The temporal dimensions and tendencies including some characteristics features of suicide in Turkey during the social transformation process are the subject of this study with a focus on the provinces and differentiation on a regional scale. The number of suicides in Turkey and the characteristics features of those committing suicide during 1974-2013 have been collected in the ‘Suicide Statistics’ yearbook within this context.

Both the suicide numbers as well as the crude suicide rates in Turkey have increased from the last quarter of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century. As a matter of fact the number of suicides which was 788 in 1975 increased at a rate of 304.7% to become 3189 in 2013. The crude suicide rate increased by 1,95 000% in 1975 to 1,69 000% in 1980, by 2,42 000% in 1990, by 2,67 000% in 2000 and increased by 4,19 000% in 2013. Although the crude suicide rates are less than those in most European countries, the fact that there is a rapidly increasing trend indicates that it has started to become a significant public health problem. The reasons for this increase in crude suicide rates which is closely related to the economic and social transformation process ongoing in Turkey are influenced by several elements such as mostly psychological issues, family and health related problems, economic reasons and failure in general.

The distribution of crude suicide rates according to provinces reveals that in addition to the gradual increase of suicides in Turkey the regional differences have gradually decreased and suicide has extended throughout the country. In fact crude suicide rates which were more prominent for the western part of the country in the 1970’s have now extended to all regions on a similar level. Suicides which have increased in affiliation particularly with the overall extension of urbanization in the country have various social and demographical characteristics such as gender, age, place of residence, education level, marital status.