



HOMICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2019

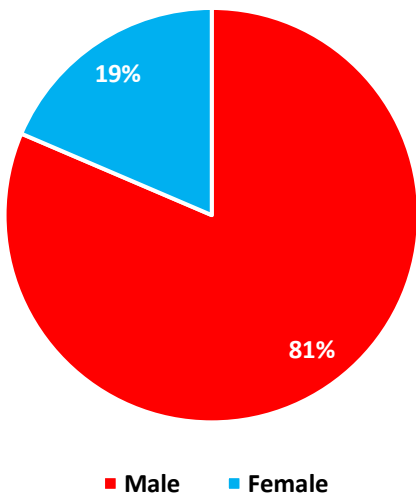
BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) collected death certificate data about 711 homicide deaths (579 males and 132 females) from all 67 counties in 2019. PAVDRS staff reviewed over 2,800 violent death cases in 2019 and more than 25% were homicides. PAVDRS staff also collected reports from coroners, medical examiners, and law enforcement partners in 33 counties, including: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Union, Westmoreland, and York. The PAVDRS program worked closely with these partners and the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

In 2019, approximately 14 homicide deaths occurred each week in Pennsylvania.

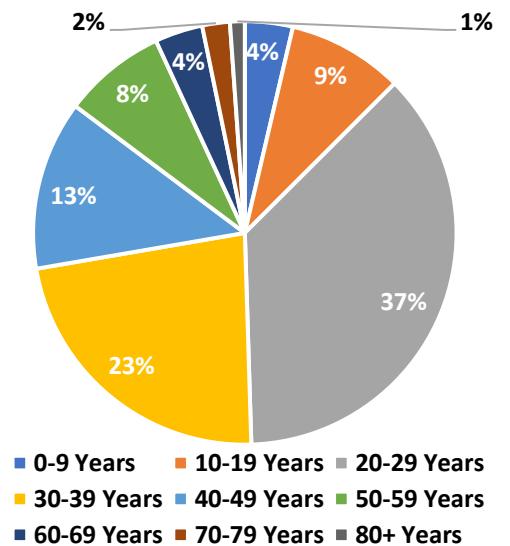
Characteristics of Homicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

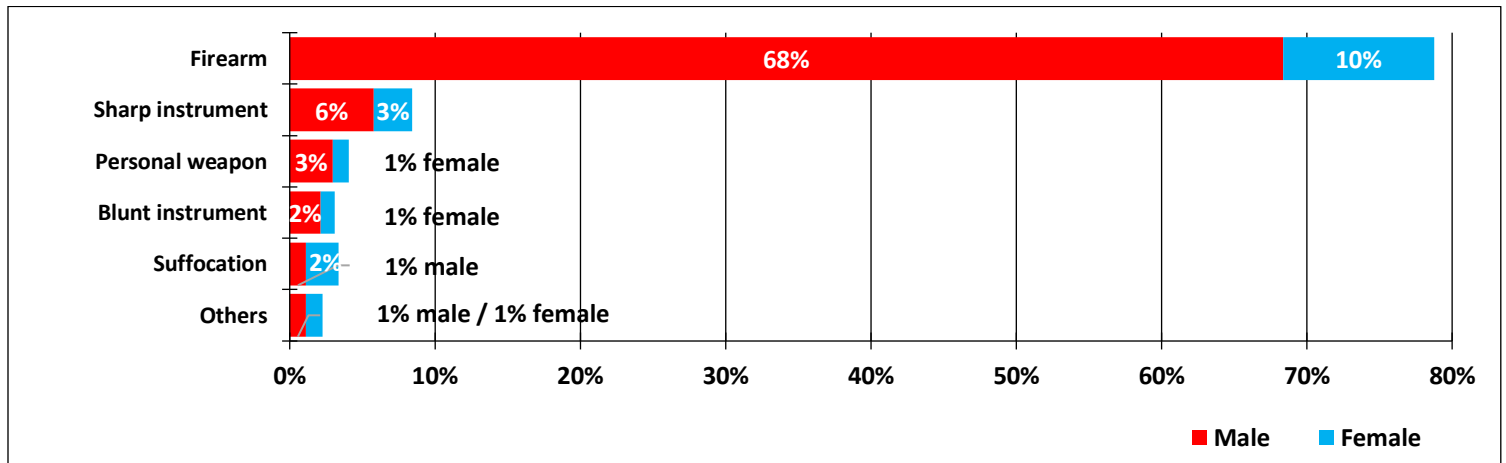


- Data from all 67 counties showed that males were over 4 times more likely to die by homicide than females. Nationally, males die by homicide at a rate of approximately four times that of females¹.
- Overall, homicide rates in Pennsylvania were slightly lower than national averages:
 - Pennsylvania Rates:** 5.6 deaths per 100,000 population (males 9.2 and females 2.0).
 - National Rates:** 5.8 deaths per 100,000 population (males 9.4 and females 2.3)¹.

Age of Victims:

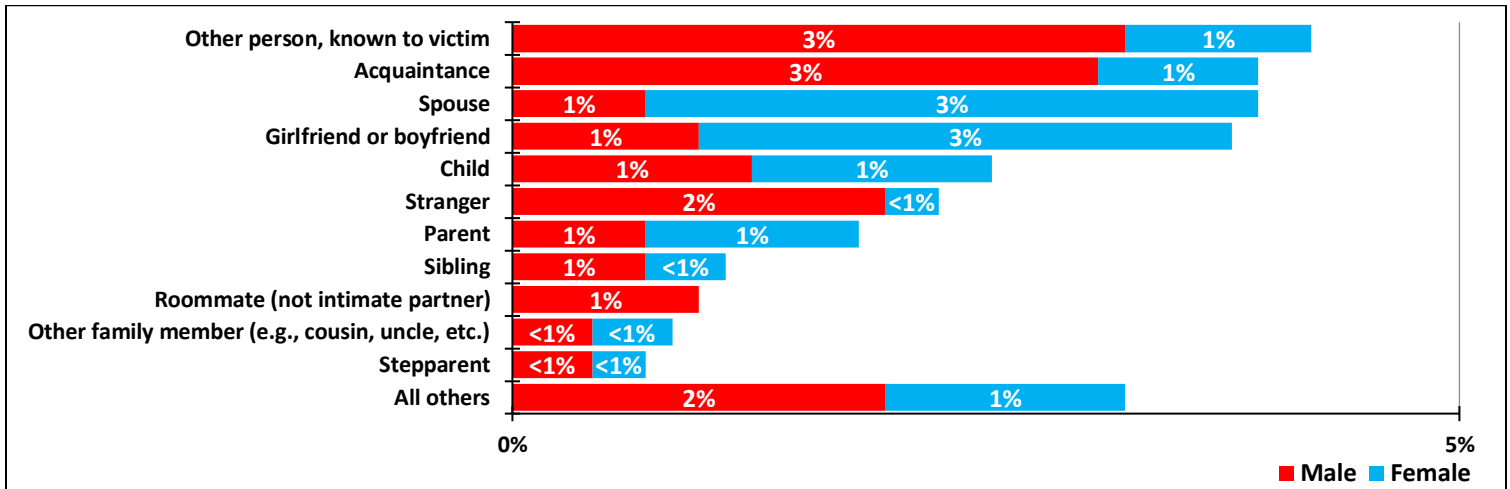


Leading Cause of Homicide Deaths by Sex:

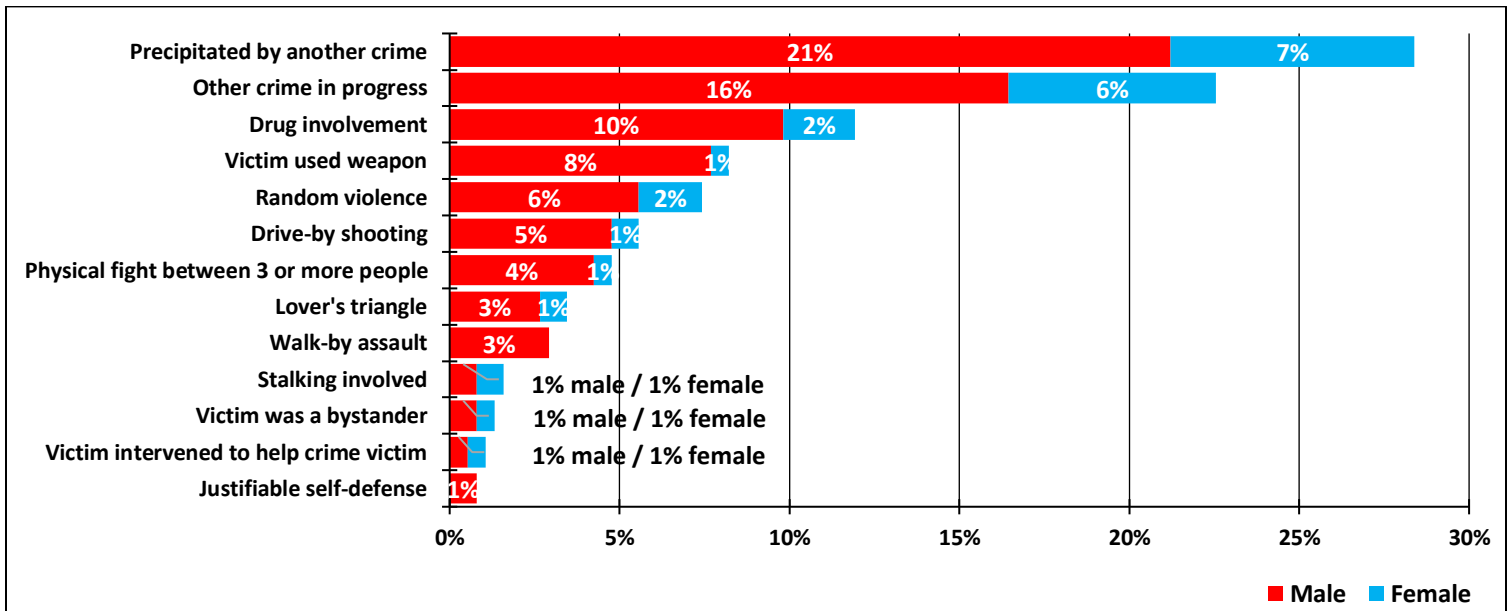


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Most Common Relationships Between Victims and Perpetrators:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



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

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, Fatal Injury Data. [WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/wisqars/)

The PAVDRS program 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). 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