



HOMICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2017

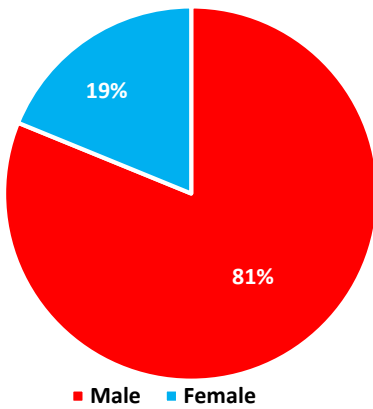
BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) collected death certificate data about 749 homicide deaths (608 males and 141 females) from 49 counties in 2017. PAVDRS also collected reports from coroners/medical examiners and law enforcement partners in 24 of the counties, including: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Berks, Blair, Carbon, Chester, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Westmoreland, Wyoming 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 2017, more than 14 homicide deaths occurred every week in Pennsylvania.

Characteristics of Homicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

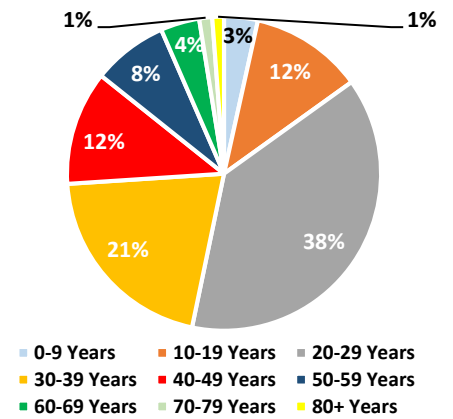


- Data from the 24 counties showed that males were over 4 times more likely to die by homicide than females. Nationally, males die by homicide at a rate of approximately four times that of females^{1,2}.
- Overall, homicide rates in Pennsylvania were similar to the national average:

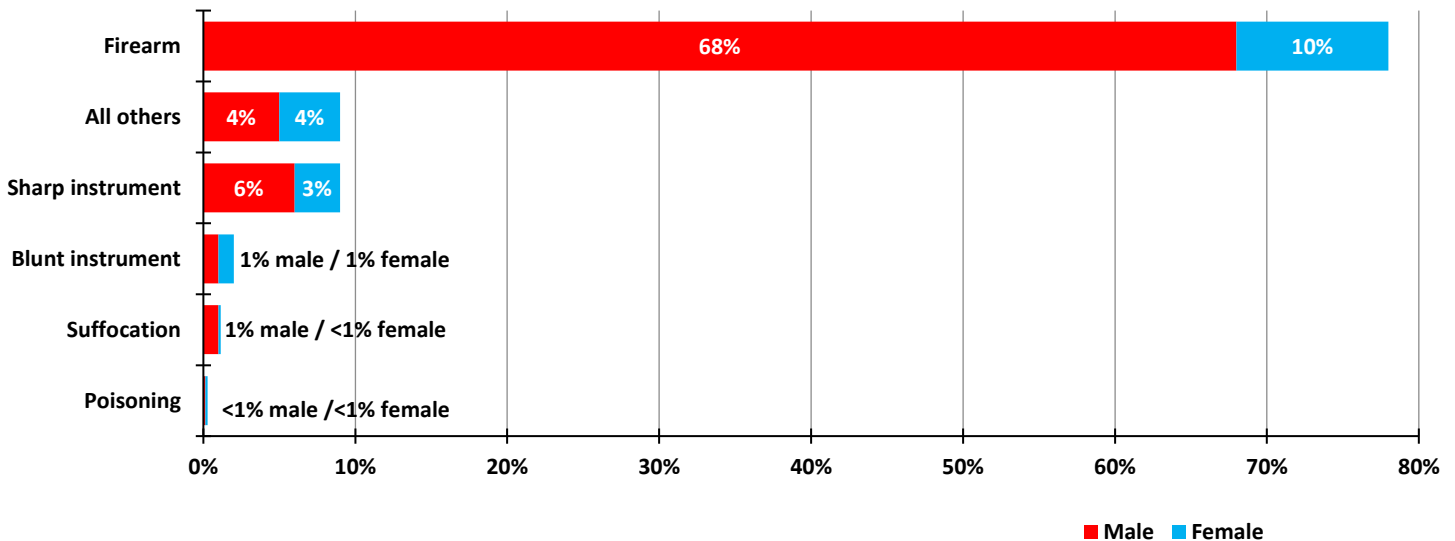
Pennsylvania Rates: 6.2 deaths per 100,000 population (males 10.1 and females 2.3).

National Rates: 6.2 deaths per 100,000 population (males 9.8 and females 2.5)^{1,2}.

Age of Victims:

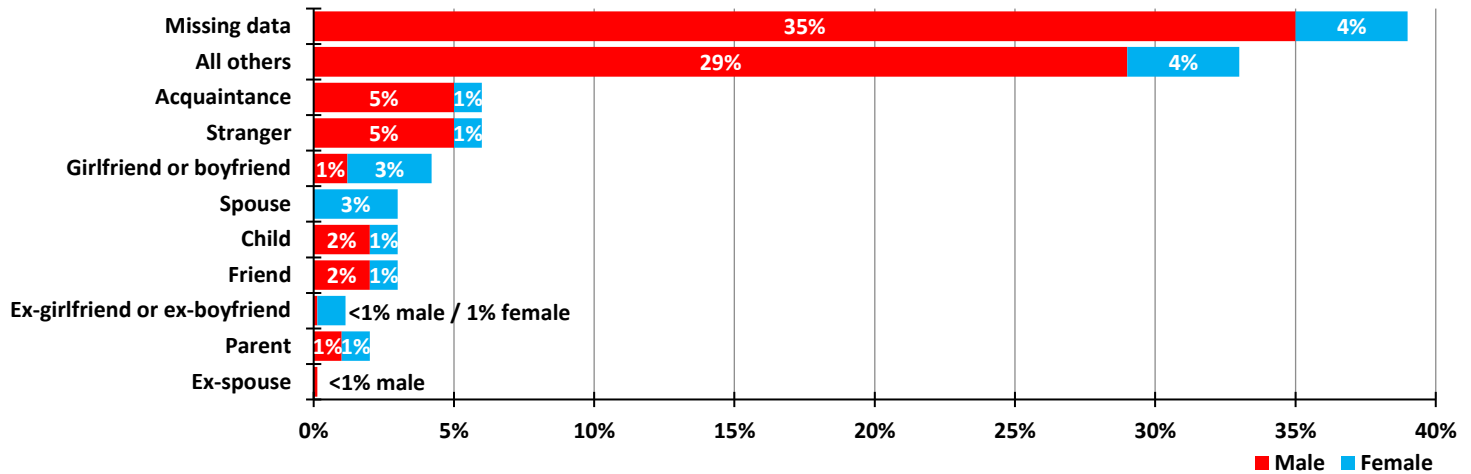


Leading Cause of Homicide Deaths by Sex:

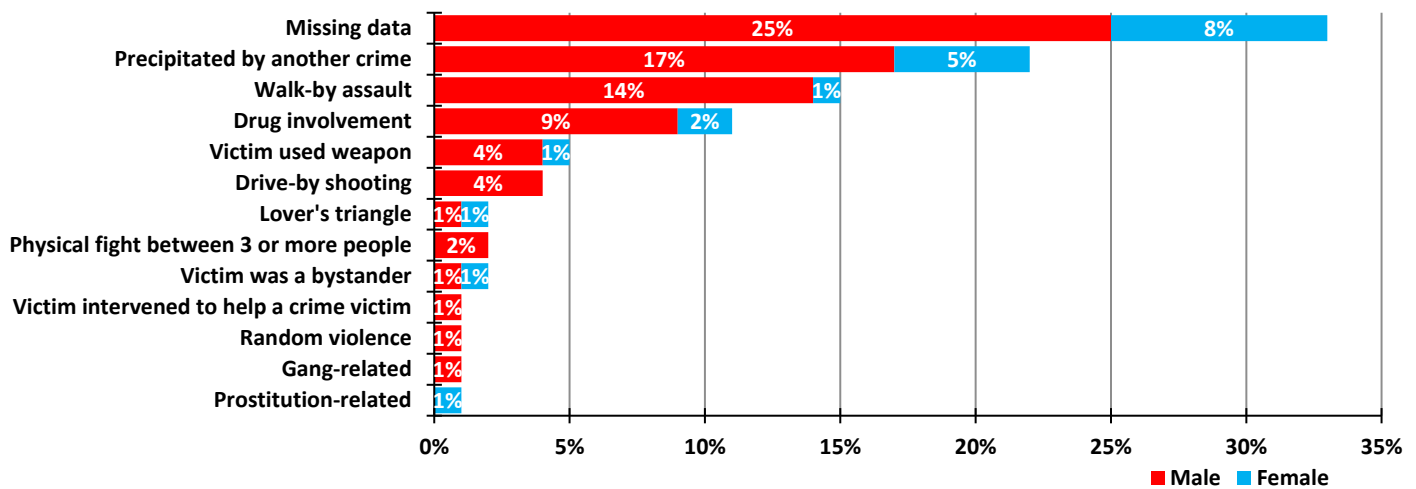


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Most Common Relationships Between Victims and Perpetrators:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



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

*Death certificates were also collected from Beaver, Bedford, Bradford, Bucks, Cambria, Clarion, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lycoming, Monroe, Perry, Pike, Potter, Somerset, Union, Washington, and Wayne counties. Death certificates from all 49 counties represent 92% of all suicide deaths in Pennsylvania. The statistics displayed on this factsheet represent those 49 counties and rates were calculated using the entire state population. The content of this report **does not** represent the entire state of Pennsylvania. More counties are anticipated to report in 2018.

1. National Vital Statistics, Reports "Deaths: Final Data for 2017. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Vol. 68, No. 9, June 24, 2019. Accessed on August 31, 2020 from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf
2. National Center for Health Statistics, "Health, United States, 2018 – Data Finder", Table 005. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed on August 31, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/healthdata/content/2018.htm?search=Homicide>

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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