Mortality rates are higher in Scotland relative to England and Wales. These higher mortality rates, relative to the rest of the UK, persist even after adjustment for differences in area deprivation and individual social class. This excess in mortality rate, which for a while was known as the ‘Scotland Effect’, is caused by a complex interaction between a number of factors. One of the causes of death implicated in this effect is suicide (particularly in young people). The suicide rates in Scotland are now ranked above those for many other European countries, and the current Scottish Suicide Prevention Action Plan has a goal of reducing Scotland's suicide rate by 20 per cent by 2022. This talk will start by describing the excess mortality rates in Scotland, before moving on to give an overview of suicide research within the Scottish context with a specific focus on suicide and self-harm in young people.