

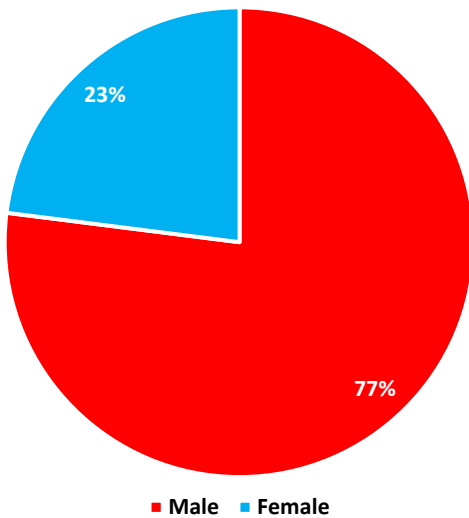
**BACKGROUND**

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) collected death certificate data about 5,342 suicide deaths (4,120 males and 1,222 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. Below are some results of those collaborations.

**From 2016-2018, there were 34 suicide deaths every week in Pennsylvania.**

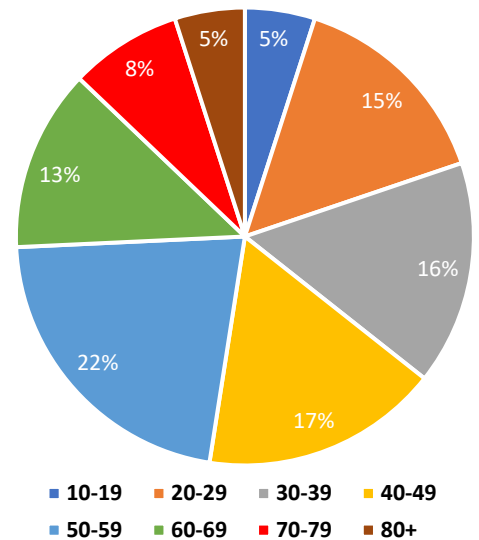
**Characteristics of Suicide Victims**

**Sex of Victims:**

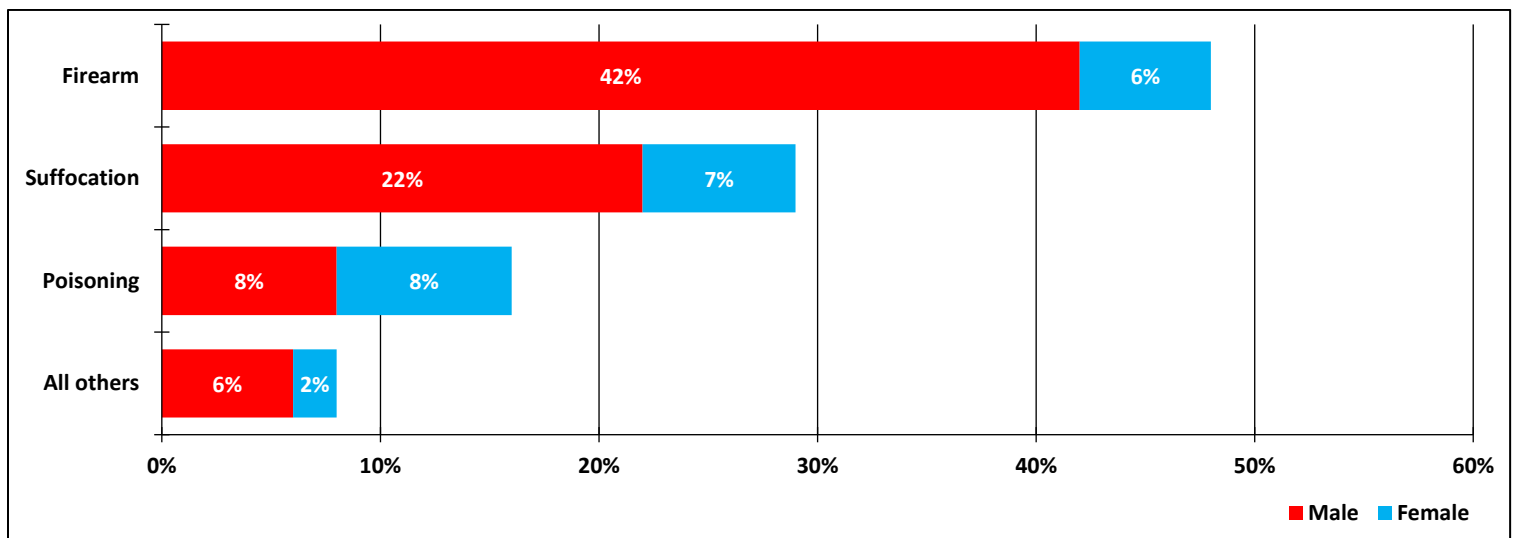


- Data from all 67 counties showed that males were over 3½ times more likely to die by suicide than females. Nationally, males die by suicide at a rate more than 3½ times that of females in 2018<sup>1</sup>.
- People between 50-59 years of age were over 4 times more likely to die by suicide than those aged 10-19 in Pennsylvania during 2016-2018.
- Overall, suicide rates in Pennsylvania were slightly lower than the national average:  
**Pennsylvania Rates:** 13.9 deaths per 100,000 population (males 21.9 and females 6.2).  
**National Rates:** 14.2 deaths per 100,000 population (males 22.4 and females 6.1) in 2018<sup>1</sup>.

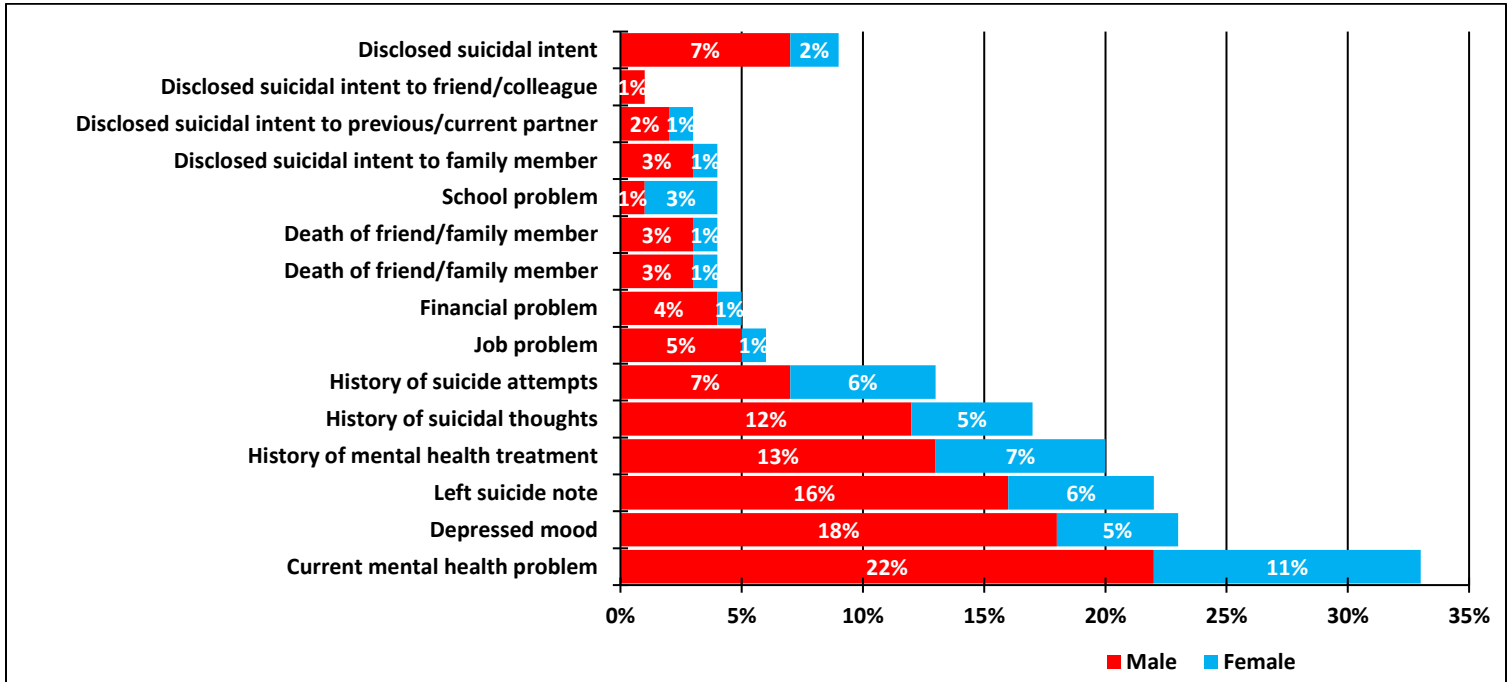
**Age of Victims:**



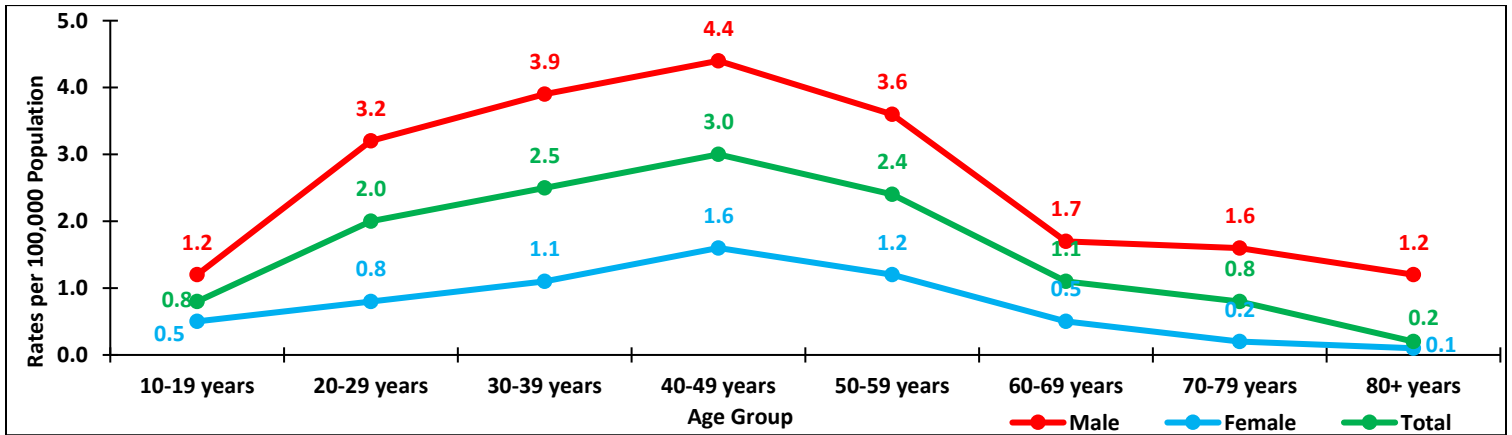
**Leading Cause of Suicide Death by Sex:**



**Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:**



**Age-Adjusted Rates:**



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

1. National Center for Health Statistics, "Suicide Mortality in the US, 1999-2017. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nov. 2018. Accessed on July 10, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db330.htm#ref3>

PAVDRS 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). There is now a Violent Death Reporting System in each of the 50 states and some U.S. territories. PAVDRS collects data on suicides, homicides, and deaths of undetermined intent. PAVDRS is required to collect data directly from death certificates, coroners/medical examiners, and law enforcement. The goal is to use these three sources to develop the most comprehensive understanding possible of each violent death. PAVDRS tries to understand what was going on in the victim's life leading up to their death. PAVDRS/NVDRS data is used for research, policy making, and ultimately to develop violence prevention programs and strategies that will enhance community safety. For more information about PAVDRS, please call 717-787-5900 or email RA-DHPAVDRS@pa.gov

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