

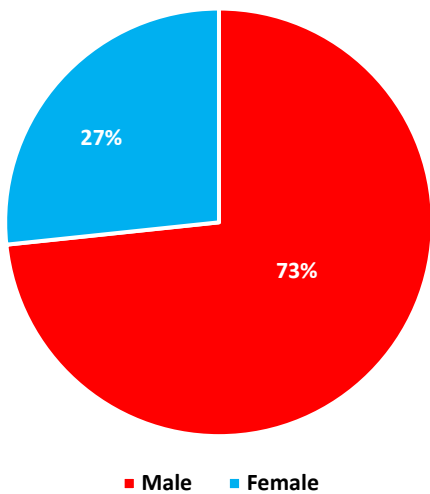
BACKGROUND

Luzerne County, Pennsylvania is an urban county with a total combined population of over 951,000 people (470,000 males and 481,000 females) from 2016-2018. During those three years, Luzerne County had 180 suicide deaths (132 males and 48 females) at a rate of 18.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries and the Luzerne County Coroner's Office to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

In Luzerne County, 5 suicide deaths occurred every month.

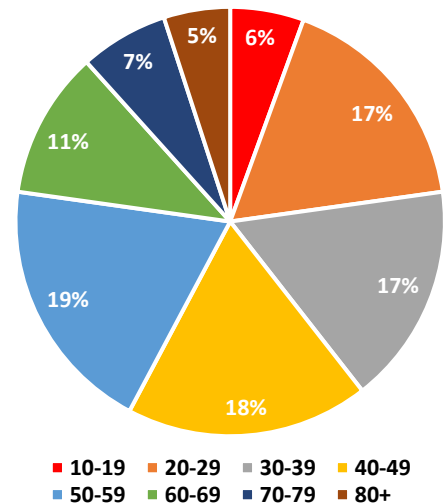
Characteristics of Suicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

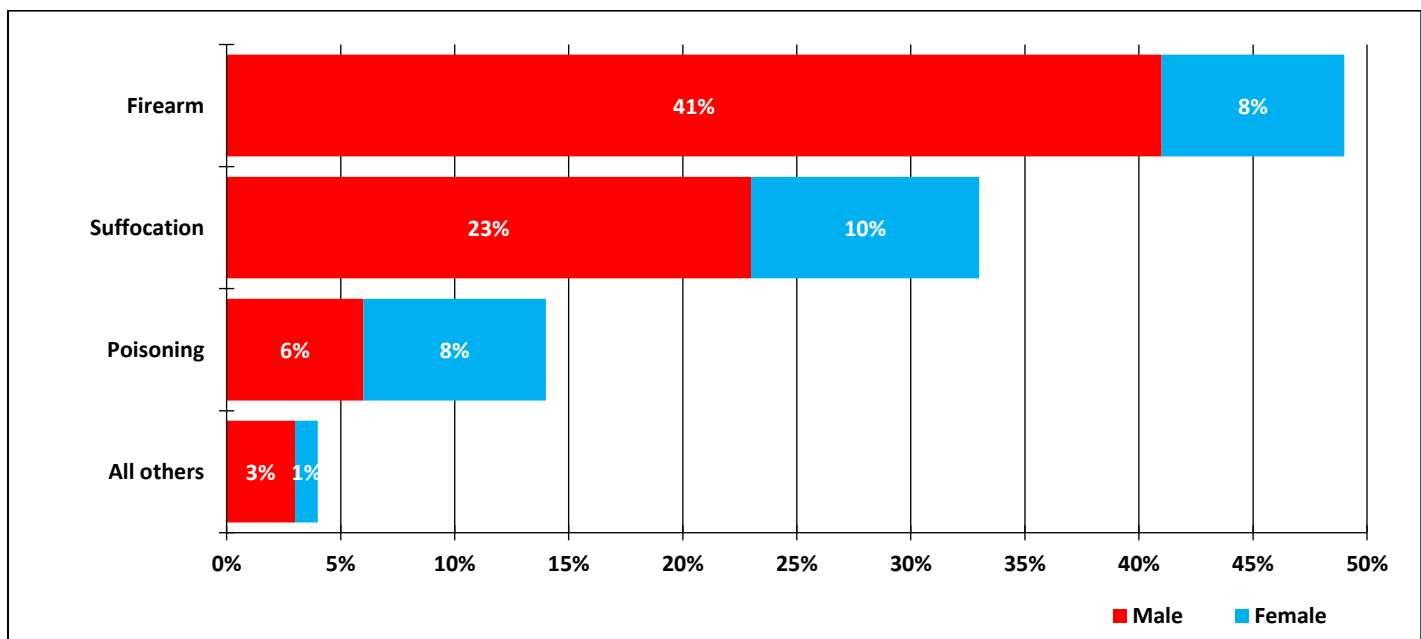


- In Luzerne County, males were 2½ times more likely to die by suicide than females.
- Luzerne residents, ages 80 and older, were 3 times more likely to die by suicide than Pennsylvania residents, ages 80 and older.
- Overall, suicide rates in Luzerne County were much higher than the state average:
Luzerne Rates: 18.9 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 28.1 and females 10.0).
Pennsylvania Rates: 13.9 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 21.9 and females 6.2).

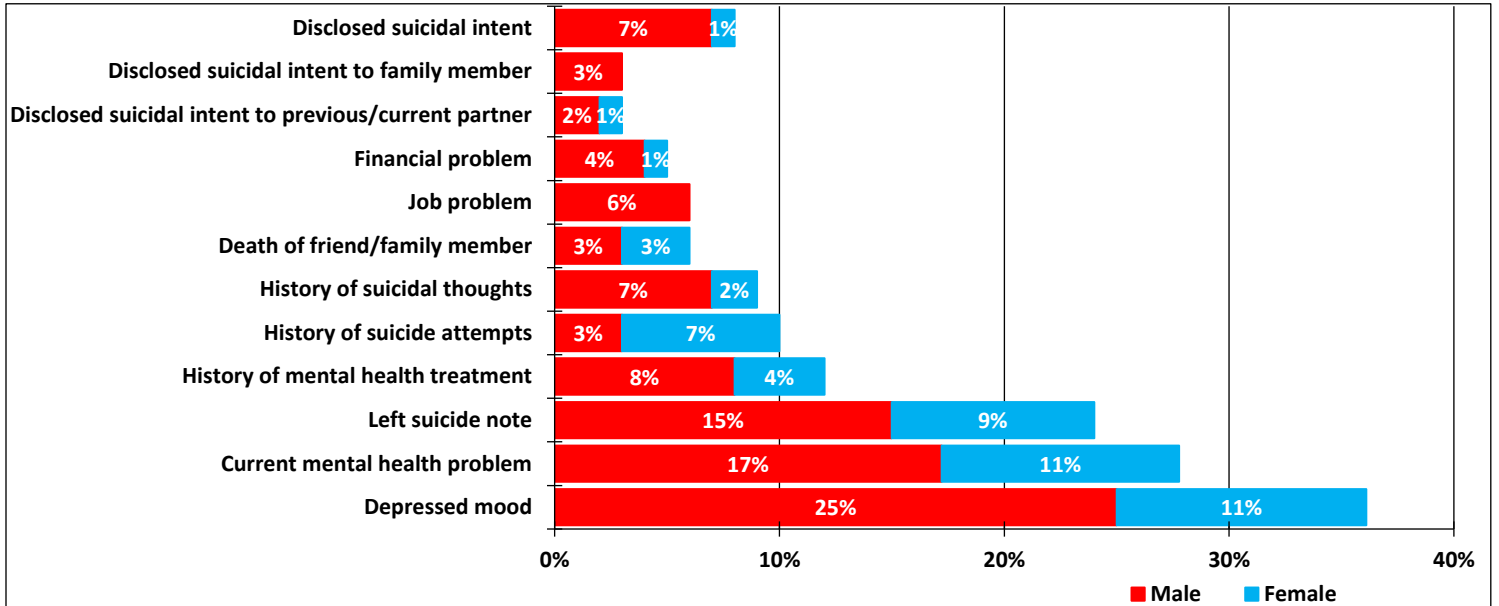
Age of Victims:



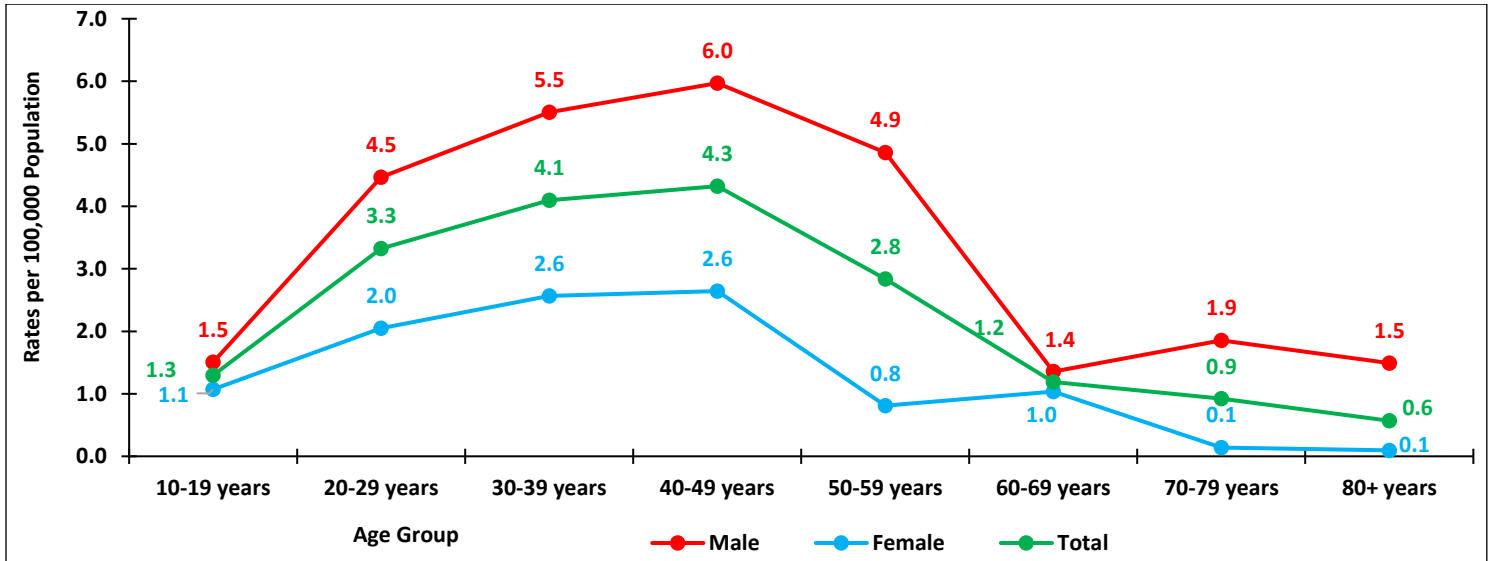
Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



Age-adjusted Rates:



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). 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. The program tries to understand what was happening in the victim's life leading up to their 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

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