

SUICIDE DEATHS IN PENNSYLVANIA, 2022

BACKGROUND

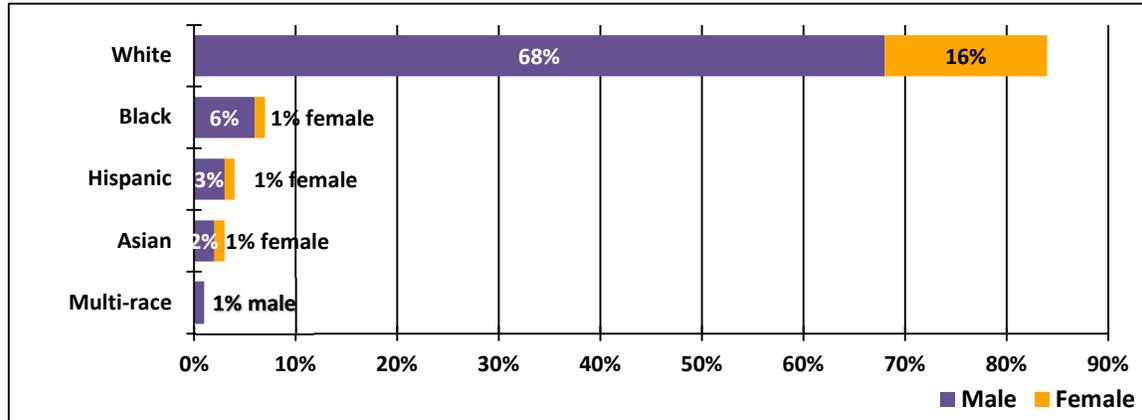
The Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System (PAVDRS) program reviewed over 3,000 violent deaths from 2022, of which 63% were suicides. The PAVDRS collected death certificate data for 1,942 suicide deaths (1,560 males and 382 females) from 66* counties. The program collected reports from coroners and medical examiners in 42 counties. The program also collected law enforcement data from 64 counties. Below are some program findings.

*Cameron County reported no suicide deaths in 2022.

- In 2022, an average of 37 people died by suicide each week in Pennsylvania.
- Males were almost 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 population (males 24 and females 6).
National Rates: 14.9 deaths per 100,000 population (males 23.8 and females 6.1)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/)

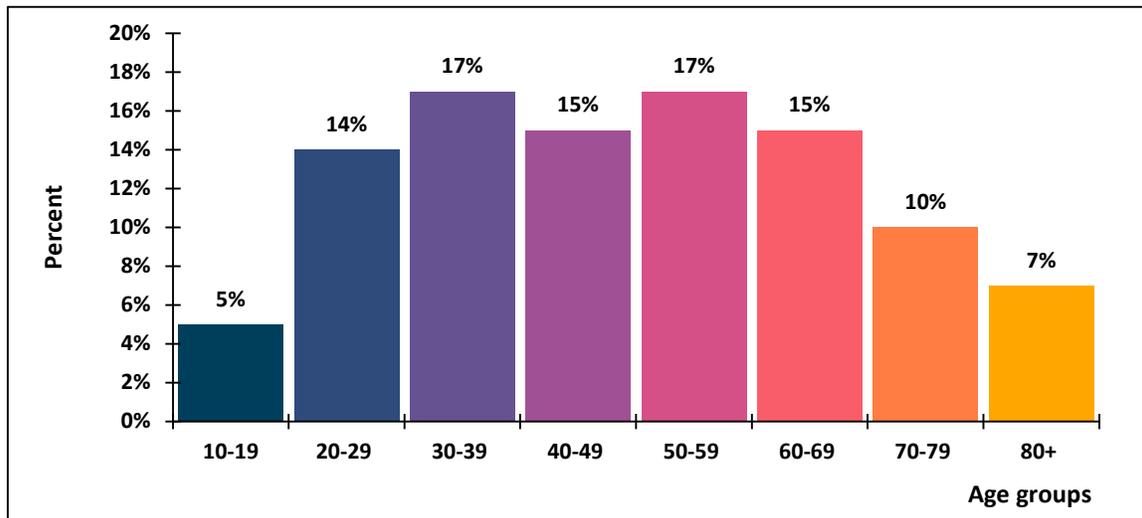
Race*/Ethnicity and Sex of People who Died by Suicide



- White, non-Hispanic males accounted for 68% of all suicide victims in Pennsylvania in 2022.

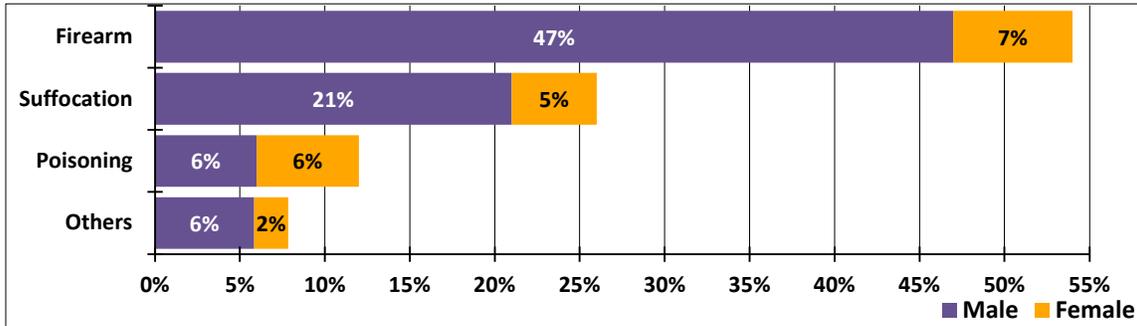
*Non-Hispanic

Age of People who Died by Suicide

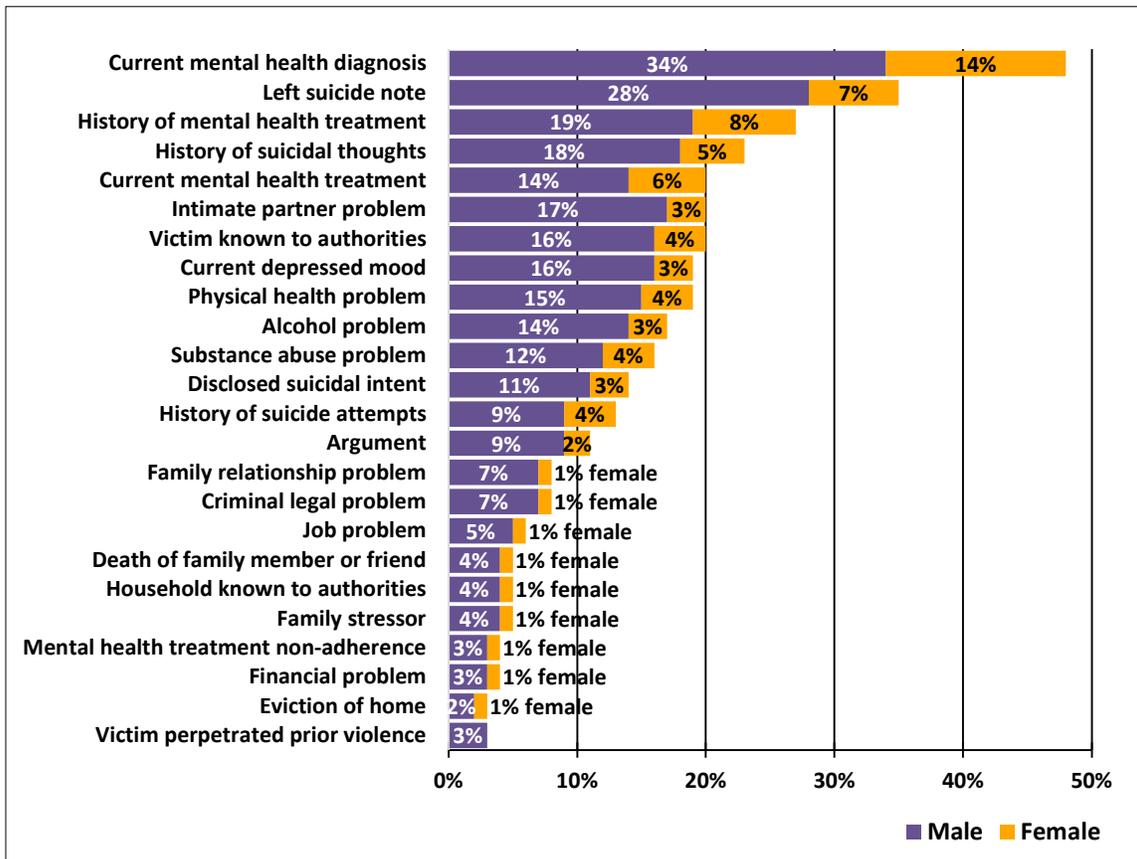


- The 30-39 and 50-59 age groups had the highest percentage of all persons who died by suicide in Pennsylvania in 2022.

Leading Cause of Suicide Deaths by Sex



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. The 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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- Firearms were involved in 54% of suicides in 2022.
- “Other” causes of suicide include falls and sharp instruments.
- Nearly half of people who died by suicide had a diagnosed mental health problem.
- At least 20% of people were known to authorities such as police, emergency medical services, the courts, social services, etc.
- In the month before their death, 14% of people told another person they were considering suicide. Most people told an intimate partner or family member.