

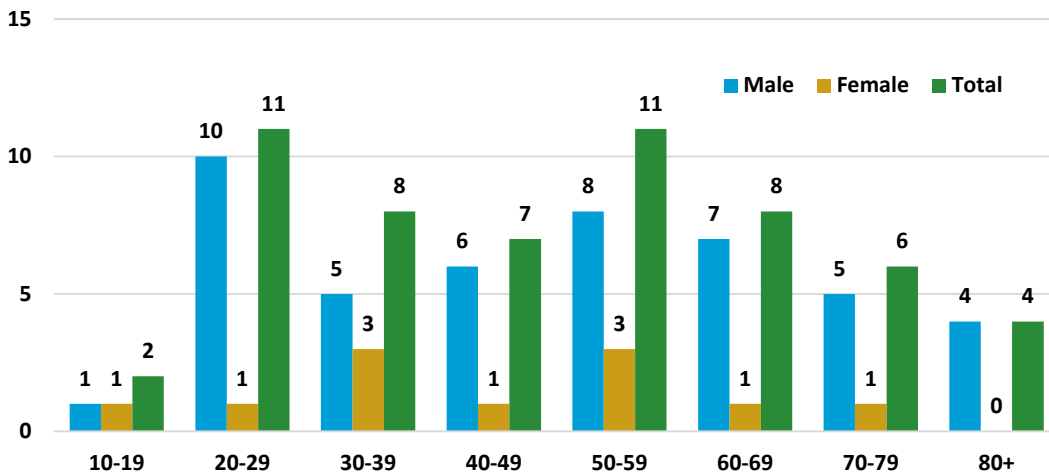
SUICIDE DEATHS IN BLAIR COUNTY, 2018-2020

BACKGROUND

Blair County, Pennsylvania is a rural county with a 2018-2020 combined population of 367,000 people (180,000 males and 187,000 females). During 2018-2020, Blair County had 57 suicide deaths (46 males and 11 females) which occurred at a rate of 15.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) program worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, the Blair County Coroner’s Office, and Blair County law enforcement to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations. For more information about the PAVDRS program, please call 717-787-5900 or email RA-DHPAVDRS@pa.gov

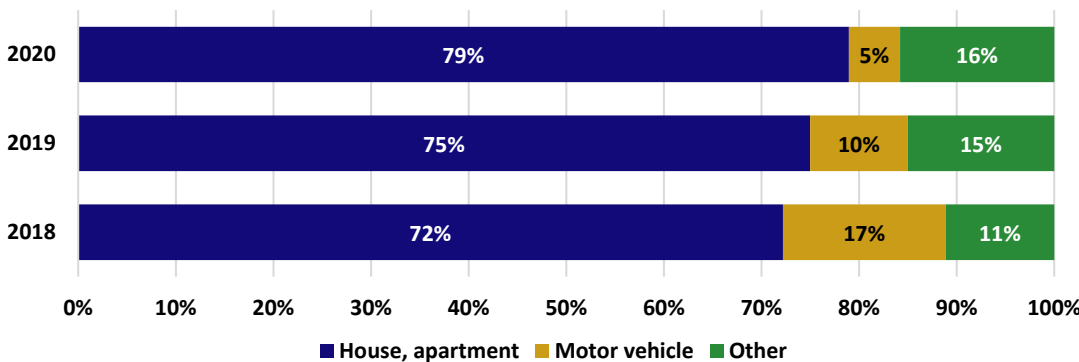
- During 2018-2020, Blair County averaged almost 2 suicide deaths per month.
- Males in Blair County were over 4 times more likely to die by suicide than females. Nationally, males die by suicide at a rate of approximately 4 times that of females¹.
- Overall, suicide rates in Blair County during this time span were higher than the state average:
Blair County Crude Rates: 15.5 deaths per 100,000 population (males 25.5 and females 5.9)
Pennsylvania Rates: 14.6 deaths per 100,000 population (males 23.5 and females 5.9)¹

Sex-specific Suicide Counts by Age:



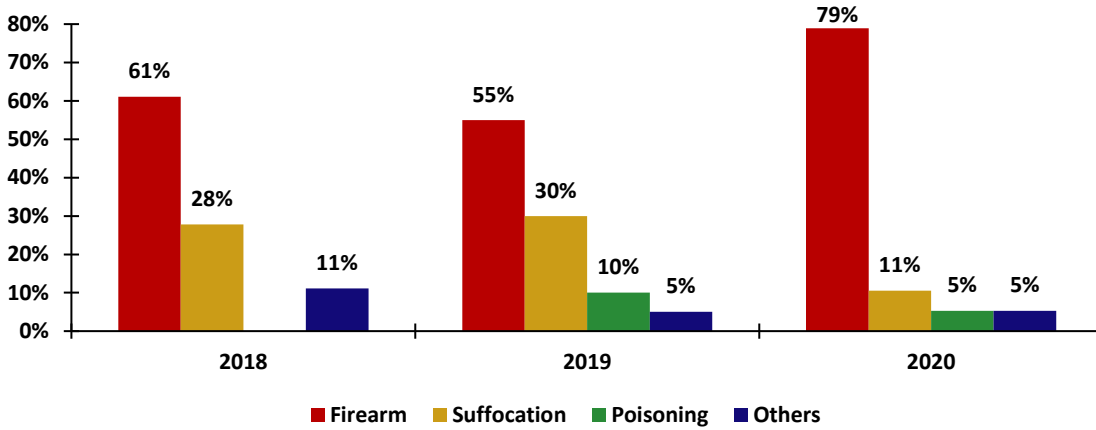
- During 2018-2020, males ages 20-29 had the highest number of suicide deaths.

Location of Suicide Victims:



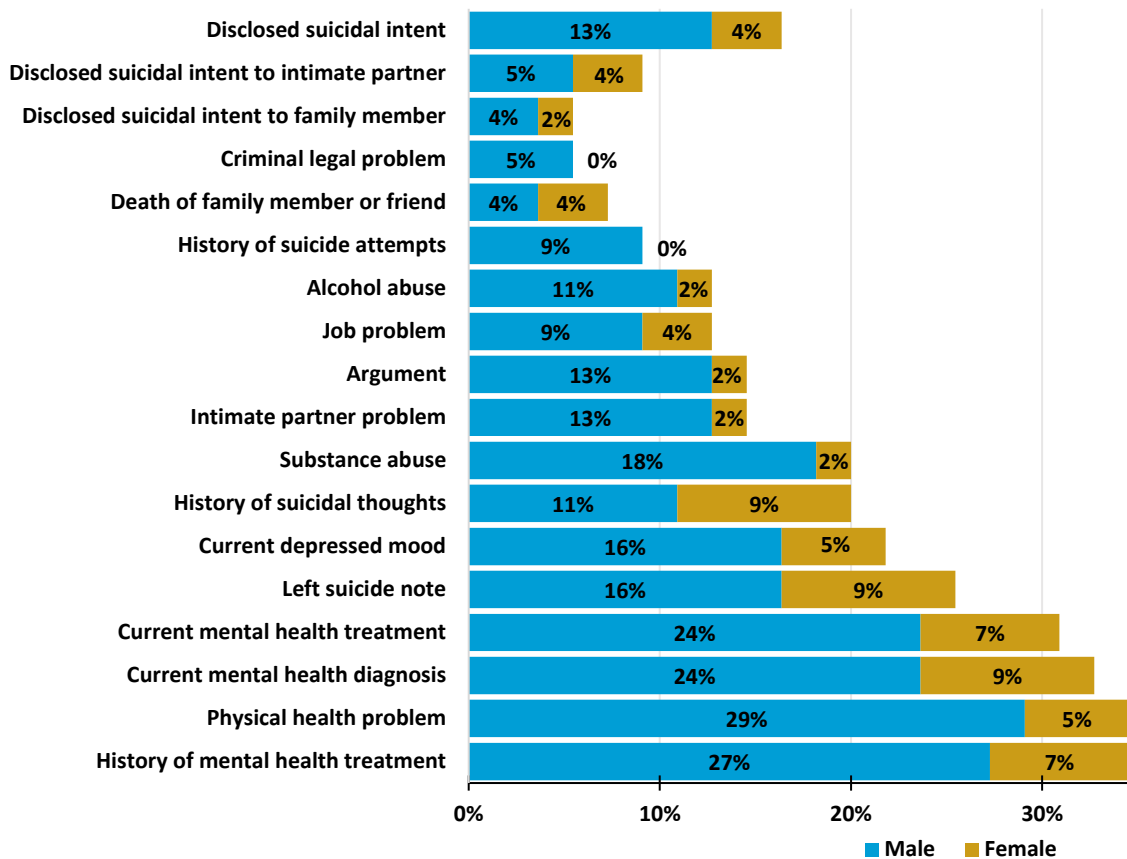
- At least 84% of all suicides occurred in a house, apartment, or motor vehicle (excluding bus/public transportation) during 2018-2020.

Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths:



- Suicides by firearm decreased from 2018 to 2019 but increased again from 2019 to 2020. Suicides by suffocation declined from 2018-2020.

Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



- Seventeen percent of suicide victims disclosed suicidal intent in the month before their death.
- Thirty-one percent of suicide victims received mental health or substance abuse treatment in the two months before their death.
- Thirty-three percent of all suicide victims had a diagnosed mental health problem at the time of death.

Notes: The denominator for Most Common Precipitating Circumstances is the sum of CME and LE records that have information about the circumstances associated with the violent death. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, Fatal Injury Reports, National, Regional and State: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/fatal-reports>