

Suicide Prevention in Northern Ireland

Mr Colm Donaghy,
Chair, Suicide Strategy Implementation
Body

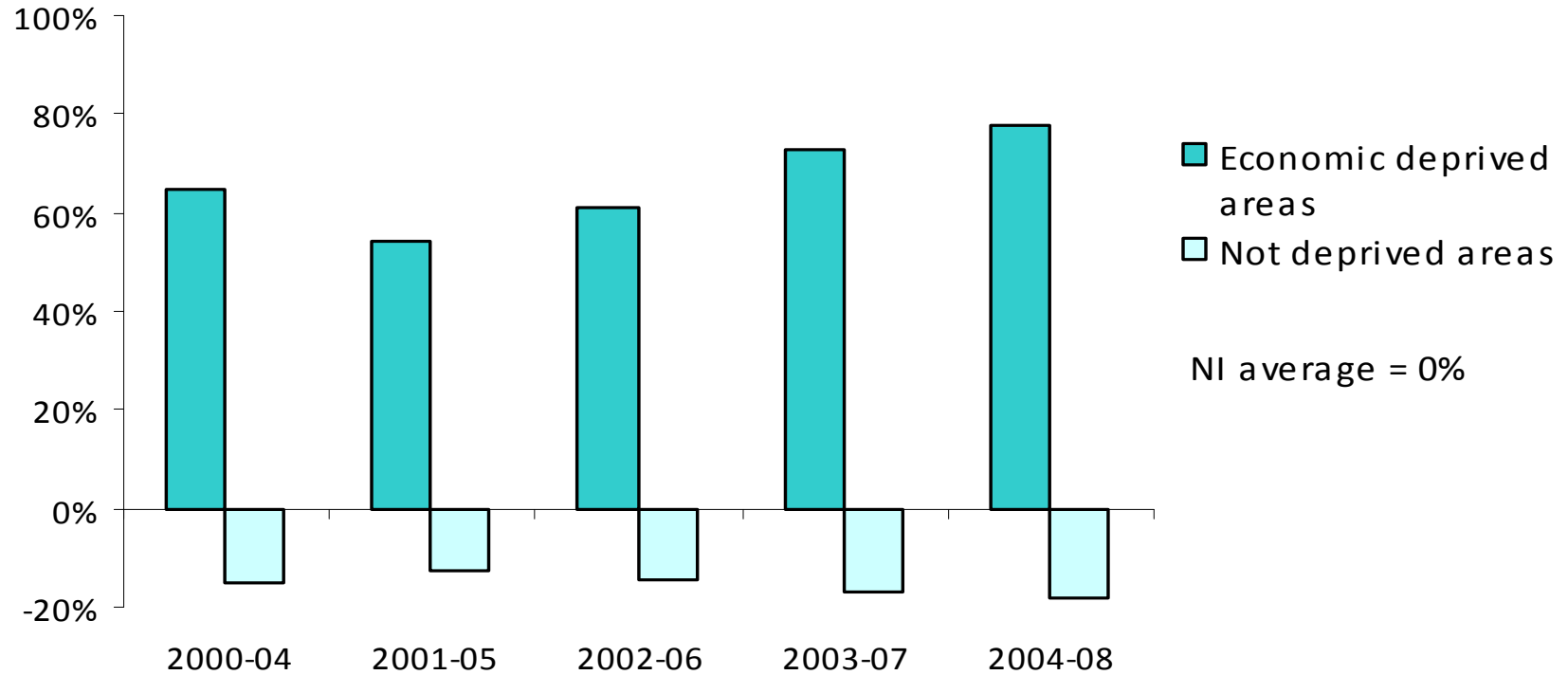
29 June 2011

Self murder is wisely and religiously considered by the English law as the most heinous description of felonious homicide; for as no man hath power to destroy life, but by commission of God, the author of it, the suicide is guilty of a double offence: one spiritual, invading the prerogative of the Almighty, and rushing in His presence uncalled for; and the other temporal, against the king, who has an interest in the preservation of all his subjects.

This offence, therefore, is ranked by the law amongst the highest crimes, making it a peculiar species of felony, a felony committed on oneself.”



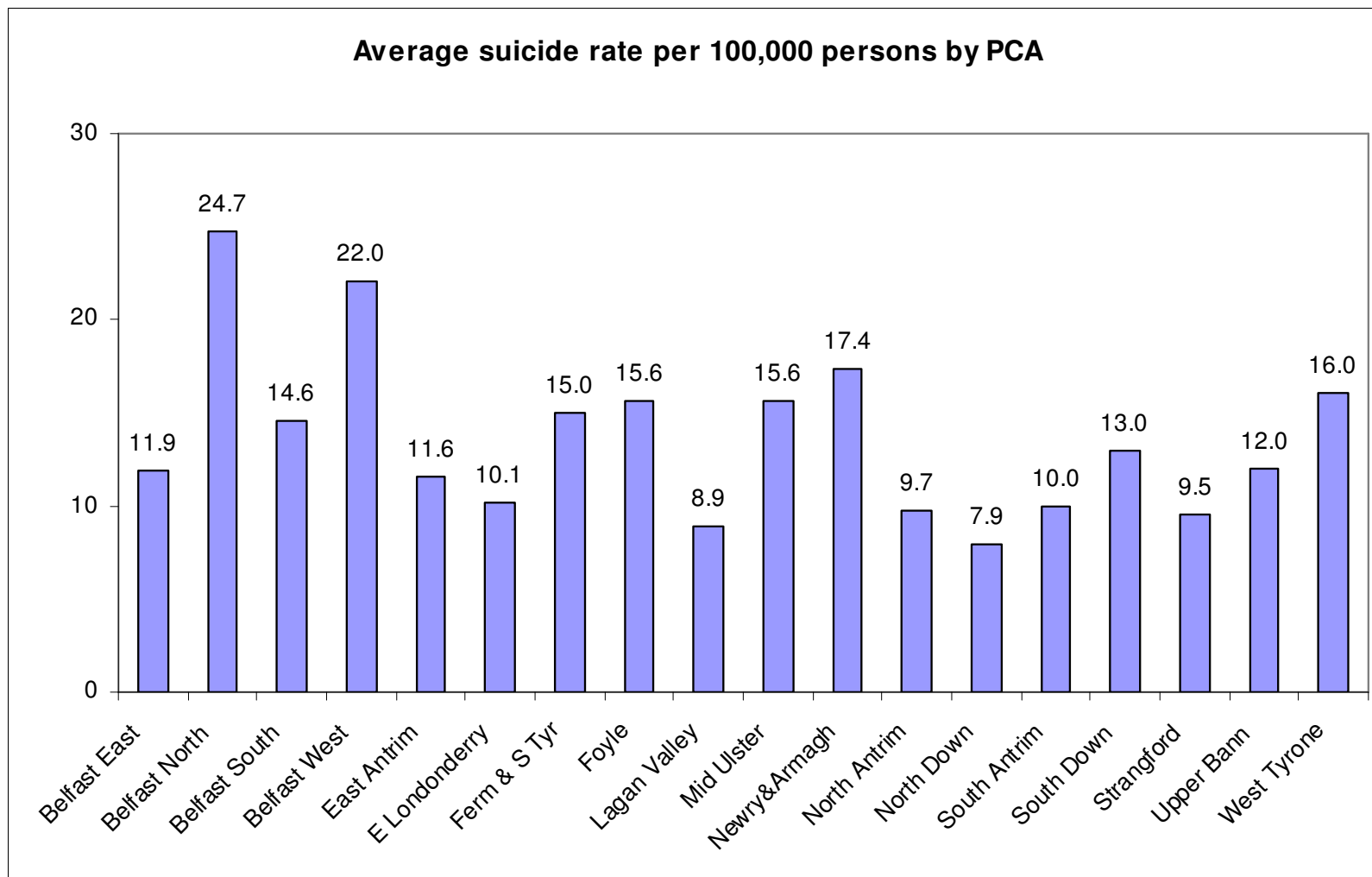
Percentage difference from the NI average suicide rate by geographic proxy for economic deprivation



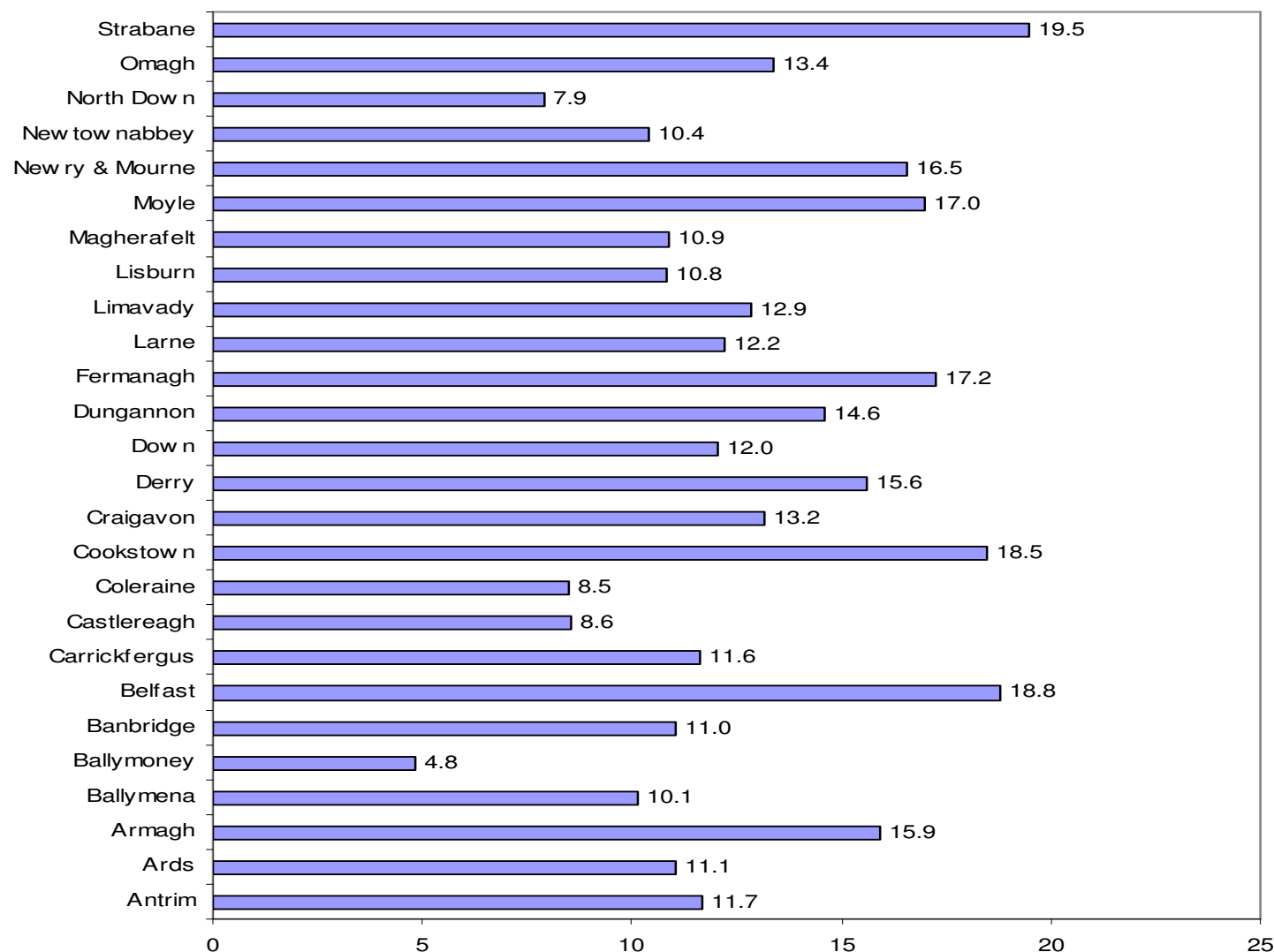
Project Support Analysis Branch, DHSSPS

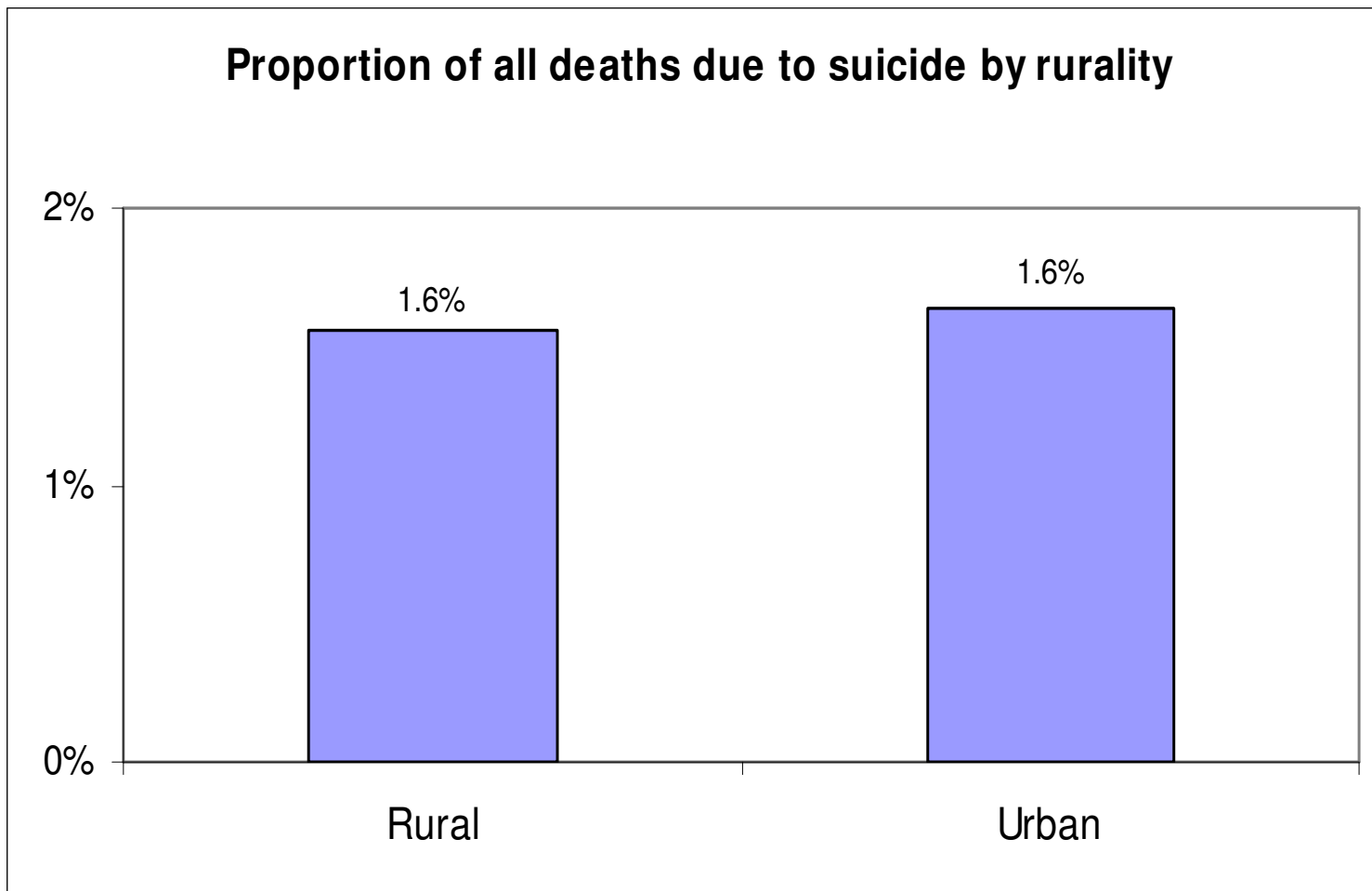


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Social Care Trust

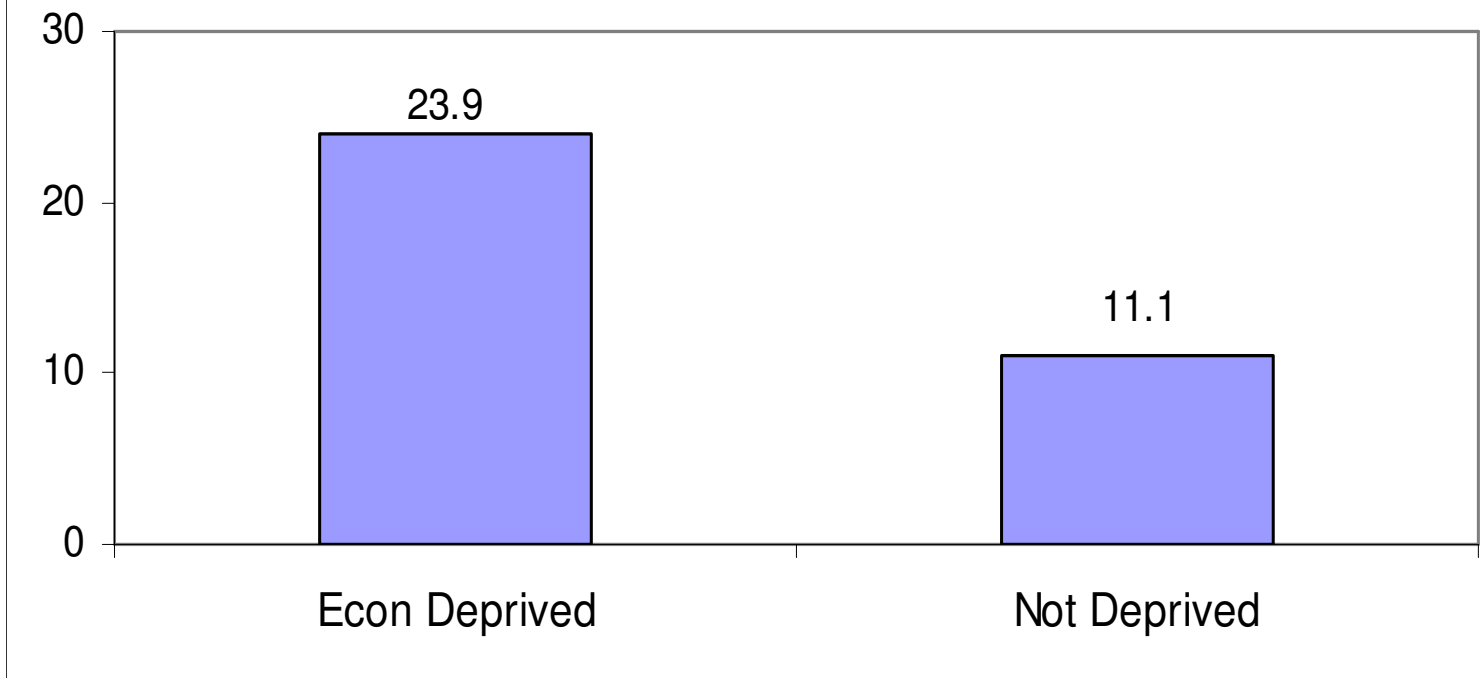


Average suicide rates per 100,000 persons by LGD





Average suicide rates per 100,000 persons by economic deprivation



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Risk Factors

- Social Factors
- Alcohol Misuse
- Psychiatric Disorder
- Discharge from A&E
- History of Self Harm
- Media Reporting
- Sexuality
- Prisoners
- High Risk Occupations
- Family History



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What Works?

- GP Education Programmes
- Skills and Problem Solving
- Restriction of Access to Means
- Education of Community Gatekeepers
- Treatment of Mental Illness
- Follow up after Self Harm
- Responsible Media Reporting
- Strong Connections to Family and Community Support



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Key Aspects

- Prevention V Treatment
- Dual Approach
- Joined Up Working
- Training and Development
- Ongoing Community Engagement
- Research
- Resources



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Making it Happen

- Suicide Strategy Implementation Body

Scrutineer

Monitor

- Family Forum
- Cross Departmental Working
- Local Implementation Groups/Plans



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Making it Happen

- **PHA Regional Plans**

- **Training**
- **Awareness Campaign**
- **All Ireland Approach**
- **Media**
- **Pilots**
- **Research**

- **Funding £6.7m**

- **Annual Review/Refresh**

