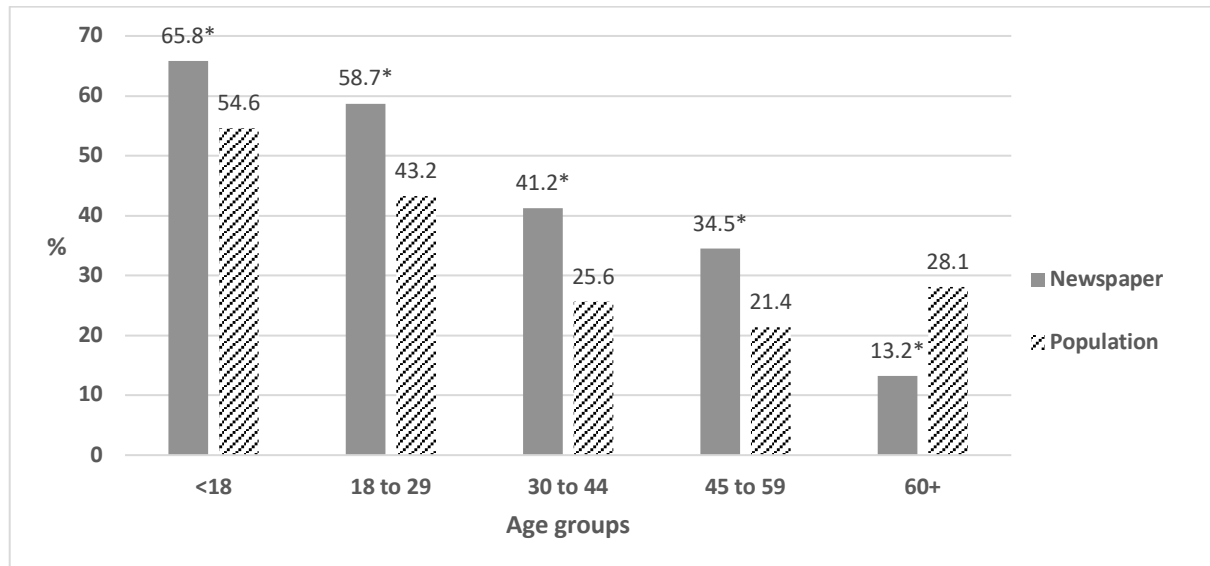


**Supplementary File 1: Secondary analyses only including media reports of suicides of people from Tamil Nadu**

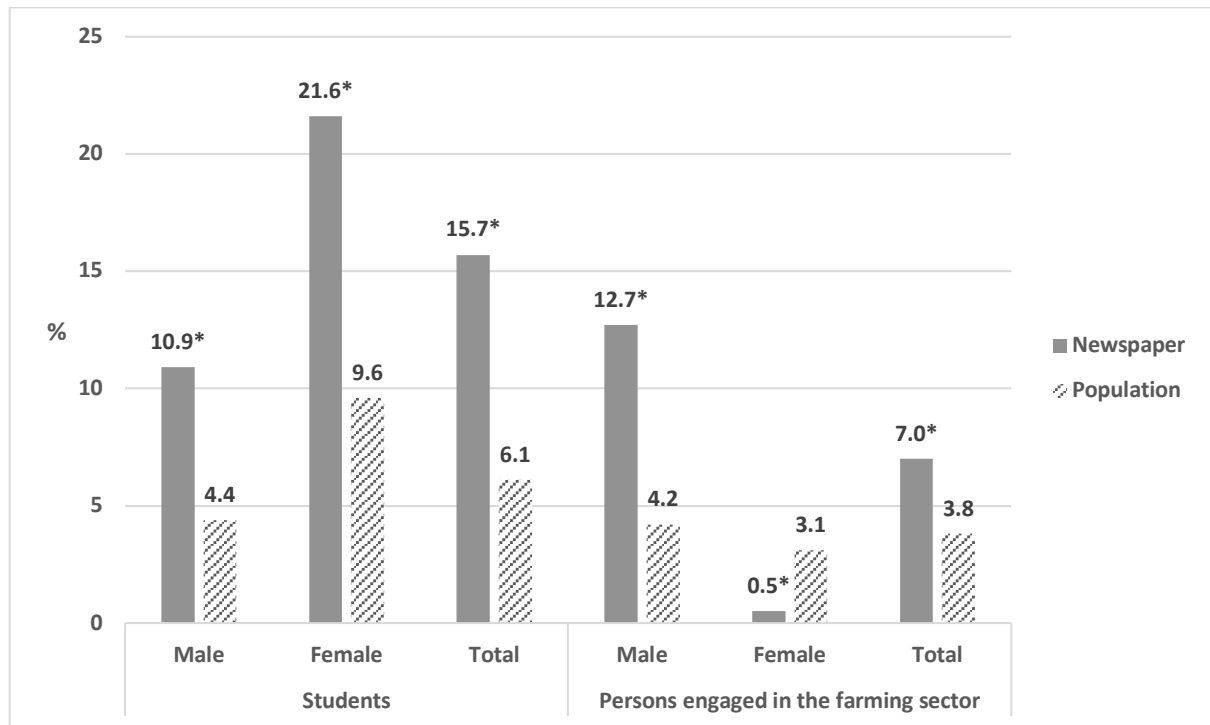
**Figure 1: Comparing the proportion of female decedents in newspaper suicide reports vs. the population suicide statistics for Tamil Nadu**



Note: Only includes newspaper reports of suicides of people residing in Tamil Nadu

\* <math>p < 0.05</math>, based on two-sided binomial tests within each age group to calculate if the proportion of suicide deceased in the newspaper articles that were female was different to that in the official suicide statistics

**Figure 2: Comparing the proportions of selected occupational groups of suicide decedents in newspaper reports vs. the population suicide statistics for Tamil Nadu**



Note 1: Only includes newspaper reports of suicides of people residing in Tamil Nadu

Note 2: The occupational categories of 'student' and 'persons engaged in the farming sector' were the only categories in the official statistics that were distinct enough to compare to the data we extracted from newspaper reports. Other occupational categories in the official suicide statistics (e.g. 'professionals/salaried persons') were too broad to be reproduced.

\* <math>p < 0.05</math>, based on two-sided binomial tests within each age group to calculate if the proportion of suicide deceased in the newspaper articles that were female was different to that in the official suicide statistics

**Table 1: Binomial tests comparing the demographic characteristics of suicide decedents in newspaper reports vs. the population suicide statistics for Tamil Nadu**

| Characteristics                   | Male            |                  |                      | Female          |                  |                      | Total           |                  |                      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
|                                   | Newspaper % (n) | Population % (n) | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Newspaper % (n) | Population % (n) | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Newspaper % (n) | Population % (n) | p-value <sup>a</sup> |
| <b>Age</b>                        |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |
| <18 years                         | 6.3% (41)       | 4.2% (446)       | 0.012                | 13.5% (79)      | 10.7% (537)      | 0.040                | 9.7% (120)      | 6.2% (983)       | <0.001               |
| 18-29 years                       | 32.2% (209)     | 24.7% (2656)     | <0.001               | 50.6% (297)     | 40.1% (2022)     | <0.001               | 40.9% (506)     | 29.7% (4678)     | <0.001               |
| 30-44 years                       | 26.6% (173)     | 34.9% (3749)     | <0.001               | 20.6% (121)     | 25.6% (1291)     | 0.008                | 23.8% (294)     | 31.9% (5040)     | <0.001               |
| 45-59 years                       | 22.8% (148)     | 25.5% (2742)     | 0.124                | 13.3% (78)      | 14.8% (746)      | 0.331                | 18.3% (226)     | 22.1% (3488)     | 0.002                |
| 60+ years                         | 12.2% (79)      | 10.6% (1141)     | 0.200                | 2.0% (12)       | 8.8% (445)       | <0.001               | 7.4% (91)       | 10.1% (1586)     | 0.002                |
| Total                             | 100.0% (650)    | 100.0% (10734)   |                      | 100.0% (587)    | 100.0% (5041)    |                      | 100.0% (1237)   | 100.0% (15775)   |                      |
| <b>Marital status<sup>b</sup></b> |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |
| Unmarried                         | 26.3% (105)     | 23.5% (2459)     | 0.196                | 34.8% (162)     | 22.3% (1100)     | <0.001               | 30.9% (267)     | 23.1% (3559)     | <0.001               |
| Married                           | 64.3% (257)     | 73.4% (7682)     | <0.001               | 60.4% (281)     | 72.1% (3556)     | <0.001               | 62.2% (534)     | 73.0% (11238)    | <0.001               |
| Separated                         | 4.5% (18)       | 1.2% (128)       | <0.001               | 3.2% (15)       | 3.1% (155)       | 0.906                | 3.8% (33)       | 1.8% (283)       | <0.001               |
| Divorced                          | 0.0% (0)        | 0.3% (21)        | 0.273                | 0.2% (1)        | 0.8% (38)        | 0.151                | 0.1% (1)        | 0.4% (69)        | 0.167                |
| Widowed                           | 5.0% (20)       | 1.6% (164)       | <0.001               | 1.3% (6)        | 1.6% (80)        | 0.619                | 3.0% (26)       | 1.6% (244)       | <0.001               |
| Total                             | 100.0% (400)    | 100.0% (10464)   |                      | 100.0% (465)    | 100.0% (4929)    |                      | 100.0% (988)    | 100.0% (15393)   |                      |
| <b>Suicide method</b>             |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |                 |                  |                      |
| Hanging                           | 52.9% (358)     | 42.5% (4555)     | <0.001               | 52.4% (313)     | 38.0% (1916)     | <0.001               | 52.7% (671)     | 41.0% (6471)     | <0.001               |
| Poisoning                         | 21.4% (145)     | 39.7% (4260)     | <0.001               | 20.1% (120)     | 35.2% (1775)     | <0.001               | 20.8% (265)     | 38.3% (6035)     | <0.001               |
| Fire/self-immolation              | 11.2% (76)      | 6.0% (643)       | <0.001               | 12.1% (72)      | 19.2% (967)      | <0.001               | 11.6% (148)     | 10.2% (1610)     | 0.114                |
| Under vehicle/train               | 4.7% (32)       | 2.9% (309)       | 0.008                | 4.4% (26)       | 0.9% (45)        | <0.001               | 4.6% (58)       | 2.2% (354)       | <0.001               |
| Drowning                          | 3.3% (22)       | 3.3% (357)       | 1.000                | 4.0% (24)       | 3.4% (171)       | 0.448                | 3.6% (46)       | 3.3% (528)       | 0.566                |
| Jumping (off structure)           | 1.9% (13)       | 0.6% (60)        | <0.001               | 3.5% (21)       | 0.1% (7)         | <0.001               | 2.7% (34)       | 0.4% (67)        | <0.001               |
| Self-inflicted injury             | 0.9% (6)        | 0.6% (68)        | 0.334                | 2.2% (13)       | 0.4% (18)        | <0.001               | 1.5% (19)       | 0.5% (86)        | <0.001               |
| Other                             | 3.7% (25)       | 4.5% (482)       | 0.328                | 1.3% (8)        | 2.8% (142)       | 0.031                | 2.6% (33)       | 4.0% (624)       | 0.013                |
| Total                             | 100.0% (677)    | 100.0% (10734)   |                      | 100.0% (597)    | 100.0% (5041)    |                      | 100.0% (1274)   | 100.0% (15775)   |                      |

Note: Only includes newspaper reports of suicides of people residing in Tamil Nadu

<sup>a</sup> Two-tailed binomial test on difference between two proportions using the “prtesti” command in Stata

<sup>b</sup> Excludes those listed as ‘unknown’ and ‘other’ in the NCRB data