

Suicide Safer Universities

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University for the Creative Arts



University of Kent



Canterbury College



Around 50,000 students & 6,000 staff.

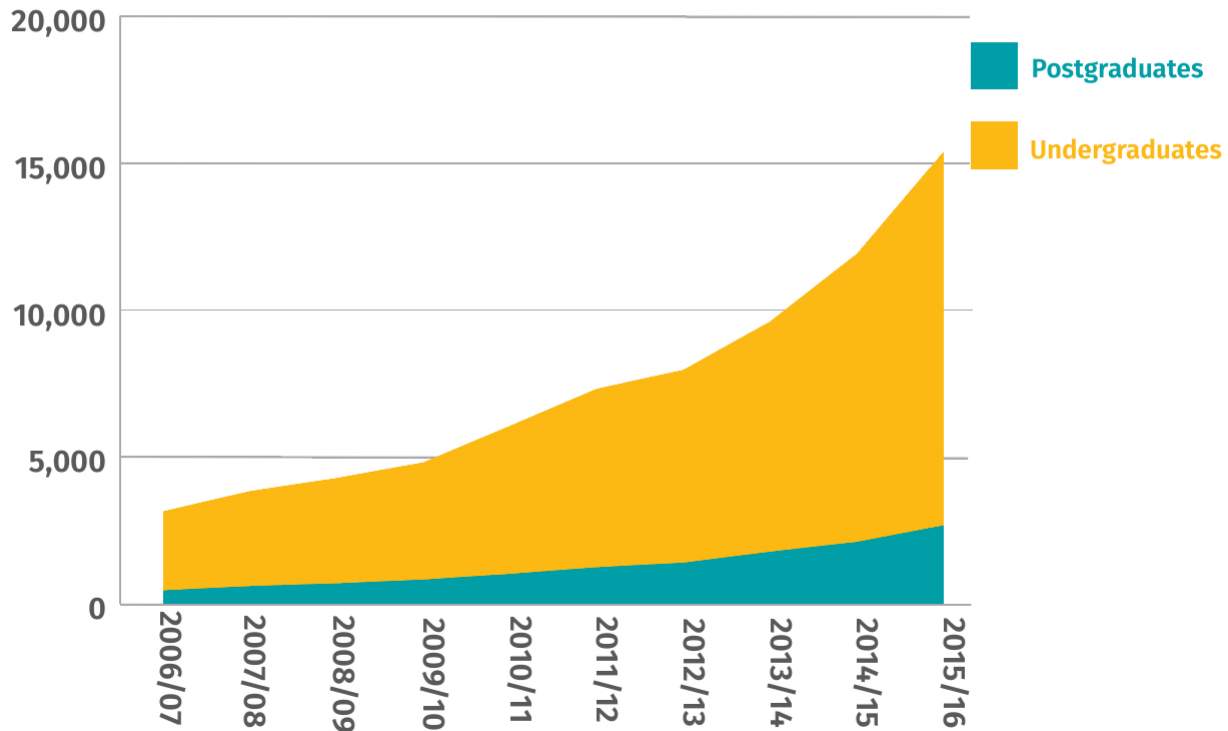
University context

- Student suicide – low frequency / high impact event
- Number of student suicides in England and Wales rose by 50% between 2007 and 2011 from 75 to 112 (despite the number of students as a whole rising by only 14%) (Office for National Statistics (ONS))
- 2015 - 134 student suicides in England and Wales (male 93, female 41) (ONS, 2016)
- Likely to underestimate actual student deaths by suicide. Some students take their lives away from University or outside of term time or have already de-registered from university at the time of their death or where the coroner does not record a death as a student death if occupational status does not explicitly state they were a student in HE
- University suicides reported in national news – York, Cardiff, Bristol.

FIGURE 4.1

Five times as many HE students in the UK to disclose a mental health condition than was the case ten years ago

All UK-domiciled students with a disclosed mental health condition (such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety) at higher education institutions (split by full-time/part-time; undergraduate/postgraduate) (UK) (2006/07–2015/16)

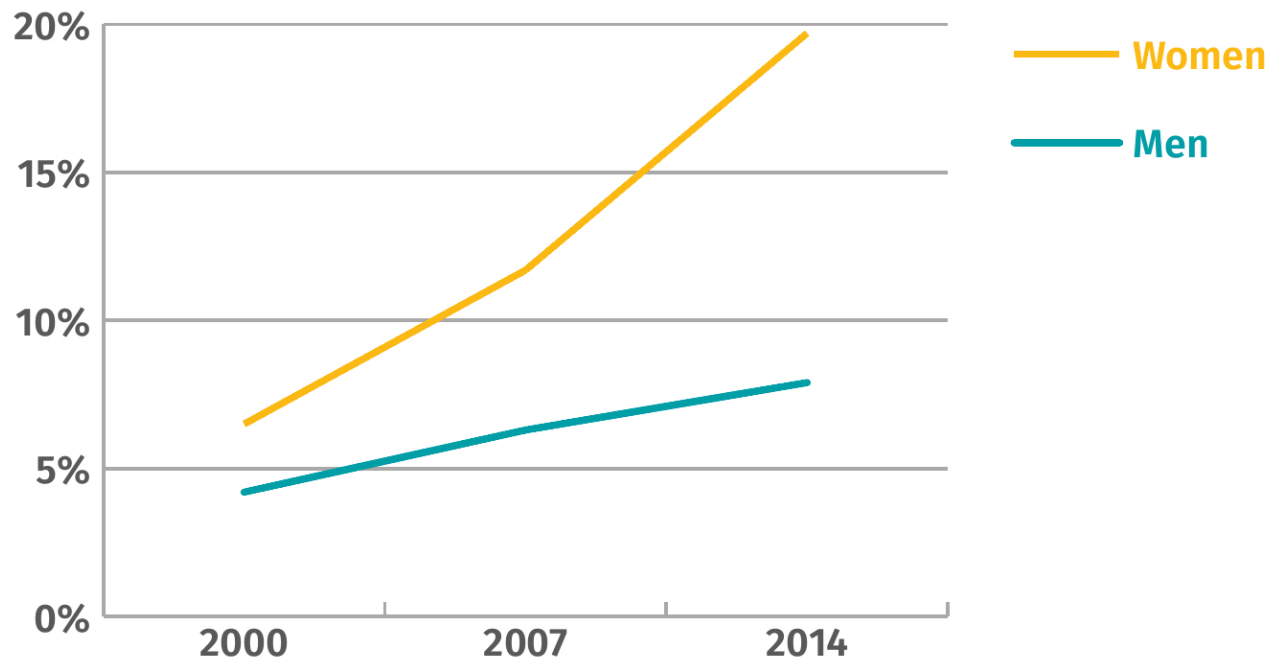


Source: IPPR analysis of Higher Education Statistics Agency data (2017b)

FIGURE 3.6

Since 2000, the number of young men and women reporting self-harm has doubled and trebled respectively

Self-harm ever (reported face-to-face) in 16–24 year olds (split by sex) (2000; 2007; 2014) (England) (%)

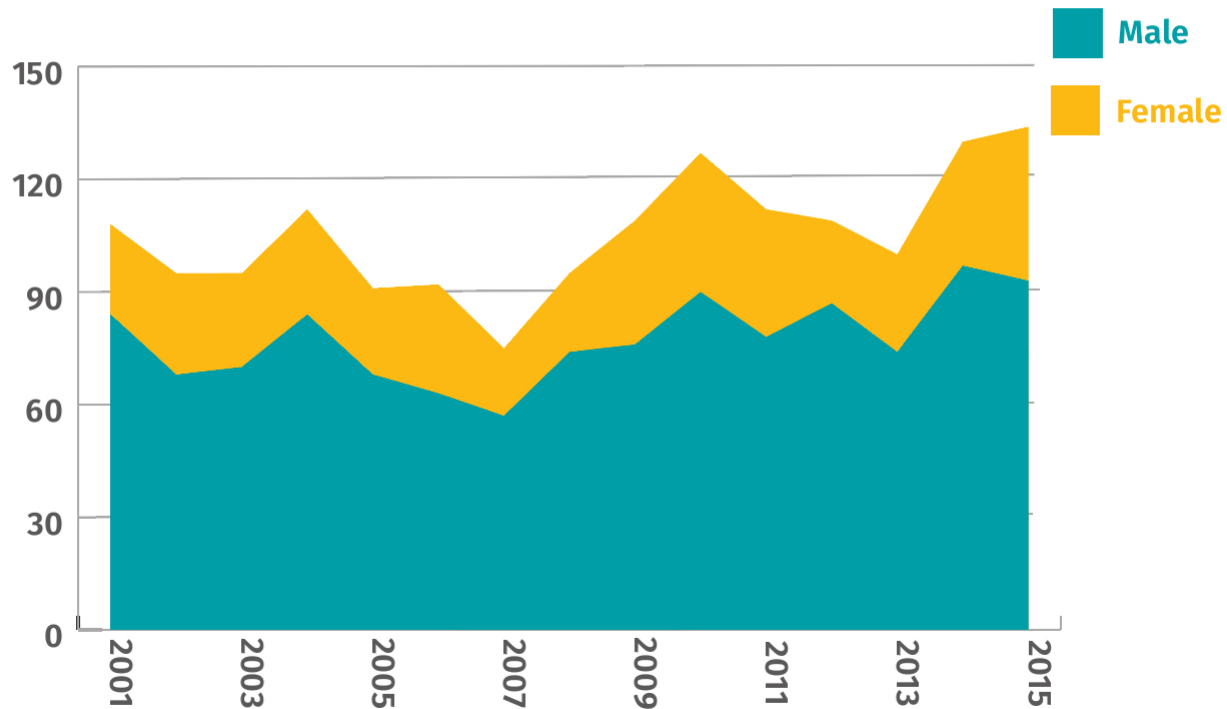


Source: Mental Health and Wellbeing in England: Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2014 (McManus et al 2016)

FIGURE 5.1

The number of student suicides has increased since 2007

The number of deaths by suicide among students (split by sex) (2001–2015) (England and Wales)



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS 2016b)

Project steering group

First met October 2017

- Director of Student Experience
- Students' Union representatives
- Canterbury Samaritans
- KMPT
- KCC public health / Kent & Medway suicide prevention lead
- Kent Police
- Network Rail
- Chaplaincy
- Academic staff
- Student support / mental health & counselling staff

Project strands

1. Education & training (for staff & students)
 - Skills training
 - Education / awareness
2. Support
 - Culture of compassion and understanding
 - Continuum - low level support to crisis support and intervention
 - People affected by suicide (postvention)
3. Research