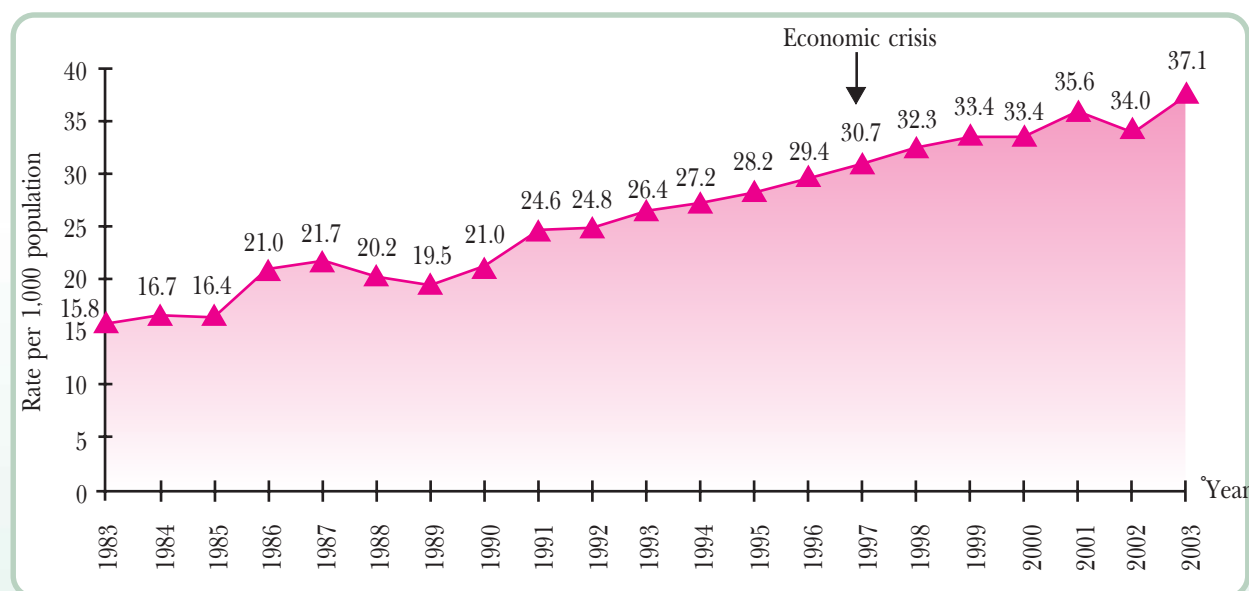


2. Mental Health Indicators

Mental health indicators, derived from reports on mental disorders and suicide situation, tend to be worsening among the Thai people as the rate of outpatients attending mental health clinics has increased from 24.6 per 1,000 population in 1991 to 37.1 per 1,000 population in 2003 (Figure 5.5); and the numbers of patients with psychosis, depression and epilepsy are on the rise (Table 5.4).

Figure 5.5 Rate of Outpatients with Mental and Behavioural Disorders, 1983-2003



Source: Outpatient Report. Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health.

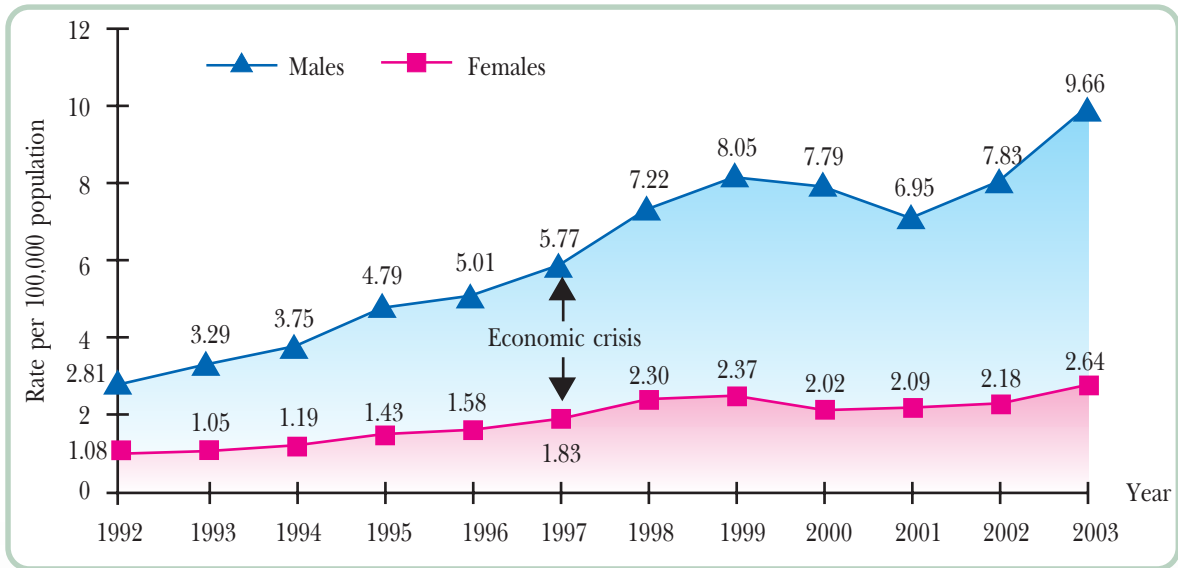
Table 5.4 Prevalence of Mental Disorders, 1997-2001

Mental disorder	Prevalence per 100,000 population				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
- Psychosis	440.1	435.3	424.8	451.0	519.6
- Anxiety disorder	789.9	822.6	764.7	812.2	776.0
- Major depression	55.9	74.3	99.5	130.3	94.9
- Mental retardation	44.7	52.9	58.2	52.4	51.7
- Epilepsy	109.3	125.8	n.a.	149.8	182.5

Source: Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health.

Suicide is one of the indicators reflecting serious mental conditions. According to a report of the Royal Thai Police, after the 1997 economic crisis the suicidal rate tended to be on the rise; the rate in males being almost four times greater than that in females (Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6 Rate of Suicides, 1992-2003



Source: Royal Thai Police.