

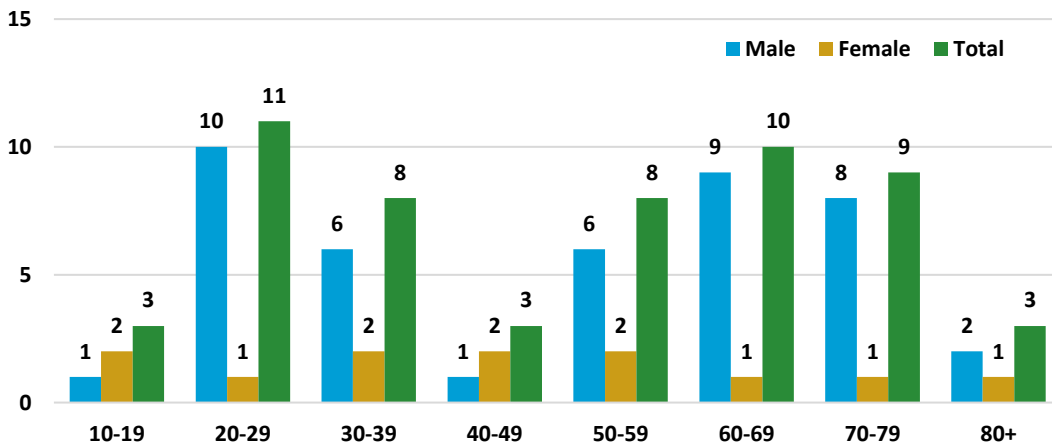
**SUICIDE DEATHS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2018-2020**

**BACKGROUND**

Franklin County, Pennsylvania is a rural county with a 2018-2020 combined population of 465,000 people (229,000 males and 236,000 females). During 2018-2020, Franklin County had 55 suicide deaths (43 males and 12 females) which occurred at a rate of 11.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, the Franklin County Coroner’s Office, and Franklin 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)

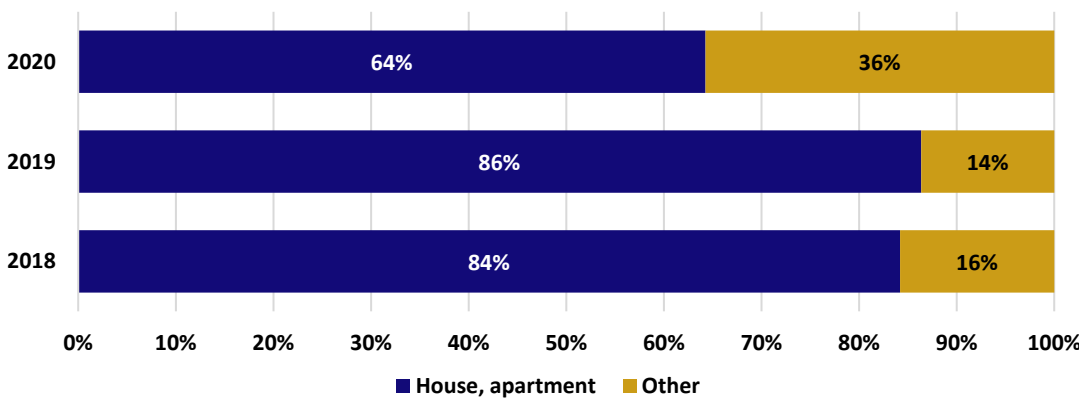
- During 2018-2020, Franklin County averaged almost 2 suicide deaths per month.
- Males in Franklin County were almost 4 times more likely to die by suicide than females. Nationally, males die by suicide at a rate of approximately 4 times that of females<sup>1</sup>.
- Overall, suicide rates in Franklin County during this time span were lower than the state average:  
**Franklin County Crude Rates:** 11.8 deaths per 100,000 population (males 18.8 and females 5.1)  
**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:**



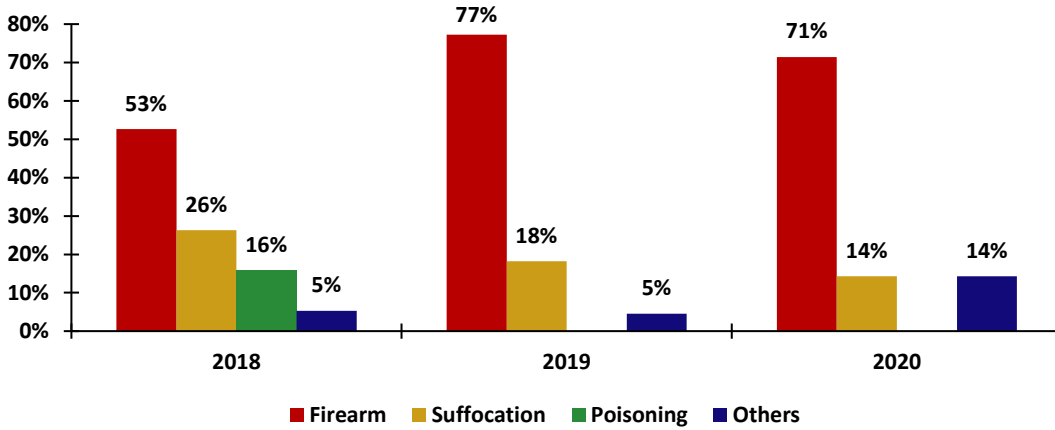
- During 2018-2020, males ages 20-29 and 60-69 had the highest number of suicide deaths.
- Teen victims accounted for 5% of all suicide deaths.

**Location of Suicide Victims:**



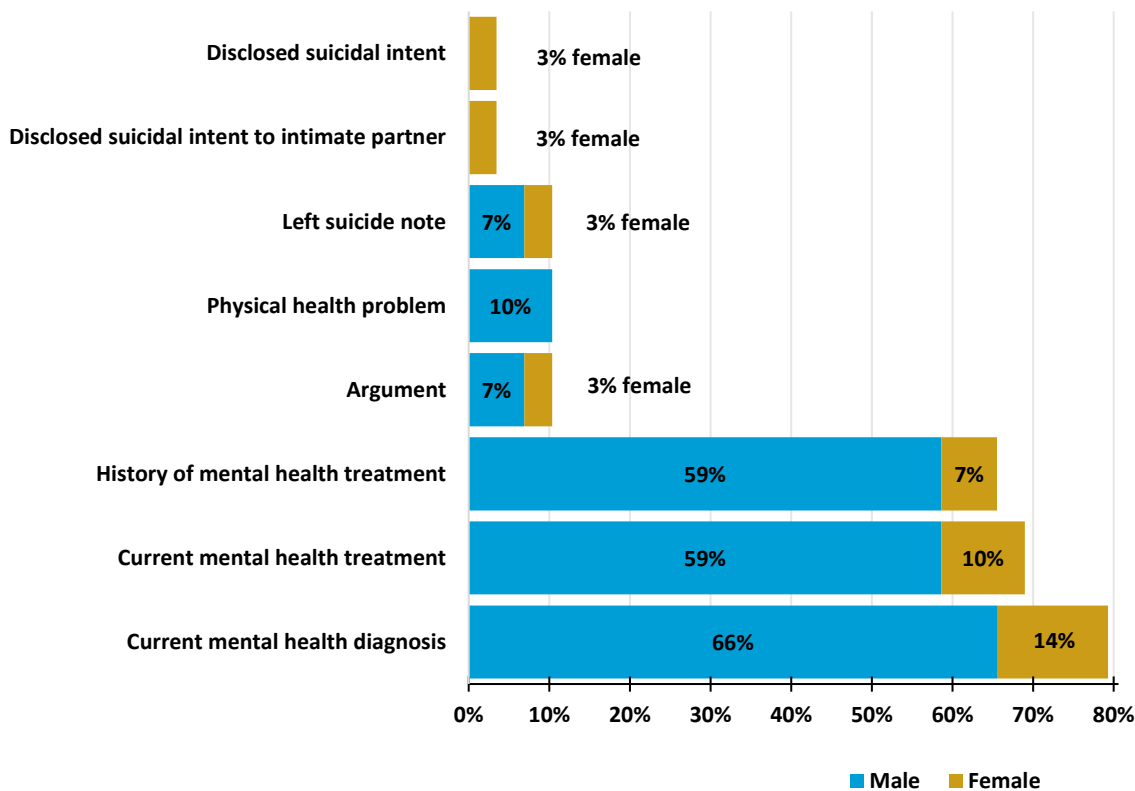
- The highest percentage of suicides occurred in a house or apartment during 2018-2020. The percentage dropped in 2020.

**Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths:**



- Suicides by firearm increased by 24% from 2018-2019 and decreased by 6% from 2019-2020.
- Suffocation and hanging deaths, decreased over the 3-year period.

**Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:**



- Eighty percent of all suicide victims had a diagnosed mental health problem at the time of death and the majority were males.
- Sixty-nine percent of suicide victims received mental health or substance abuse treatment in the two months before their death and majority were males.

**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>