3	Restrictions on many activities, including workplaces and socially, to address high risk of transmission	1 June – 17 August 2020; 29 December 2020 – 28 February 2021	140
Alert level 2	Physical distancing and restrictions on leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.	18 August – 20 September 2020	34
Alert level 1	Most normal activity can resume, with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times.	21 September – 28 December 2020; 1 March – 31 March 2021	130

Table S 2: Total suicide deaths by province and year, unweighted and weighted, South Africa, 2009, 2017, 2020/21

	2017 (unweighted)	2017 (weighted)	2020/21 (unweighted)	2020/21 (weighted)
Western Cape	639	639	718	718
Eastern Cape	357	820	619	1124
Northern Cape	73	103	118	168
Northwest	223	313	320	412
Mpumalanga	266	396	347	614
Gauteng	586	1429	659	1370
Free State	301	391	263	311
Kwazulu Natal	684	1621	780	1267
Limpopo	202	404	301	602
Total	3331	6116	4125	6586

Table S 3: Age-specific and age-standardised mortality rates for suicide in South Africa by year and sex (N = 12703)

		Age-specific suicide mortality rates per 100,000 [95% CI]					Total (crude) suicide mortality rates per 100,000 [95% CI]	Age-standardised suicide mortality rates per 100,000 [95% CI]
		0-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45+ years		
2017	Male	1.61 [1.33, 1.89]	19.88 [18.62, 21.14]	32.72 [31.18, 34.27]	25.05 [23.46, 26.64]	21.59 [20.36, 22.83]	18.05 [17.55, 18.55]	18.29 [17.78, 18.80]
	Female	0.64 [0.47, 0.82]	6.56 [5.83, 7.29]	5.52 [4.88, 6.16]	4.96 [4.26, 5.66]	4.74 [4.23, 5.25]	4.08 [3.85, 4.32]	4.12 [3.89, 4.36]
	Total	1.13 [0.96, 1.29]	13.21 [12.48, 13.94]	19.23 [18.39, 20.07]	14.93 [14.06, 15.79]	12.06 [11.45, 12.67]	10.88 [10.61, 11.15]	10.91 [10.64, 11.18]
2020/21	Male	1.73 [1.44, 2.01]	22.01 [20.67, 23.34]	31.95 [30.42, 33.48]	27.09 [25.53, 28.64]	21.59 [20.41, 22.77]	18.62 [18.12, 19.12]	18.04 [17.56, 18.53]
	Female	0.93 [0.72, 1.14]	8.58 [7.75, 9.42]	5.56 [4.92, 6.20]	4.57 [3.93, 5.21]	4.12 [3.67, 4.58]	4.27 [4.03, 4.50]	4.16 [3.93, 4.39]
	Total	1.33 [1.16, 1.51]	15.33 [14.54, 16.12]	18.83 [17.99, 19.66]	15.85 [15.01, 16.69]	11.78 [11.20, 12.36]	11.27 [11.00, 11.54]	10.82 [10.56, 11.08]