

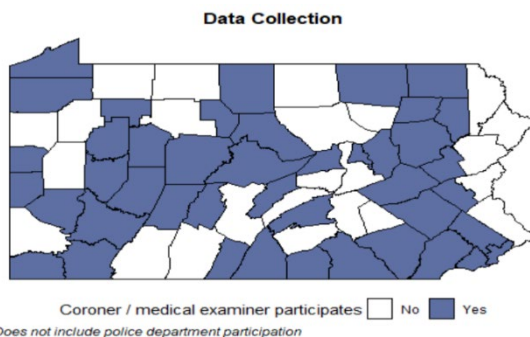


BACKGROUND

HOMICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2022

The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) program reviewed over 3,000 violent deaths from 2022, more than a third of which were homicides. The PAVDRS program collected death certificate data from 1,004 homicide victims (841 males and 163 females) from 66* counties. The program collected reports from coroners and medical examiners in 42 counties (see map). The program also collected law enforcement data from 64 counties. Below are some program findings.

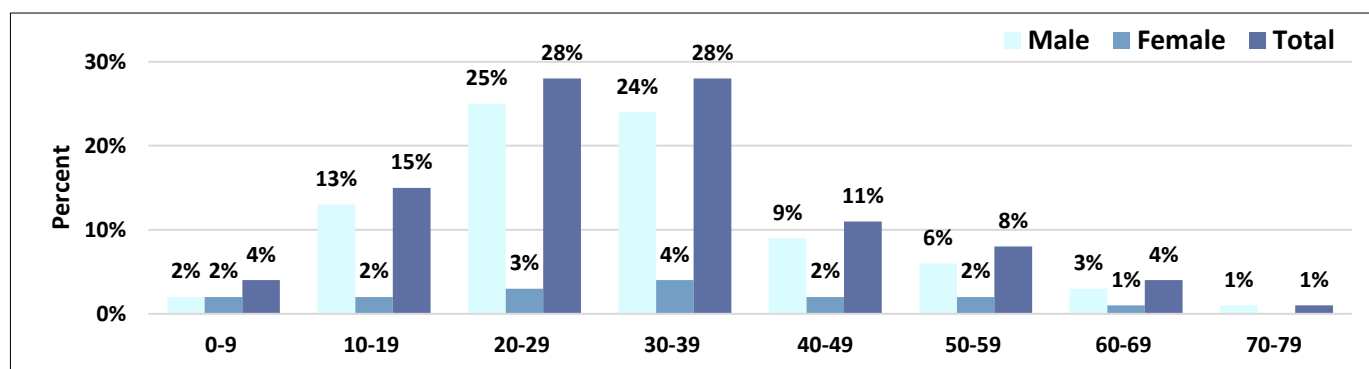
*Cameron County reported no homicides in 2022.



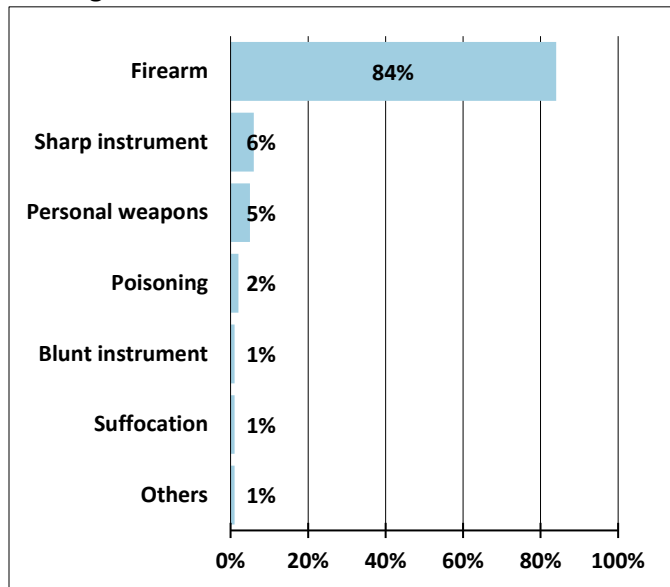
- In 2022, an average of over 19 people died by homicide each week in Pennsylvania.
- Males are over five times more likely to die by homicide than females. Nationally, males die by homicide at a rate of approximately four times that of females¹.
- Overall, homicide rates in Pennsylvania are slightly higher than national rates:
Pennsylvania Rates: 8 deaths per 100,000 population (males 13 and females 3)
National Rates: 8 deaths per 100,000 population (males 12 and females 3)¹.

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

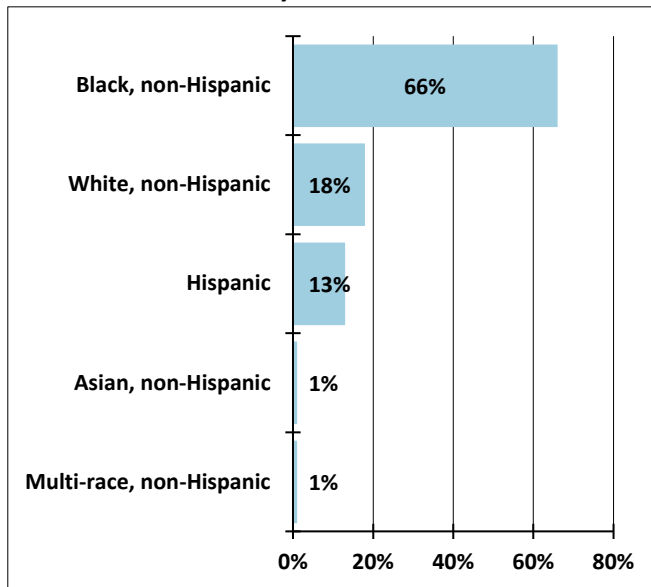
Homicide Death Count (Percentages) by Age Group and Sex



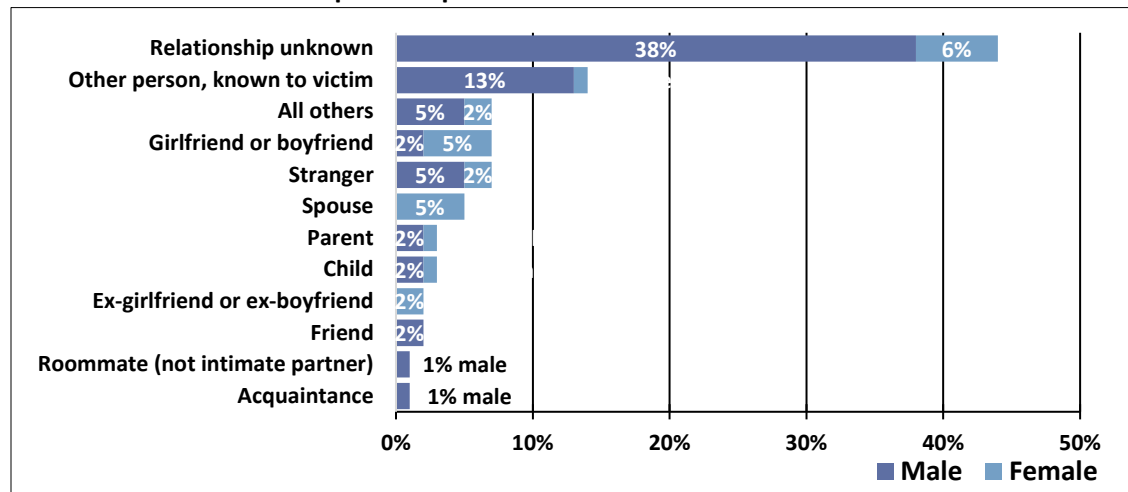
Leading Causes of Homicide Deaths



Race and Ethnicity of Homicide Victims



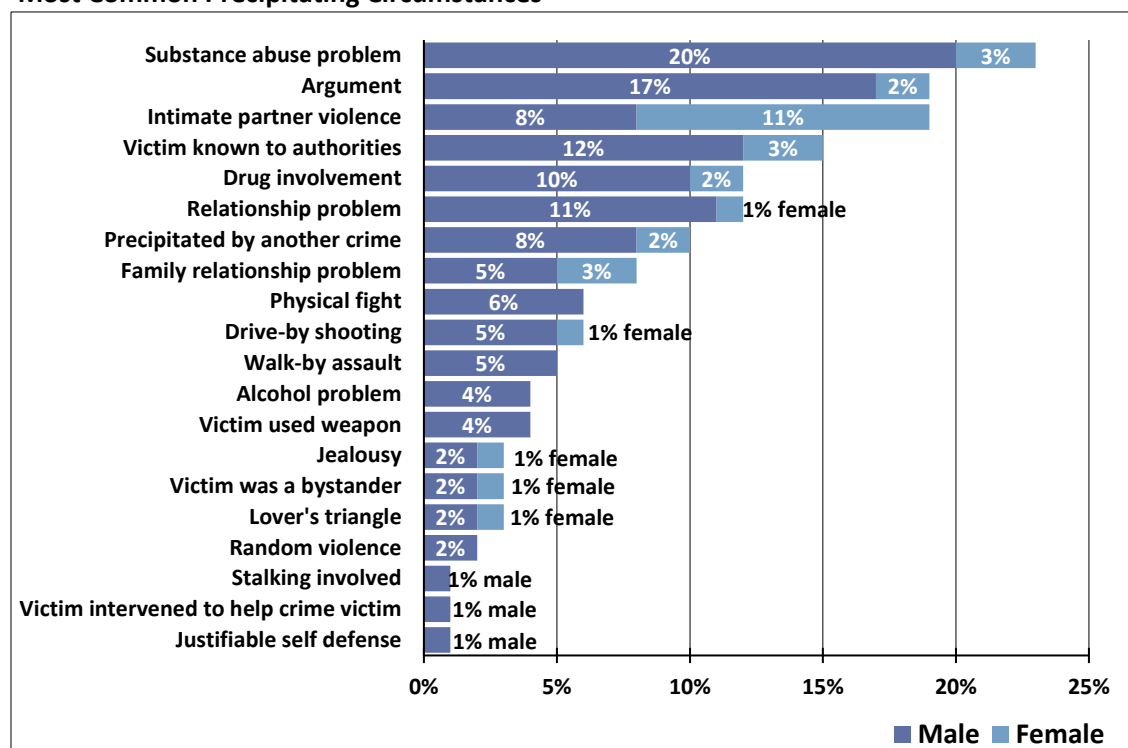
Most Common Relationships of Perpetrators to Victims



* Percentages are based on homicide cases with any suspect information available

- The relationship between victim and perpetrator was unknown or unavailable for 44% of cases.
- At least 14% of homicides in 2022 were perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner.

Most Common Precipitating Circumstances



Note: The denominator for Most Common Precipitating Circumstances is the sum of records with coroner/medical examiner and law enforcement circumstantial data. Circumstantial information is not available for all deaths. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

- At least 10% of homicides in Pennsylvania were the result of a serious crime. This includes legal intervention deaths.
- Robbery (32%), assault (28%), and involvement in the drug trade (14%) were the most common precipitating crimes.

The PAVDRS is a state level surveillance system funded and overseen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and is part of the National Violent Death Reporting System. The PAVDRS collects data on suicides, homicides, deaths of undetermined intent and accidental firearm deaths. The program collects data from death certificates, coroners/medical examiners, and law enforcement. PAVDRS/NVDRS data are used for research, policymaking, and to inform violence prevention programs and strategies to enhance community safety. For more information, please visit the [PAVDRS webpage](#) or email RA-DHPAVDRS@pa.gov

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