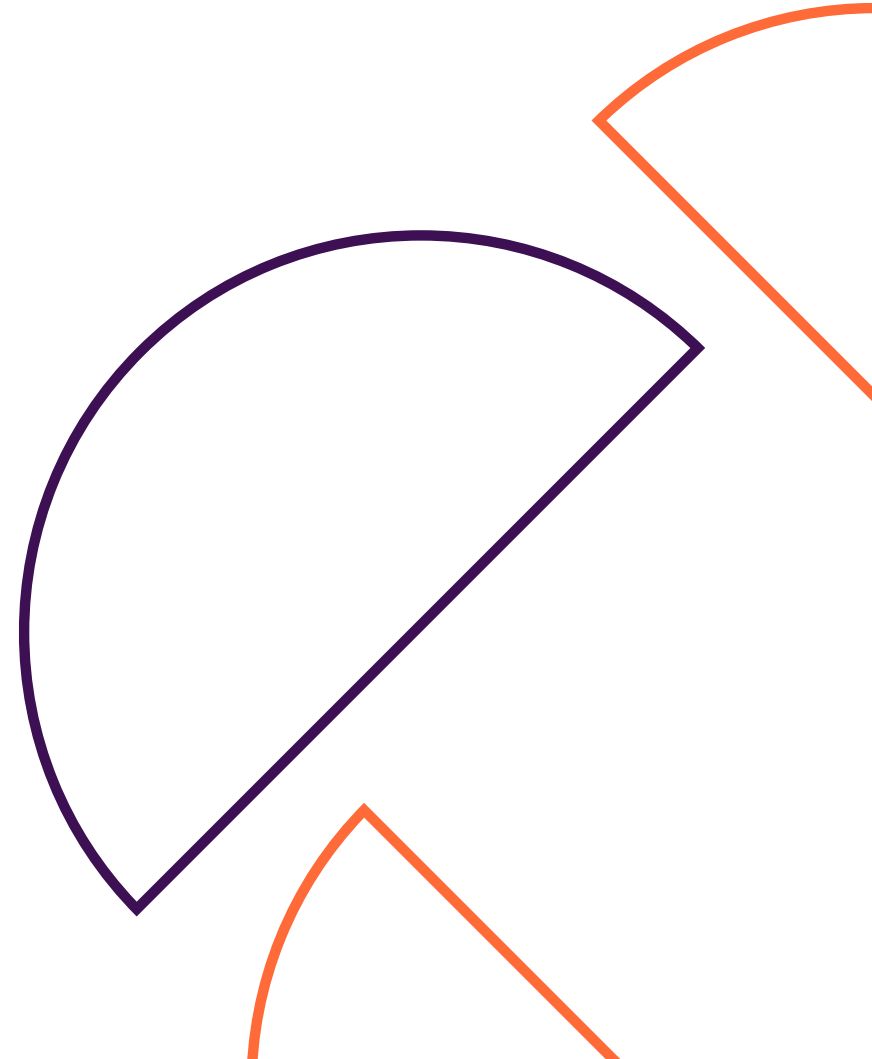


Australia Suicide Data 2017 (ABS 2018)

Released 26 September 2018



About this summary

- This summary was prepared by the *Mindframe* team at **Everymind** using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *causes of death* data release September 2018.
- When exploring suicide data it is important to remember that behind the numbers are people, families and communities impacted by suicide in Australia. The reasons people take their own life are often complex. There is no single reason why a person attempts or dies by suicide.
- *Mindframe* reminds media and communication professionals accessing this summary of the need to be responsible and accurate when reporting on or communicating about suicide, as there is a potential risk to vulnerable audiences impacted by despair and no hope. Context is therefore important. Resources to support reporting and professional communication are available at www.mindframe-media.info.
- A full summary of data can be found on the *Mindframe* website at <http://www.mindframe-media.info/for-media/reporting-suicide/facts-and-stats>. A summary is also available on the *Life in Mind* website at <https://www.lifeinmindaustralia.com.au/about-suicide/suicide-data>.



Notes about using statistics

- ABS advises that care should be taken in comparing 2017 data with:
 - Previous years, as some data has been subject to quality improvement process; and
 - Pre-2006 data as this data was not subject to the revision process.
- Due to the relatively small numbers of suicides in some states and territories, even one or two deaths can have a significant impact on standardised suicide rates. Thus comparisons across Australia must be done cautiously.



General summary

2017

In 2017, there were **3,128** deaths by suicide with an age-specific rate of **12.7** per 100,000.

This equates to an average of **8.6** deaths by suicide in Australia each day.

There were **2,348** male deaths at an age-specific rate of **19.2** per 100,000.

There were **780** female deaths at an age-specific rate of **6.3** per 100,000.

2016

In 2016, there were **2,866** deaths by suicide with an age-specific rate of **11.8** per 100,000.

This equates to an average of **7.9** deaths by suicide in Australia each day.

There were **2,151** male deaths at an age-specific rate of **17.9** per 100,000.

There were **715** female deaths at an age-specific rate of **5.9** per 100,000.

2015*

In 2015, there were **3,065** deaths by suicide with an age-specific rate of **12.9** per 100,000.

This equates to an average of **8.4** deaths by suicide in Australia each day.

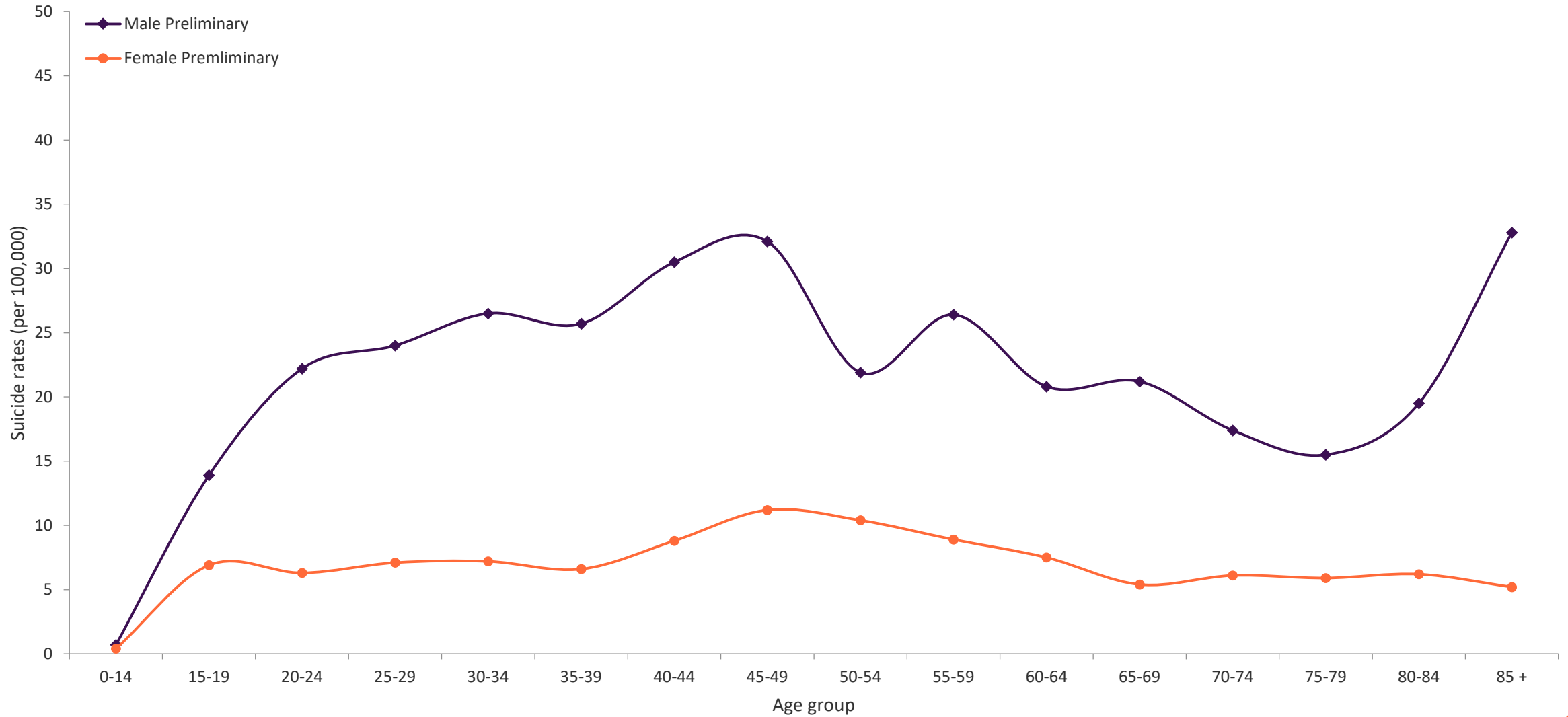
There were **2,313** male deaths at an age-specific rate of **19.6** per 100,000.

There were **752** female deaths at an age-specific rate of **6.3** per 100,000.

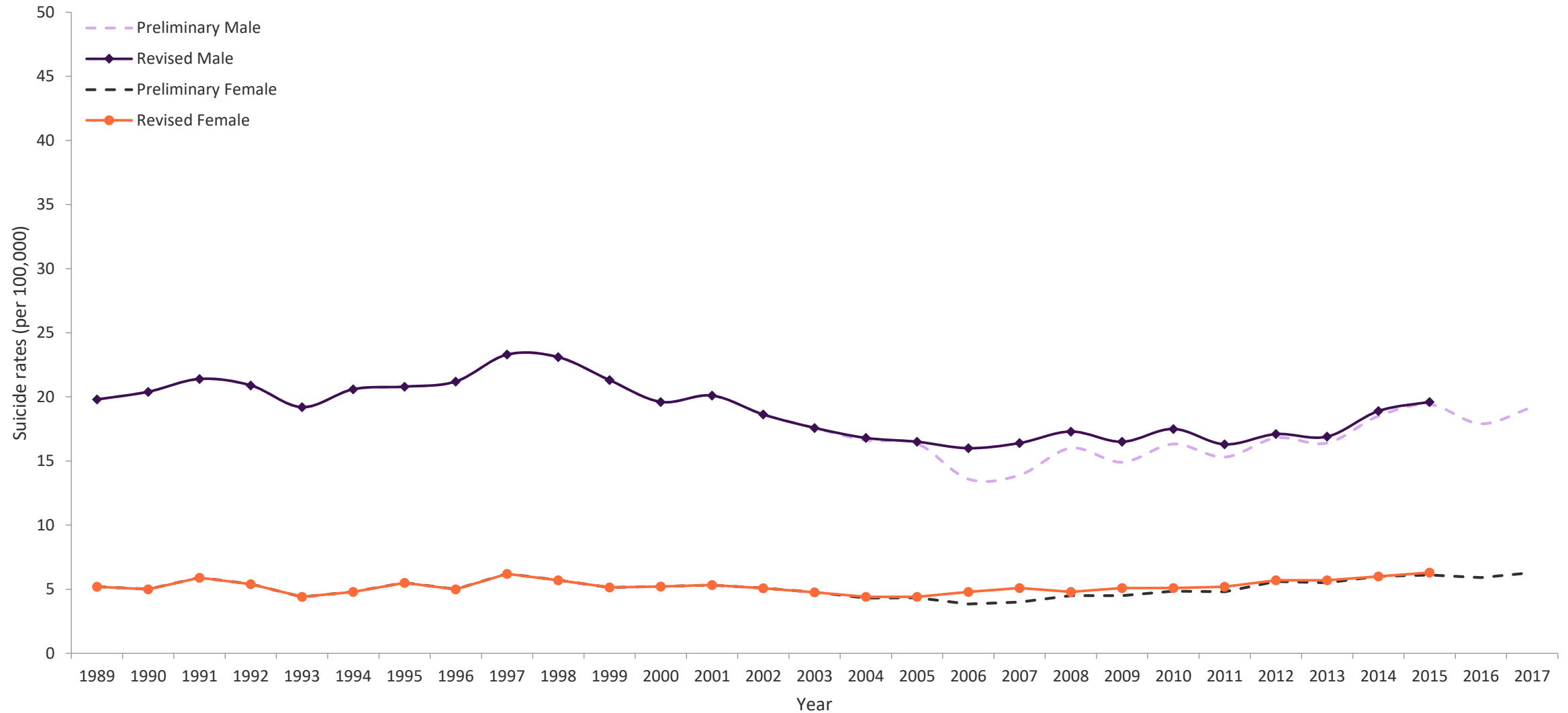
* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



Preliminary suicide rates (2017)



Suicide Rates (1989-2017)

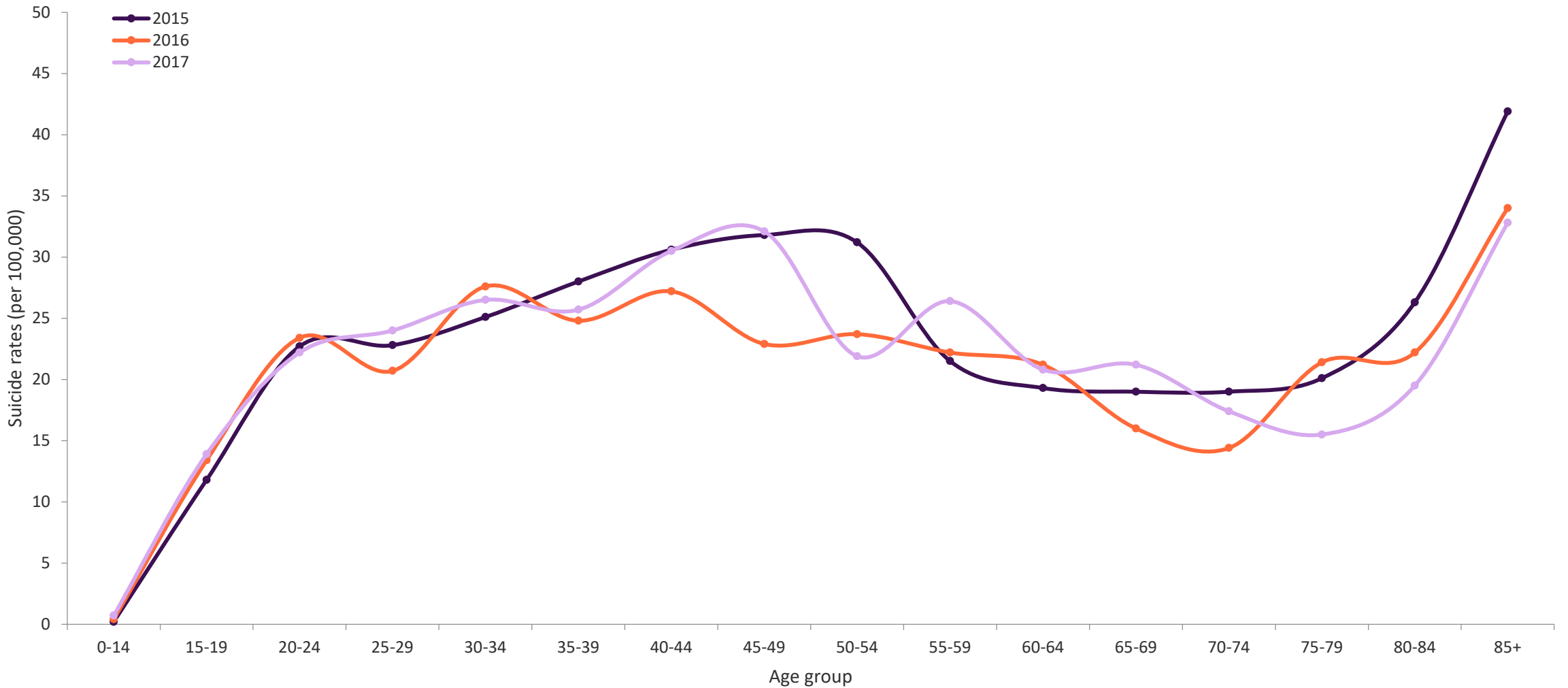


* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



Males (2015-2017)

Age-specific suicide rates

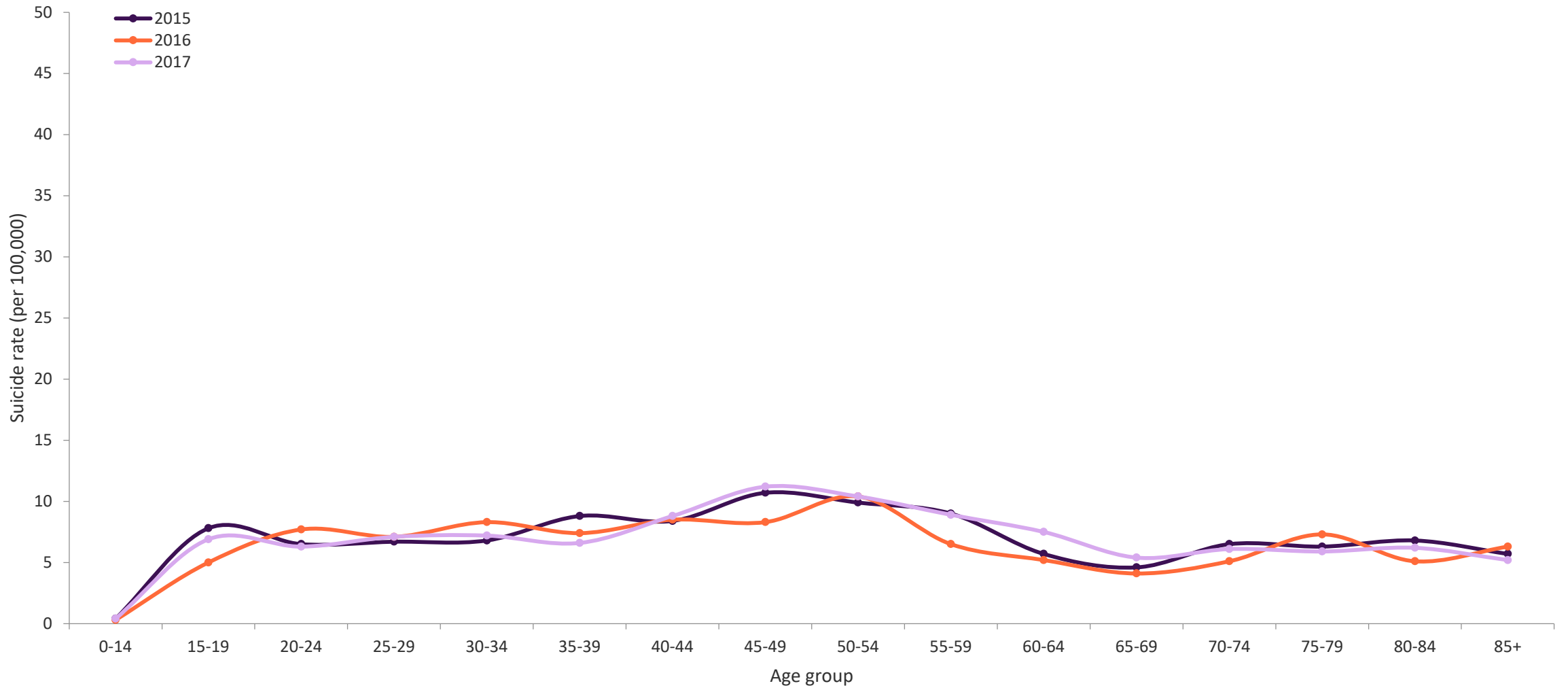


* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



Females (2015-2017)

Age-specific suicide rates

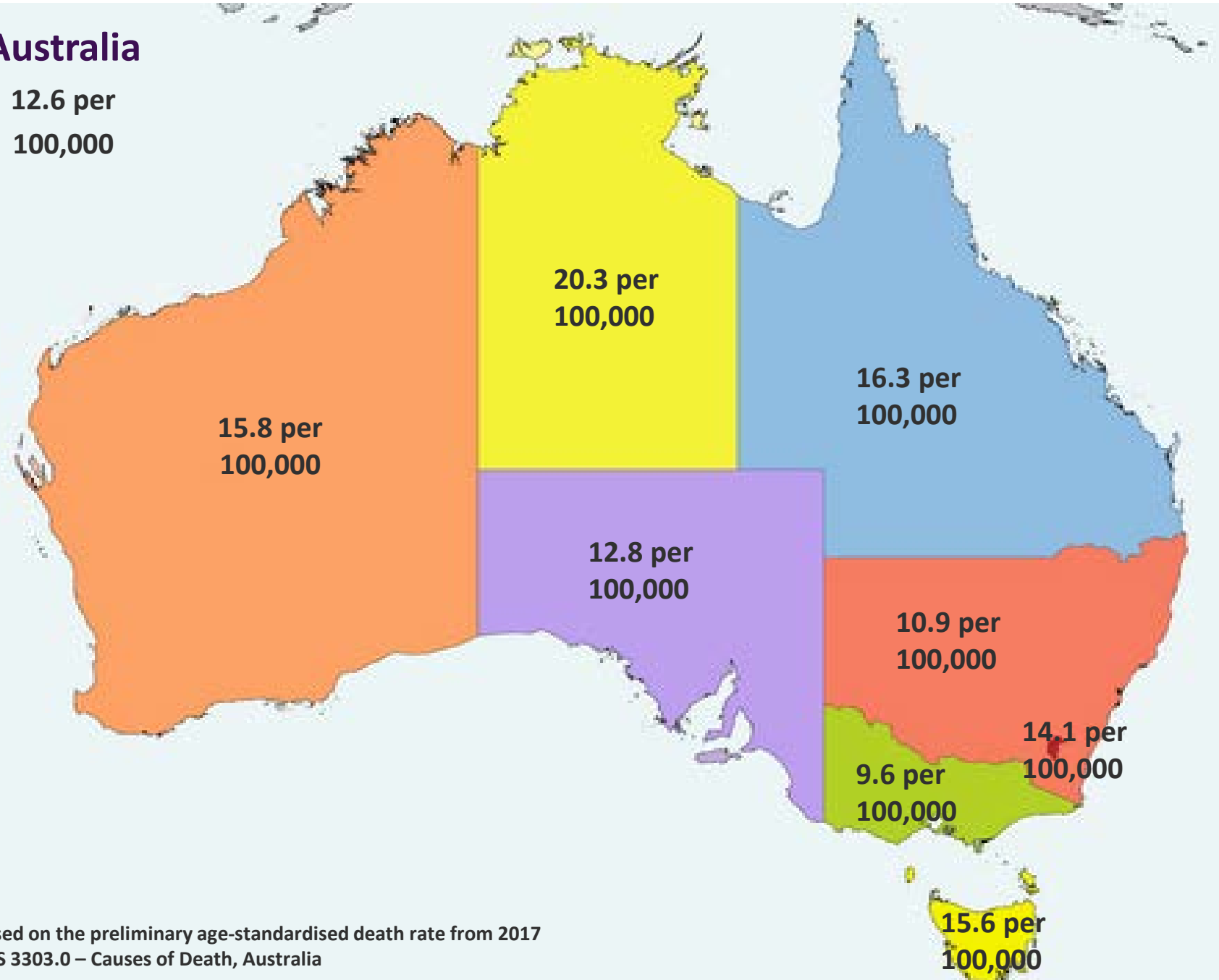


* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



Australia

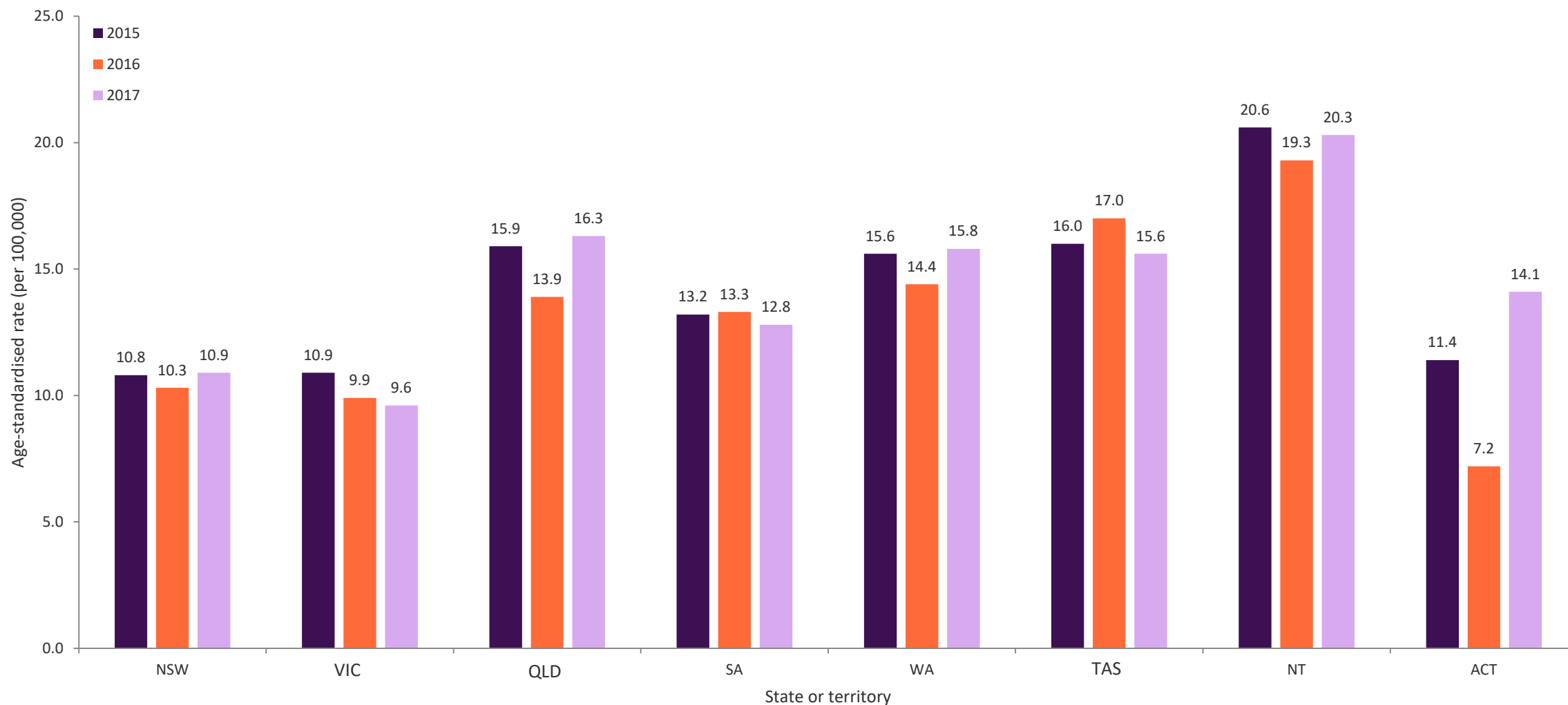
12.6 per
100,000



Based on the preliminary age-standardised death rate from 2017
ABS 3303.0 – Causes of Death, Australia



Age-standardised death rate by state and territory (2015-2017)



* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



Comorbidity

- This is the first year that the ABS have released data relating to comorbidities, with 80% of suicide deaths having comorbidities mentioned as co-occurring factors.
- It is important to note that the presence of a comorbidity does not indicate a causal association and that comorbidities are not mutually exclusive categories.
- Comorbidities are heavily influenced by age. E.g. Heart disease and cancer were common comorbidities in those aged over 85 years (16.9% and 24.7% respectively) despite only having been associated with a small number of overall deaths.
- Mood disorders (including depression) was the most common comorbid factor associated with suicide, reported in 43% of all suicides, followed by drug and alcohol use disorders (29.5%).
- Anxiety was associated with 17.5% of suicide deaths.
- Alcohol and other drugs were found in the blood at the time of death in 14.9% of suicide deaths.



Children and youth

- Suicide among children and youth is rare, and is considerably less than among those of older ages.
- During the mid 1980s, suicide rates for 15-19 year old males rose rapidly and peaked at 21.0 per 100,000 in 1988. During the 1990s, suicide rates for 15-19 year old males fluctuated around 17-19 per 100,000 for this group with a peak of 19.0 per 100,000 in 1991. These rates have gradually declined since the 1990s, having fluctuated between 10-15 per 100,000 within this age group for the past 10 years.
- In 2017, the age-specific rate for males aged 15-19 years was 13.9 per 100,000.
- For females, the suicide rates for females aged 15-19 also fluctuate, with a high in 2012 (8.3 per 100,000) and were lowest in 2008 (3.6 per 100,000).
- In 2017, the age-specific rate for females aged 15-19 years was 6.9 per 100,000.
- Considering all causes of death, suicide accounted for 2.0% of deaths among 0-14 year old males and 36.4% of deaths among 15-19 year old males in 2017.
- Considering all causes of death, suicide accounted for 1.2% of deaths among 0-14 year old females and 32.9% of deaths among 15-19 year old females in 2017.



Children and Youth 2017

0 – 14 year olds

There were 24 deaths by suicide amongst youth aged 0-14 years with an age-specific rate of 0.5 per 100,000.

There were 16 deaths among male youth in this age group at an age-specific rate of 0.7 per 100,000.

There were 8 deaths among female youth in this age group at an age-specific rate of 0.4 per 100,000.

15 – 19 year olds

There were 156 deaths by suicide amongst youth aged 15-19 years with an age-specific rate of 10.5 per 100,000.

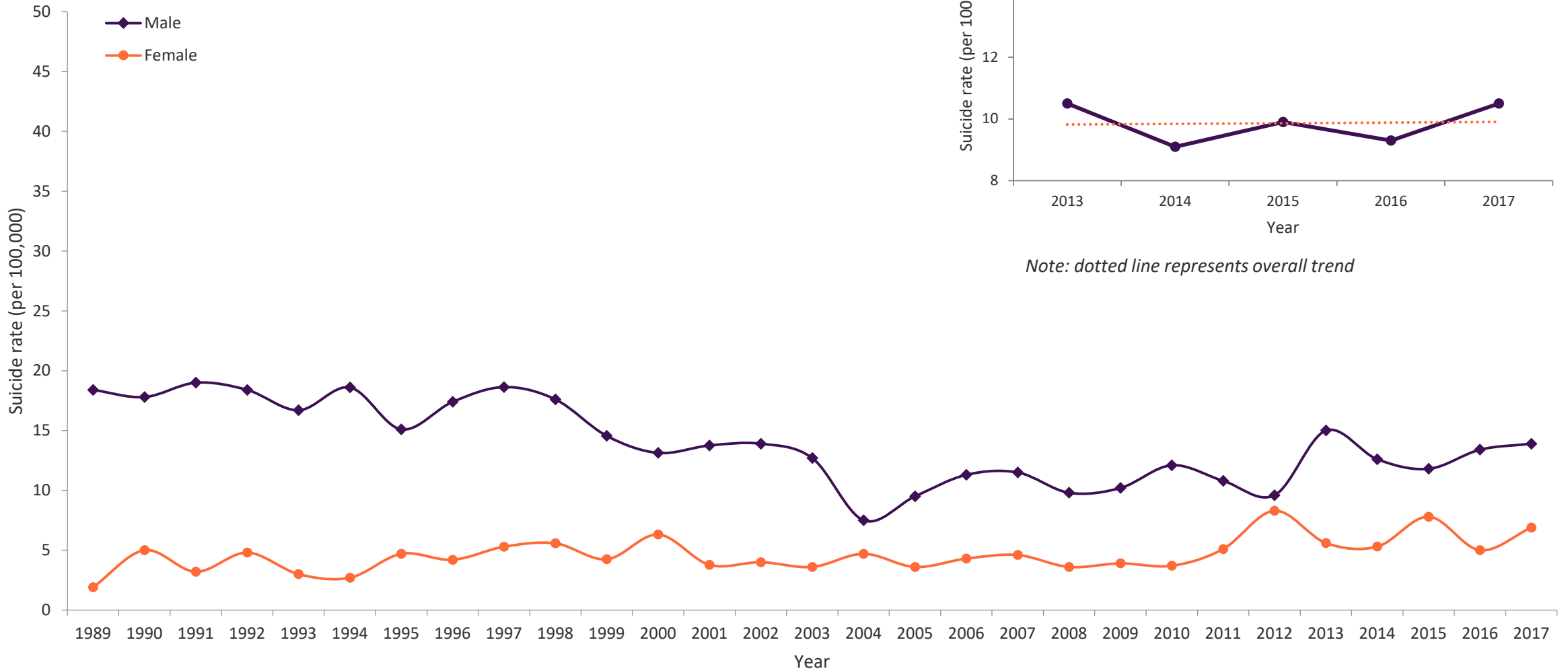
There were 106 deaths among male youth in this age group at an age-specific rate of 13.9 per 100,000.

There were 50 deaths among female youth in this age group at an age-specific rate of 6.9 per 100,000.

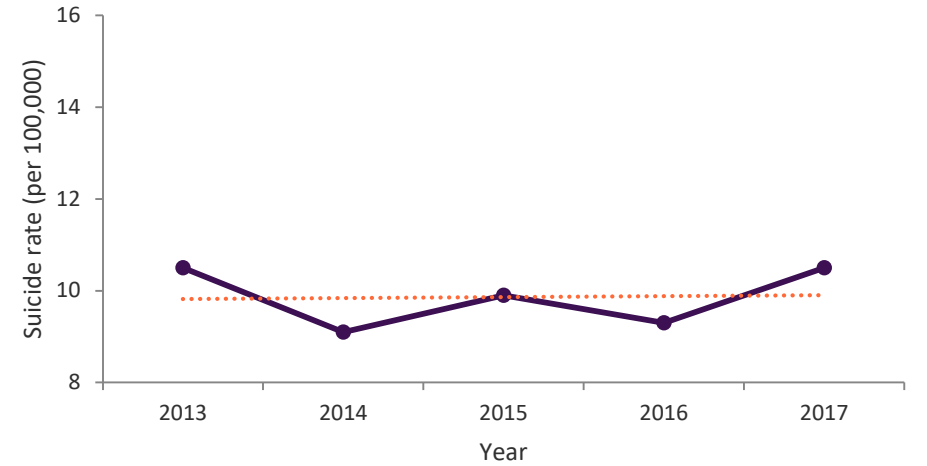


15 – 19 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



Five year trend (Male and Female combined) 15 – 19 year olds



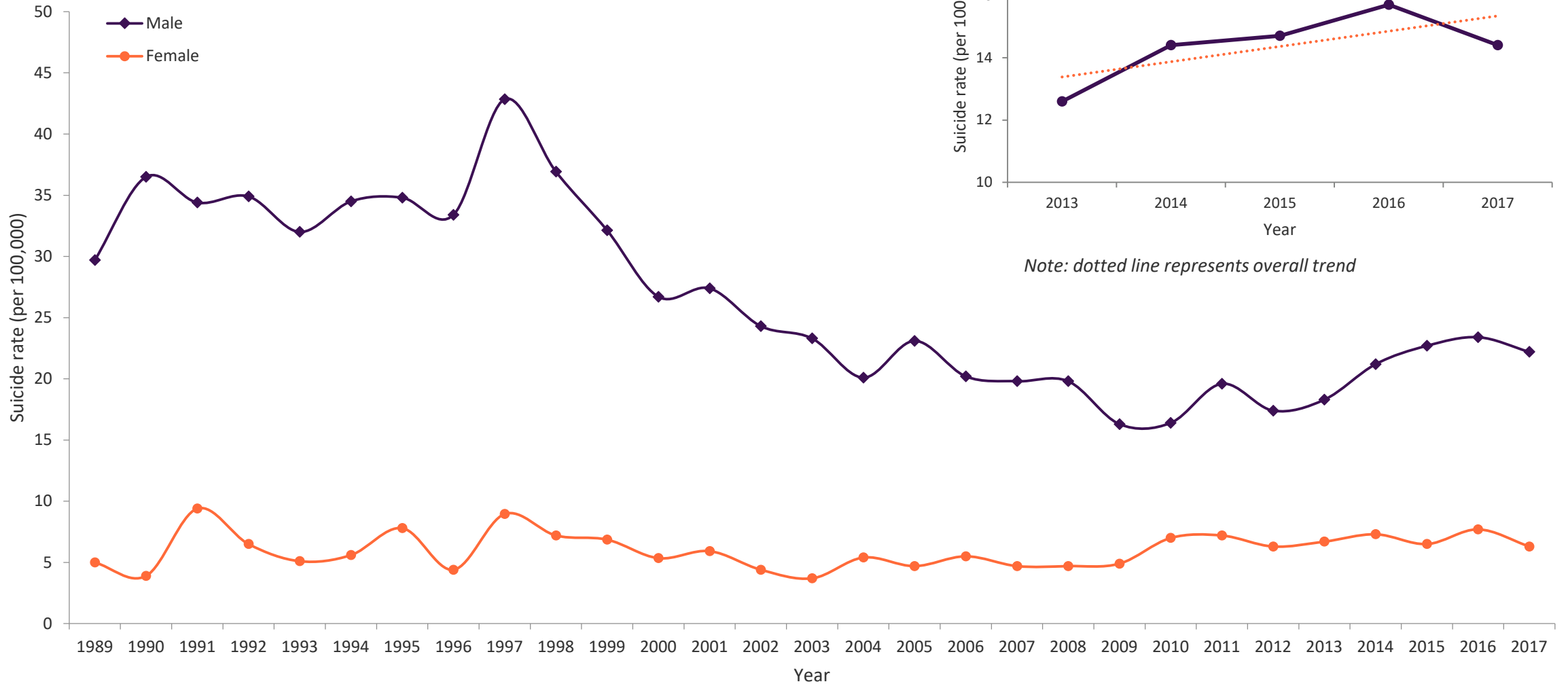
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



20 – 24 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



20 – 24 year olds
All persons trend 2013 - 2017

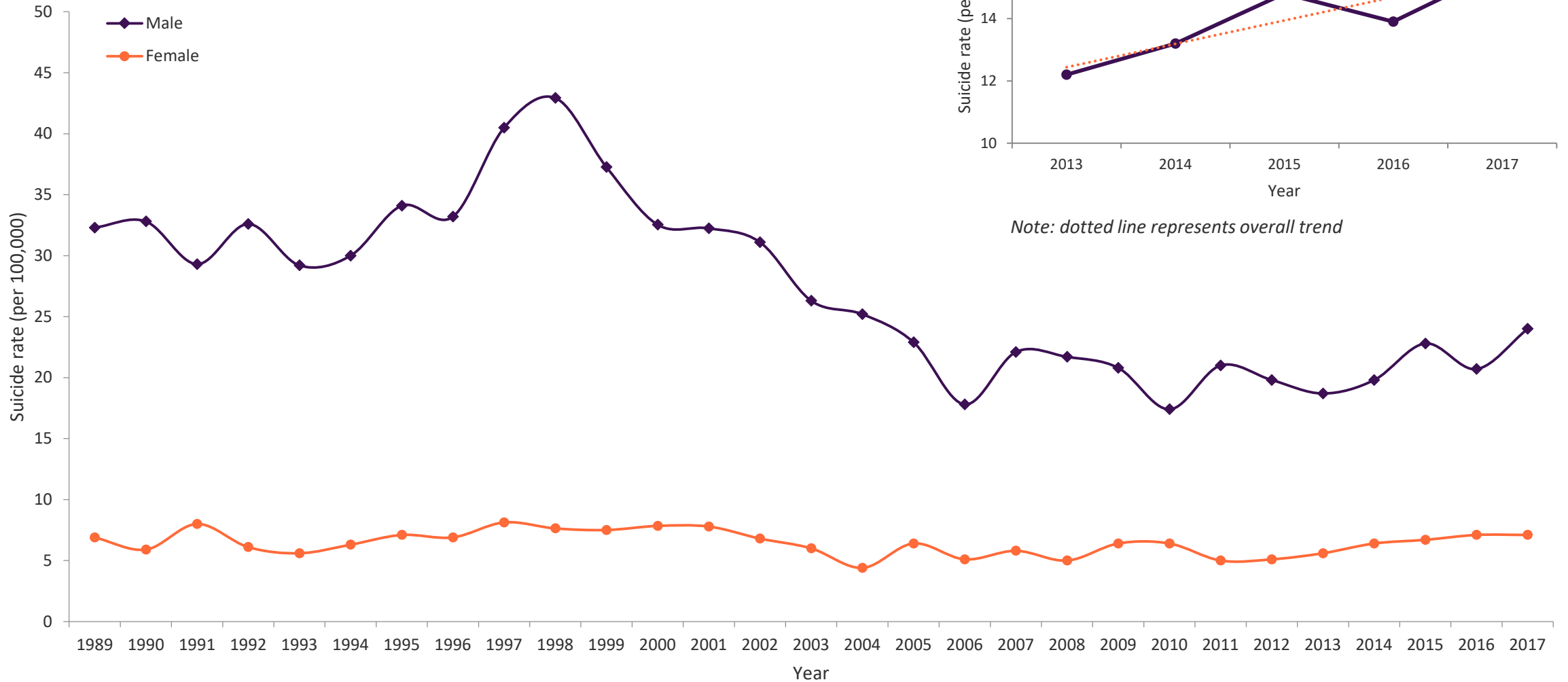
Note: dotted line represents overall trend



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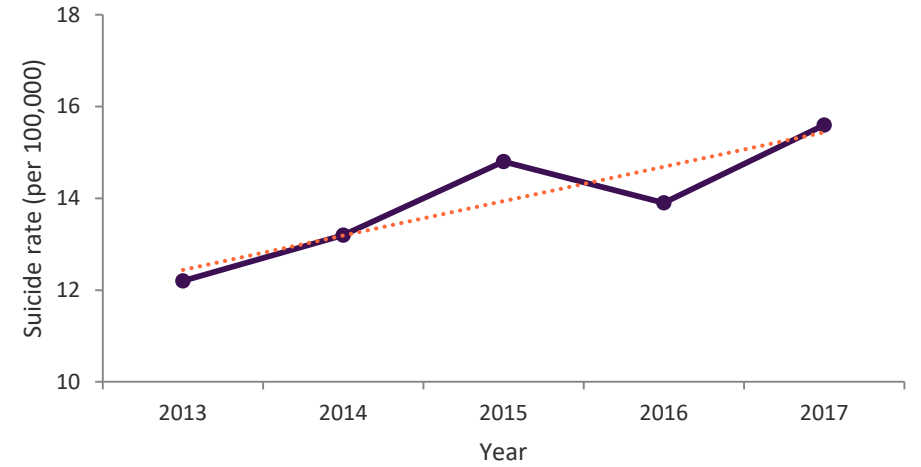
25 – 29 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



25 – 29 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



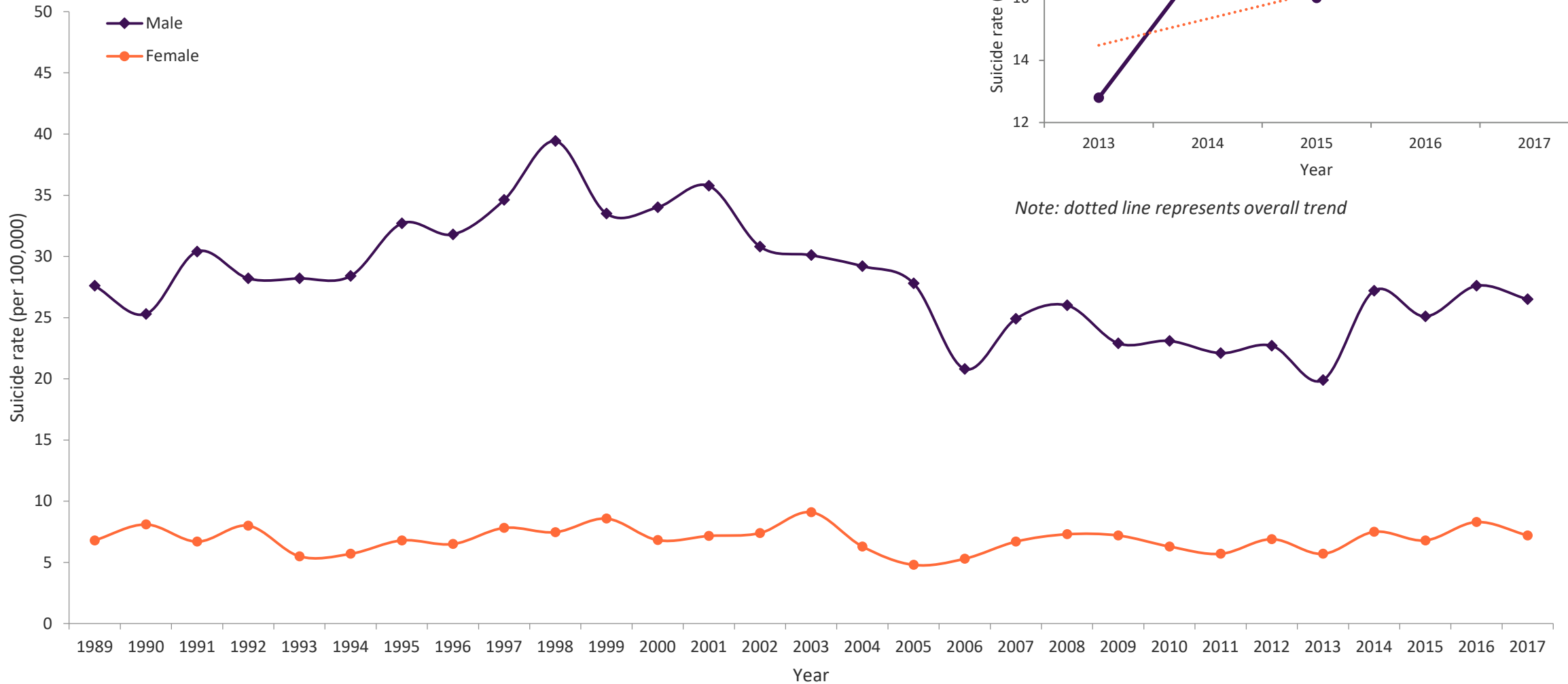
Note: dotted line represents overall trend



* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.

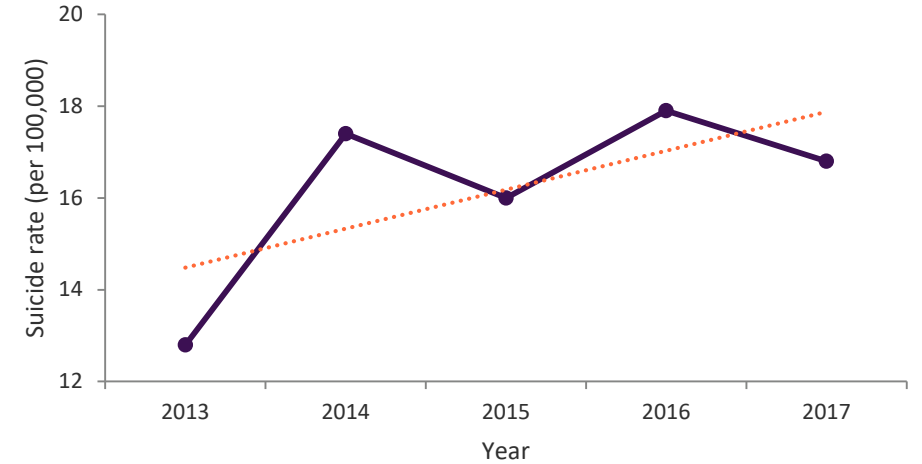
30 – 34 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



30 – 34 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



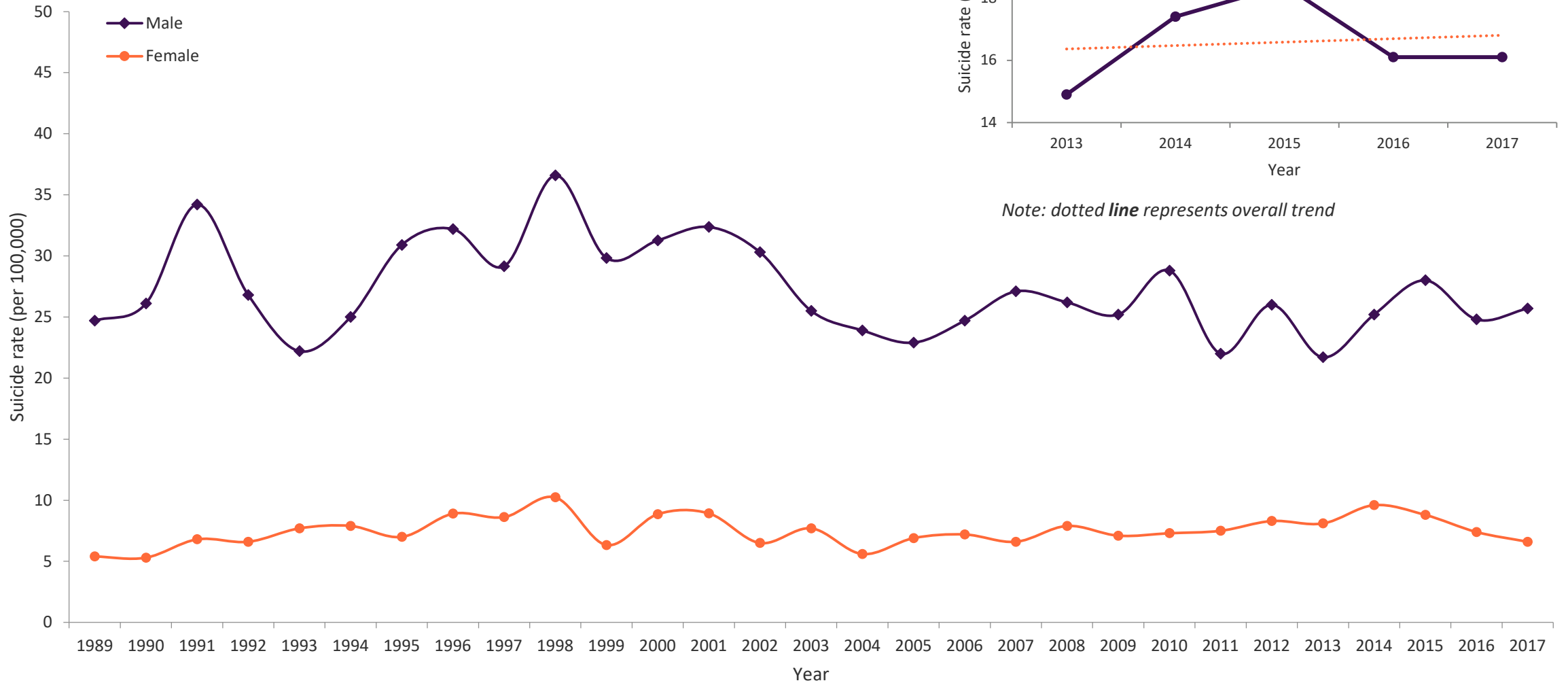
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



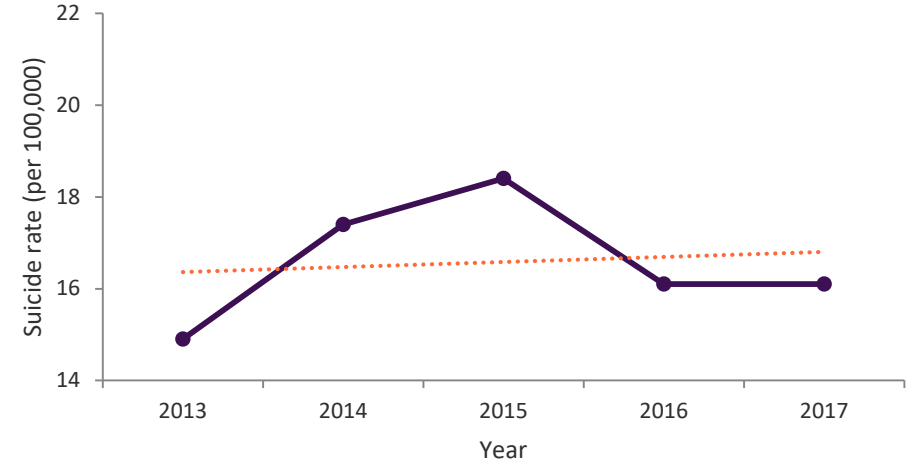
35 – 39 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



35 – 39 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



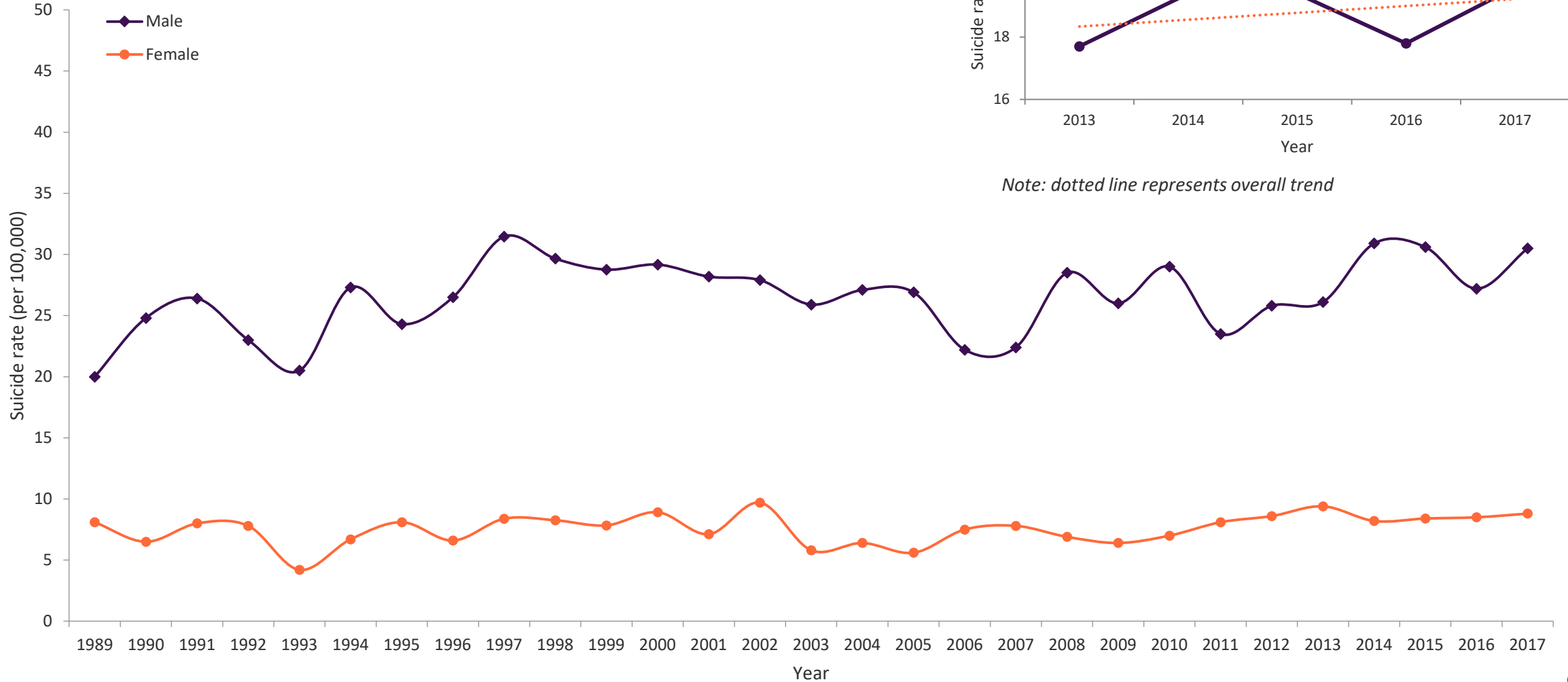
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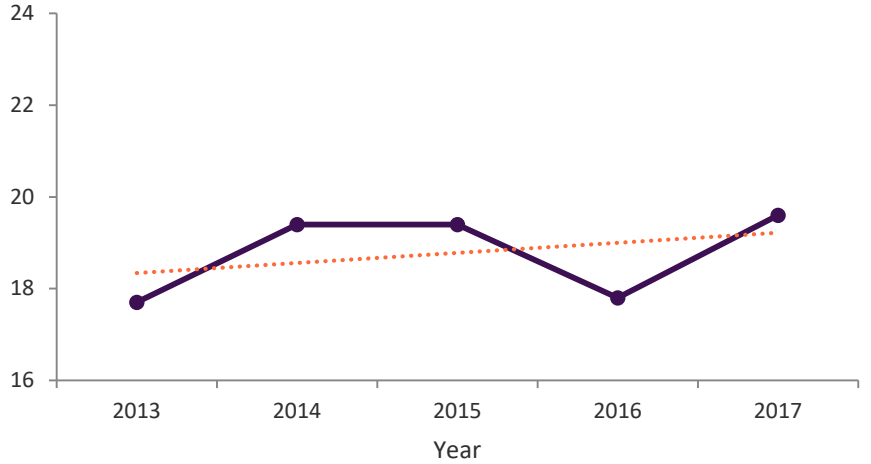


40 – 44 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



40 – 44 year olds
All persons trend 2013 - 2017



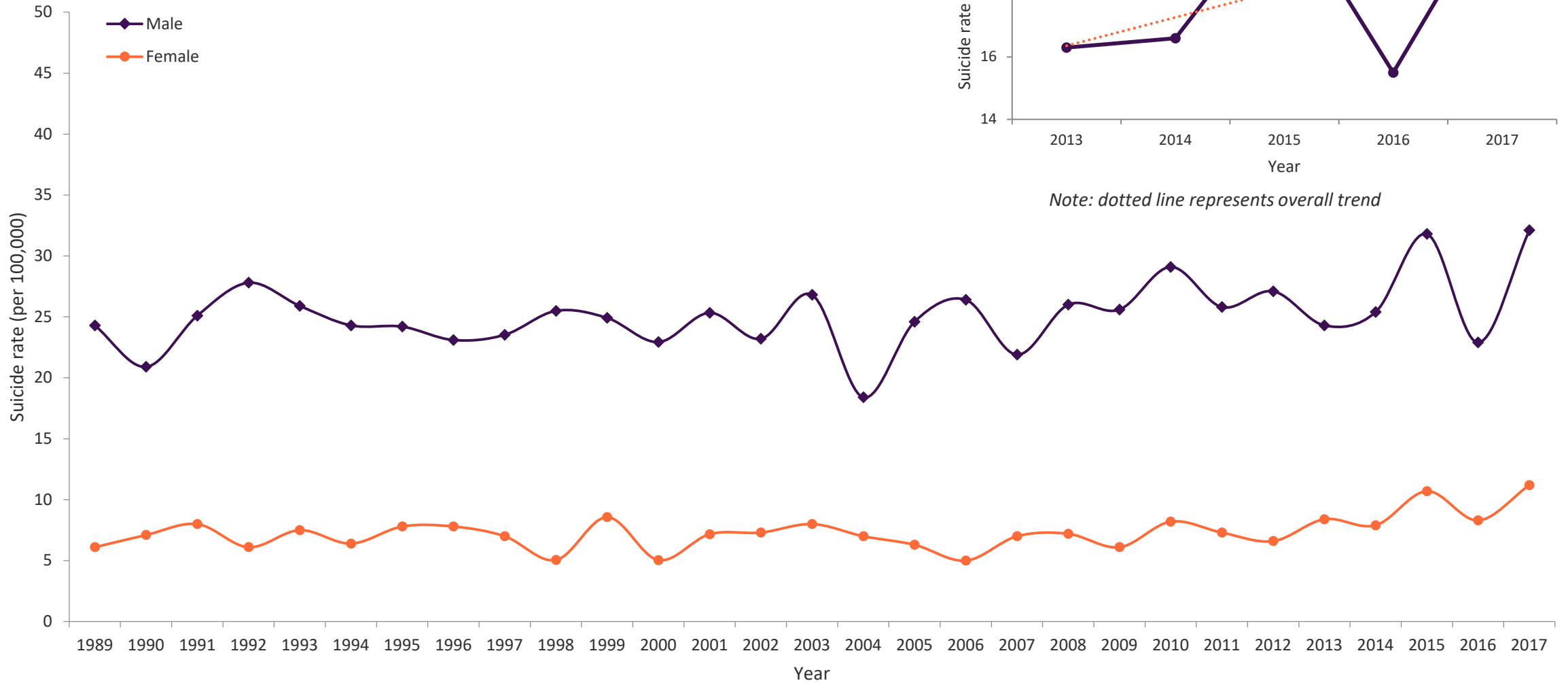
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

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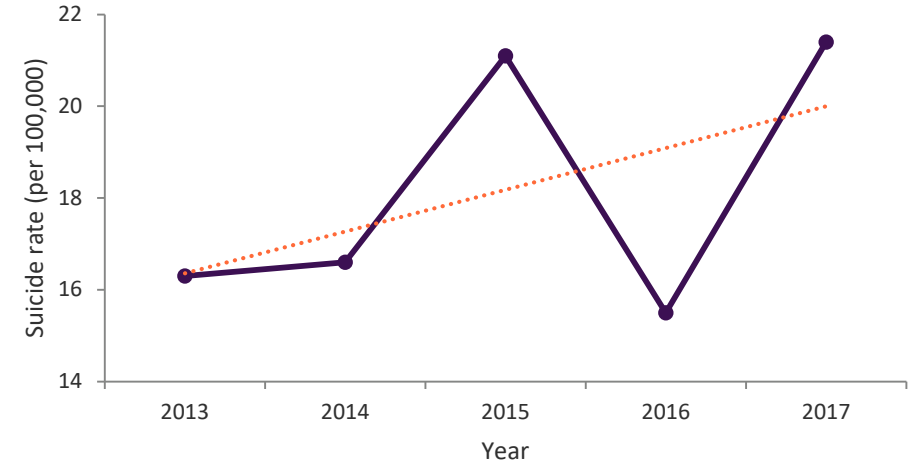
45 – 49 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



45 – 49 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



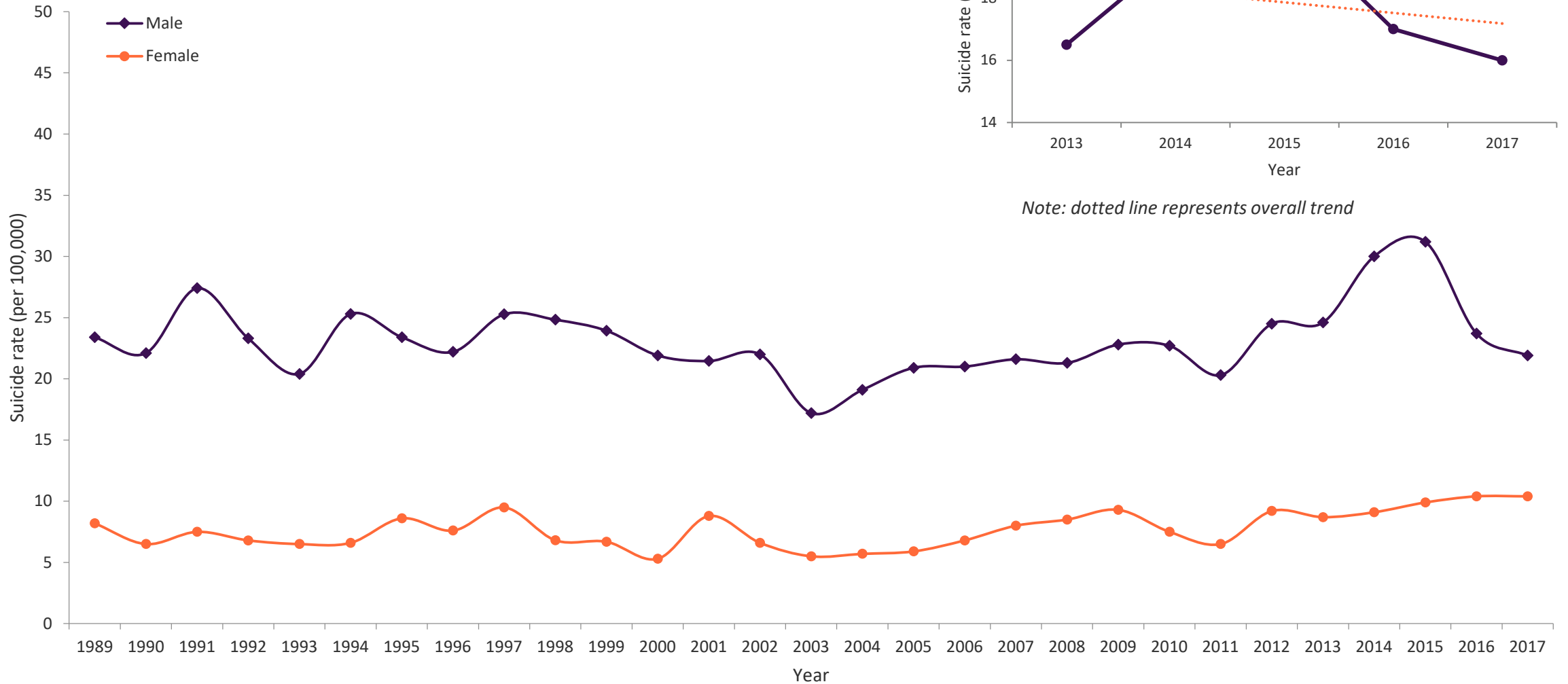
Note: dotted line represents overall trend



* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.

50 – 54 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017

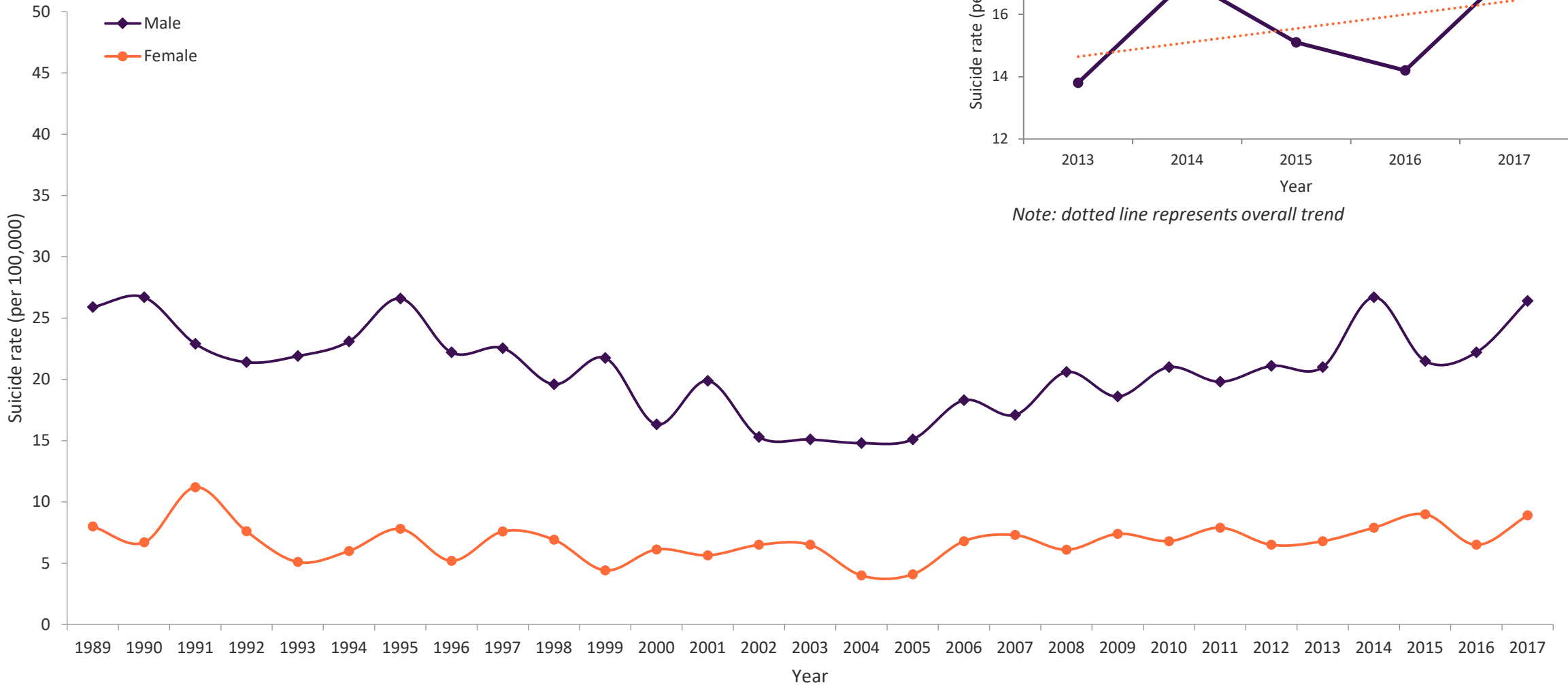


* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.

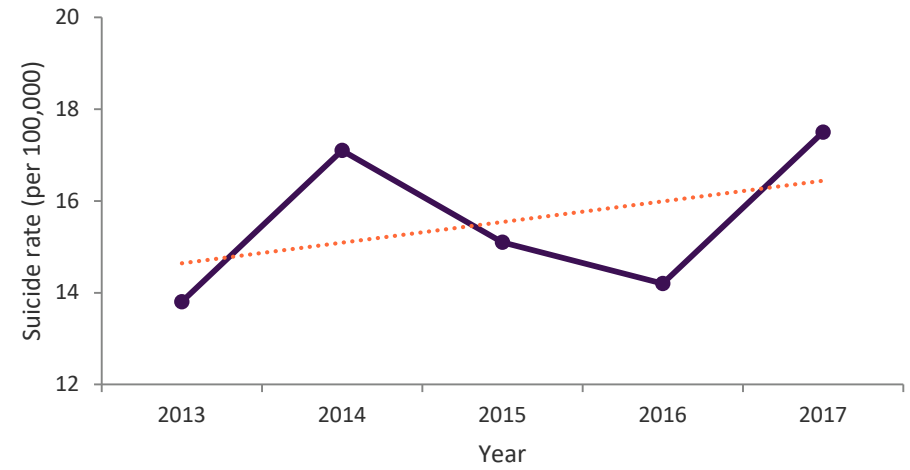


55 – 59 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



55 – 59 year olds
All persons trend 2013 - 2017



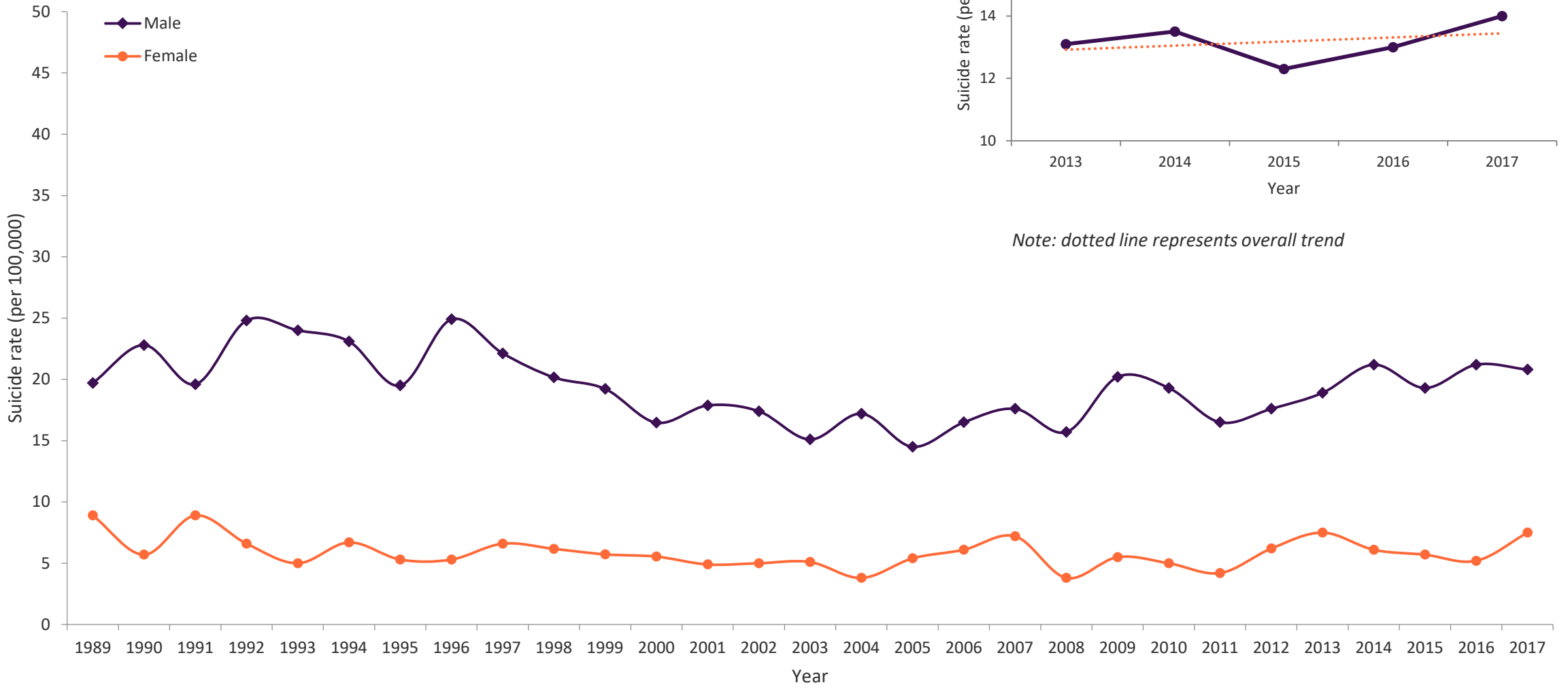
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



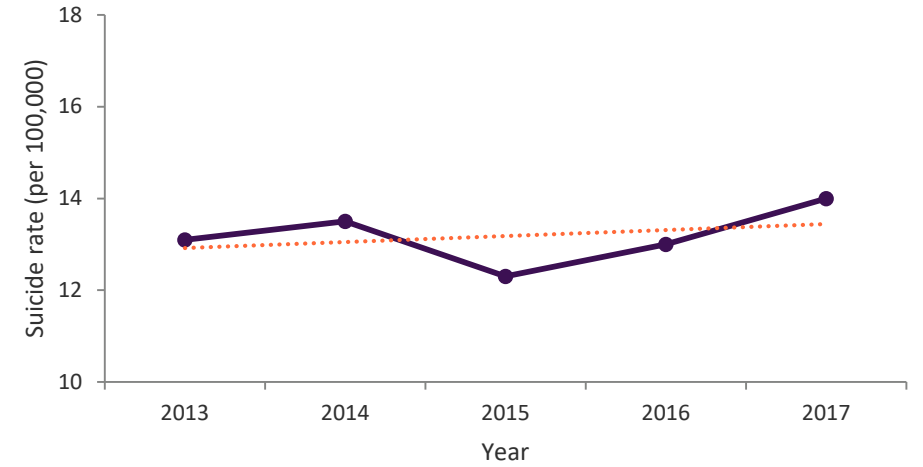
60 – 64 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



60 – 64 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



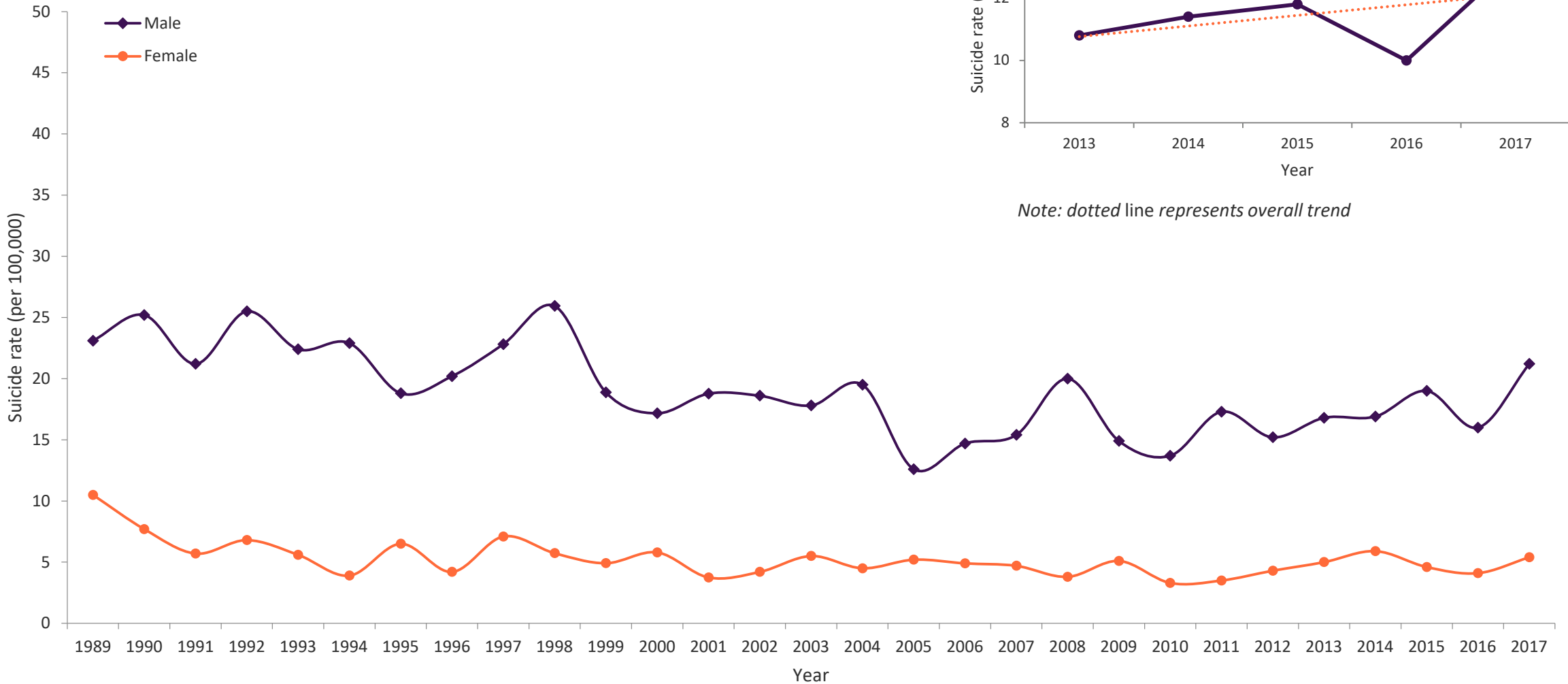
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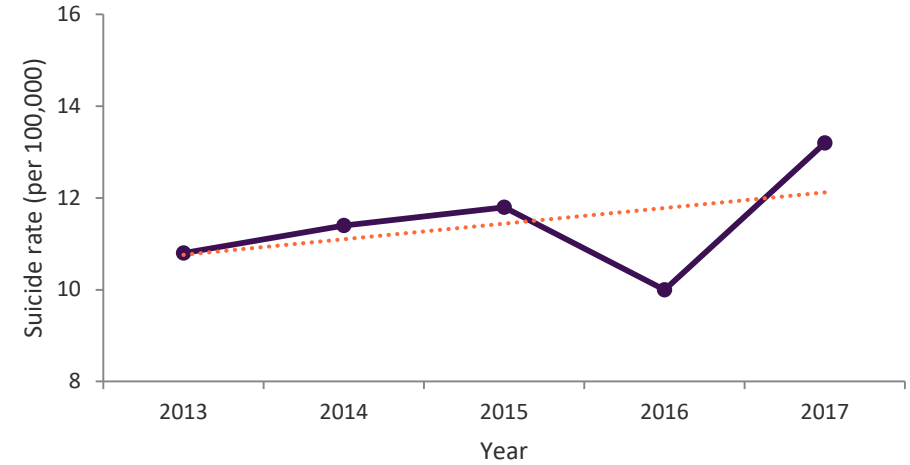
65 – 69 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



65 – 69 year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



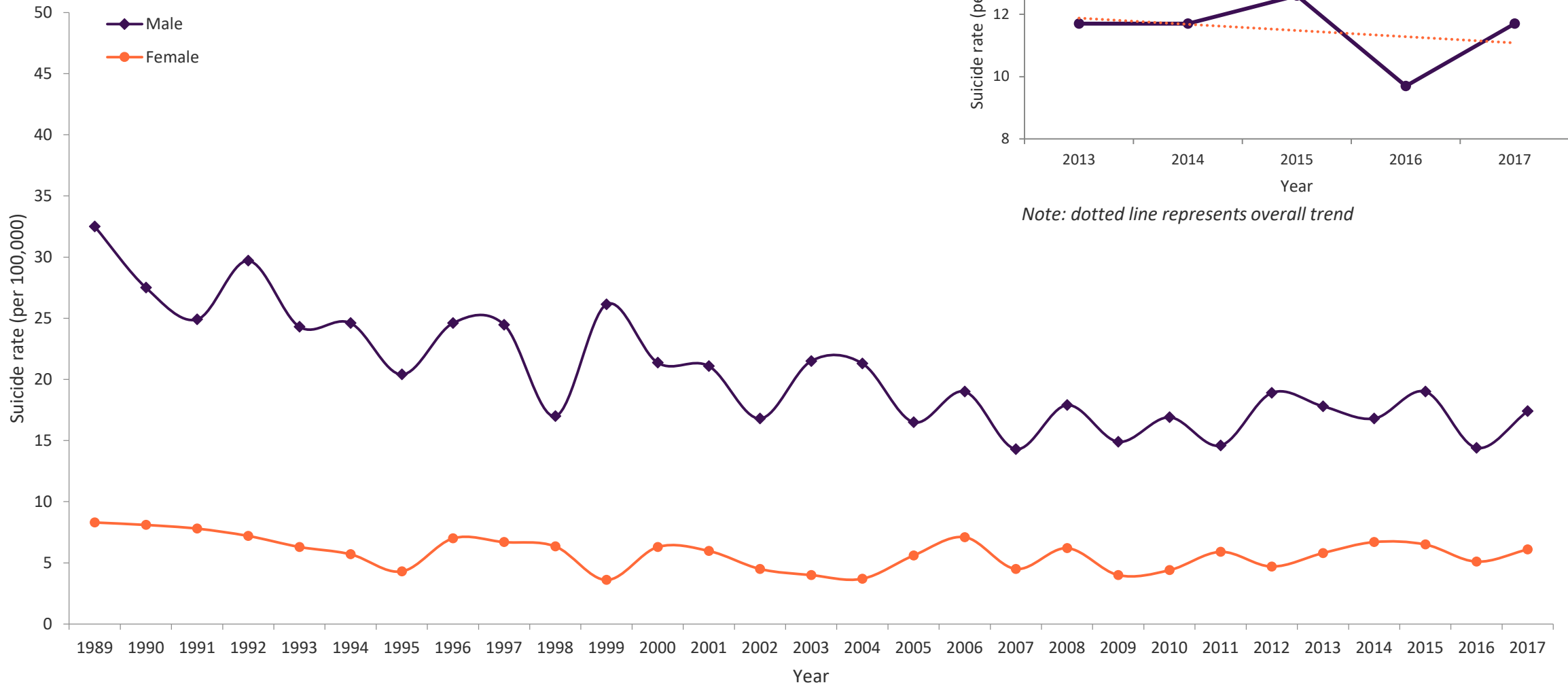
Note: dotted line represents overall trend



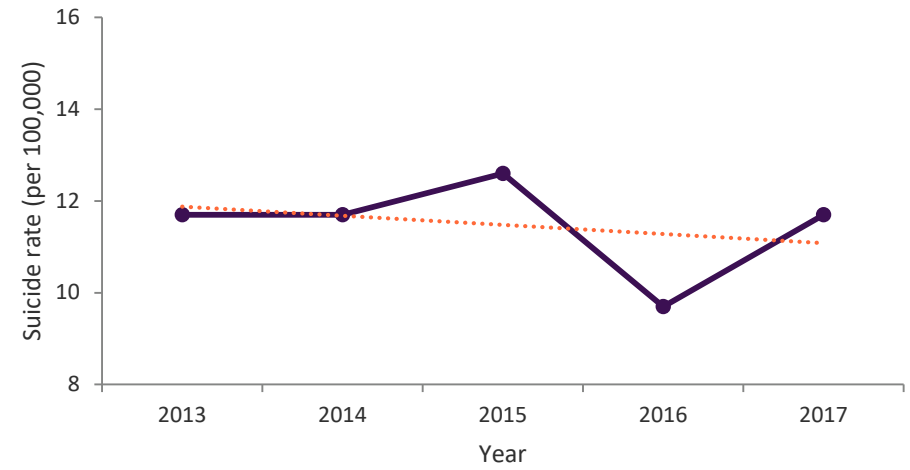
* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.

70 – 74 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



70 – 74 year olds
All persons trend 2013 - 2017



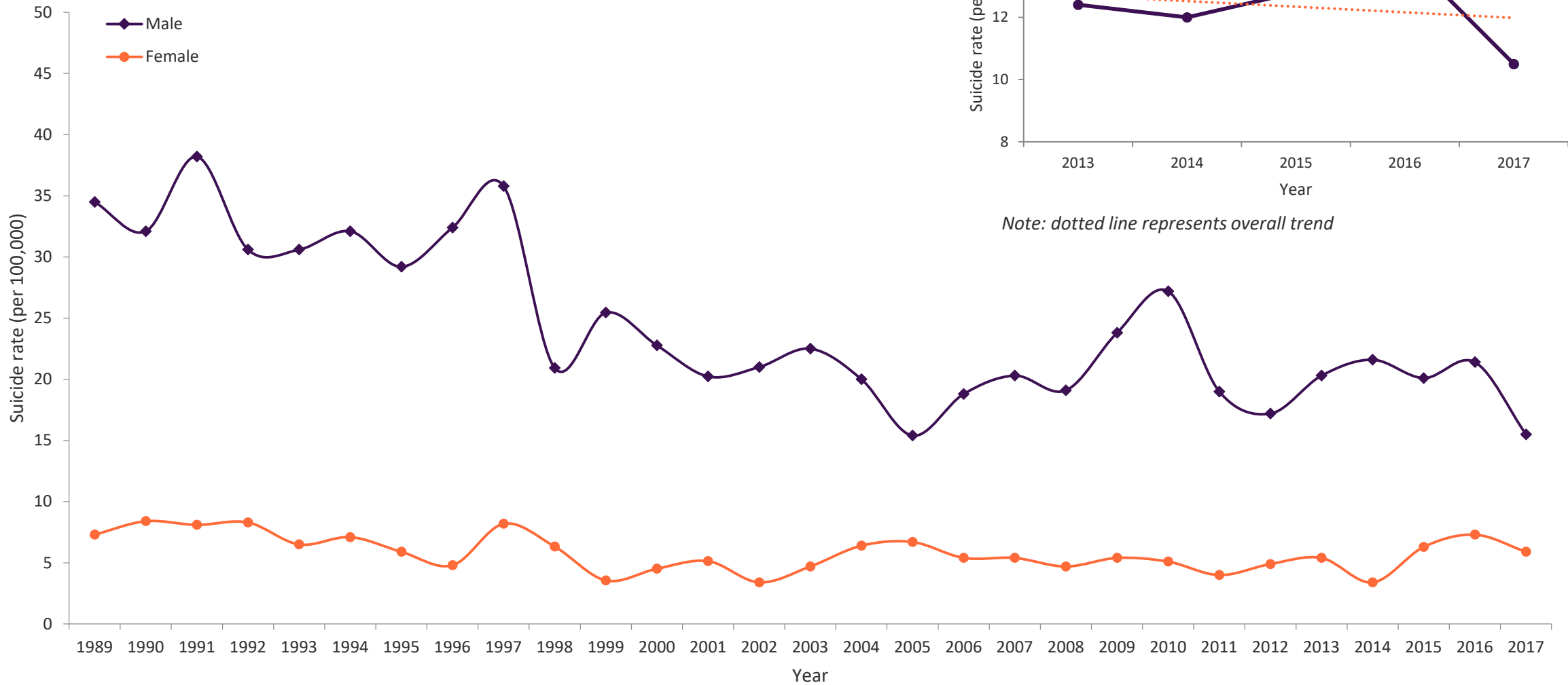
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

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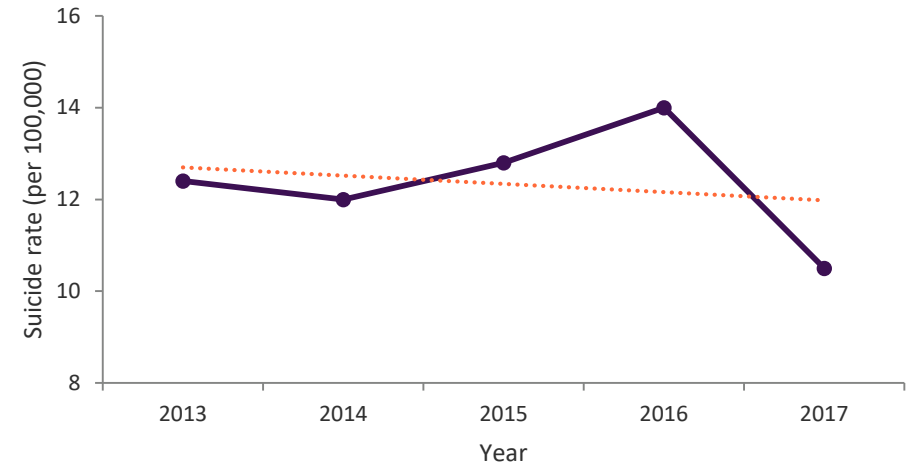
75 – 79 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



75 – 79 year olds

All persons trend 2013 – 2017



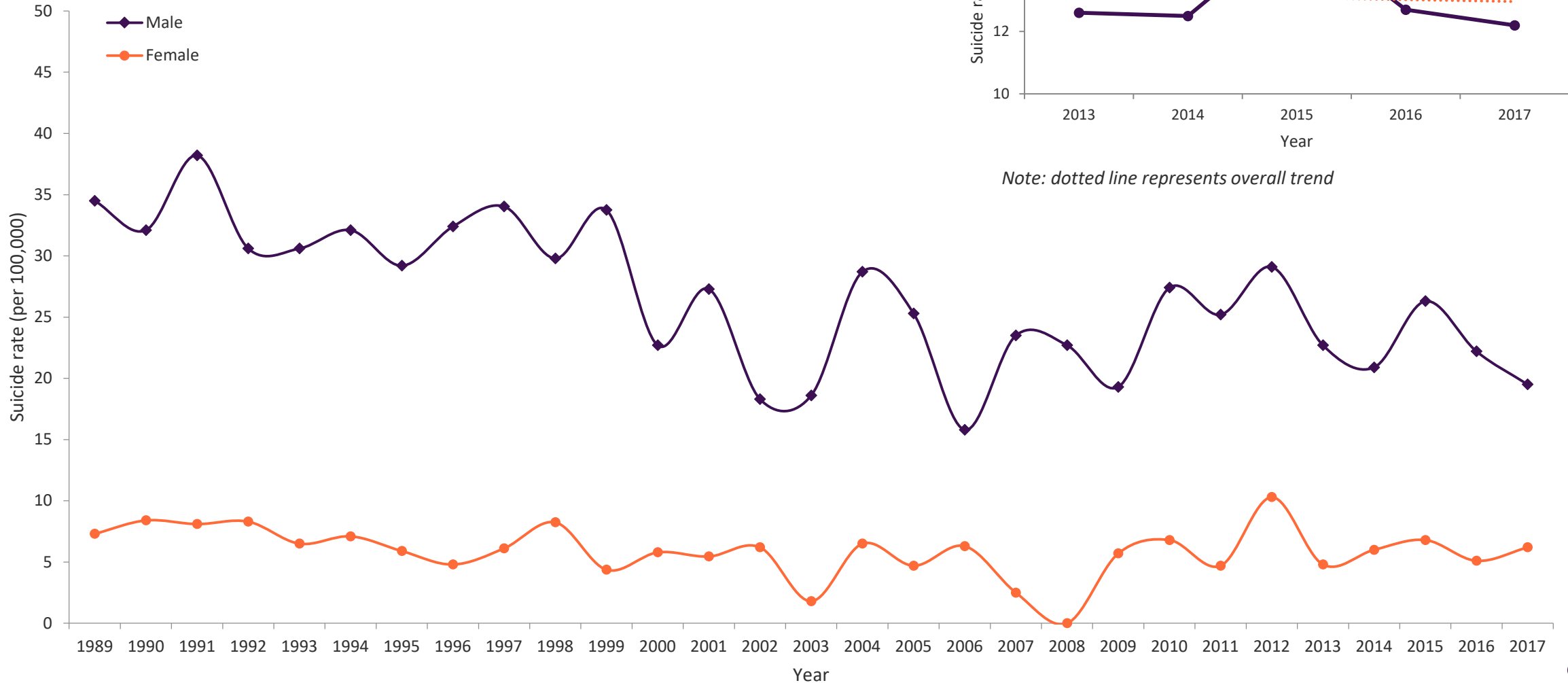
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

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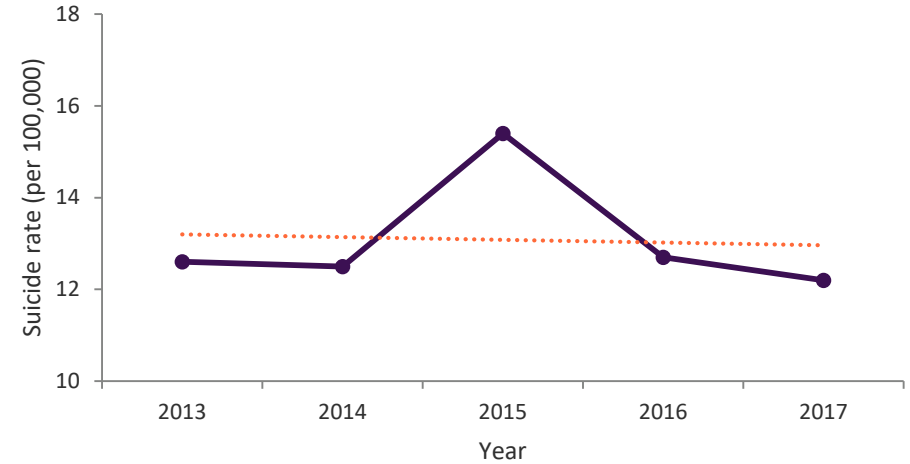


80 – 84 year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



80 – 84 year olds All persons 2013 – 2017



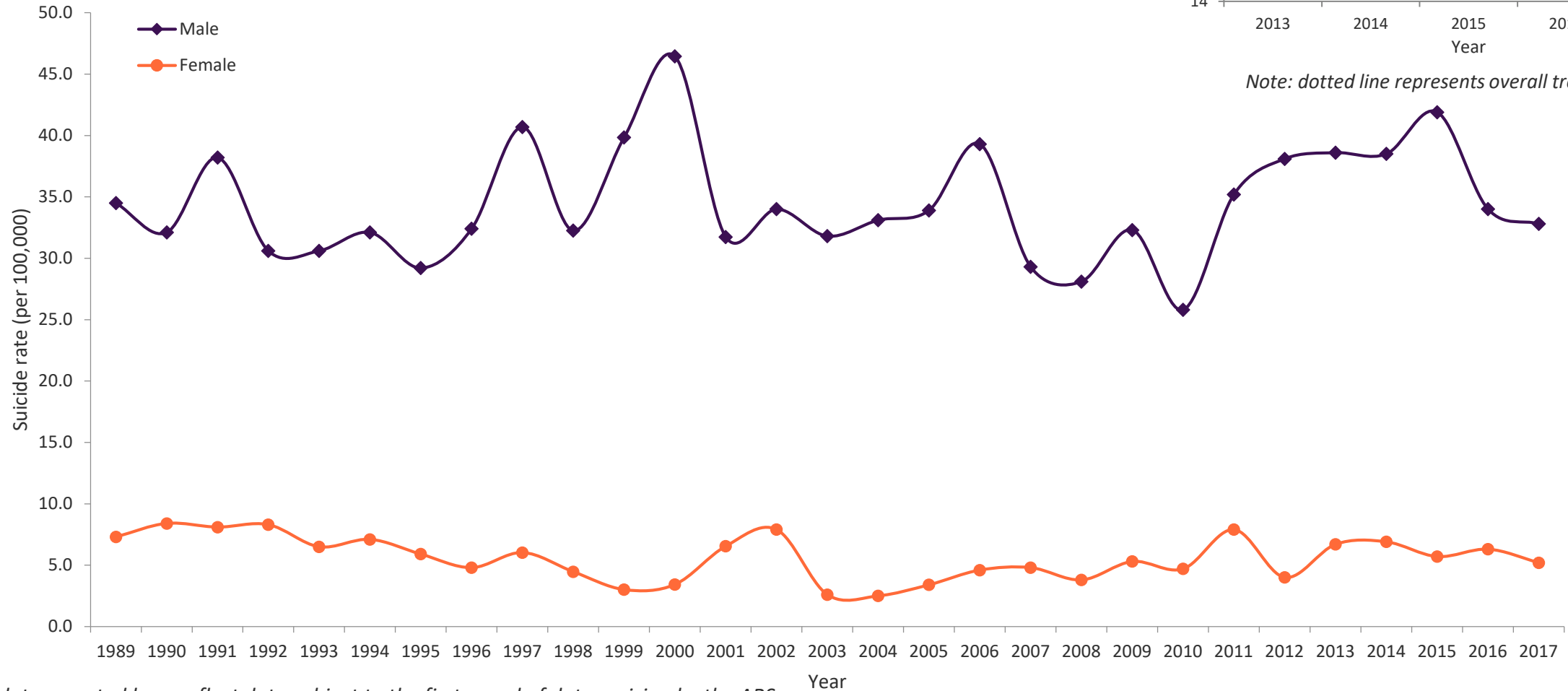
Note: dotted line represents overall trend

* 2015 data reported here reflect data subject to the first round of data revision by the ABS.



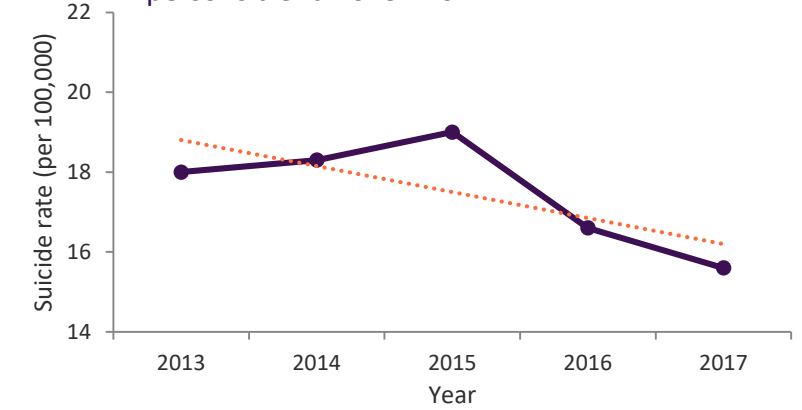
85 + year olds

Age-specific suicide rates 1989 - 2017



85 + year olds

All persons trend 2013 - 2017



Note: dotted line represents overall trend

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** Statistics available prior to 1997 reported the eldest category as 75 plus. To include this data for illustrative purposes, data here represents 75+ for all data pre 1997.



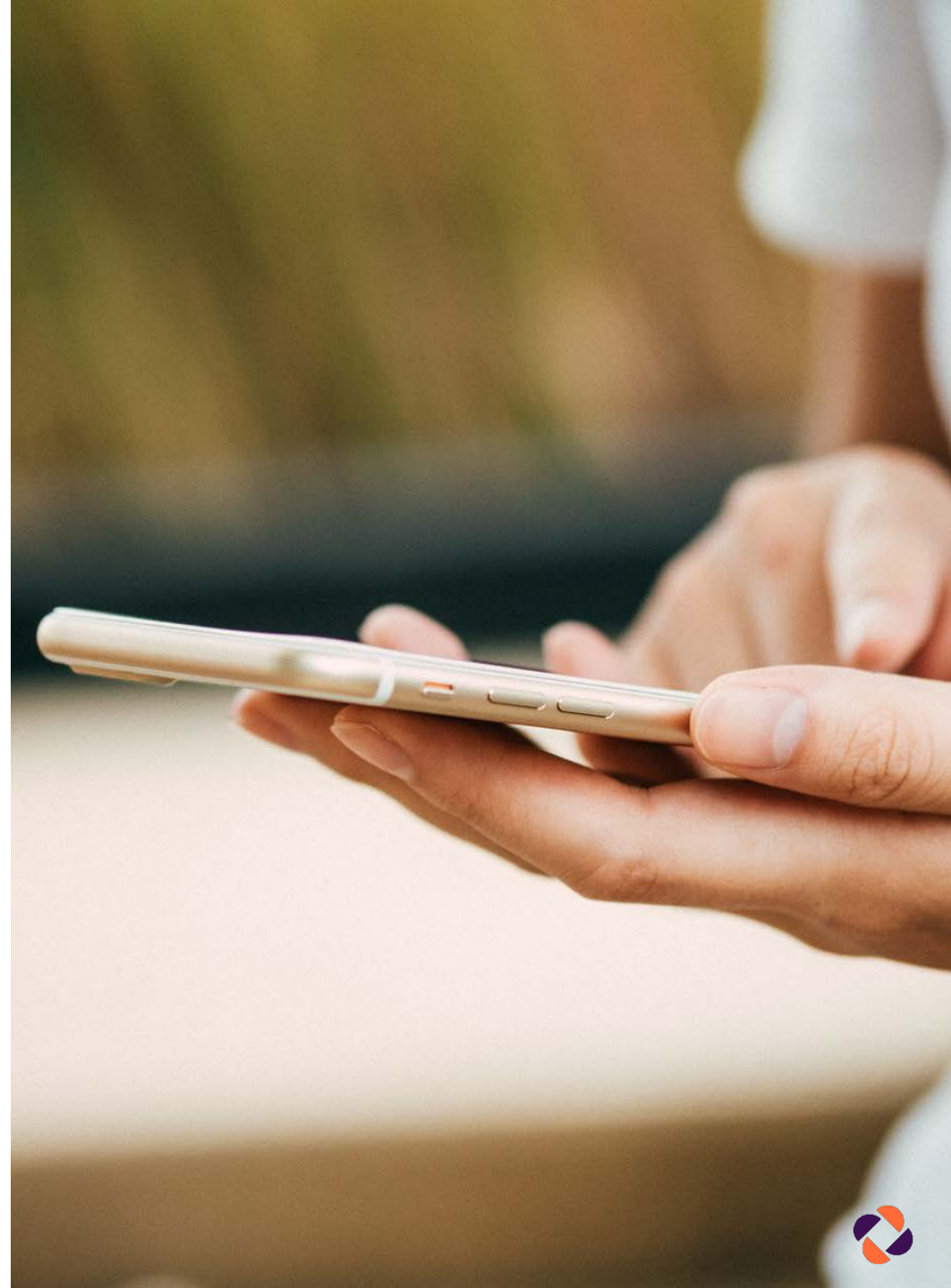


Mindframe

Mindframe supports safe media reporting, portrayal and communications about suicide and mental ill-health.

Visit: [Mindframe-media.info](https://mindframe-media.info)

Follow us: [@MindframeMedia](https://twitter.com/MindframeMedia)





Life in Mind

Life in Mind is the national digital gateway connecting organisations, the sector and communities to current information, programs, resources and research within suicide prevention.

Visit: lifeinmindaustralia.com.au

Tweet us: [@LifeinMindAU](https://twitter.com/LifeinMindAU)



Notes: About this summary

- This is a summary of suicide death data released by the released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 26 September 2018 in Catalogue 3303.0.
- This summary represents suicide rates and trends in the 2017 (preliminary) data, trends by age group over time and state variations.
- This is the third year that the ABS have released the preliminary data at an earlier date. Suicide data is now released nine months (in September) after end of year. Before 2016, suicide data was released 15 months after end of year.
- This release includes 2016 and 2017 preliminary data, 2015 first-revision data and 2014 final data. The second and final revision for 2015 and the first revision for 2016 will be released in early 2019.



Need Support?



Support services

Adult

Lifeline: [13 11 14](tel:131114)

lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: [1300 659 467](tel:1300659467)

suicidecallbackservice.org.au

beyondblue: [1300 24 636](tel:130024636)

beyondblue.org.au

MensLine Australia: [1300 789 987](tel:1300789987)

mensline.org.au

Youth

Kids Helpline: [1800 551 800](tel:1800551800)

kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: [1800 650 890](tel:1800650890)

headspace.org.au

ReachOut: au.reachout.com

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal

headtohealth.gov.au

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal

lifeinmindaustralia.com.au

SANE: online forums sane.org

healthinonet.ecu.edu.au - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

[1800 184 527](tel:1800184527) qlife.org.au - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex

mhima.org.au - Culturally and linguistically diverse



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