

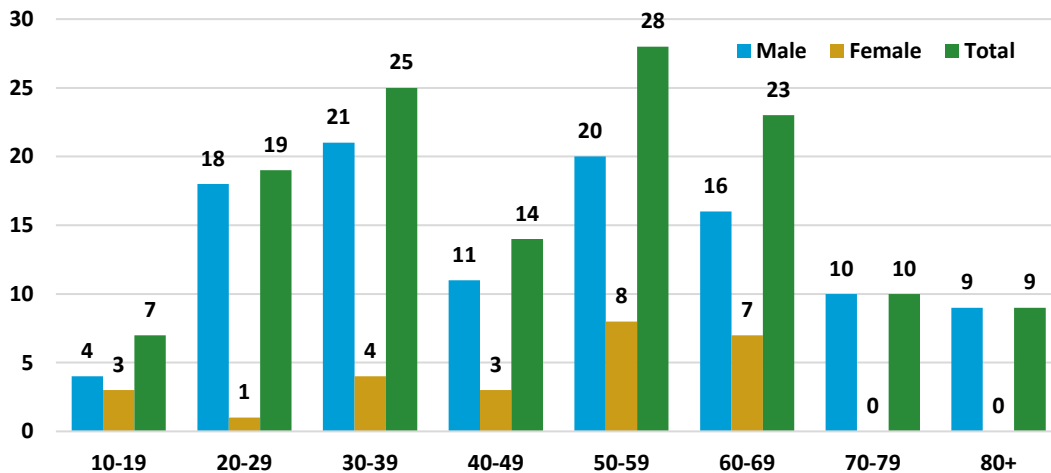
**SUICIDE DEATHS IN ERIE COUNTY, 2018-2020**

**BACKGROUND**

Erie County, Pennsylvania is an urban county with a 2018-2020 combined population of 812,000 people (402,000 males and 410,000 females). During 2018-2020, Erie County had 135 suicide deaths (109 males and 26 females) which occurred at a rate of 16.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, the Erie County Coroner’s Office, and Erie 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](mailto:RA-DHPAVDRS@pa.gov)

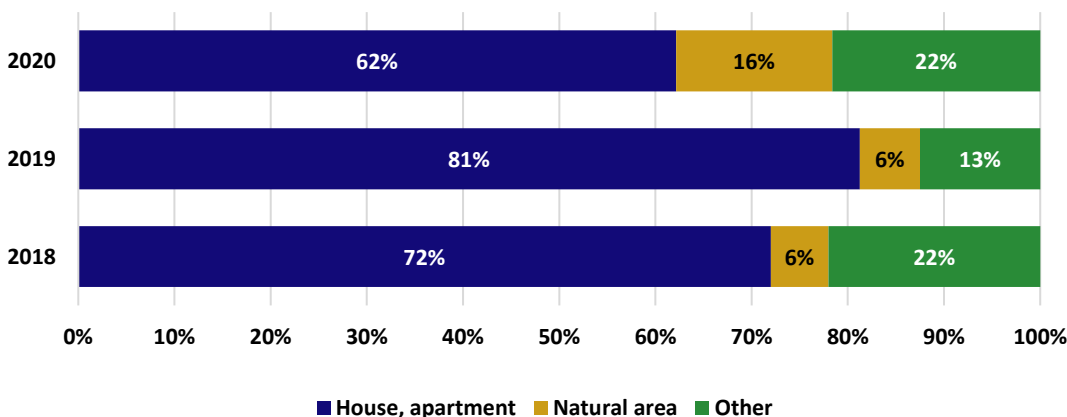
- During 2018-2020, Erie County averaged almost 4 suicide deaths per month.
- Males in Erie County were over 4 times more likely to die by suicide than females. Nationally, males die by suicide at a rate of approximately 4 times that of females<sup>1</sup>.
- Overall, suicide rates in Erie County during this time span were higher than the state average:  
**Erie County Crude Rates:** 16.6 deaths per 100,000 population (males 27.1 and females 6.3)  
**Pennsylvania Rates:** 14.6 deaths per 100,000 population (males 23.5 and females 5.9)<sup>1</sup>

**Sex-specific Suicide Counts by Age:**



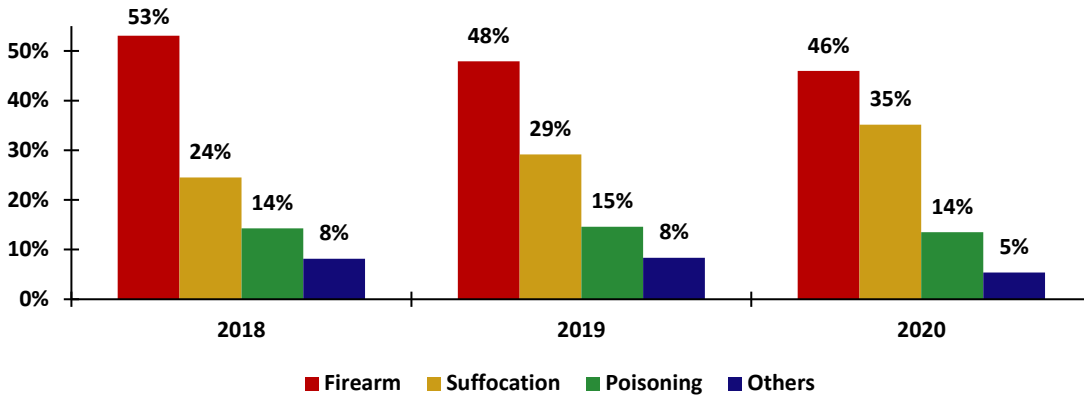
- During 2018-2020, males ages 20-39 and 50-59 had the highest number of suicide deaths.
- Teen victims accounted for 5% of all suicide deaths.

**Location of Suicide Victims:**



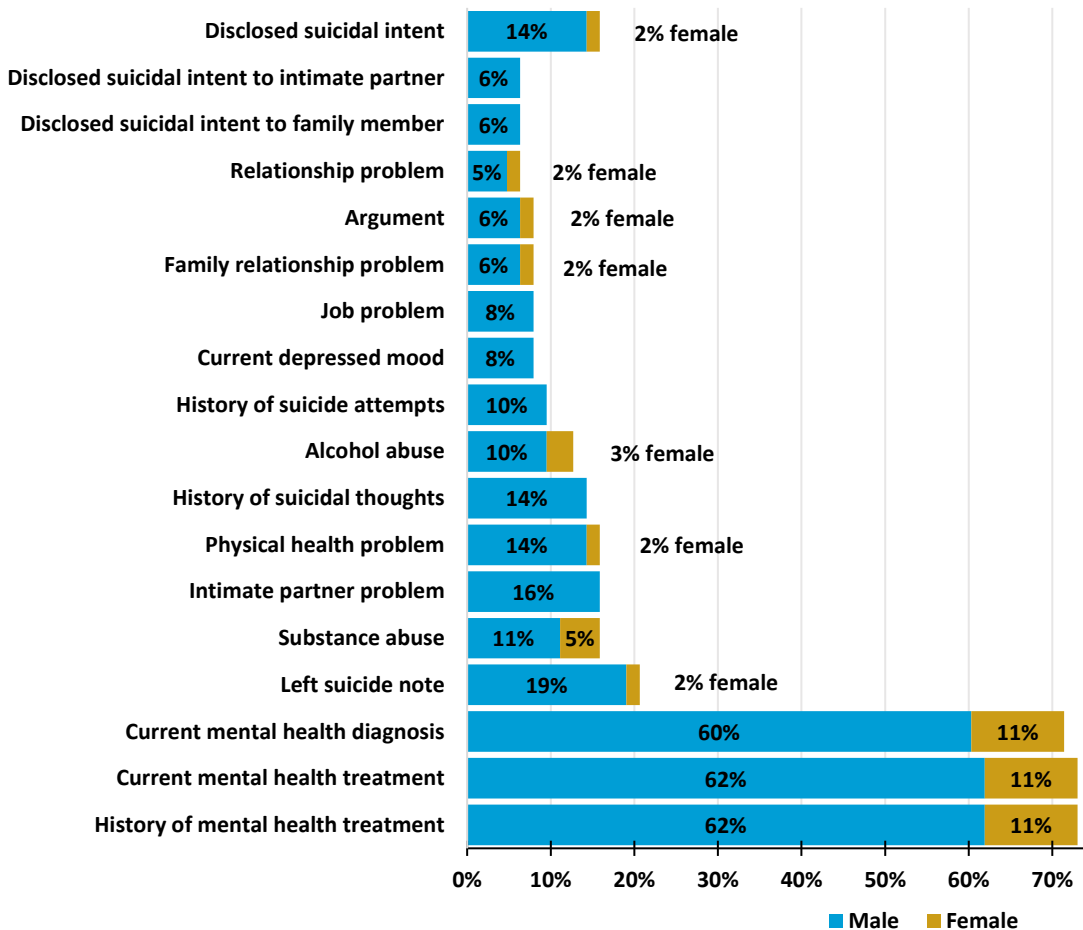
- Most suicides occurred in a house or apartment.
- Suicides occurred more frequently in natural areas in 2020, then previous years.

**Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths:**



- Suicides by firearm trended downward while suicides by suffocation and hanging, trended upward over the 3-year period.

**Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:**



- Sixteen percent of suicide victims disclosed suicidal intent in the month before their death.
- Sixty-three percent of suicide victims received mental health or substance abuse treatment in the two months before their death.
- Sixty-one 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>