



SUICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2018

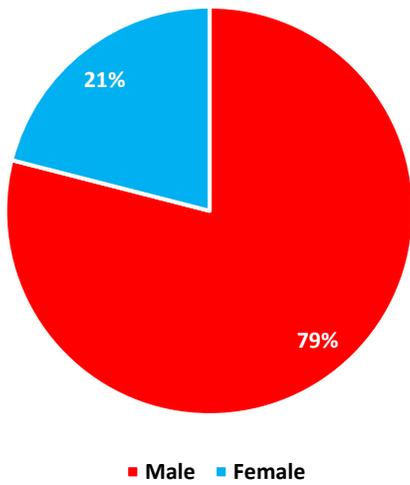
BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) collected death certificate data about 2,017 suicide deaths (1,413 males and 438 females) from all 67 counties in 2018. PAVDRS also collected reports from coroners/medical examiners and law enforcement partners in 29 counties, including: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Clinton, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Union, Westmoreland, and York. PAVDRS worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, coroners, medical examiners, and law enforcement to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

In 2018, at least 39 suicide deaths occurred every week in Pennsylvania.

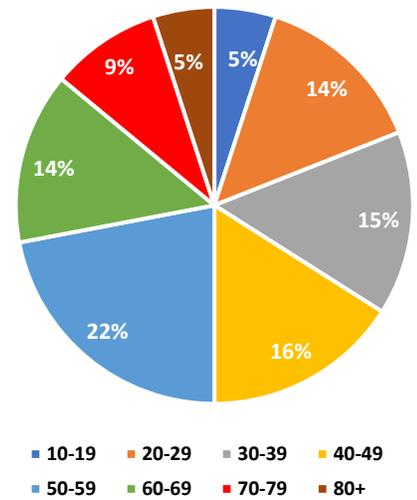
Characteristics of Suicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

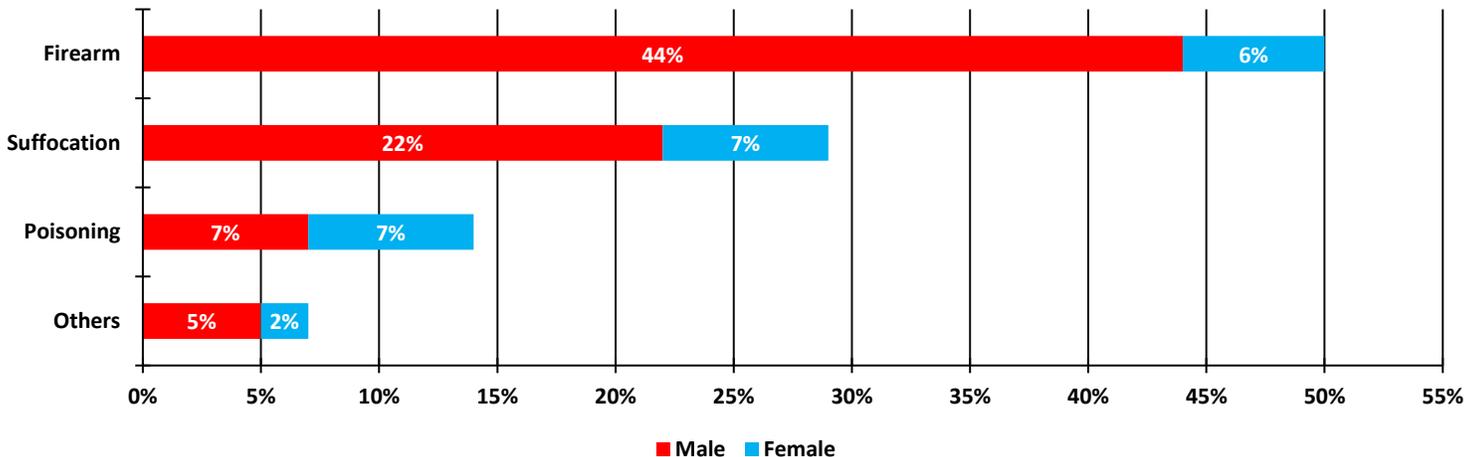


- Data from all 67 counties showed that males were over 3 times more likely to die by suicide than females. Nationally, males die by suicide at a rate more than 3½ that of females¹.
- People between 40-49 years of age were over 3 times more likely to die by suicide than those aged 10-19 in Pennsylvania in 2018.
- Overall, suicide rates in Pennsylvania were slightly higher than the national average:
Pennsylvania Rates: 15.0 deaths per 100,000 population (males 24.0 and females 6.5).
National Rates: 14.2 deaths per 100,000 population (males 22.4 and females 6.1)¹.

Age of Victims:

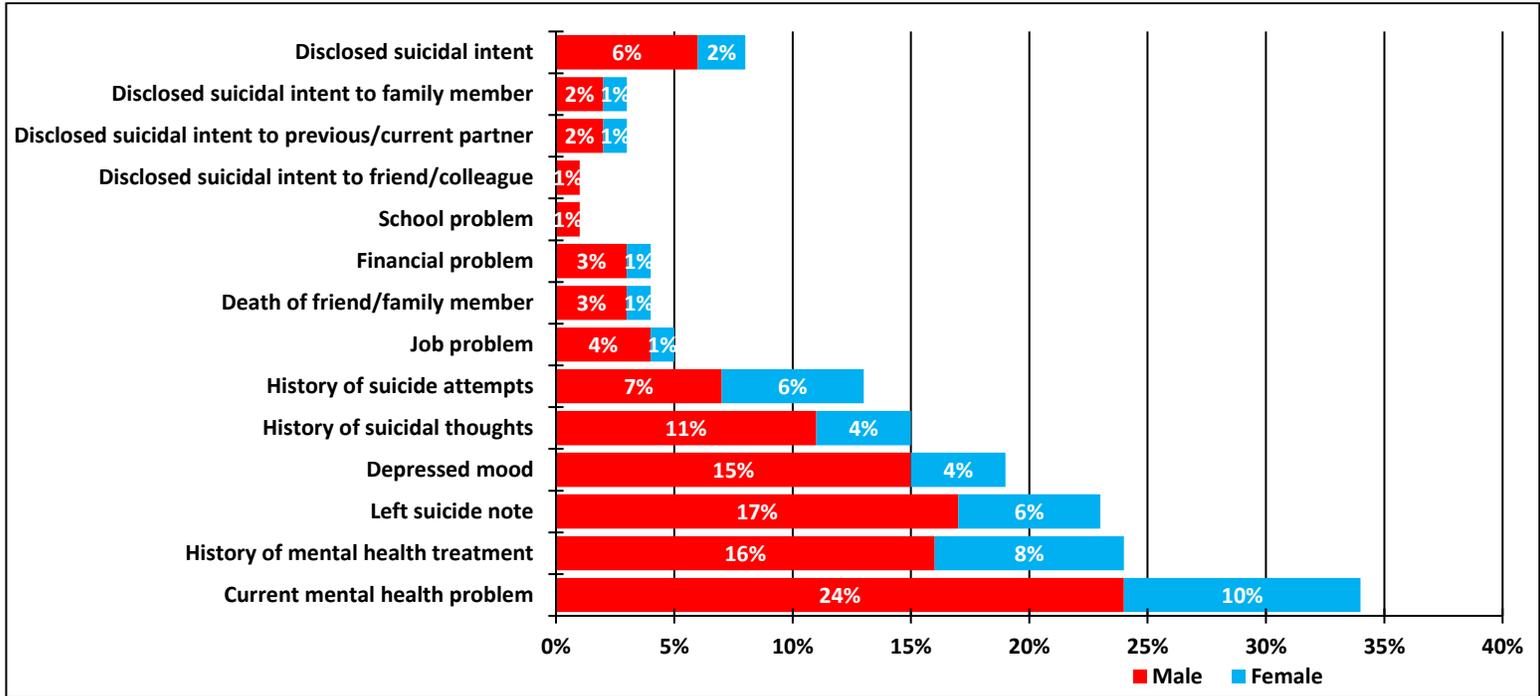


Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex:

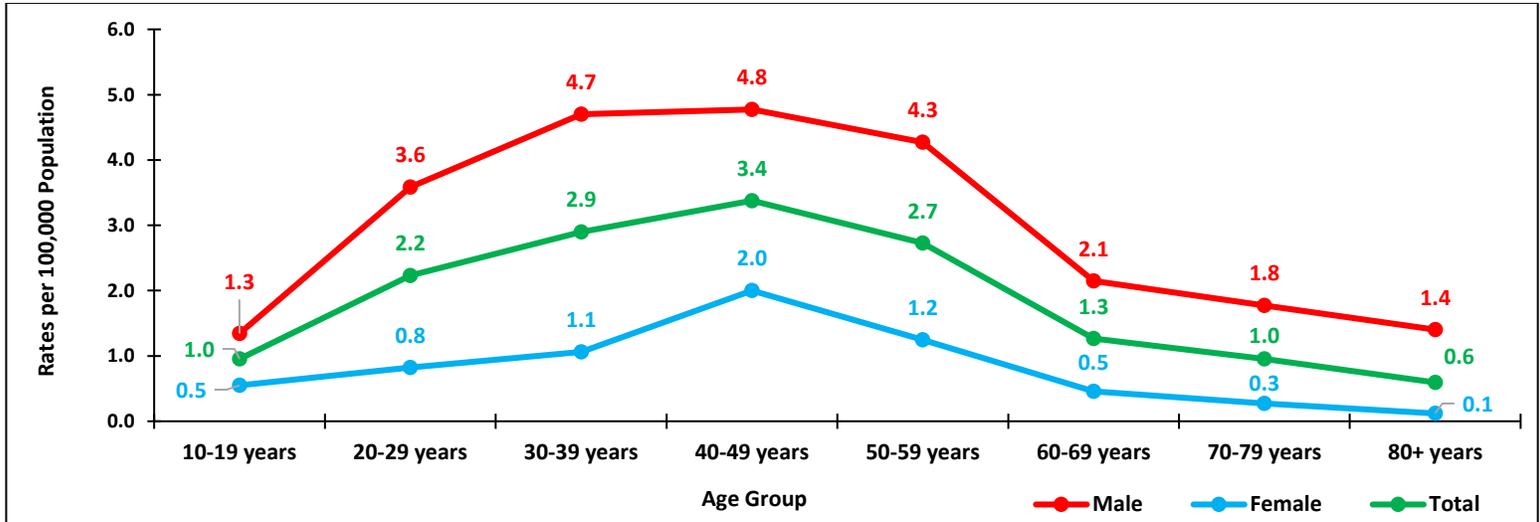


This report was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number CE19-1905 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



Age-adjusted Rates:



1. National Center for Health Statistics, "Suicide Mortality in the US, 1999-2017. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nov. 2018. Accessed on July 10, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db330.htm#ref3>

The PAVDRS program is a state level surveillance system funded and overseen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is part of the larger National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). There is a Violent Death Reporting System in all 50 states and some US territories. The PAVDRS program collects data on suicides, homicides, deaths of undetermined intent, and accidental firearm deaths. The program is required to collect data directly from death certificates, coroners/medical examiners, and law enforcement. These sources contribute to a comprehensive understanding of each violent death. PAVDRS/NVDRS data is used for research, policymaking, and, ultimately, to develop violence prevention programs and strategies that will enhance community safety. For more information about the PAVDRS program, please call 717-787-5900 or email RA-DHPAVDRS@pa.gov.

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