

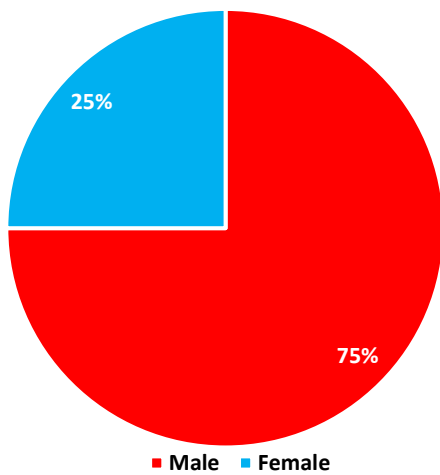
BACKGROUND

Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania is an urban county with a population of approximately 1.58 million people (750,000 males and 835,000 females). In 2018, Philadelphia had 154 suicide deaths (115 males and 39 females) at a rate of 9.7 suicide deaths per 100,000 people. The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) worked closely with the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, the Philadelphia Medical Examiner’s Office, and the Philadelphia Police Department to gather detailed information about each violent death. Below are some results of those collaborations.

In Philadelphia County, approximately 3 suicide deaths occurred every week.

Characteristics of Suicide Victims

Sex of Victims:

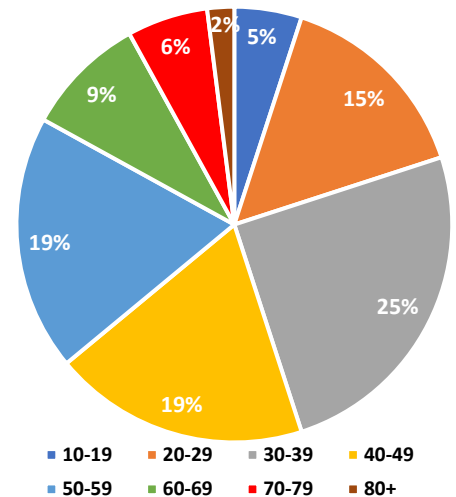


- Data showed that males were approximately 3 times more likely to die by suicide than females.
- Overall, age-adjusted suicide rates in Philadelphia County were lower than the state average:

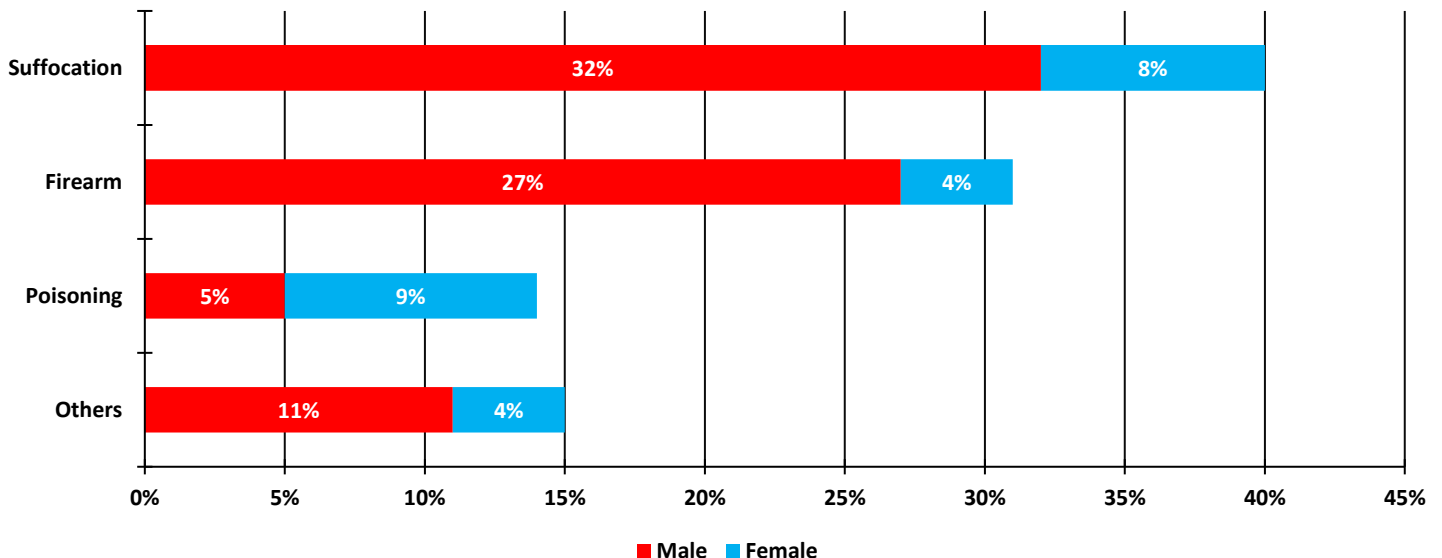
Philadelphia Rates: 9.7 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 15.2; females 5.0).

Pennsylvania Rates: 15.0 deaths per 100,000 population (males 24.0 and females 6.5).

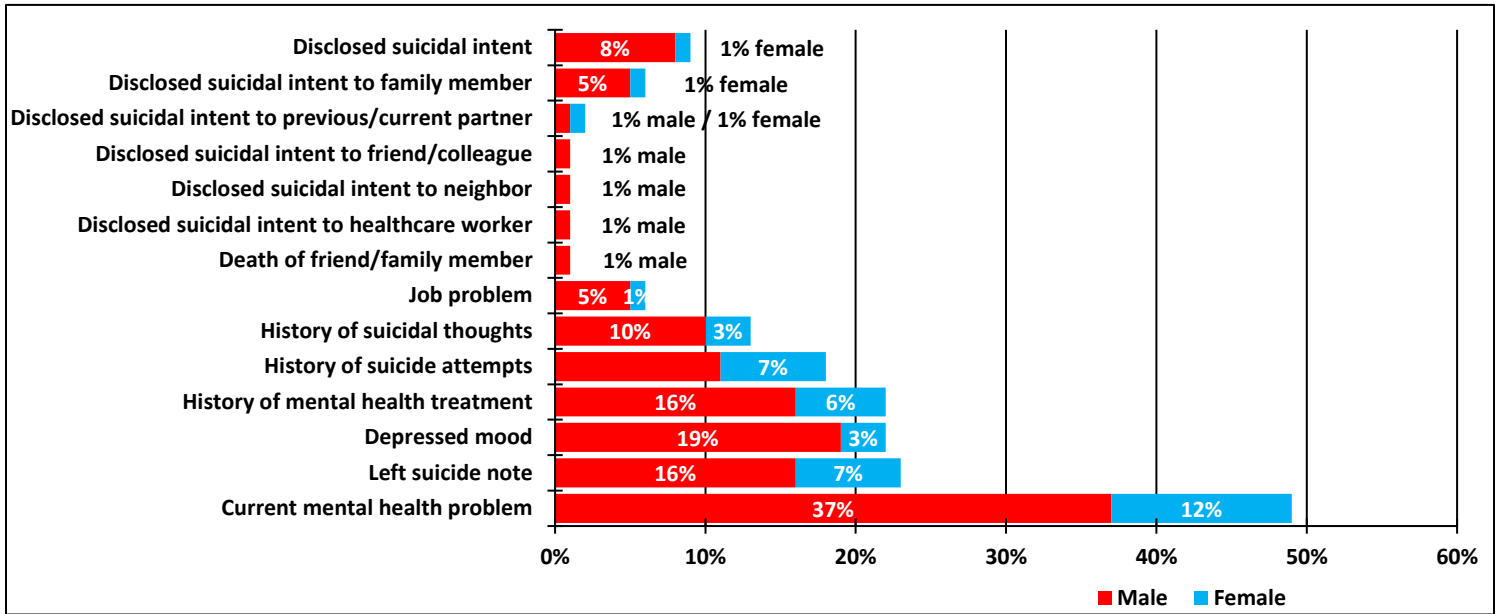
Age of Victims:



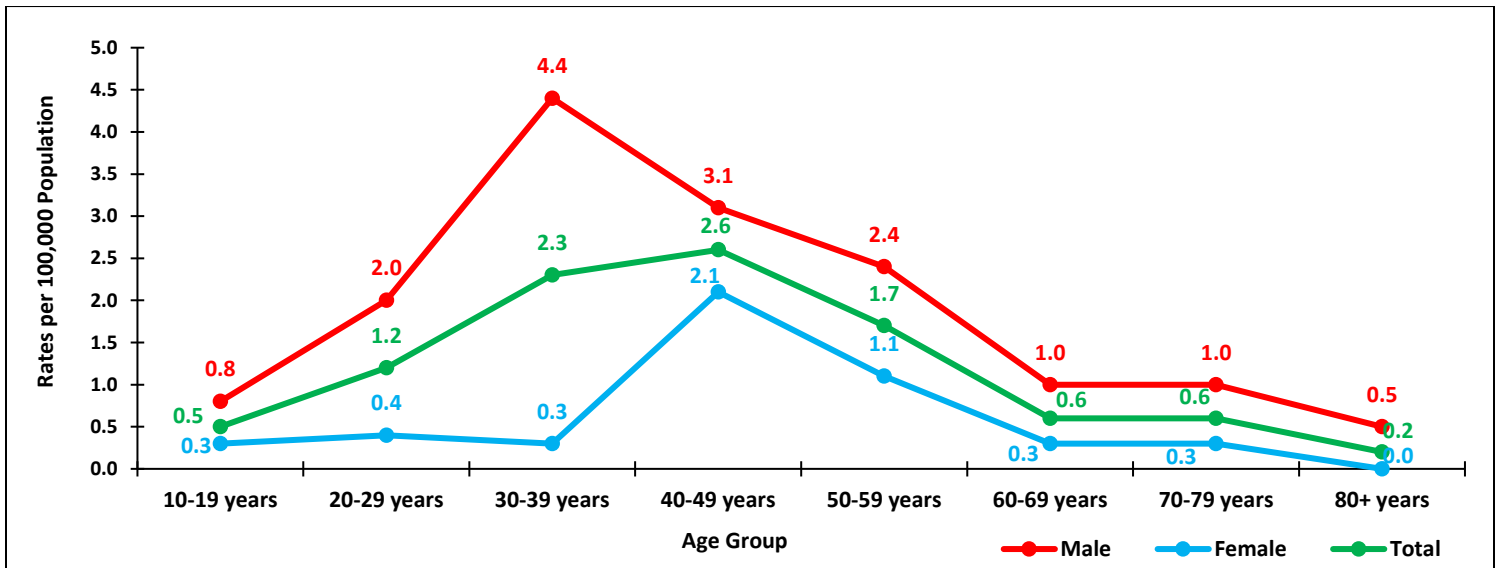
Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex:



Most Common Precipitating Circumstances:



Age-adjusted Rates:



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.