

2006
Annual Report

Office of the
Chief Medical Examiner

State of Maryland

STATE OF MARYLAND

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July 1, 2007

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State House
1 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the Post Mortem Examiners' Commission and the employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) of the State of Maryland I am pleased to present for your information the 68th Annual Report analyzing the death investigations carried out by this Office in 2006.

In carrying out its duties under Health-General §5-309, the OCME investigated 9672 cases. 6148 of these cases were determined to be within the jurisdiction of the OCME. There were 4323 autopsies performed to allow an accurate cause of death to be determined.

Homicides in Maryland decreased to 584 in 2006 compared to 595 in 2005. Firearm homicides decreased from 443 deaths in 2005 to 442 in 2006. Suicides increased to 500 in 2006 from 487 in 2005.

In this report we included information regarding the involvement of alcohol and drugs in homicides, suicides, transportation accidents, and drownings as well as data regarding illicit drugs used in fatal drug intoxications.

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
July 1, 2007
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The information developed in this report is being shared with various programs at the local, state and federal levels. This office provides assistance not only on a short or occasional basis, but also participates in ongoing projects as well. A few of the many requests for data and statistics were received from: The Maryland State Medical Society Maternal and Child Health Committee, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Environmental and Occupational Health Division, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health – Department of Epidemiology and School of Nursing, Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), Child Fatality Review Board, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Capital Gazette, Homeland News, The Baltimore Sun for Anne Arundel County, Office of Public Health Anne Arundel County, Harford County Department of Community Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Health Quest, Harborview Medical Center, Worcester County Health Department, The Carroll County Public School System, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, National Drug Intelligence Center, Washington Post Newspaper, Baltimore Sun Newspaper, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Baltimore City Health Department, Department of Justice, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the University of Maryland National Study Center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Fowler', is centered below the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

David R. Fowler, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

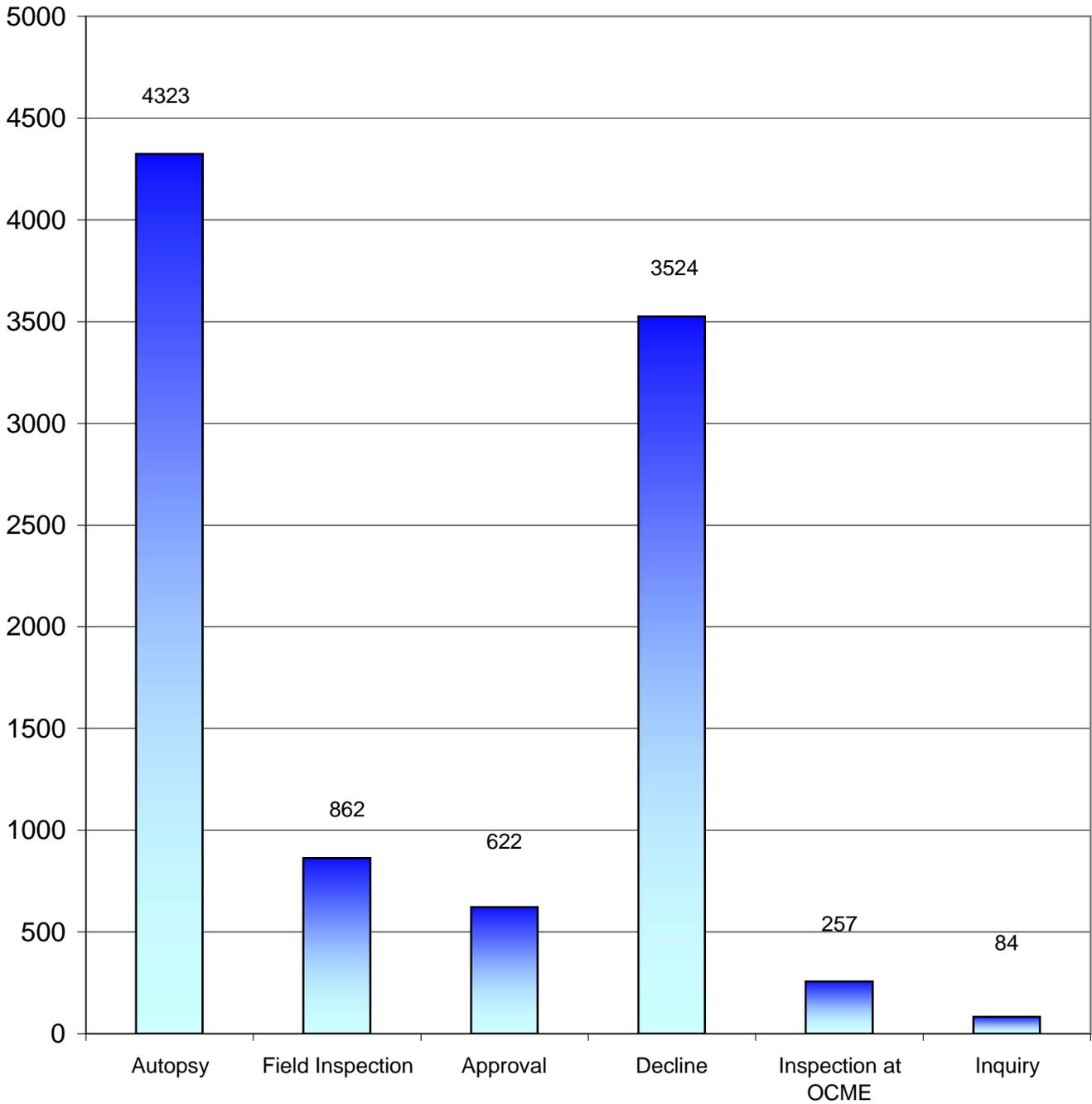
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Cases Reported to OCME - 2006

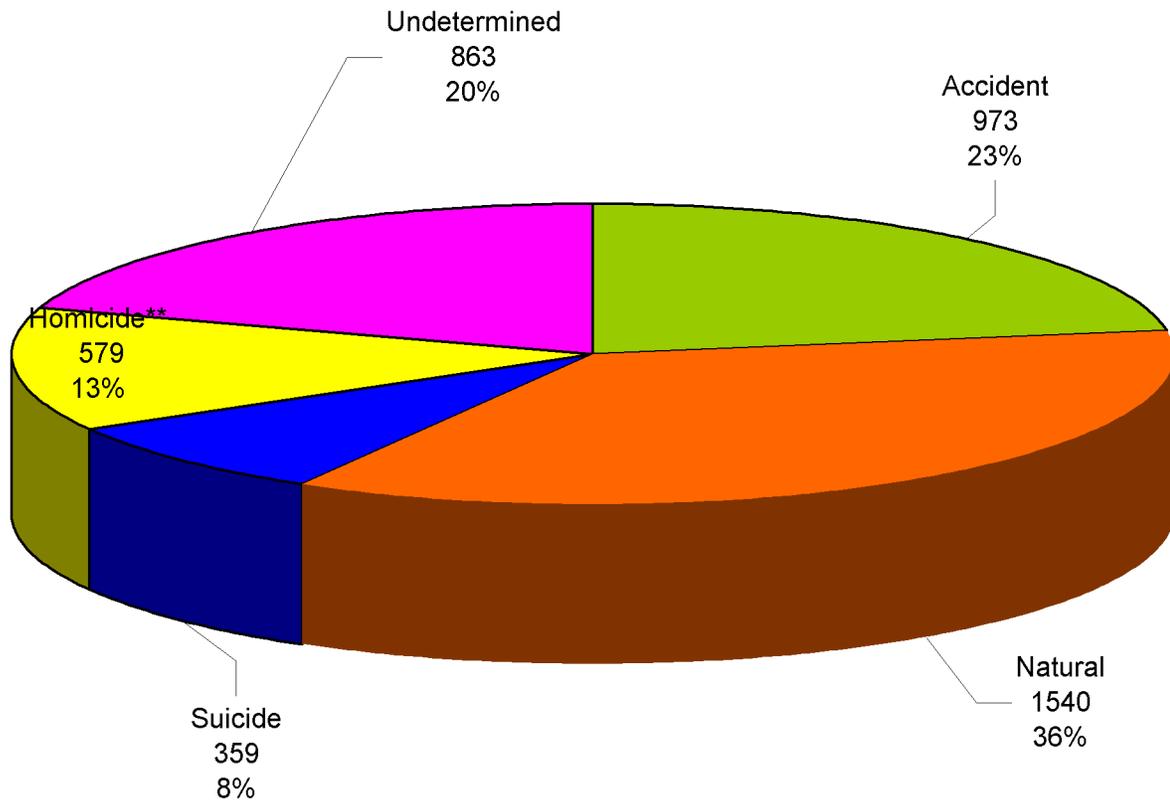
Action Taken



9672 Total Cases

2006 Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied*

*Nine cases were classified as "not applicable"

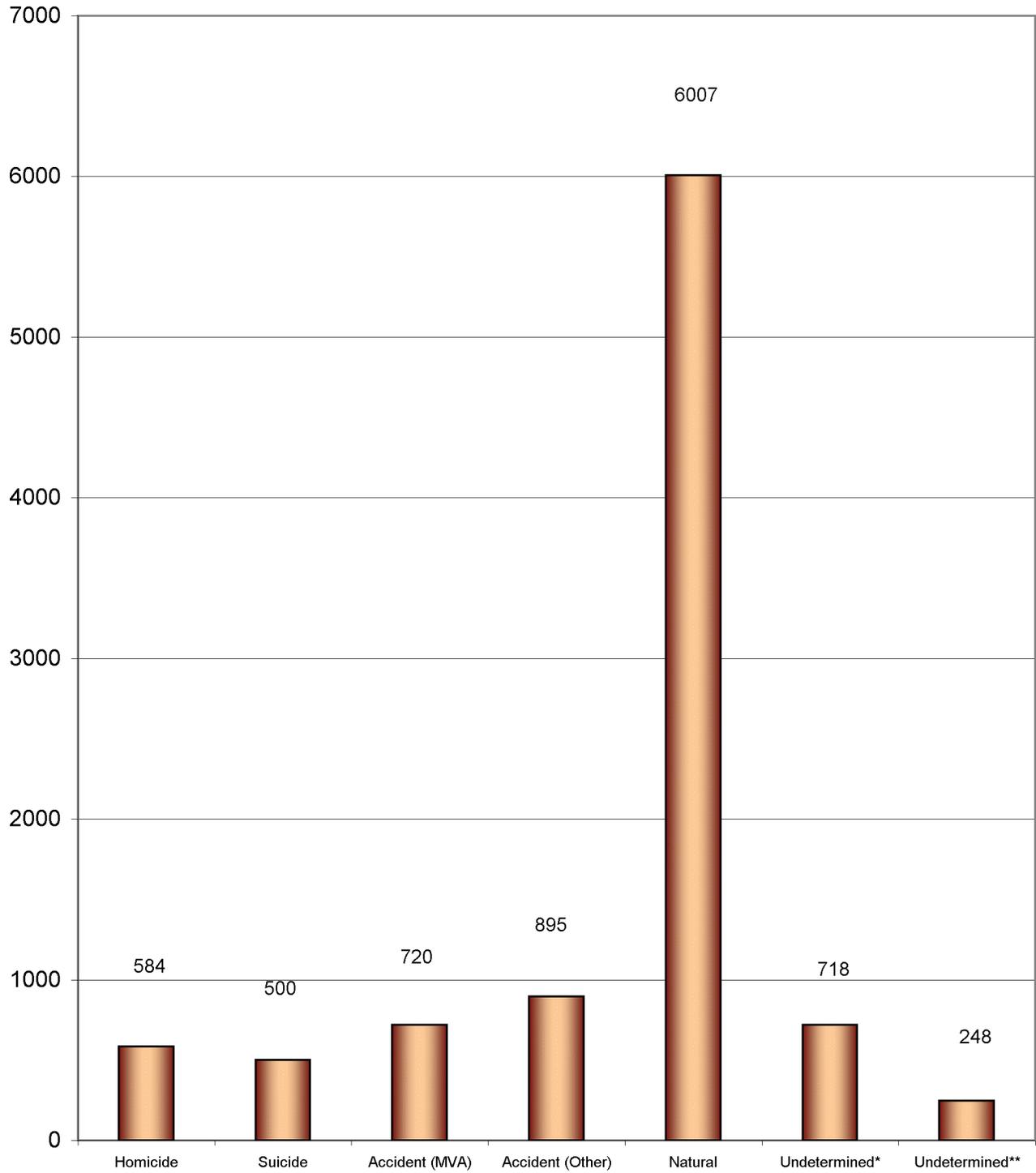


*** Five homicides were not autopsied due to final disposition prior to Medical Examiner notification.*

Total Cases Autopsied - 4323

2006 Cases Reported to OCME

Manner of Death



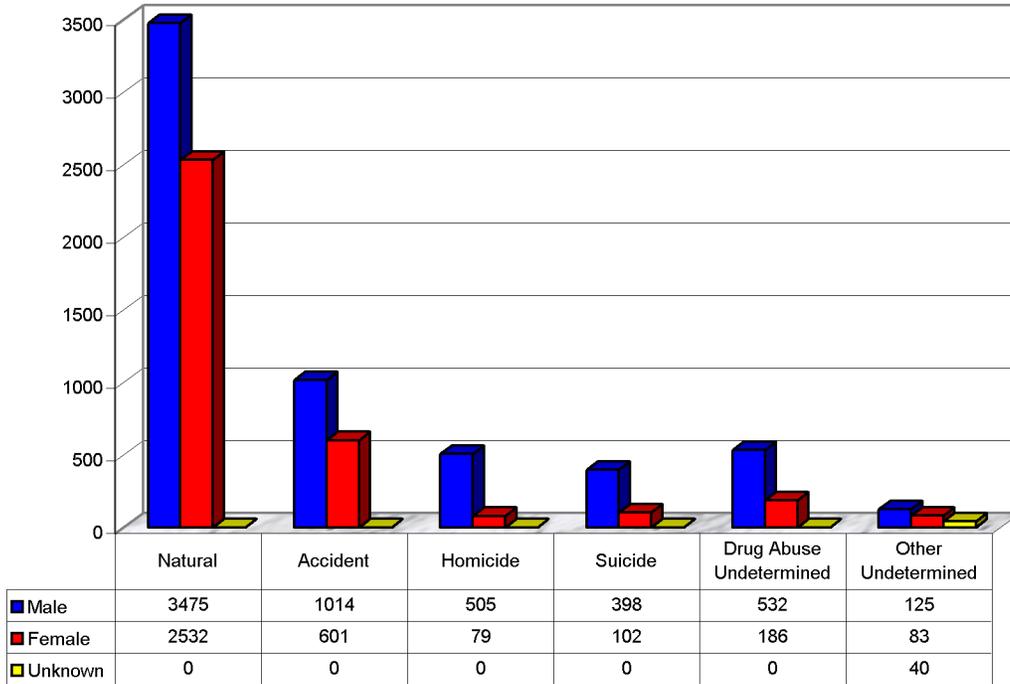
Total Cases - 9672

*Undetermined Manner: Drugs/Narcotics

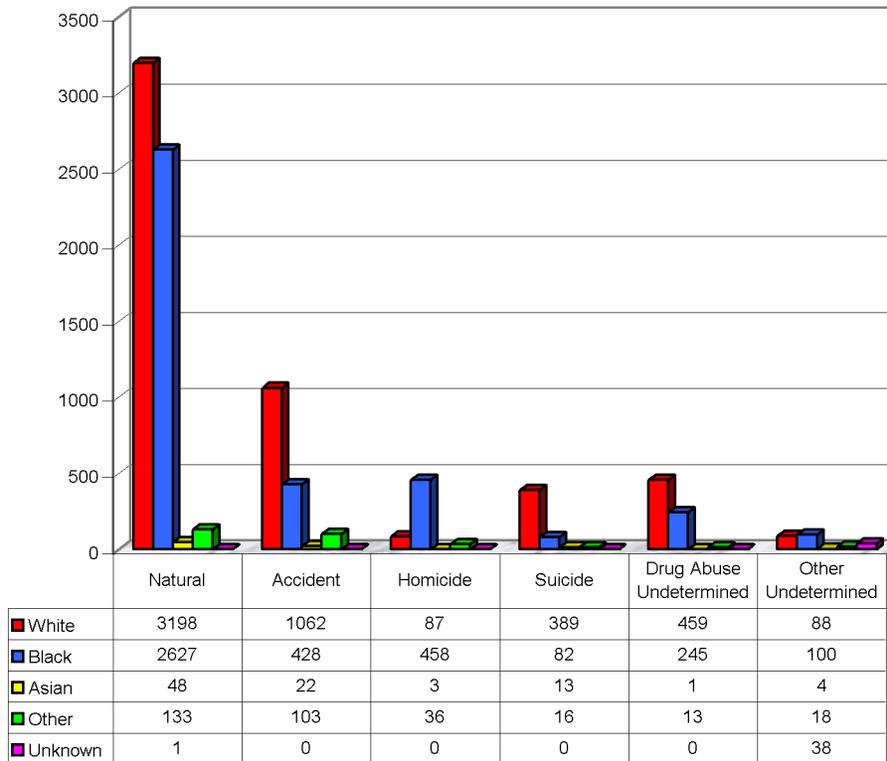
**Undetermined Manner: Other

Manner of Death - 2006

Classified by Sex



Classified by Race



Medical Examiner Cases – 2006 Cause and Manner of Death

Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total
	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Undetermined	
<i>Infectious disease</i>						
AIDS	12	-	-	-	-	12
Other	21	-	-	-	-	21
<i>Malignant neoplasms (Cancer)</i>	392	-	-	-	-	392
<i>Endocrine and metabolic disease</i>						
Diabetes	57	-	-	-	-	57
Other	2	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Mental Disorders</i>						
Alcohol abuse	110	-	-	-	-	110
Other	0	-	-	-	-	0
<i>Nervous system disease</i>						
Meningitis	6	-	-	-	-	6
Seizure disorder	42	-	-	-	-	42
Other	49	-	-	-	-	49
<i>Circulatory system disease</i>						
Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	1047	-	-	-	-	1047
Arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease	3202	-	-	-	-	3202
Cardiac arrhythmia	133	-	-	-	-	133
Cardiomyopathy	45	-	-	-	-	45
Pulmonary embolism	120	-	-	10	-	130
Cerebrovascular disease	15	-	-	-	-	15
Aneurysm	60	-	-	-	-	60
Hemorrhage	95	-	-	-	-	95
Other	168	-	-	-	-	168
<i>Respiratory system diseases</i>						
Respiratory distress syndrome	10	-	-	-	-	10
Pneumonia	96	-	-	-	-	96
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	12	-	-	-	-	12
Asthma	31	-	-	-	-	31
Other	29	-	-	-	-	29
<i>Digestive system disease</i>						
Fatty liver	7	-	-	-	-	7
Cirrhosis	70	-	-	-	-	70
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	23	-	-	-	-	23
Other	41	-	-	-	-	41
<i>Congenital anomalies</i>	6	-	-	-	-	6
<i>Perinatal conditions</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Ill-defined conditions</i>						
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	14	-	-	-	-	14
Other	4	-	-	-	61	65

Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total
	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Undeter-Mined	
<i>Traumatic injury</i>						
Head/Chest injuries	-	3	-	204	13	220
Multiple injuries	-	2	27	633	16	678
Blunt force	-	27	-	1	-	28
Gunshot wound	-	442	241	-	4	687
Sharp force/cutting	-	68	11	-	-	79
Fracture	-	-	-	93	-	93
Other trauma	-	-	-	3	-	3
<i>Poisoning</i>						
Alcohol intoxication	-	-	-	3	30	33
Drug intoxication/abuse	-	-	31	-	74	105
Alcohol and drug intoxication	-	-	5	-	29	34
Carbon monoxide	-	-	5	7	1	13
Cocaine intoxication	-	-	-	5	90	95
Cocaine and alcohol intoxication	-	-	-	-	22	22
Cocaine and narcotic intoxication	2	-	-	-	152	154
Narcotic intoxication	3	-	4	1	305	313
Narcotic and alcohol intoxication	1	-	-	-	46	47
Inhalant intoxication	-	-	2	-	4	6
<i>Asphyxiation</i>						
Airway obstruction/Aspirated stomach content	-	-	-	32	-	32
Hanging	-	-	115	1	3	119
Smoke inhalation	-	1	-	14	-	15
Strangulation/Asphyxiation	-	33	28	-	-	61
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drowning	-	-	16	78	16	110
Unspecified type of asphyxia	-	-	-	35	-	35
<i>Hypothermia</i>	-	-	-	38	1	39
<i>Hyperthermia</i>	-	-	-	41	-	41
<i>Thermal Injuries (Burns)</i>	-	-	2	32	3	37
<i>Electrocution</i>	-	-	-	7	-	7
<i>Other non-natural cause</i>	-	8	13	377	47	445
<i>Other natural cause</i>	81	-	-	-	-	81
<i>Unknown cause</i>	-	-	-	-	16	16
<i>Non-human remains</i>	-	-	-	-	33	33
<i>Accident during surgery</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6007	584	500	1615	966	9672

Manner of Death - 3 Year Comparison

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2006

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	6007	62.1
Homicide.....	584	6.0
Suicide.....	500	5.2
Accident.....	1615	16.7
Undetermined.....	966	10.0
Total.....	9672	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2005

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5337	60.8
Homicide.....	595	6.8
Suicide.....	487	5.5
Accident.....	1549	17.6
Undetermined.....	814	9.3
Total.....	8782	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2004

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5107	60.6
Homicide.....	545	6.5
Suicide.....	506	6.0
Accident.....	1464	17.4
Undetermined.....	807	9.6
Total.....	8429	100.0*

*Because of rounding, percentages do not necessarily total 100.

Medical Examiner Cases – 2006

Manner and Jurisdiction

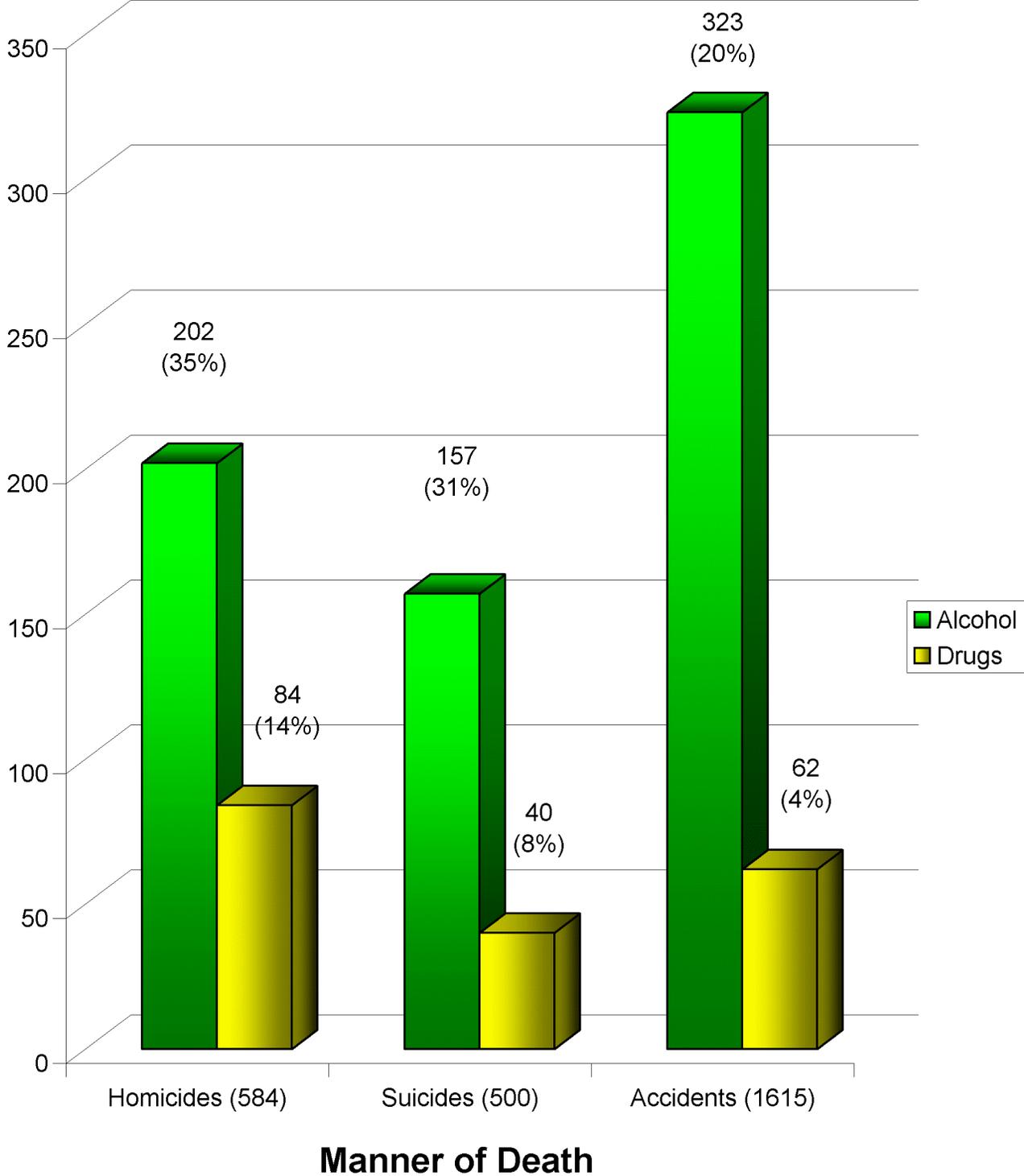
<u>County</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Total</u>
Allegany	111	35	1	16	16	179
Anne Arundel	327	84	25	53	64	553
Baltimore County	494	158	29	77	103	861
Calvert	76	22	3	7	5	113
Caroline	11	19	2	4	2	38
Carroll	73	36	0	13	19	141
Cecil	71	35	2	12	25	145
Charles	63	35	5	12	7	122
Dorchester	24	12	1	4	9	50
Frederick	65	41	10	24	23	163
Garrett	25	7	3	3	4	42
Harford	176	41	9	22	42	290
Howard	63	30	5	16	18	132
Kent	24	10	0	3	1	38
Montgomery	571	143	22	48	78	862
Prince George's	1257	237	137	50	75	1756
Queen Anne's	8	8	0	6	2	24
St. Mary's	57	20	7	12	8	104
Somerset	18	5	2	2	5	32
Talbot	38	11	1	5	4	59
Washington	115	63	4	15	23	220
Wicomico	140	53	11	11	28	243
Worcester	51	22	0	3	15	91
Baltimore City	2149	488	305	82	390	3414
Total	6007	1615	584	500	966	9672

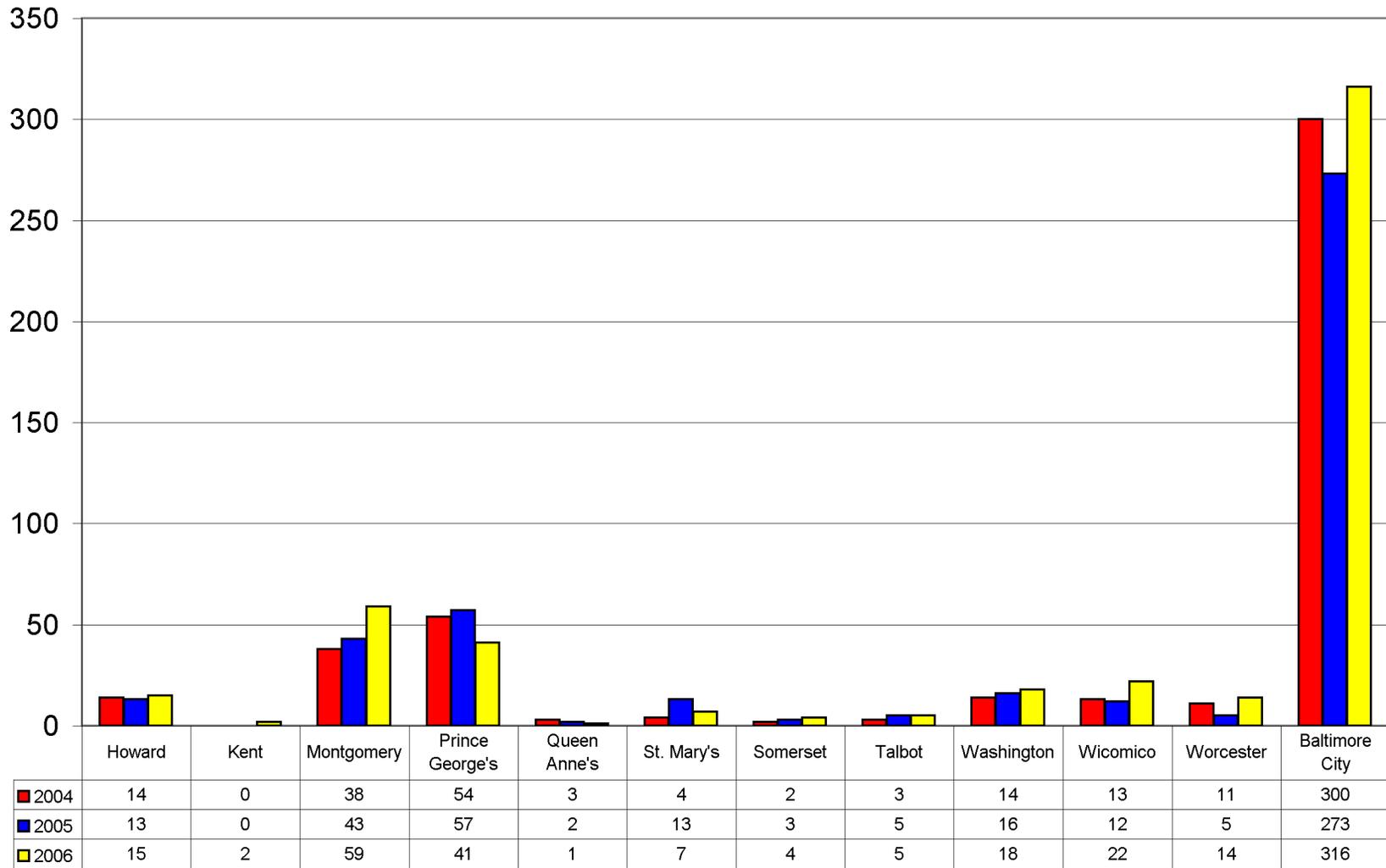
Type and Jurisdiction

<u>County</u>	<u>Autopsy</u>	<u>OCME Inspections</u>	<u>Field Inspections</u>	<u>Inquiry</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Decline</u>	<u>Total</u>
Allegany	88	4	26	3	15	43	179
Anne Arundel	298	10	73	4	22	146	553
Baltimore County	447	21	98	8	76	211	861
Calvert	47	0	14	1	5	46	113
Caroline	23	4	4	0	4	3	38
Carroll	77	1	19	1	10	33	141
Cecil	94	5	16	0	8	22	145
Charles	84	0	17	2	4	15	122
Dorchester	29	3	5	1	4	8	50
Frederick	107	4	24	1	7	20	163
Garrett	21	1	12	1	1	6	42
Harford	146	7	27	9	11	90	290
Howard	83	4	18	1	6	20	132
Kent	20	0	4	0	4	10	38
Montgomery	370	12	65	5	55	355	862
Prince George's	666	23	153	6	54	854	1756
Queen Anne's	16	1	3	0	2	2	24
St. Mary's	63	2	11	0	5	23	104
Somerset	18	2	8	0	0	4	32
Talbot	26	0	13	4	3	13	59
Washington	104	4	27	3	29	53	220
Wicomico	108	2	50	6	16	61	243
Worcester	49	4	17	0	2	19	91
Baltimore City	1339	143	158	28	279	1467	3414
Total	4323	257	862	84	622	3524	9672

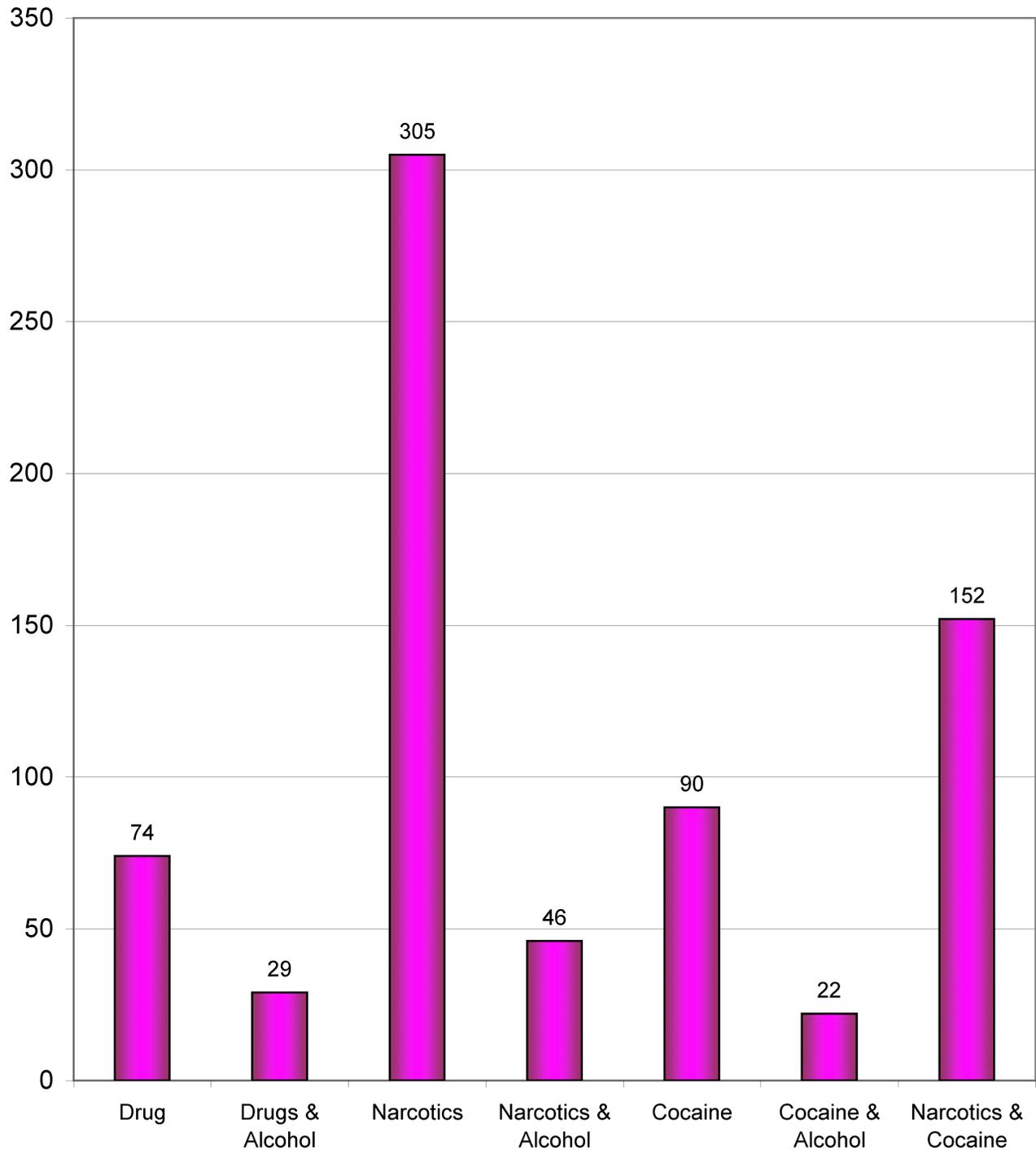
2006 Toxicology Testing # of Cases Positive for Alcohol and/or Drugs* (Percentage of the Manner of Death)

* Drugs include heroin, morphine, cocaine, methadone and phencyclidine.





2006 Drug Abuse Deaths Undetermined Manner

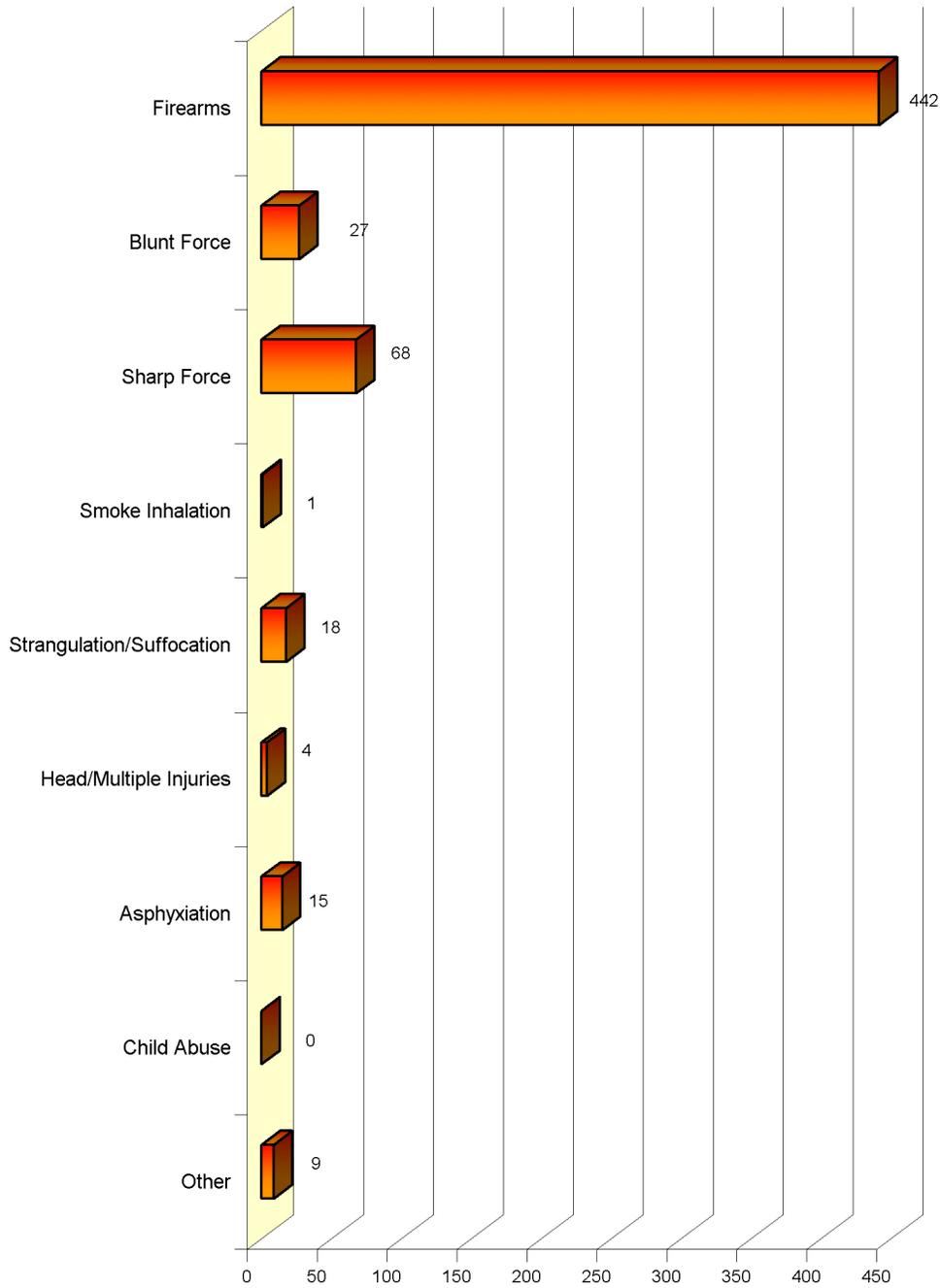


Narcotics include Heroin, Morphine, Methadone, Phencyclidine

Drugs include Prescription Medications

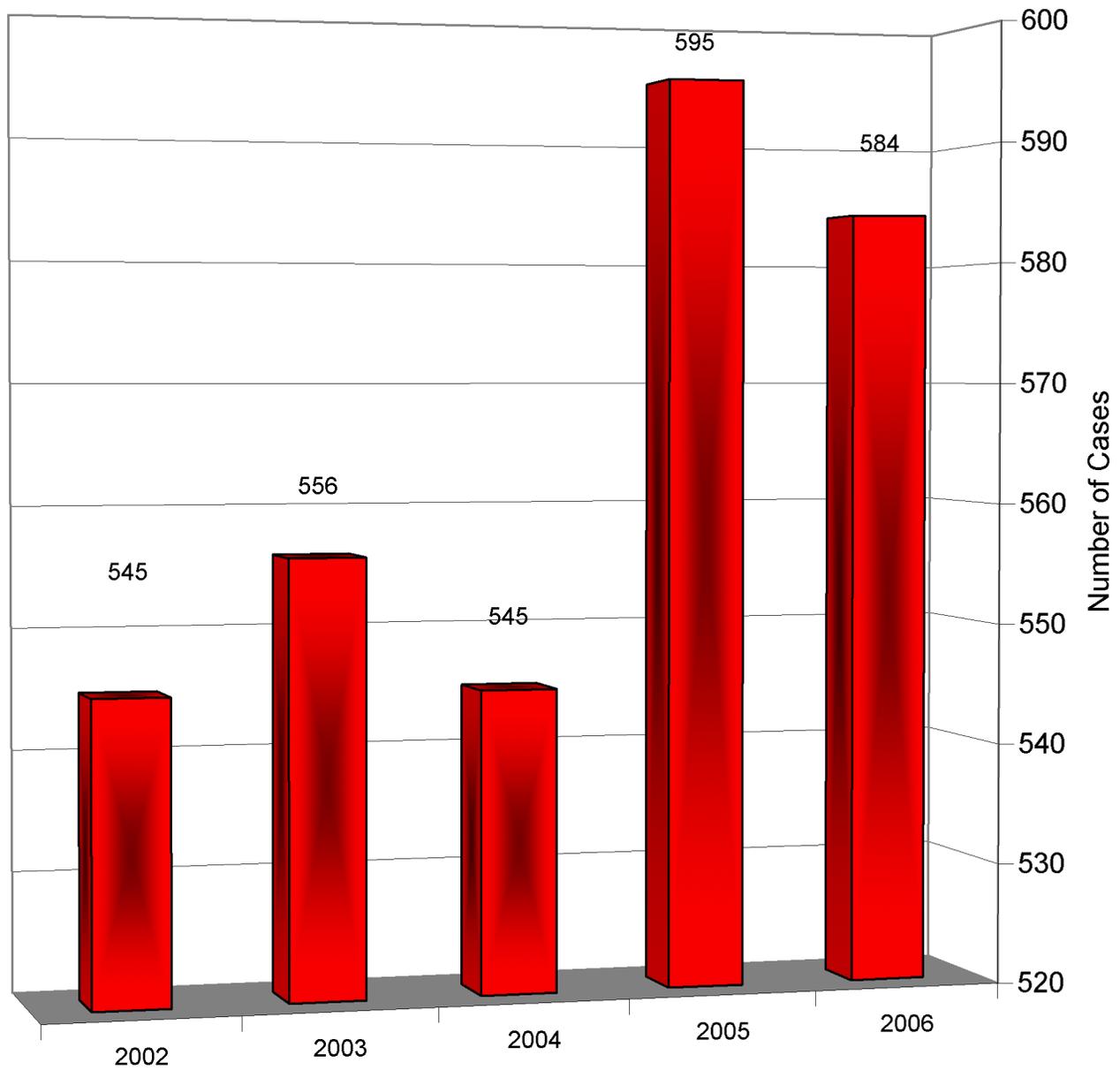
Total Cases - 718

2006 Homicide Deaths Cause of Death

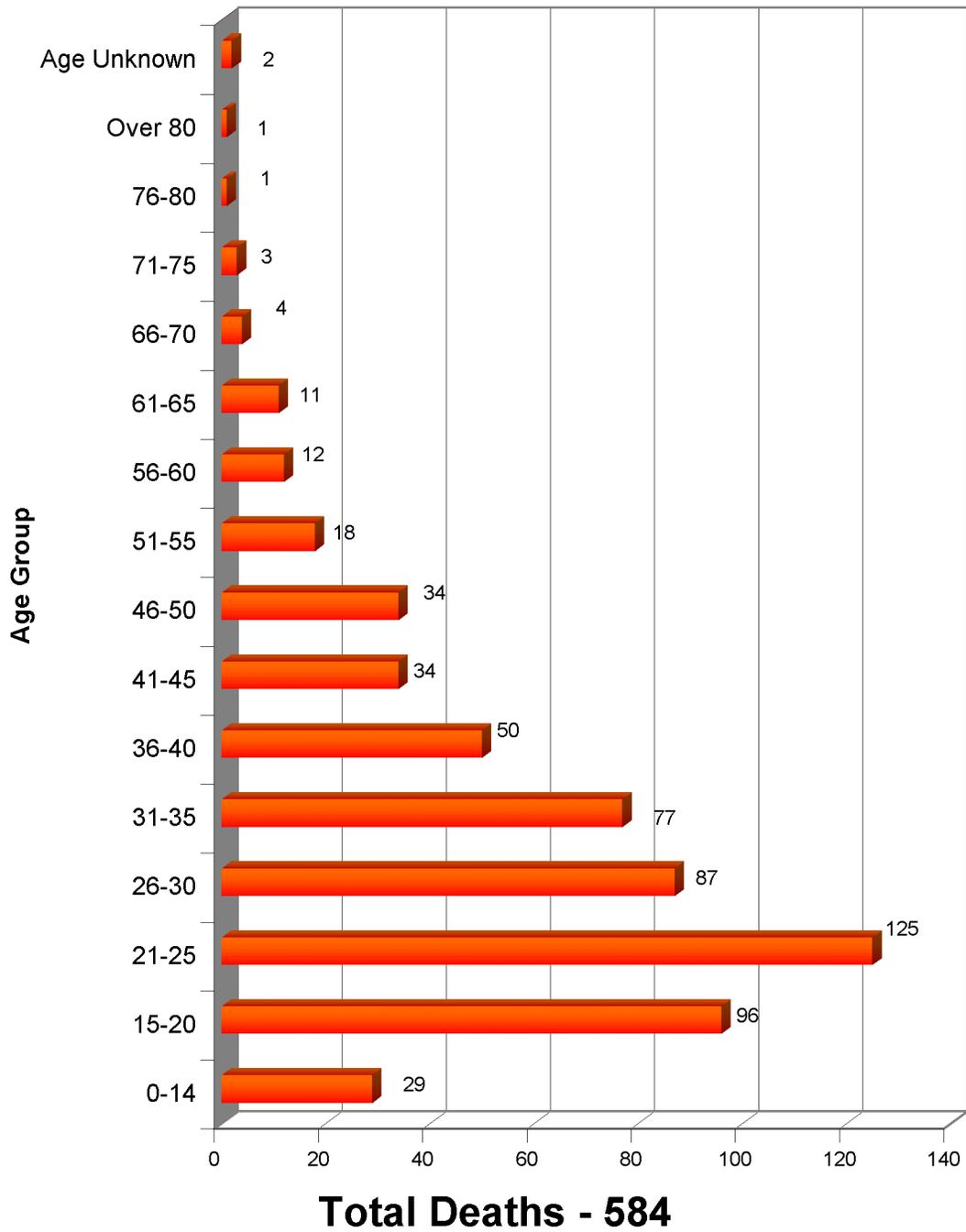


Total Deaths - 584

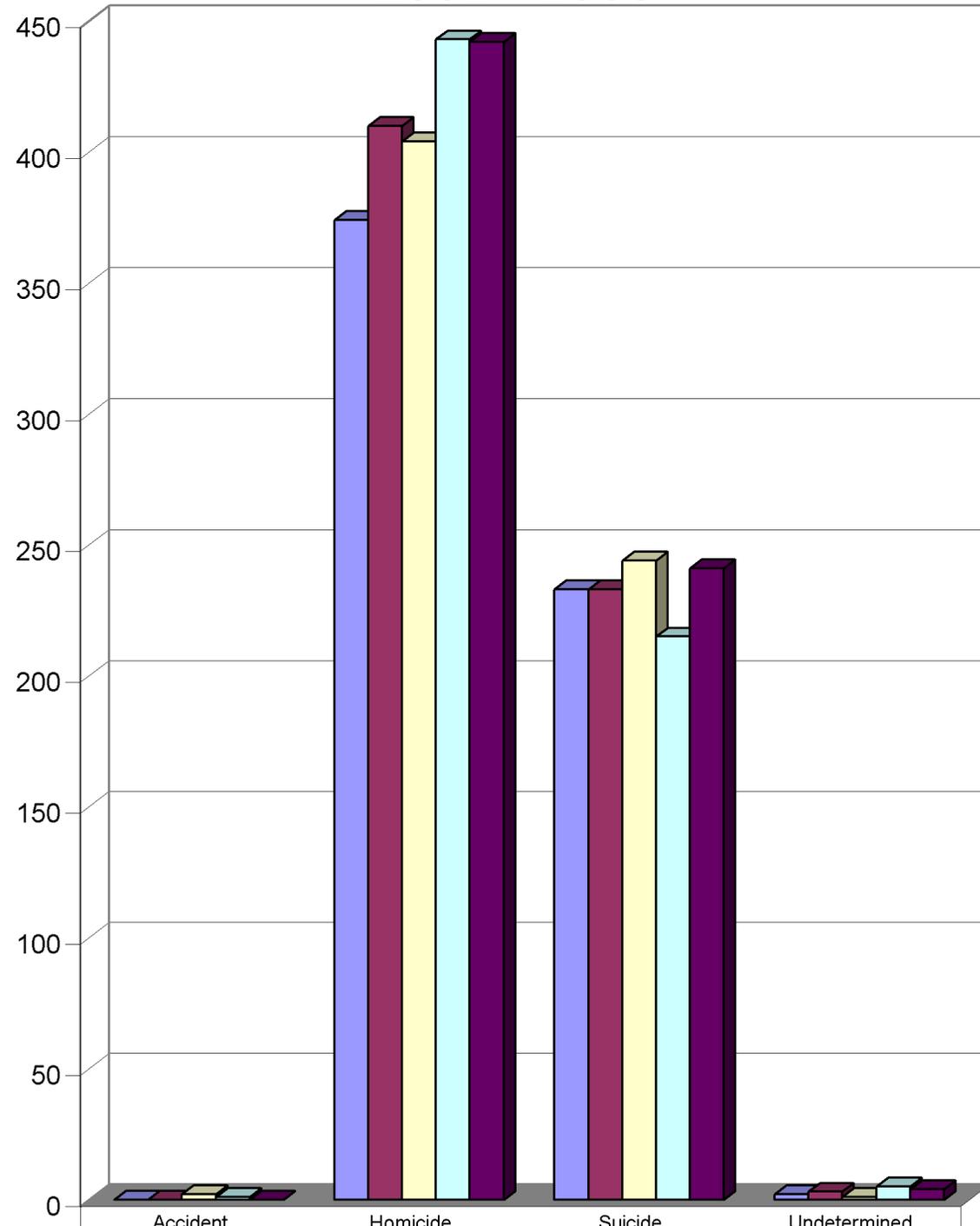
Homicides 5 Year Comparison 2002 - 2006



2006 Homicides Deaths by Age

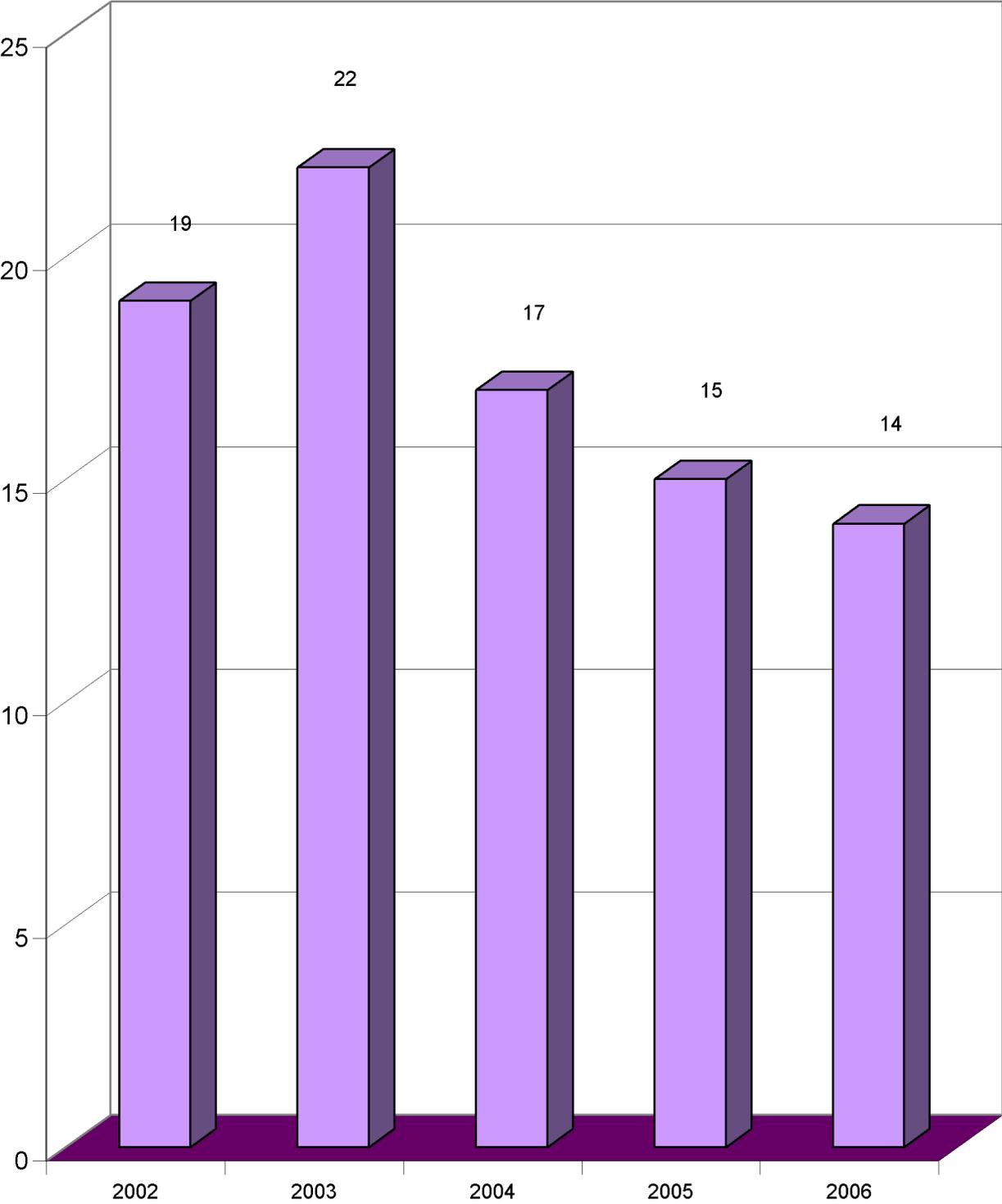


Firearm Deaths 2002 - 2006

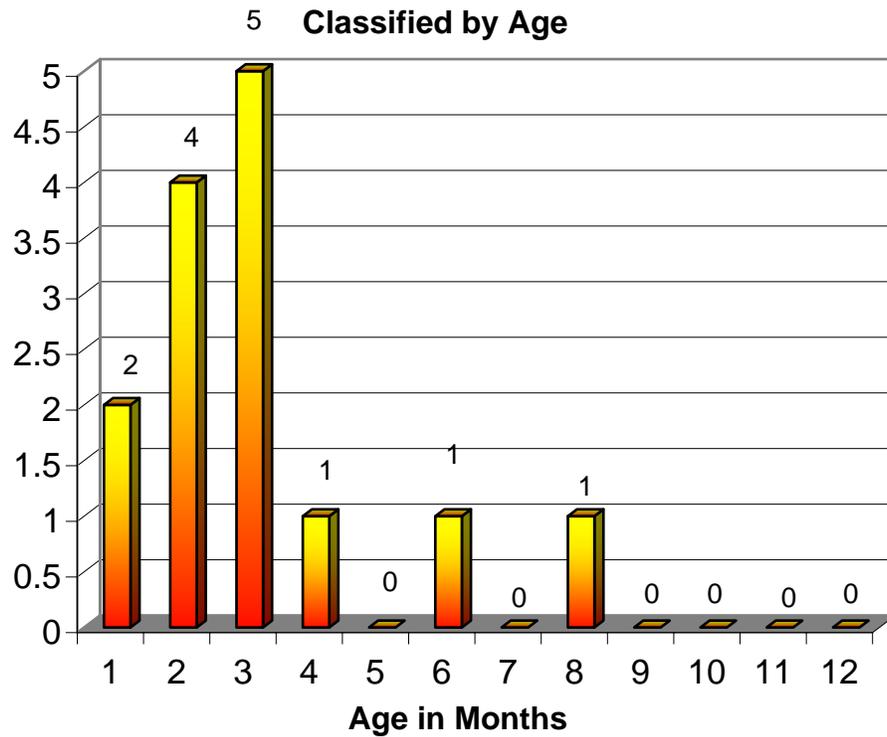


	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Undetermined
2002	0	374	233	2
2003	0	410	233	3
2004	2	404	244	1
2005	1	443	215	5
2006	0	442	241	4

SIDS Deaths 2002 - 2006 Comparison

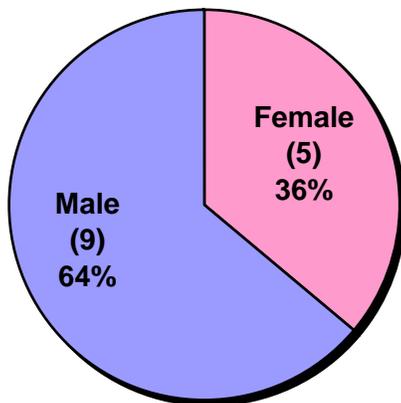


Sudden Infant Death Syndrome 2006

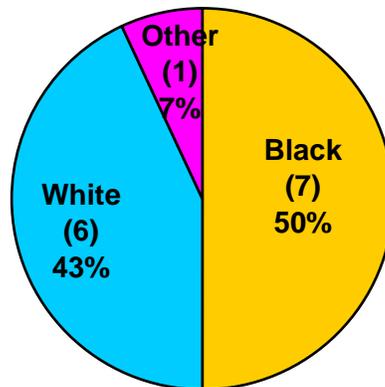


Total of 14 Deaths

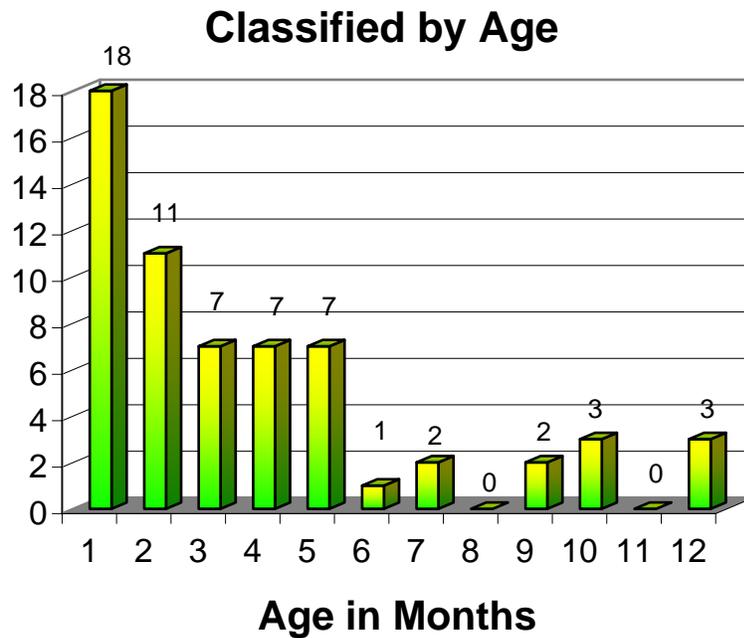
Classified by Sex



Classified by Race

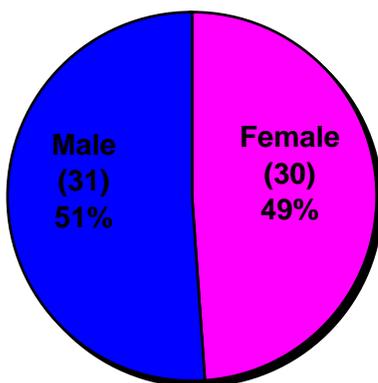


Sudden Unexplained Death In Infancy 2006

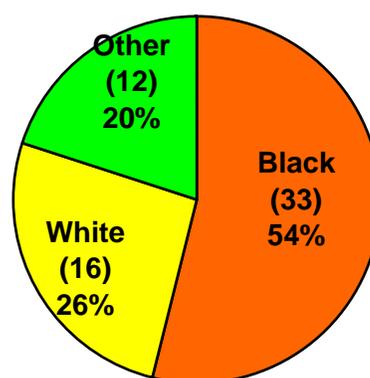


Total of 61 Deaths

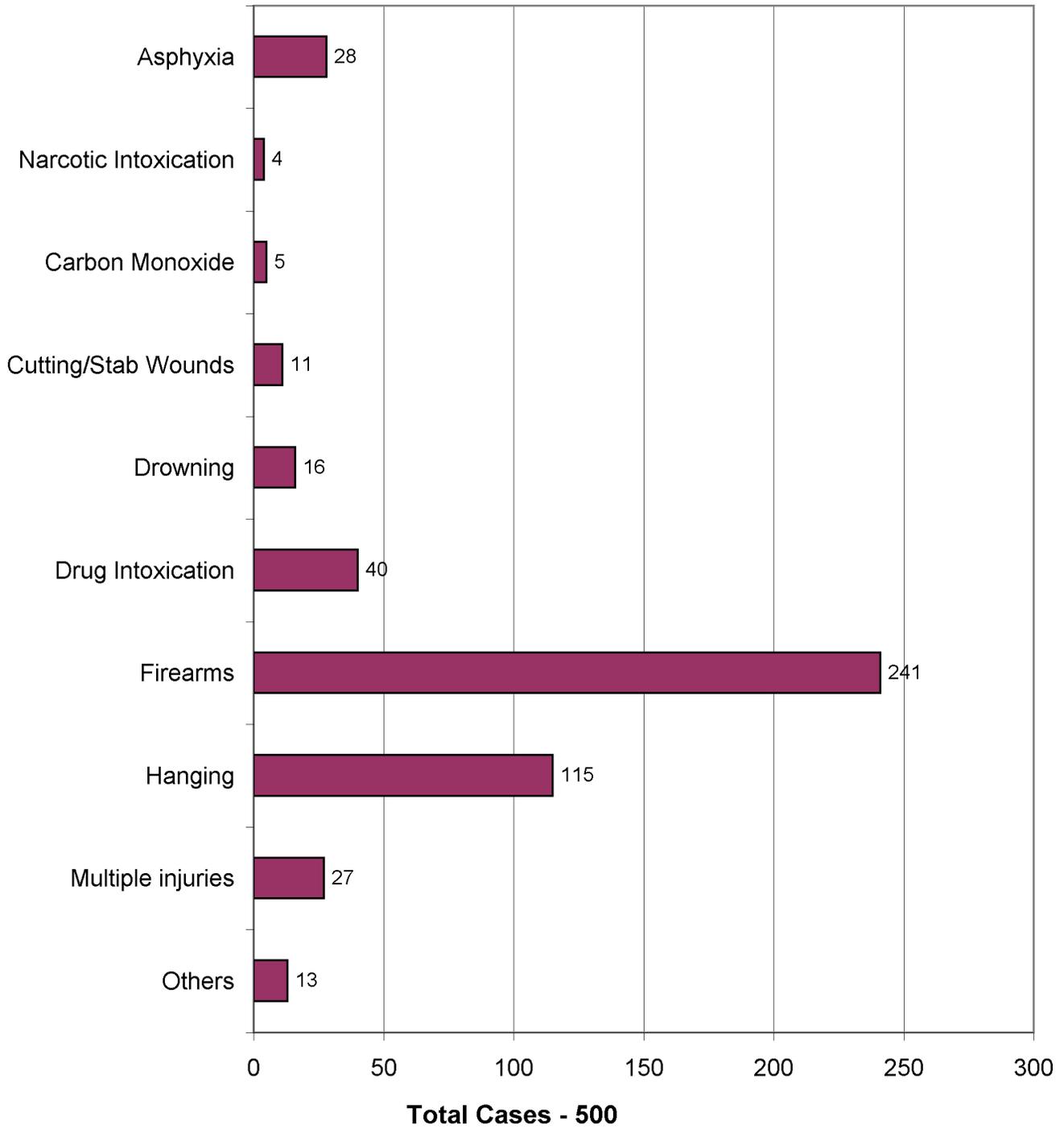
Classified by Sex



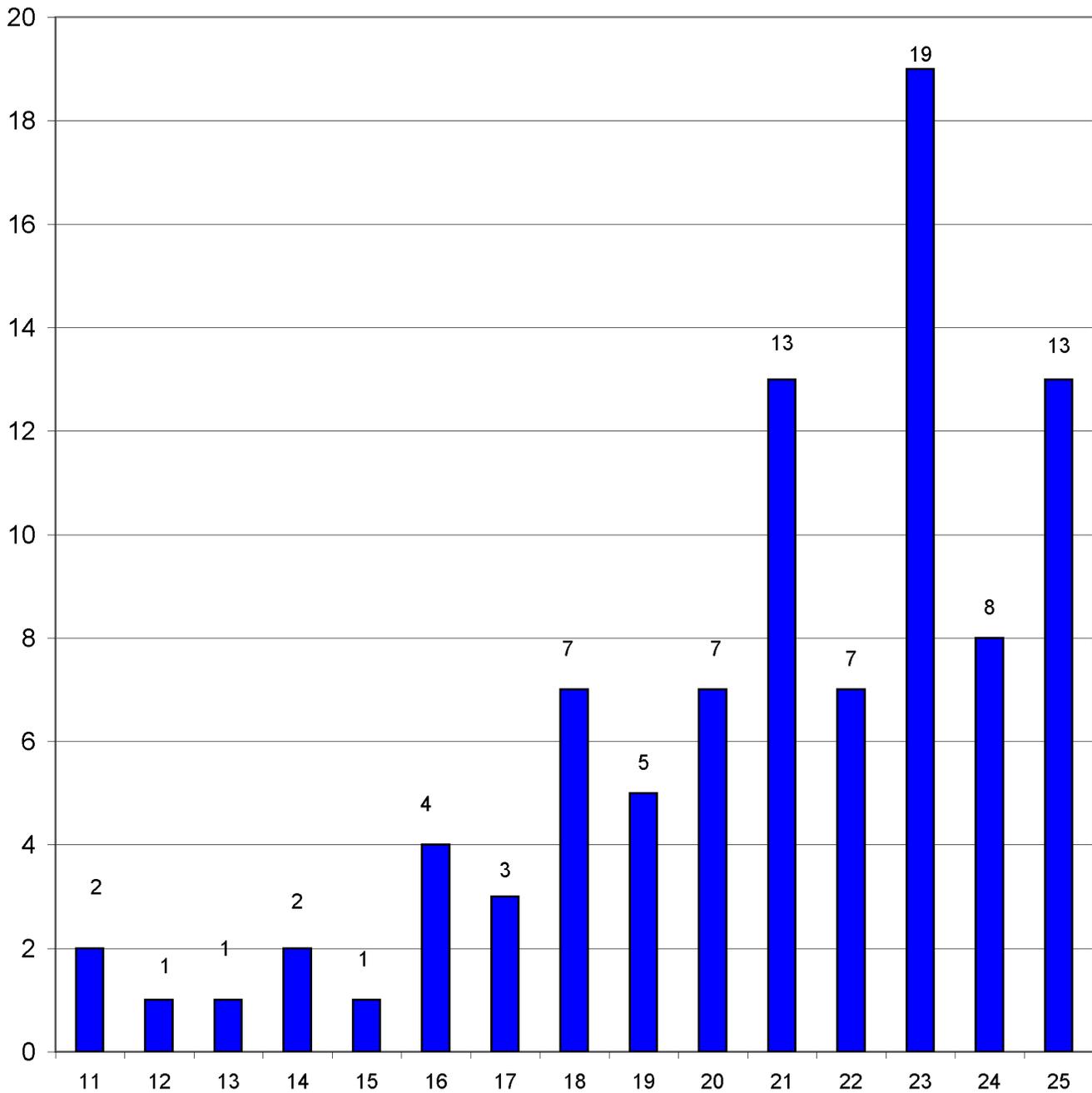
Classified by Race



2006 Suicide Deaths Classified by Cause of Death

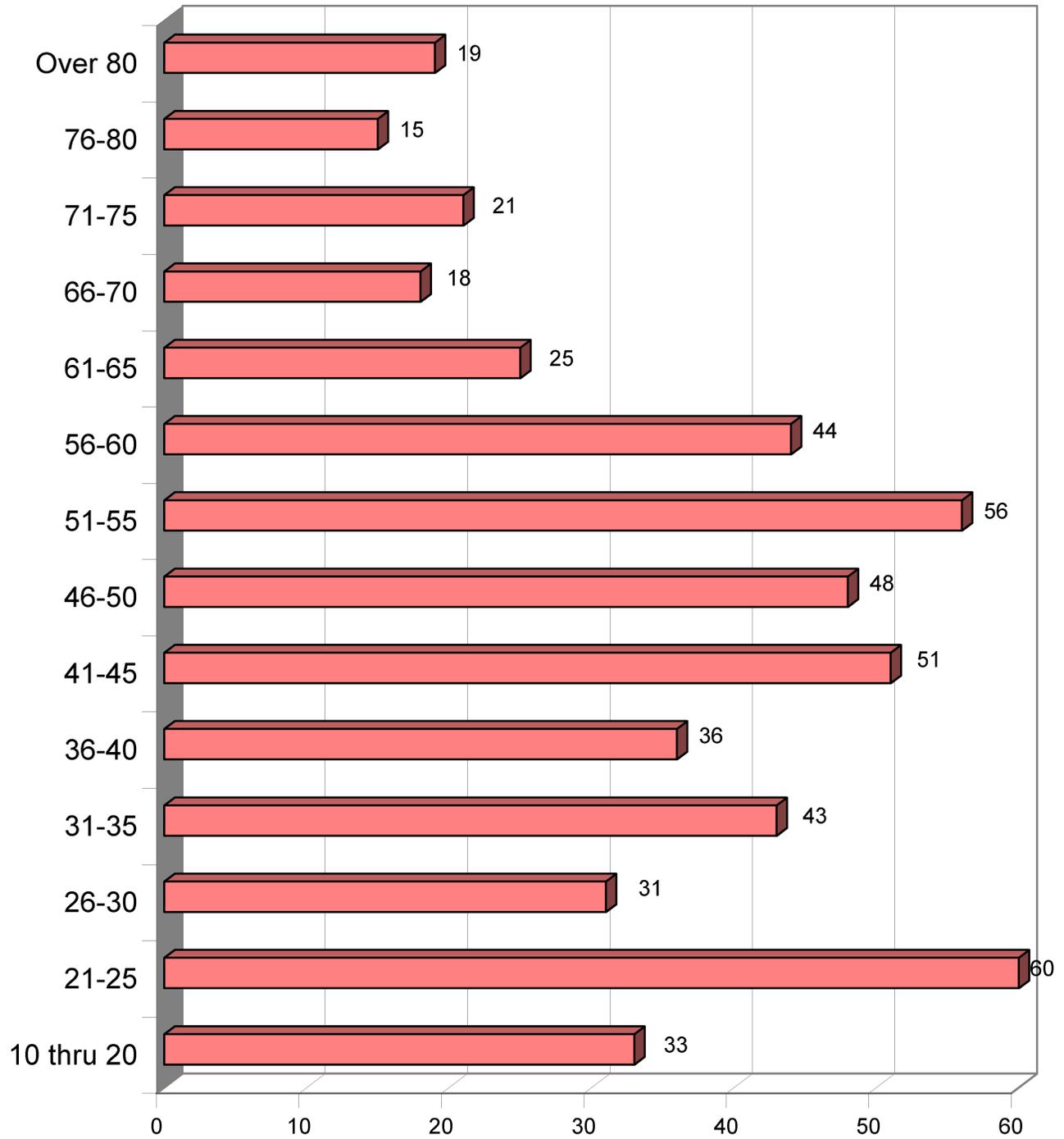


2006 Youth Suicides 25 Years of Age and Under



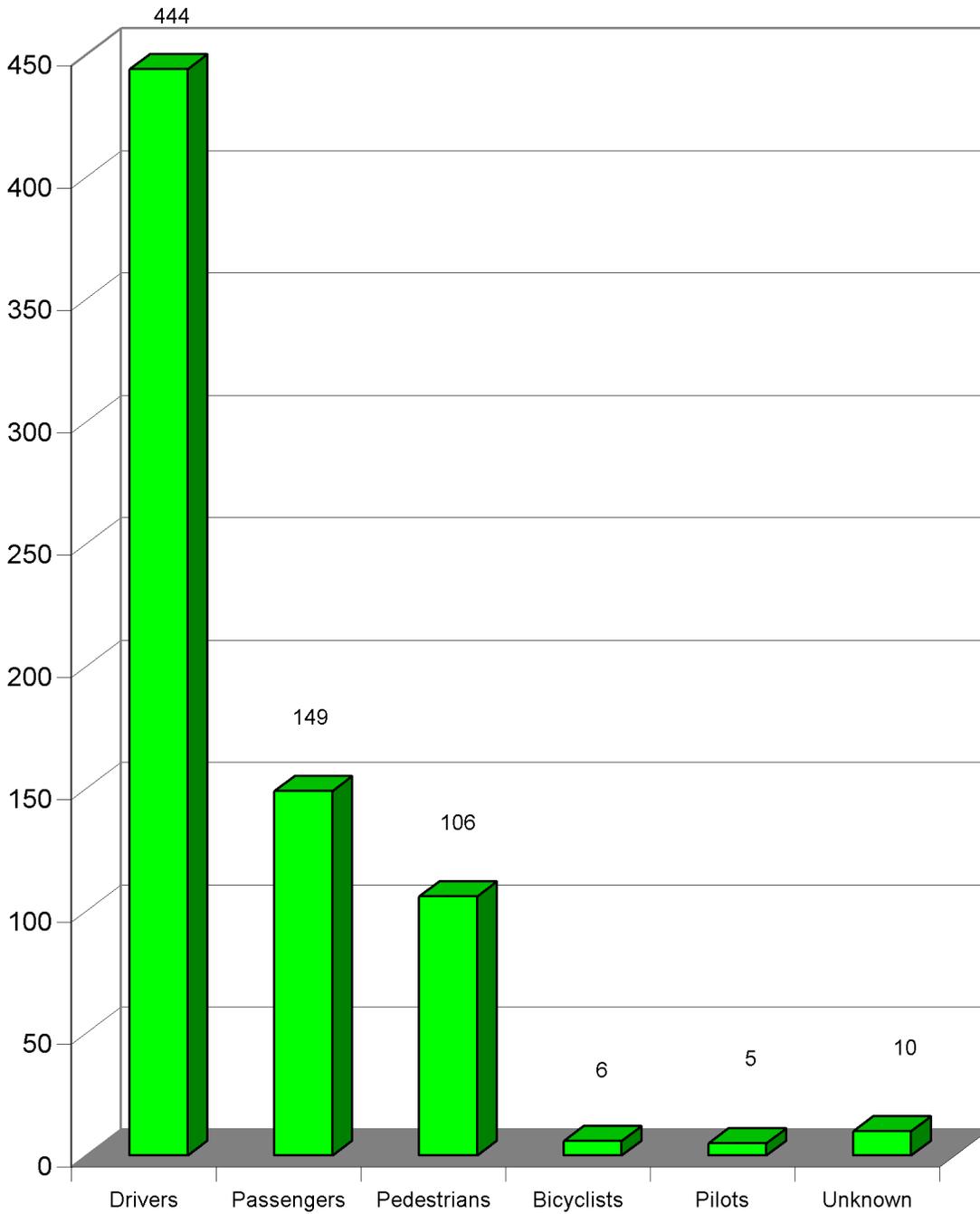
Age
Total Cases - 93

2006 Suicide Deaths by Age



Total Deaths - 500

2006 Transportation Accidents* Classified by Activity

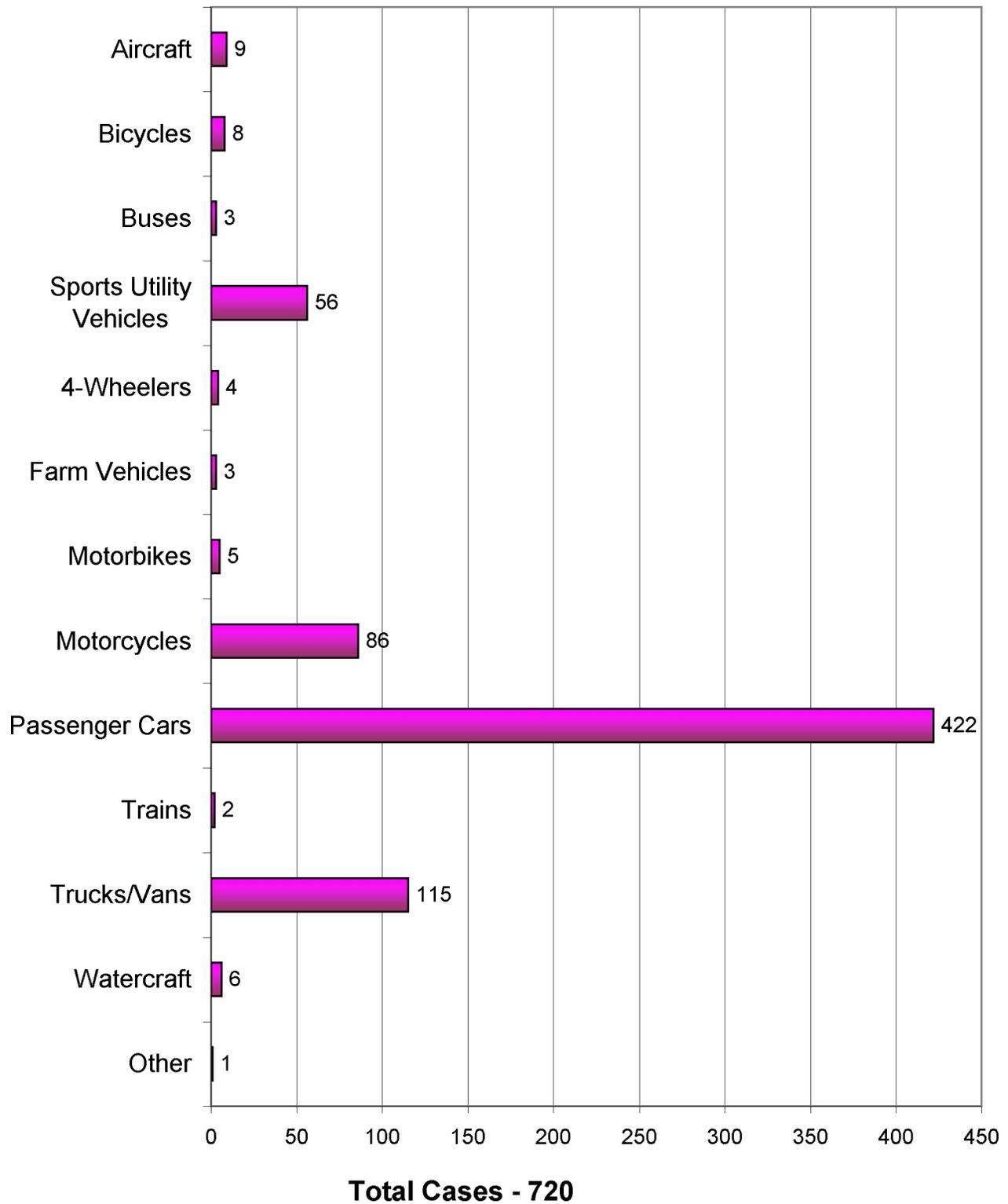


*Includes motor vehicles, boats, planes, bicycles, and trains

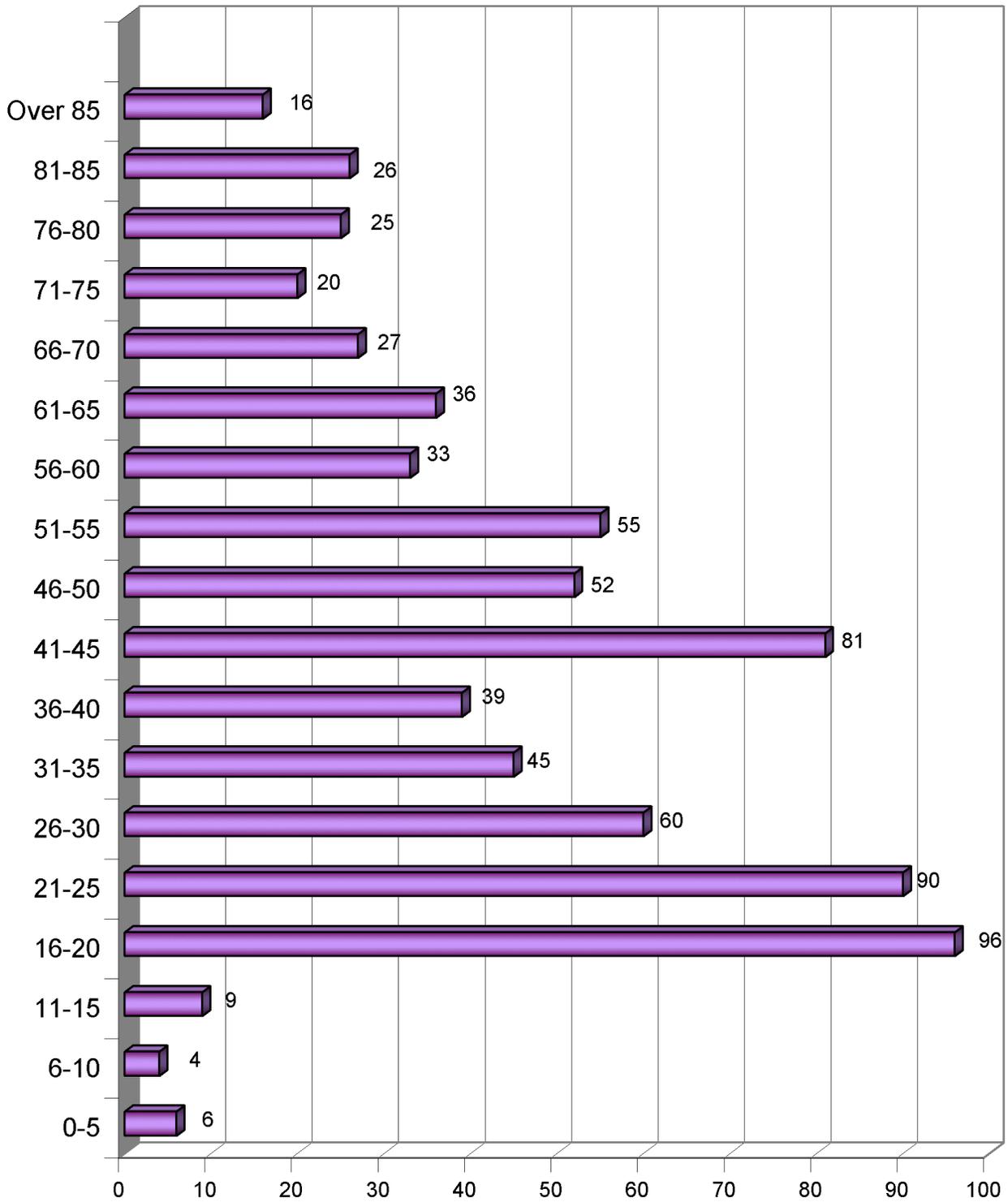
Total Cases - 720

2006 Transportation Deaths

Type of Vehicle

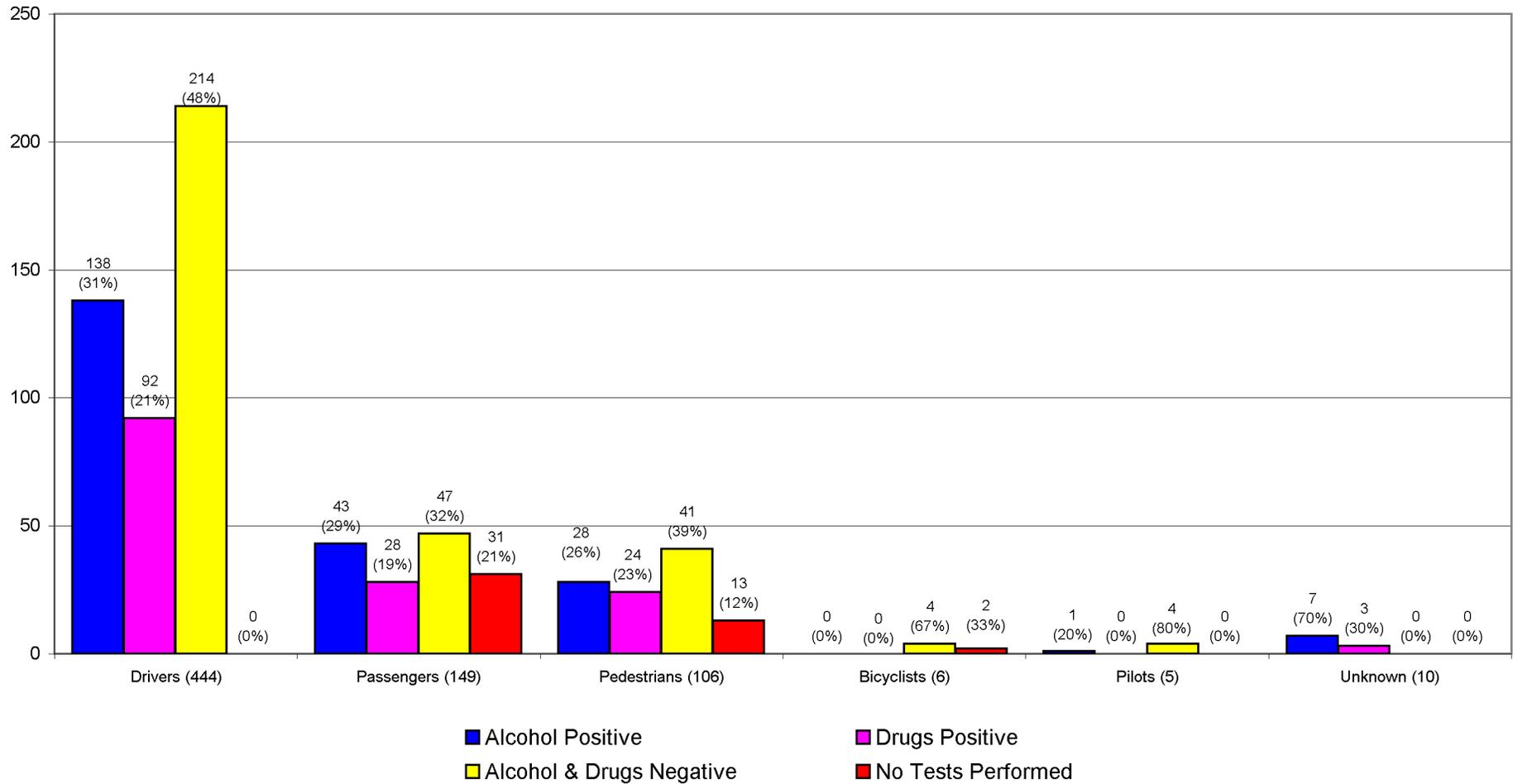


2006 Transportation Deaths By Age



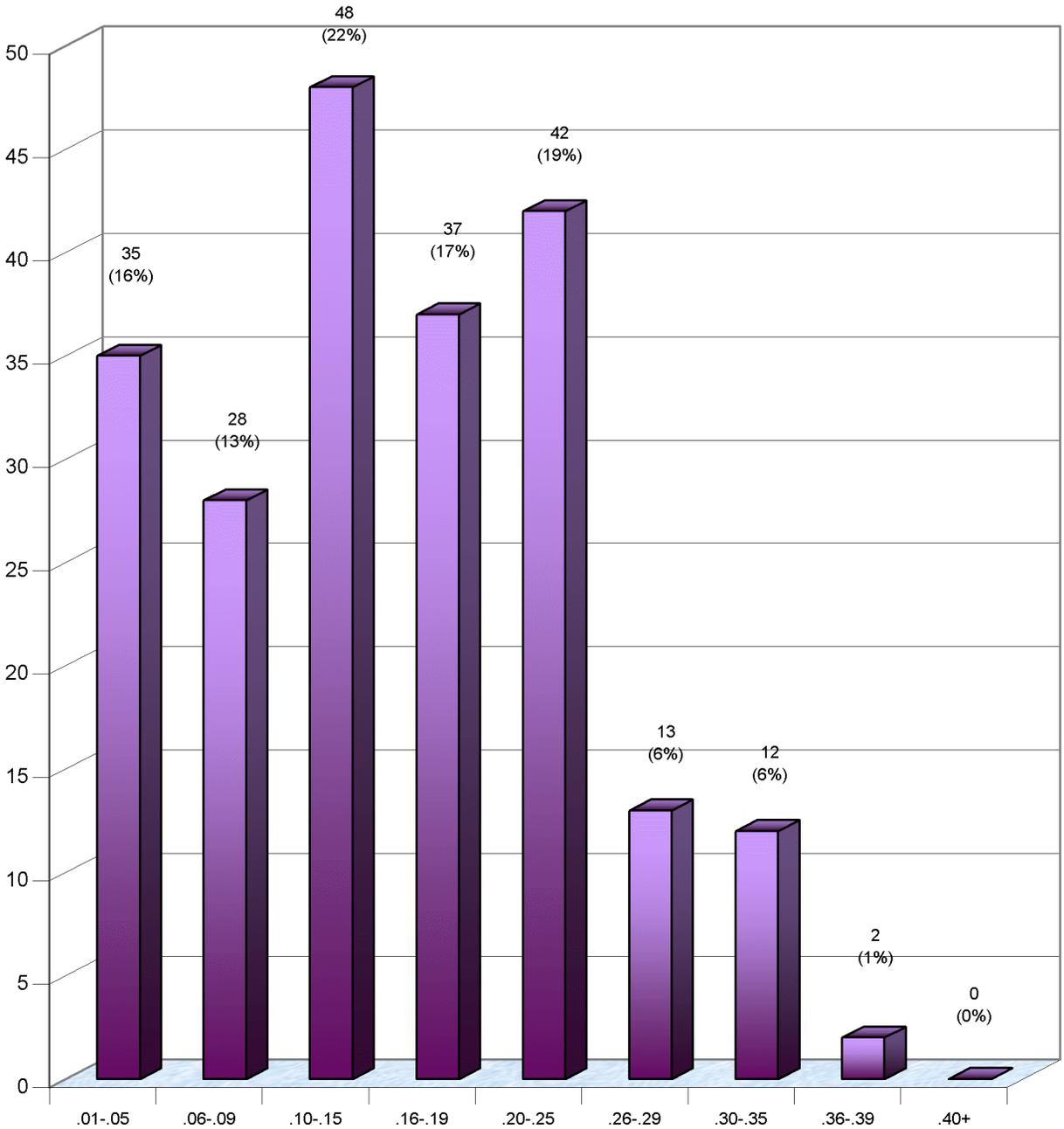
Total Cases - 720

2006 Transportation Accidents Alcohol/Drug Results



720 Transportation Deaths

2006 Transportation Deaths Blood Alcohol Concentration in 217 Cases 34%* Tested Positive



**720 Transportation Deaths
429 Negative for Alcohol
46 No Testing Performed**

*Percent based on total cases tested for alcohol