

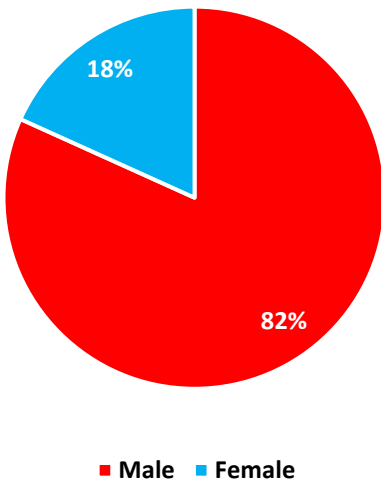
BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) collected death certificate data about 2,159 homicide deaths (1,765 males and 394 females) in all 67 counties from 2016-2018. PAVDRS staff also collected reports from coroners, medical examiners, and law enforcement partners in the following counties: 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, Wayne, Westmoreland, and York. The PAVDRS program worked closely with these partners and the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

Pennsylvania averaged over 60 homicide deaths every month during 2016-2018.

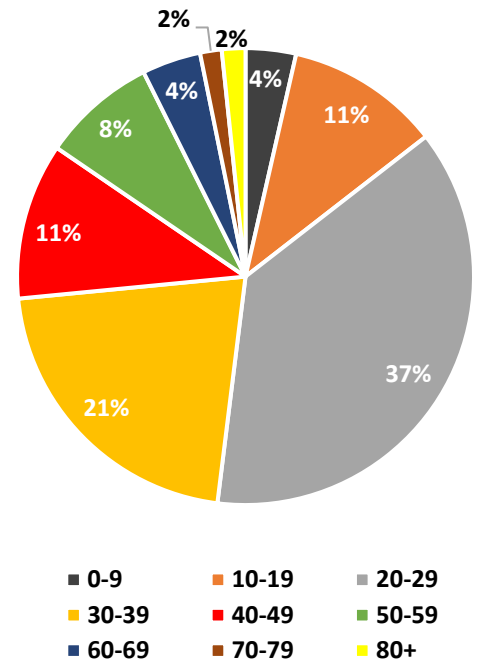
Characteristics of Homicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

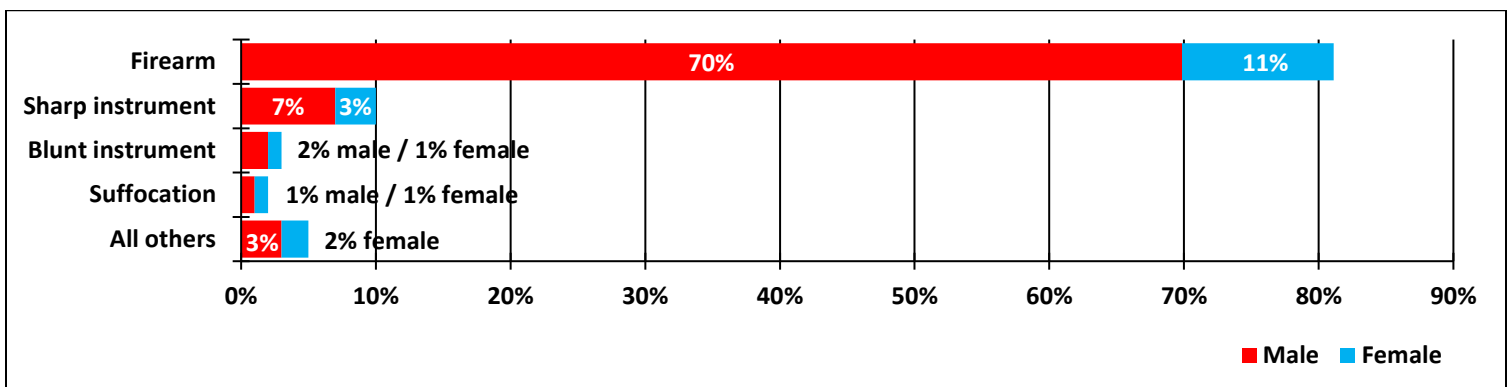


- Data from all 67 counties showed that males were about 4½ times more likely to die by homicide than females. Nationally, males die by homicide at a rate more than 3½ times that of females in 2016-2018¹.
- People between 20-29 years of age had the highest homicide rate; they were over 5½ times more likely to die by homicide than those aged 20-29 in Pennsylvania during 2016-2018.
- Overall, homicide rates in Pennsylvania were slightly lower than the national average:
Pennsylvania Rates: 6.0 deaths per 100,000 population (males 9.8 and females 2.2).
National Rates: 6.1 deaths per 100,000 population (males 9.6 and females 2.5) in 2016-18¹.

Age of Victims:

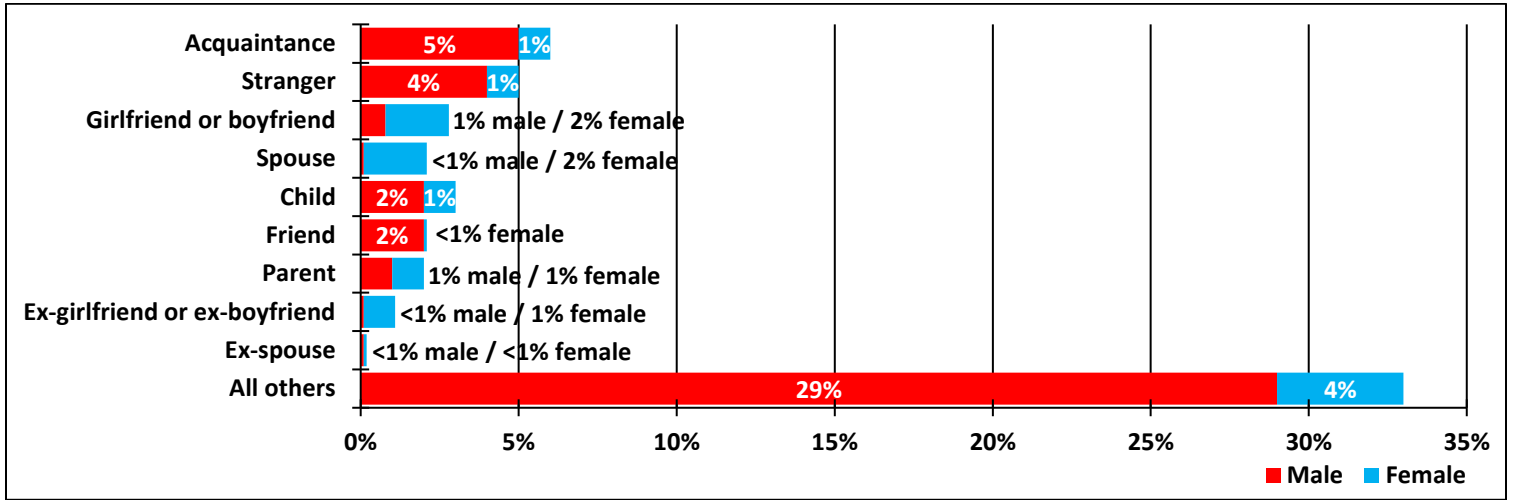


Leading Cause of Homicide Death by Sex:

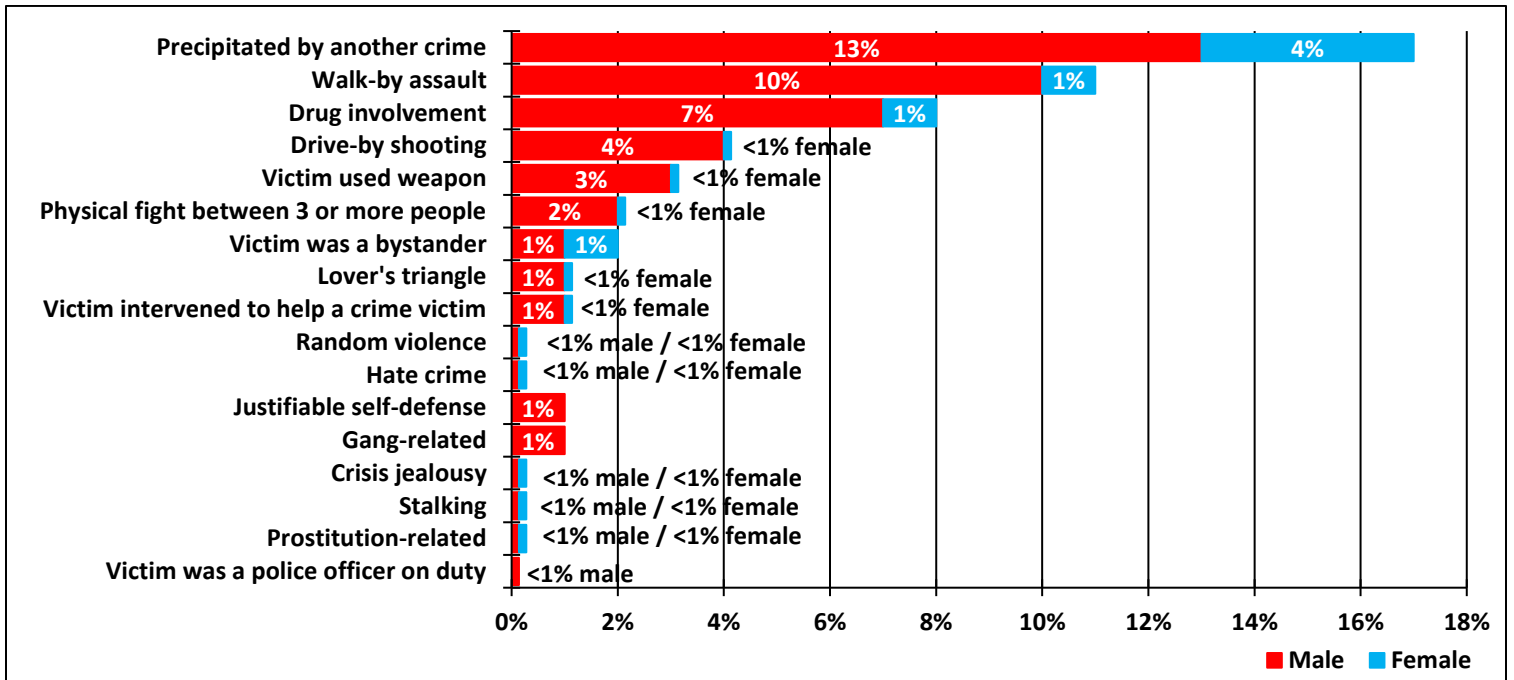


This report was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number CE19-1905 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Most Common Relationships Between Victims and Perpetrators:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, Fatal Injury Data. Accessed on October 5, 2021 from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>

The PAVDRS program is a state level surveillance system funded and overseen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program 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 three sources contribute 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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