

PREMATURE MORTALITY DUE TO SUICIDE IN SERBIA – A TEN-YEAR OVERVIEW

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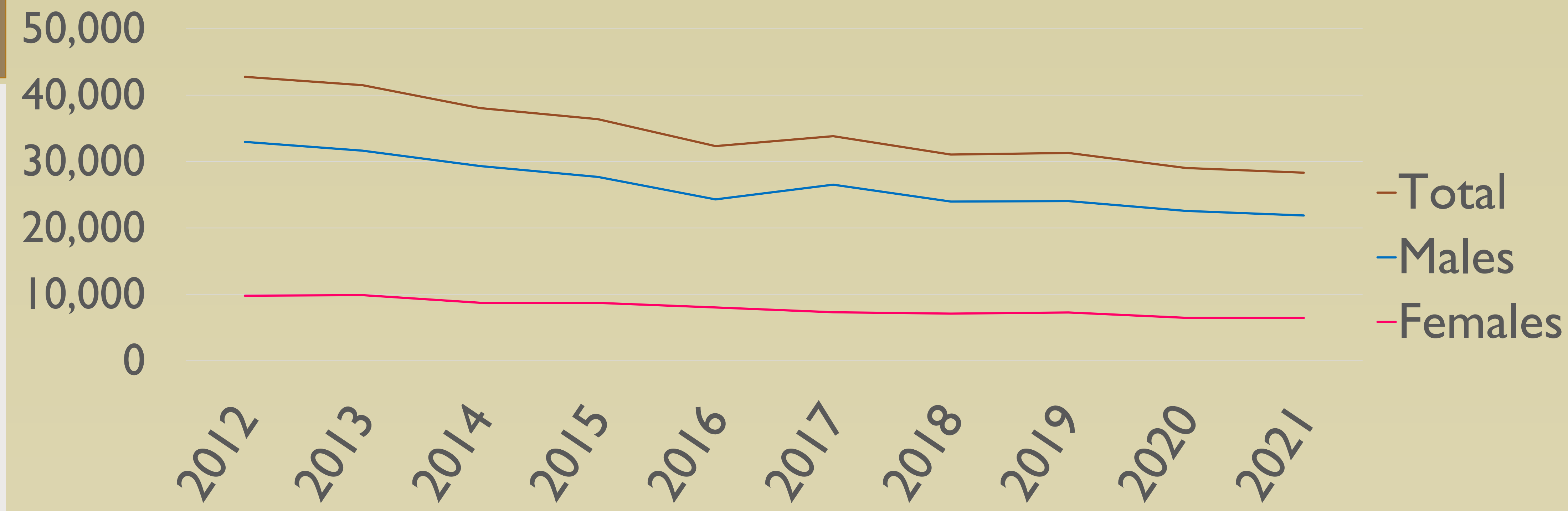
BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization reports that suicide-related data is of poor quality globally, with 3 out of 4 suicides occurring in low and middle-income countries. In Serbia, 75% of suicides are committed by men. It is essential to evaluate the burden of suicides on the community as a significant factor in premature mortality.

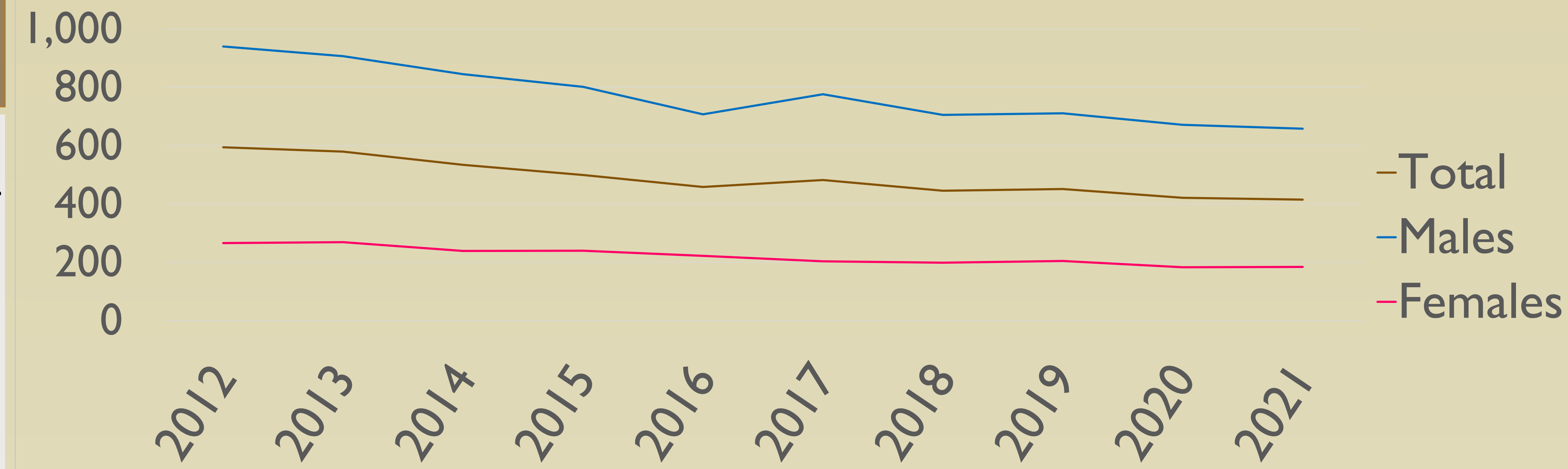
METHODS

We used the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia dataset on suicide cases and population estimates from 2012 to 2021, disaggregated by sex and 5-year age groups. Cases of unknown age were excluded from the analysis. To calculate the Years of Life Lost (YLL) we used the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 Life Table. All cases aged 80 years or older were included in a single age group with the same remaining life expectancy.

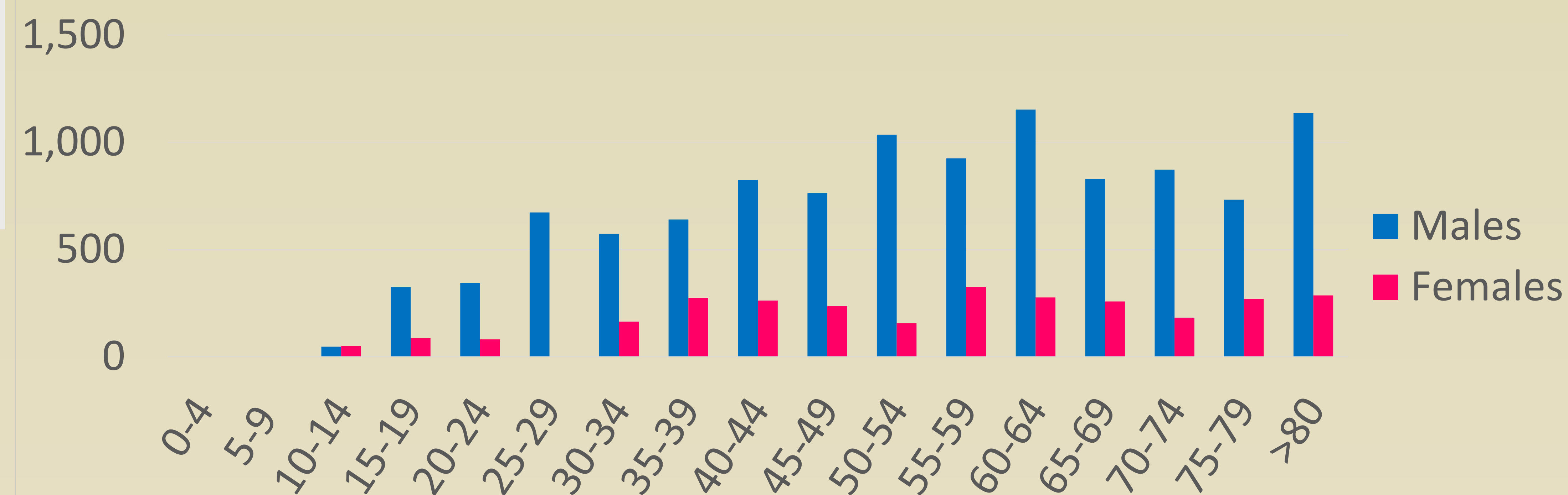
YLLs due to suicide in Serbia, 2012-2021



YLL rates by sex in Serbia, 2012-2021



YLL rates stratified by age groups and sex, 2021



RESULTS

From 2012 to 2021, there were a total of 344,511 YLLs due to suicide. In 2012, the YLL rate per 100,000 was 1.43 times higher than in 2021 (414). Men had a higher YLL rate than women, with a gender ratio of 3.54 in 2012 and 3.59 in 2021. In 2021, the age group with the greatest burden of suicide was 60-64, with a total YLL of 3,240 and a rate of 687.3 YLL per 100,000.

CONCLUSIONS

Suicide rates in Serbia have decreased over the past decade, but gender disparities persist. Although older individuals have the highest suicide rates, younger people also have an important contribution to the overall burden of suicide.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Preventing suicide requests addressing factors that affect all age groups.
2. Mental health care accessibility and reducing stigma are key to preventing suicide.