

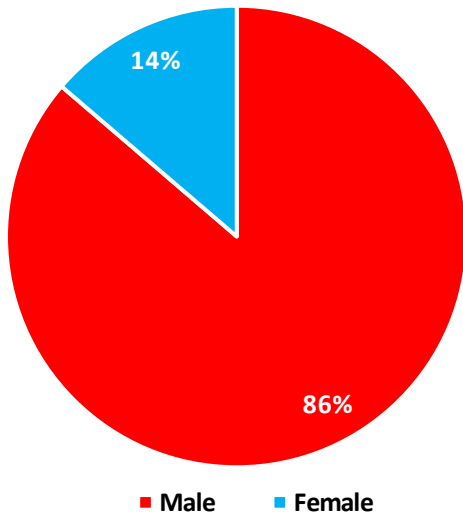
BACKGROUND

Berks County, Pennsylvania is an urban county with a population of 429,000 people (213,000 males and 216,000 females). In 2020, Berks County had 51 suicide deaths (44 males and 7 females) which occurred at a rate of 11.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, the Berks County Coroner’s Office, and Berks County law enforcement to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

In 2020, Berks County averaged 1 suicide death each week.

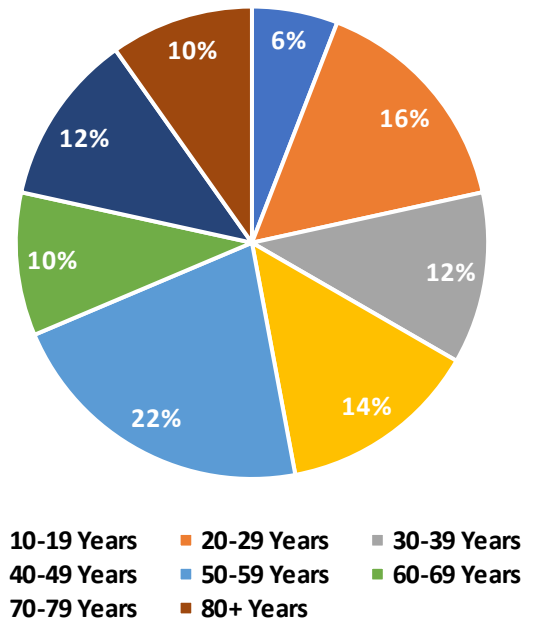
Characteristics of Suicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

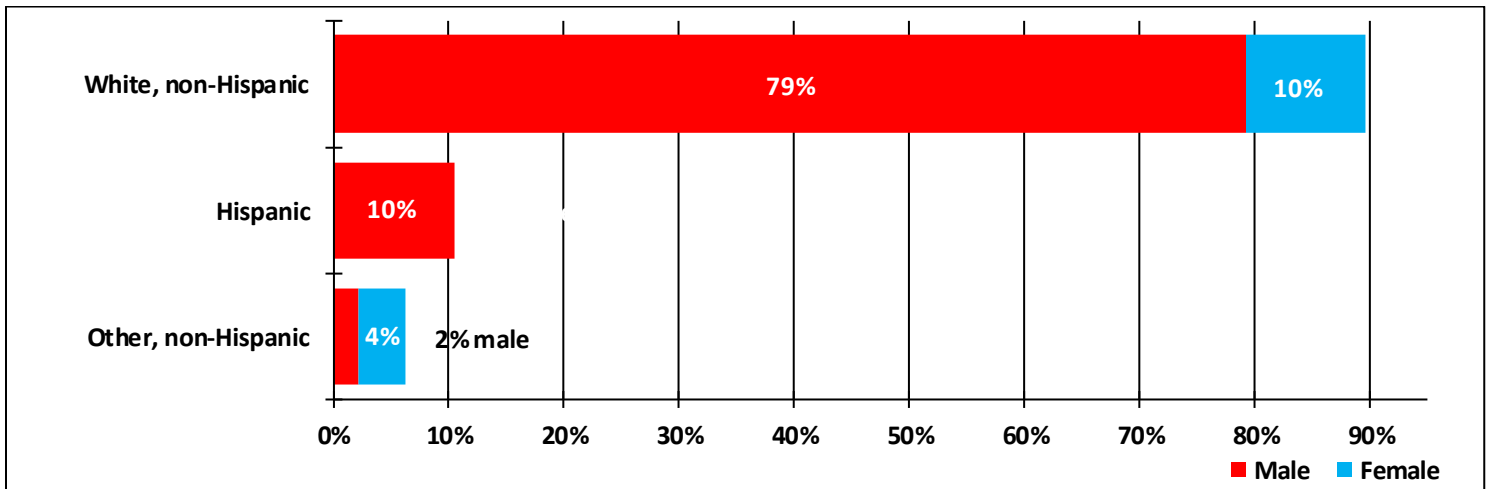


- In Berks County, males were 6 times more likely to die by suicide than females.
- Overall, age-adjusted suicide rates in Berks County were lower than the state average:
Berks County Rates: 11.3 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 20.0 and females 3.2).
Pennsylvania Rates: 12.6 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 20.4 and females 5.0).

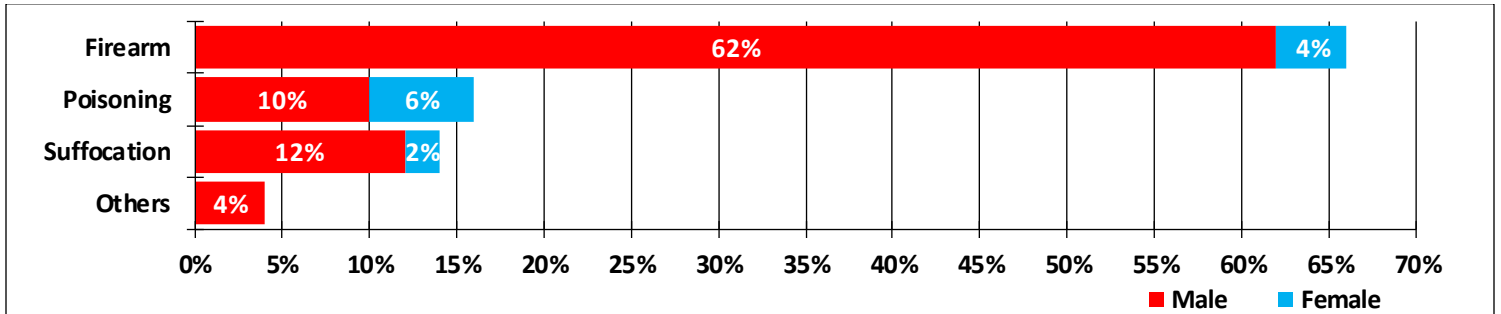
Age of Victims:



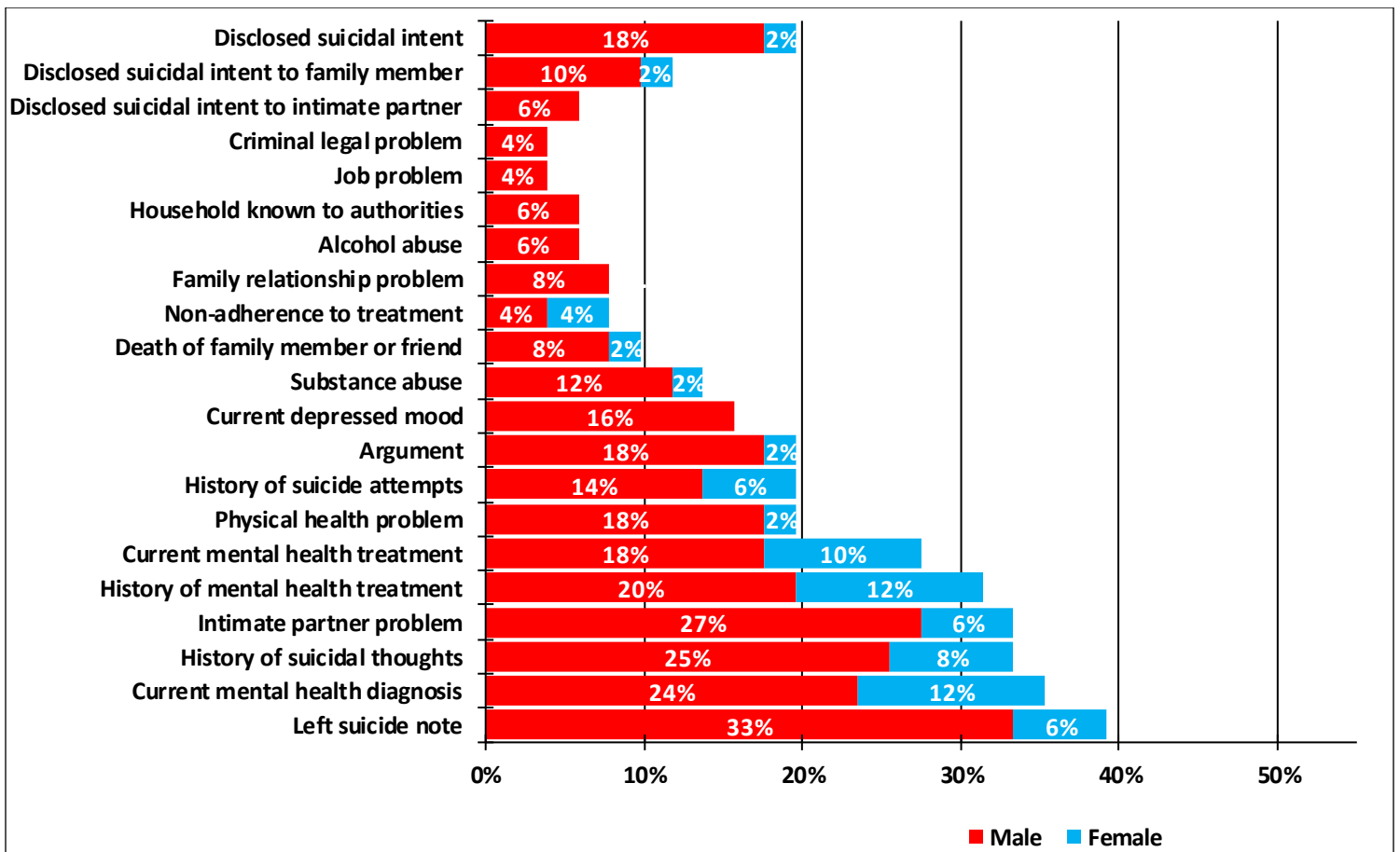
Characteristics of Suicide Victims by Race/Ethnicity and Sex:



Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



Notes: The denominator for Most Common Precipitating Circumstances is the sum of records with coroner/medical examiner and law enforcement circumstantial information about the violent death. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

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). 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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