



SUICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2023

BACKGROUND

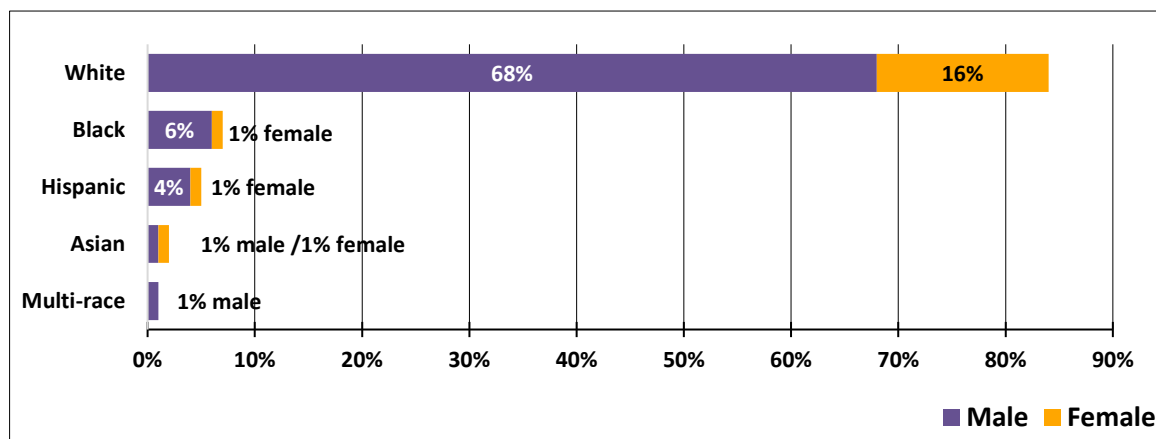
The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) program reviewed approximately 3,000 violent deaths from 2023, of which 67% were suicides. The PAVDRS collected death certificate data for 1,966 suicide deaths (1,585 males and 381 females) from 66* counties. The program collected reports from coroners and medical examiners in 43 counties. The program also collected law enforcement data from 54 counties. Below are some program findings.

*Cameron County reported no suicide deaths in 2023.

- In 2023, an average of 37 people died by suicide each week in Pennsylvania.
- Males were over four times more likely to die by suicide than females.
- Overall, suicide rates in Pennsylvania were slightly higher than the national average:
Pennsylvania Rates: 15 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 25 and females 6)
National Rates: 15 deaths per 100,000 residents (males 23 and females 6)¹

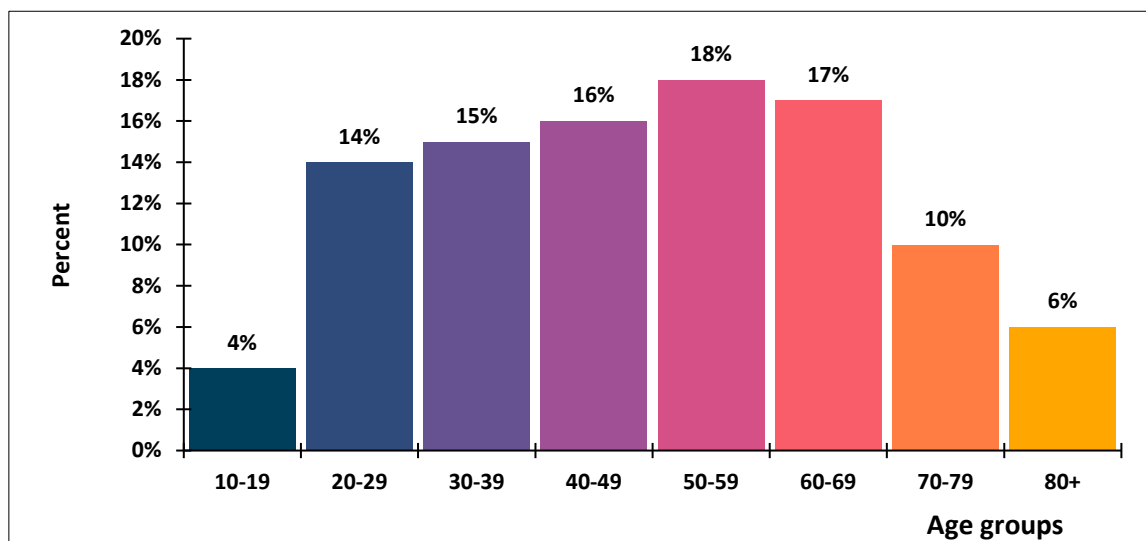
1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, Fatal Injury Data. [WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/wisqars/fatal-injury-reports/)

Race*/Ethnicity and Sex of People who Died by Suicide



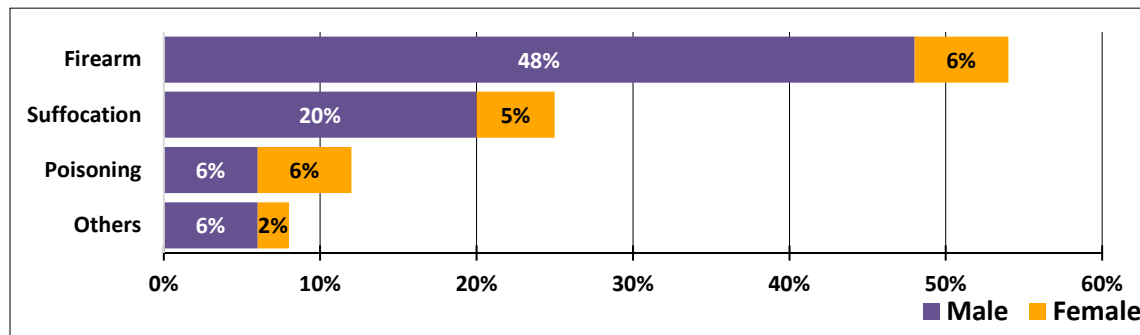
- White, non-Hispanic males accounted for 68% of all suicide victims in Pennsylvania in 2023.

Age of People who Died by Suicide



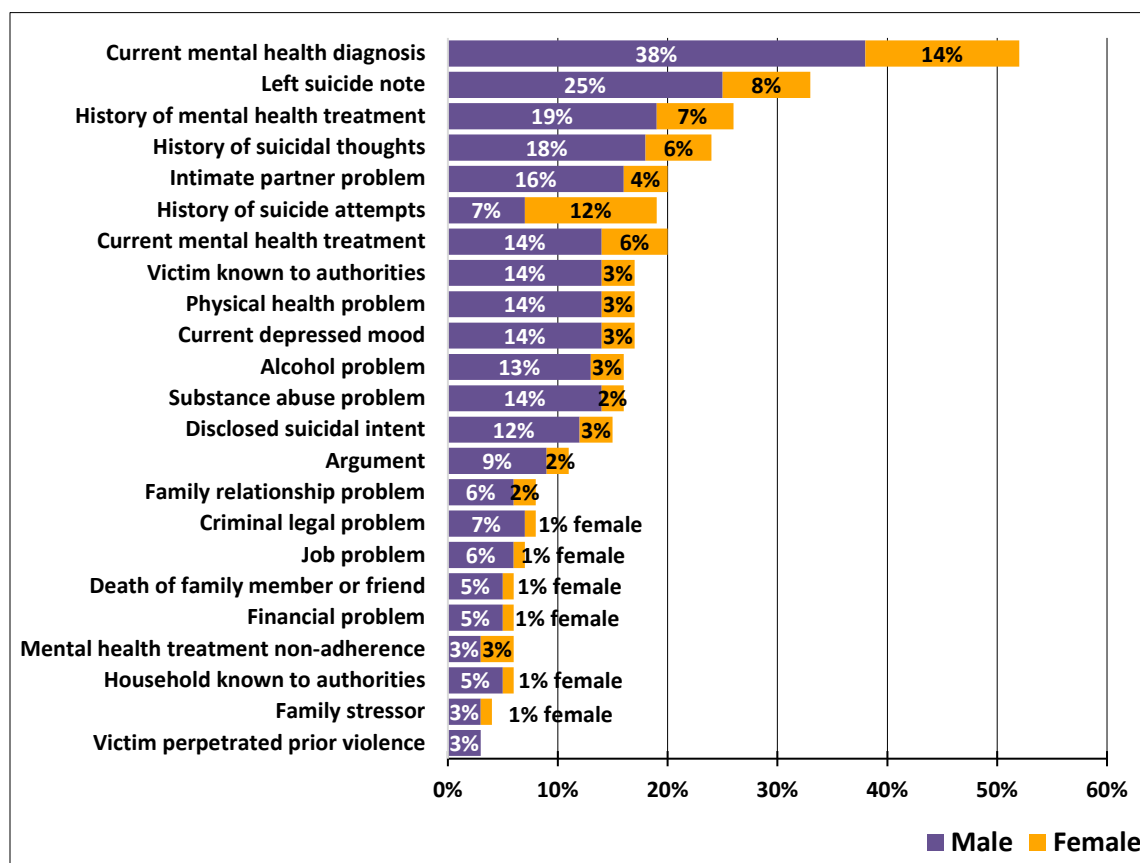
- The 50-59 age group had the highest percentage of all persons who died by suicide (18%).
- The 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, and 60-69 age groups had similar percentages to the 50-59 group.

Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex



- Firearms were involved in 54% of suicides in Pennsylvania.
- Most female suicide deaths occurred by firearms and poisoning (6% each).

Most Common Precipitating Circumstances



- More than half of people who died by suicide had a diagnosed mental health problem (52%).
- At least 20% of people experienced an intimate partner problem before their death.
- About 17% of suicide victims were known to authorities such as law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, child protective services, etc.

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.

The 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 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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