



## Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS)

**2003 Data**

*Descriptive Report:  
All Violent Deaths, Homicides, Suicides & Undetermined Manner of Death*

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Family Health Administration  
Center for Preventive Health Services**

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor**

**Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor**

**S. Anthony McCann, Secretary  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

**Michelle A. Gourdine, M.D., Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

**Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H., Director  
Family Health Administration**

**Joan H. Salim, Deputy Director  
Family Health Administration**





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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Maryland Violent Death Reporting System is a state subsidiary of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), administered and funded by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC provides overall financial and database support, as well as coordination between the various states engaged in this ambitious scientific effort. Together, it is our hope that this first of many MVDRS reports will provide guidance to public and private efforts to reduce the incidence of violent death in Maryland society.

This report is a product of the collective effort of many professionals. We especially thank the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Vital Statistics Administration, without whose assistance no part of this report would be possible. Additionally, cooperation of the Maryland State Police and county and local law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland provided information that added significant detail to the characteristics of the violent incidents within which these deaths were embedded.

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## **Introduction**

Deaths attributed to violence in the United States are a major public health concern. There are roughly 50,000 U.S. victims of violent death annually. As part of a public health campaign to address the burden of these potentially preventable deaths, a National Violent Death Reporting System is under development to study and monitor the violent deaths occurring in our country.

In 2000, Congress approved funding for the creation of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) to be governed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC is responsible for providing directives and guidance for states participating in the surveillance system.

Based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition, violent death is "a death resulting from the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community".<sup>1</sup> The NVDRS collects information on when, where, and how these violent deaths happen, and attempts to gather additional information that may provide population-level insight into "why" these deaths occur. These findings will aid in the design and implementation of prevention/intervention efforts as well as the promotion of comprehensive and effectual policy solutions.

Currently, the CDC is funding 17 states to implement the NVDRS. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Preventive Health Services, was awarded funding for the implementation of the Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) in 2002. The first year of data collected for the MVDRS is 2003.

This descriptive report on violent deaths in Maryland during 2003 presents the information in five categories: all violent deaths, homicides, suicides, and undetermined deaths (inclusive of only Maryland residents), followed by the characterization of Maryland occurrent violent deaths (inclusive of both Maryland and non-Maryland residents).

By recognizing the scope of the problem, public health professionals along with others interested in violence prevention, are able to work together to promote interventions and policies that will target those most at risk for violent death. This will have a domino effect on the health of the nation in terms of well-being, safety, financial security, manpower, medical resources, and the like.

## **Methods**

The NVDRS implements uniform definitions and a project-specific software to create state-level databases that can be used to monitor and track trends of violent deaths. The database is structured to create separate observations for each individual death, aggregated within violent death incidents. Each incident has data that has been collected from a variety of sources, including death certificates, autopsy and scene inspection reports, and police reports. Under this arrangement, a single violent death incident must describe at least one violent death, but may associate multiple violent death victims.

The types of violent death described in this report include three categories specified by the NVDRS: Suicide, Homicide, and deaths of Undetermined Manner. The functional definitions for these categories below have been taken directly from the Coding Manual (version 2, 2004).<sup>1</sup>

### **Suicide:**

*A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional.*

### **Homicide:**

*Homicide is defined as a death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.*

**Undetermined manner of death:**

*A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death.*

Data collection began with the electronic import of death certificates from the Maryland Vital Statistics Administration whose International Classification of Disease, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code cause of death was consistent with the definition of violent death set forth by the CDC (See Appendix for codes). A similar query was provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), based on the OCME-determined manner of death. These lists were reconciled, employing the CDC-prescribed functional definition of violent death whenever necessary. The information was then gathered from the documents in accordance with the published intentions of the CDC's National project.

For those incidents that did not have a police report available in the OCME file, the individual police agencies were contacted and the needed reports sought. An abstractor reviewed these reports in the same fashion as the OCME files were reviewed. Once all obtainable information was entered for each incident and internal quality control exercises were completed to ensure the integrity of the database, the data were determined ready for interpretation.

The data for the Maryland Violent Death Reporting System were obtained from the medical examiner's records, death certificates, police reports, and some supplemental homicide reports. Data for this publication were taken from one or a combination of these sources depending on what source had been given primacy for a particular variable. Whenever conflicting or missing documentation was present between sources, a system of document authoritative primacy allowed the analyst to choose the document source for a particular item of information in a disciplined, orderly fashion. Using this method to retrieve data allowed analysis of the most complete information available from the database. The order of primacy is different for each variable. The directive for primacy is found in the National Violent Death Reporting System Coding Manual (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/Fullmanual.pdf>).

Case assignment for this analysis was based on the manner of death reported by the OCME. For this reason, frequency numbers for cases may differ slightly from those found in violent death figures published by the Vital Statistics Administration or in other MVDRS reports which use the ICD-10 code definition. The statistical software for analysis was SPSS.

Rates for 2003 were calculated using the population estimates data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.<sup>2</sup> However, in order to calculate rates for marital status and years of education, population estimates from the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) were used.<sup>3</sup> Analyses utilizing BRFSS information were restricted to the Maryland population, aged 18 or older. Rates were not calculated for specific groups with cumulative incidence that were less than five cases, since these rates were believed to be unreliable and possibly misleading. The distinctions for race included Black, White, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Other. Rates were calculated for populations of the Black or White races. Other racial distinctions characterized too few deaths for reliable race-specific analysis. These were aggregated into a Non-Black/Non-White (NBNW) category that allowed some rates to be calculated above the incidence (cell size) restriction of five cases.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Violent Death Reporting System Coding Manual, (Atlanta, GA 2004)

<sup>2</sup> CC-EST2003-alldata-[ST\_FIPS]: County Characteristics Population Estimates Data; 7/1/2003 County Characteristics Estimates File; Release Date: September 30, 2004; Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Bureau of the Census

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.marylandbrfss.org/cgi-bin/broker>

## ALL MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ Among Maryland residents, there were a total of 1715 violent deaths recorded into MVDRS (2003).
- ❖ The 35-44 year old age groups had the greatest number of violent deaths.
- ❖ Among age groups, the 20-24 age group experienced the highest rate per 100,000 persons (63.6).
- ❖ The ratio of male to female violent deaths was roughly 3.5 to 1.
- ❖ The majority of violent deaths occurred among Whites (54%).
- ❖ The ratio of Whites to Blacks involved in violent deaths was roughly 1.25 to 1.
- ❖ Baltimore City had the highest rate for violent deaths (96.9 per 100,000 persons).
- ❖ The rate for violent death in Baltimore City was about three times the rate for the state of Maryland.
- ❖ Most violent death victims were unmarried.
- ❖ 72% of victims (for whom education history was known) had completed high school or the equivalent.

**Table 1. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS, 2003.**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Male	1336	77.9	50.1
Female	379	22.1	13.3
<b>Race</b>			
White	932	54.3	25.8
Black	745	43.4	48.1
NBNW*	38	2.3	10.9
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	13	0.8	17.7
Age1-4	7	0.4	2.4
Age5-9	3	0.2	-
Age10-14	11	0.6	2.7
Age15-19	118	6.9	30.5
Age20-24	226	13.2	63.6
Age25-34	313	18.3	43.4
Age35-44	442	25.8	48.6
Age45-54	354	20.6	43.4
Age55-64	104	6.1	18.8
Age65-74	61	3.6	18.8
Age75-84	44	2.6	19.7
85 and older	17	1.0	21.9
Unknown	2	0.1	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\*NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 1 (continued). NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS, 2003.**

<b>Manner of Death</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Homicide	496	28.9	9.0
Suicide	470	27.4	8.5
Undetermined	749	43.7	13.6
<b>Total Number of Violent Deaths</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

**Table 2. MECHANISMS OF FATAL INJURY AMONG MARYLAND VIOLENT DEATH VICTIMS, 2003.**

<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Poisoning	765	44.6
Firearm	569	33.2
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	142	8.3
Sharp Instrument	76	4.4
Blunt Instrument	30	1.7
Other Transport Vehicle	30	1.7
Falls	25	1.5
Drowning	6	0.3
Personal Weapons	5	0.3
Fires or Burns	4	0.2
Motor Vehicle	4	0.2
Shaking	1	0.1
Intentional Neglect	1	0.1
Unknown	12	0.7
Insufficient Info*	45	2.6

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records

**Table 3. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	<b>Male</b>			<b>Female</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
White	702	52.5	39.6	230	60.7	12.5	932	54.3	35.9
Black	605	45.3	83.5	140	36.9	17.0	745	43.4	48.1
NBNW*	29	2.2	17.4	9	2.4	5.0	38	2.2	11.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.



**Table 4. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY AGE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<1	8	0.6	21.4	5	1.3	13.9	13	0.8	17.69
1-4	3	0.2	-	4	1.1	-	7	0.4	2.4
5-9	1	0.1	-	2	0.5	-	3	0.2	-
10-14	10	0.7	4.8	1	0.3	-	11	0.6	2.7
15-19	102	7.6	51.4	16	4.2	8.5	118	6.9	30.5
20-24	196	14.7	108.3	30	7.9	17.2	226	13.2	63.6
25-34	252	18.9	71.8	61	16.1	16.5	313	18.3	43.4
35-44	330	24.7	75.1	112	29.6	23.9	442	25.8	48.6
45-54	251	18.8	64.3	103	27.2	24.2	254	20.6	43.4
55-64	85	6.4	32.2	19	5.0	6.6	104	6.1	18.8
65-74	49	3.7	33.4	12	3.2	6.7	61	3.6	18.8
75-84	35	2.6	33.8	9	2.4	6.6	44	2.6	19.7
85 and older	12	0.9	50.7	5	1.3	9.3	17	1.0	21.9
Unknown	2	0.1		0	0.0		2	0.1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 5. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY YEARS OF EDUCATION, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1,2</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade or less	447	27.4	143.3
Completed High School	747	45.8	67.7
Greater than 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	429	26.3	15.9
Unknown	9	0.55	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 6. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY MARITAL STATUS, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	All Resident Victims		Resident Victims 18 Years and Older <sup>2</sup>		
	Number	%	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Married	432	25.2	430	26.3	17.7
Unmarried	1256	73.2	1175	72.0	69.6
Never Married *	925	53.9			
Divorced *	249	14.5			
Widowed *	82	4.8			
Unknown	27	1.6	27	1.7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

\* These subcategories of 'unmarried' status were identifiable in MVDRS but not within the BRFSS. 'Unmarried' is the sum of these subcategories in this analysis. The BRFSS estimates of prevalence of the marital status trait levels were used to calculate rates.

**Table 7. MARYLAND 2003, ADDITIONAL VIOLENT DEATH CHARACTERISTICS.**

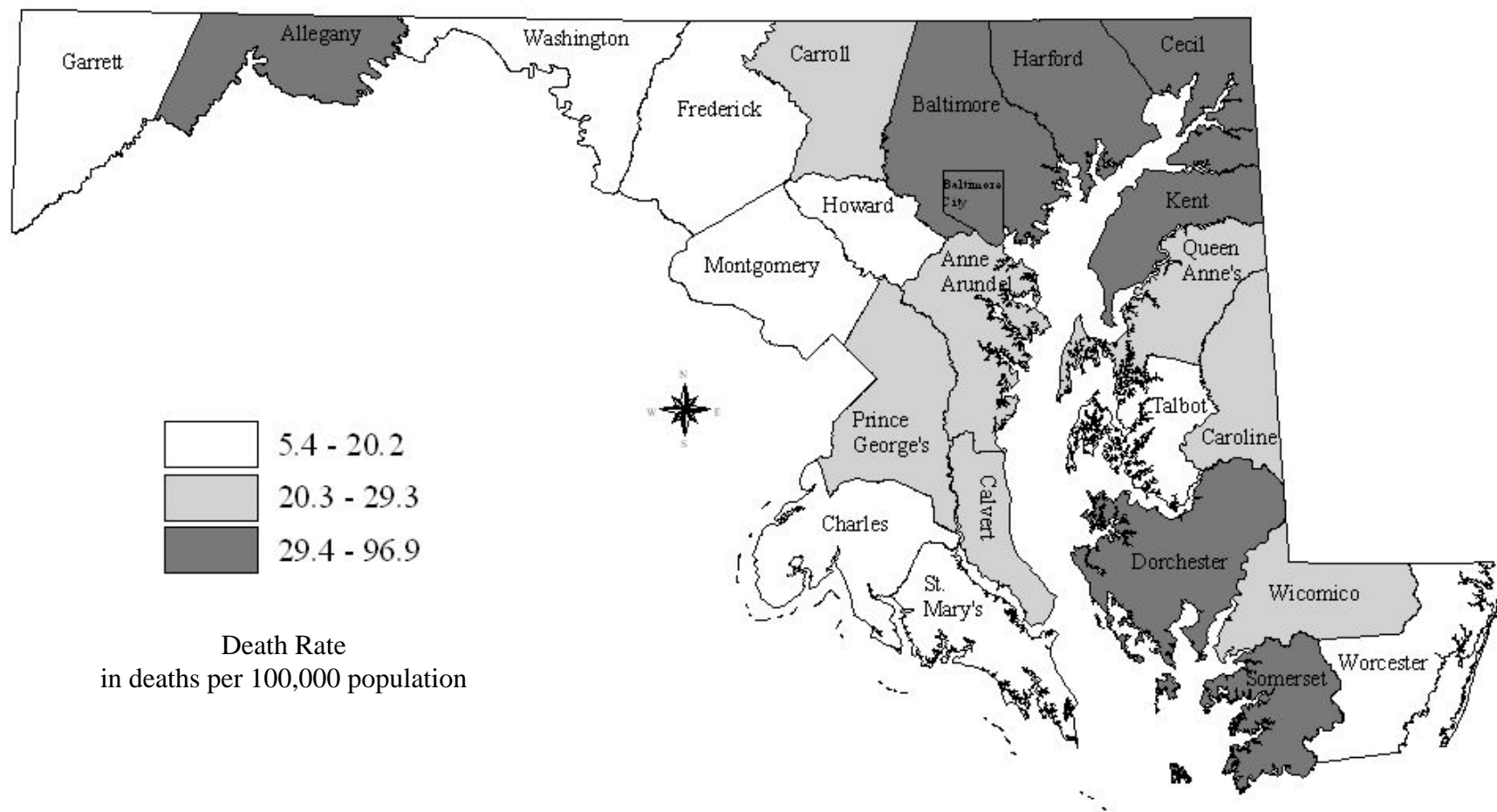
Victim Characteristics	Number	%
Veteran	227	13.2
Autopsy Performed	1558	90.8
Injured at Work	20	1.2
Place of Death:		
Dead on Arrival	115	6.7
Decedent's Home	453	26.4
Emergency Department	361	21.0
Hospital Inpatient	143	8.3
Hospice	2	0.1
Nursing Home	26	1.5
Other	614	35.8
Undetermined	1	0.1

**Table 8. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Allegany	26	1.5	35.3
Anne Arundel	109	6.4	21.5
Baltimore County	229	13.4	29.5
Baltimore City	609	35.5	96.9
Calvert	18	1.0	21.4
Caroline	9	0.5	29.2
Carroll	45	2.6	27.6
Cecil	29	1.7	31.3
Charles	27	1.6	20.3
Dorchester	10	0.6	32.7
Frederick	42	2.4	19.7
Garrett	5	0.3	16.6
Harford	75	4.4	32.3
Howard	52	3.0	19.7
Kent	7	0.4	35.6
Montgomery	100	5.8	10.9
Prince George's	227	13.2	27.1
Queen Anne's	10	0.6	22.7
St. Mary's	5	0.3	5.4
Somerset	12	0.7	47.2
Talbot	6	0.3	17.3
Washington	27	1.6	19.7
Wicomico	22	1.3	25.2
Worcester	10	0.6	20.2
Unknown	4	0.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

There were 4 cases where the county of residence was not identified and rates could not be calculated for these cases



**Figure 1. RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT VIOLENT DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.**

This map portrays Violent Death *Rates* throughout the geographic regions of Maryland. It is based on the figures set forth in Table 8. The rates calculated for regions with smaller populations naturally tend to be more variable than those recorded for more populous regions. Consequently, it is important to remember that they are more likely to be different from year to year, even without any real change in the region's underlying population risk for violent death.

## MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDE - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ In 2003, there were 470 Maryland resident suicides (8.5 per 100,000).
- ❖ The average age of these victims was 46 years.
- ❖ The population, aged 45-54, had the highest number of suicides (99 or 21.1% of all suicides).
- ❖ The suicide rate was highest among 75-84 year old adults at 16.6 per 100,000 persons, which was nearly two times the state rate of 8.5.
- ❖ Nearly four out of five victims were male.
- ❖ The majority of suicide victims were white (391 or 83%).
- ❖ Whites committed suicide at 2.8 times the rate of Blacks (10.8 per 100,000 and 3.8 per 100,000 respectively).
- ❖ The highest suicide rates were in Kent (30.5 per 100,000) and Cecil (15.1 per 100,000) counties.
- ❖ The lowest rates were observed in the populations of Montgomery (5.1 per 100,000) and St. Mary's (6.5 per 100,000) counties.
- ❖ Of the victims whose marital status was known, the largest proportion (38%) was never married.
- ❖ Nearly 80% of victims had at least 12 years of education.

**Table 9. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDE, 2003.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	378	80.4	14.2
Female	92	19.6	3.2
<b>Race</b>			
White	391	83.2	10.8
Black	59	12.6	3.8
NBNW*	20	4.3	5.8
<b>Age Group</b>			
<1	0	0	-
Age1-4	0	0	-
Age5-9	0	0	-
Age10-14	5	1.1	1.2
Age15-19	23	4.9	5.9
Age20-24	49	10.4	13.8
Age25-34	66	14	9.2
Age35-44	85	18.1	9.4
Age45-54	99	21.1	12.1
Age55-64	53	11.3	9.6
Age65-74	41	8.7	12.6
Age75-84	37	7.9	16.6
85 and older	12	2.6	15.5

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 10. MECHANISMS OF FATAL INJURY AMONG MARYLAND SUICIDE VICTIMS, 2003.**

Method of Fatal Injury	Number	%
Firearm	220	46.8
Hanging or Strangulation or Asphyxiation	124	26.4
Poisoning	82	17.4
Fall	19	4
Sharp Instrument	6	1.3
Drowning	3	0.6
Fires or Burns	1	0.2
Motor Vehicle	1	0.2
Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.2
Insufficient Info*	13	2.8

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records

**Table 11. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY RACE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
White	311	82.3	17.5	80	87.0	4.3	391	83.2	10.8
Black	53	14.0	7.3	6	6.5	0.7	59	12.6	3.8
NBNW*	14	3.7	8.4	6	6.5	3.4	20	4.3	5.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 12. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY AGE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
10-14	5	1.3	2.4	0	0.0	-	5	1.1	1.2
15-19	18	4.8	9.1	5	5.4	2.7	23	4.9	5.9
20-24	42	11.1	23.2	7	7.6	4.0	49	10.4	13.8
25-34	56	14.8	16.0	10	10.9	2.7	66	14.0	9.2
35-44	72	19.0	16.4	13	14.1	2.8	85	18.1	9.4
45-54	70	18.5	17.9	29	31.5	6.8	99	21.1	12.1
55-64	40	10.6	15.2	13	14.1	4.5	53	11.3	9.6
65-74	35	9.3	23.9	6	6.5	3.4	41	8.7	12.6
75-84	31	8.2	29.9	6	6.5	4.4	37	7.9	16.6
85 and older	9	2.4	38.0	3	3.3	-	12	2.6	15.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 13. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY YEARS OF EDUCATION, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION, AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1,2</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade or less	92	20.2	29.5
Completed High School	184	40.4	16.7
Greater than 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	179	39.3	6.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

**Table 14. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY MARITAL STATUS, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	All Resident Victims		Resident Victims 18 Years and Older <sup>2</sup>		
	Number	%	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Married	162	34.5	162	35.6	6.7
Unmarried	302	64.2	287	63.1	17.0
Never Married *	<b>178</b>	<b>37.9</b>			
Divorced *	<b>75</b>	<b>16.0</b>			
Widowed *	<b>49</b>	<b>10.4</b>			
Unknown	6	1.3	6	1.3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

- Rates are not calculated for counts under 5.

\* The subcategories of 'unmarried' status were identifiable in MVDRS but not within the BRFSS. 'Unmarried' is the sum of the subcategories in this analysis. The BRFSS estimates of prevalence of the marital status trait levels were used to calculate rates.

**Table 15. MARYLAND 2003, ADDITIONAL SUICIDE CHARACTERISTICS.**

Victim Characteristics	Number	%
Veteran	109	23.2
Autopsy Performed	336	71.5
Injured at Work	6	1.3
Place of Death:		
Dead on Arrival	11	2.3
Decedent's Home	186	39.6
Emergency Department	51	10.9
Hospital Inpatient	21	4.5
Hospice	0	0
Nursing Home	22	4.7
Other	179	38.1

**Table 16. SUICIDE VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCES.\***

Victim Characteristics	Number	%
Current Depressed Mood	88	21.7
Current Mental Health Problem	174	42.9
Ever Treated for Mental Health Illness	170	41.9
Physical Health Problem	88	21.7
Alcohol Problem	76	18.7
<b>Life Stressor Characteristics</b>		
Job Problem	22	5.4
<b>Licit and Illicit Substances</b>		
Antidepressant use	59	14.5

\* In 2003, the circumstances were known in 406 (86.4%) instances. Only known circumstances are detailed in Table 16.



**Table 17. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Allegany	7	1.5	9.5
Anne Arundel	45	9.6	8.9
Baltimore County	62	13.2	8.0
Baltimore City	53	11.3	8.4
Calvert	10	2.1	11.9
Caroline	3	0.6	-
Carroll	18	3.8	11.0
Cecil	14	3.0	15.1
Charles	11	2.3	8.3
Dorchester	3	0.6	-
Frederick	27	5.7	12.6
Garrett	3	0.6	-
Harford	30	6.4	12.9
Howard	26	5.5	9.8
Kent	6	1.3	30.5
Montgomery	47	10.0	5.1
Prince George's	57	12.1	6.8
Queen Anne's	4	0.9	-
St. Mary's	6	1.3	6.5
Somerset	1	0.2	-
Talbot	2	0.4	-
Washington	19	4.0	13.9
Wicomico	11	2.3	12.6
Worcester	3	0.6	-
Unknown	2	0.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

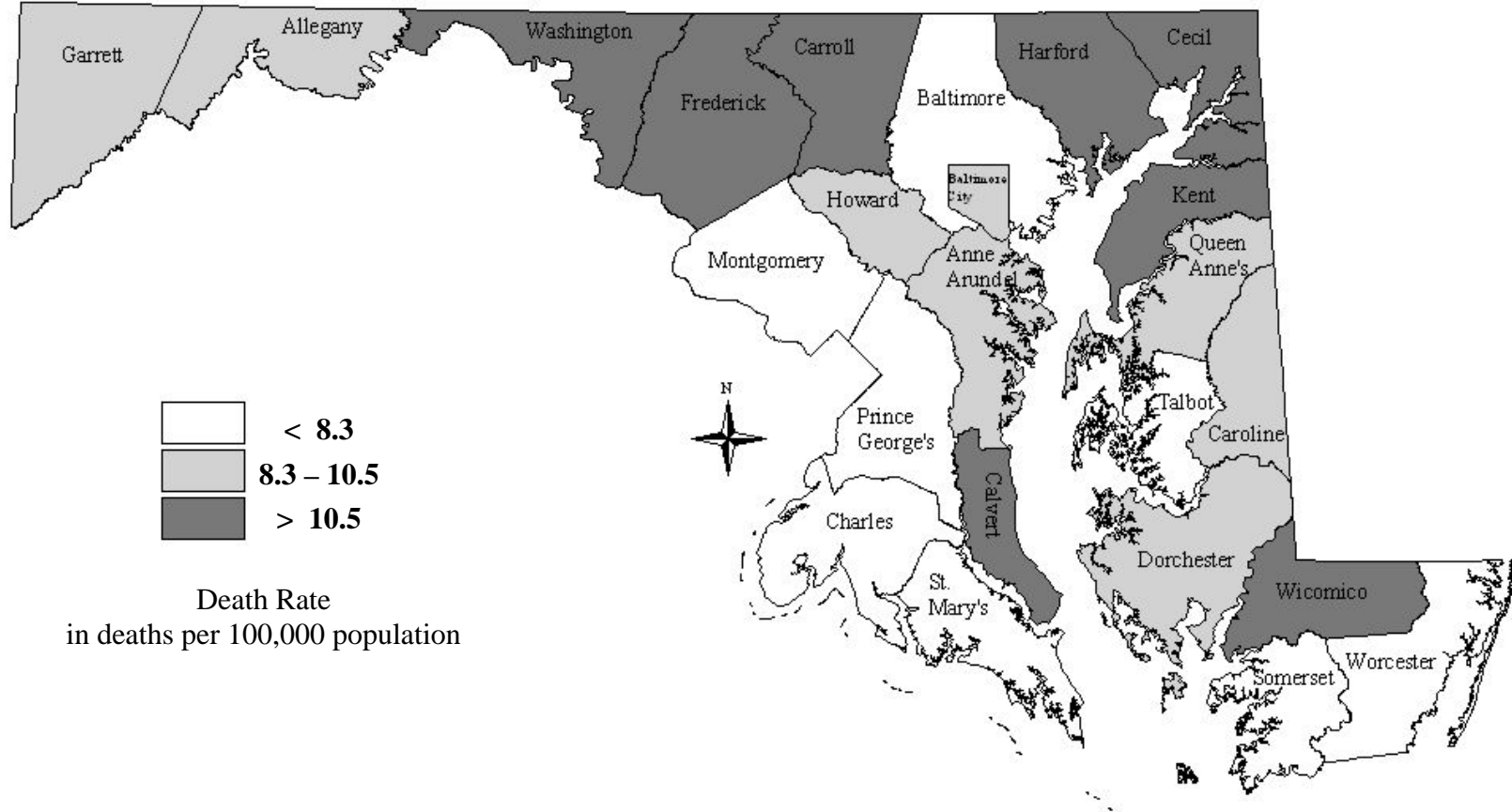


Figure 2. RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT SUICIDES BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.

This map portrays Suicide Death *Rates* throughout the geographic regions of Maryland. It is based on the figures set forth in Table 17. The rates calculated for regions with smaller populations naturally tend to be more variable than those recorded for more populous regions. Consequently, it is important to remember that they are more likely to be different from year to year, even without any real change in the region's underlying population risk for suicide death.

## HOMICIDE - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ In 2003, Maryland incurred 496 homicides. The Maryland homicide rate was 9 deaths per 100,000 persons.
- ❖ The average age of homicide victims was 30 years.
- ❖ Among males, the highest homicide rate was among those aged 20-24 (61.8 per 100,000).
- ❖ Males died from homicide at 5.6 times the rate of females.
- ❖ Concerning race and sex, the majority of homicides involved black males (84.3%; rate 48.3).
- ❖ Blacks died from homicide at 13.3 times the rate of Whites and 7 times the rate of non-black/non-white persons (26.5 per 100,000 persons compared to 2.0 for Whites and 3.8 for non-black/non-white persons).
- ❖ Baltimore City had the greatest number of homicides at 257 (51.8%) as well as the greatest rate compared to all other counties (40.9 per 100,000 persons).
- ❖ Of known locations for place of death, the most frequent place of death was the emergency department (128 or 25.8%).

**Table 18. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE, 2003.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	415	83.7	15.6
Female	81	16.3	2.8
<b>Race</b>			
White	73	14.7	2.0
Black	410	82.7	26.5
NBNW*	13	2.6	3.8
<b>Age Group</b>			
Under 1	6	1.2	8.2
Age1-4	5	1.0	1.7
Age5-9	2	0.4	-
Age10-14	6	1.2	1.5
Age15-19	77	15.5	19.9
Age20-24	124	25	34.9
Age25-34	127	25.6	17.6
Age35-44	81	16.3	8.9
Age45-54	38	7.7	4.7
Age55-64	13	2.6	2.4
Age65-74	8	1.6	2.5
Age75-84	6	1.2	2.7
85 and older	3	0.6	-

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 19. MECHANISMS OF FATAL INJURY AMONG MARYLAND HOMICIDE VICTIMS, 2003.**

<b>Method of Fatal Injury</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Firearm	346	69.8
Sharp Instrument	68	13.7
Blunt Instrument	28	5.6
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	18	3.6
Personal Weapons	5	1
Falls	2	0.4
Drowning	1	0.2
Fires or Burns	1	0.2
Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.2
Poisoning	1	0.2
Shaking	1	0.2
Insufficient Info*	24	4.8

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records

**Table 20. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY RACE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	<b>Male</b>			<b>Female</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
White	55	13.3	3.1	18	22.2	1.0	73	14.7	2.8
Black	350	84.3	48.3	60	74.1	7.3	410	82.7	26.5
NBNW*	10	2.4	6.0	3	3.7	-	13	2.6	3.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 21. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY AGE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<1	4	1.0	-	2	2.5	-	6	1.2	8.2
1-4	2	0.5	-	3	3.7	-	5	1.0	1.7
5-9	1	0.2	-	1	1.2	-	2	0.4	-
10-14	5	1.2	2.4	1	1.2	-	6	1.2	1.5
15-19	70	16.9	35.3	7	8.6	3.7	77	15.5	19.9
20-24	112	27.0	61.9	12	14.8	6.9	124	25.0	34.9
25-34	106	25.5	30.2	21	25.9	5.7	127	25.6	17.6
35-44	62	14.9	14.1	19	23.5	4.0	81	16.3	8.9
45-54	29	7.0	7.4	9	11.1	2.1	38	7.7	4.7
55-64	13	3.1	4.9	0	0.0	-	13	2.6	2.4
65-74	6	1.4	4.1	2	2.5	-	8	1.6	2.5
75-84	3	0.7	-	3	3.7	-	6	1.2	2.7
85 and Older	2	0.5	-	1	1.2	-	3	0.6	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 22. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY YEARS OF EDUCATION, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION, AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1,2</sup>
Less than 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	148	33.6	47.4
Completed High School	212	48.1	19.2
Greater than 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	80	18.1	3.0
Unknown	1	0.23	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

**Table 23. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY MARITAL STATUS, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	All Residents		Residents 18 Years and Older <sup>2</sup>		
	Number	%	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Married	76	15.3	75	17.0	3.1
Unmarried	418	84.3	364	82.5	21.6
Never Married *	<b>376</b>	<b>75.8</b>			
Divorced *	<b>30</b>	<b>6.0</b>			
Widowed *	<b>12</b>	<b>2.4</b>			
Unknown	2	0.4	2	0.5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

\* The subcategories of 'unmarried' status were identifiable in MVDRS but not within the BRFSS. 'Unmarried' is the sum of the subcategories in this analysis. The BRFSS estimates of prevalence of the marital status trait levels were used to calculate rates.

**Table 24. MARYLAND 2003, ADDITIONAL HOMICIDE VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS**

Victim Characteristics	Number	%
Veteran	32	6.5
Autopsy Performed	492	99.2
Injured at Work	11	2.2
Place of Death:		
Dead on Arrival	46	9.3
Decedent's Home	70	14.1
Emergency Department	128	25.8
Hospital Inpatient	68	13.7
Hospice	2	0.4
Nursing Home	3	0.6
Other	178	35.9
Undetermined	1	0.2

**Table 25. HOMICIDE VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCES, 2003\***

Victim Circumstances	Number	%
Drug Involvement	31	17.5
Precipitated by Another Crime	46	26.0
Argument over Money/Property	6	3.4
Jealousy/Lover's Triangle	4	2.3
Intimate Partner Violence	1	0.6
Other Argument, Abuse, Conflict	53	29.9
Gang Related	1	0.6
Mutual Physical Fight (Brawl)	5	2.8
Victim was a Bystander	3	1.7
Victim was intervener Assisting Crime Victim	6	3.4
Justifiable Self-Defense/Law Enforcement	14	7.9

\* In 2003, the circumstances were known in 177 (35.7%) instances. Only known circumstances are detailed in Table 25.

**Table 26. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Allegany	2	0.4	-
Anne Arundel	17	3.4	3.4
Baltimore County	36	7.3	4.6
Baltimore City	257	51.8	40.9
Calvert	3	0.6	-
Caroline	1	0.2	-
Carroll	2	0.4	-
Cecil	2	0.4	-
Charles	6	1.2	4.5
Dorchester	2	0.4	-
Frederick	4	0.8	-
Garrett	0	0.0	-
Harford	5	1.0	2.2
Howard	9	1.8	3.4
Kent	0	0.0	-
Montgomery	18	3.6	2.0
Prince George's	123	24.8	14.7
Queen Anne's	0	0.0	-
St. Mary's	2	0.4	-
Somerset	2	0.4	-
Talbot	1	0.2	-
Washington	1	0.2	-
Wicomico	2	0.4	-
Worcester	0	0.0	-
Unknown	1	0.2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

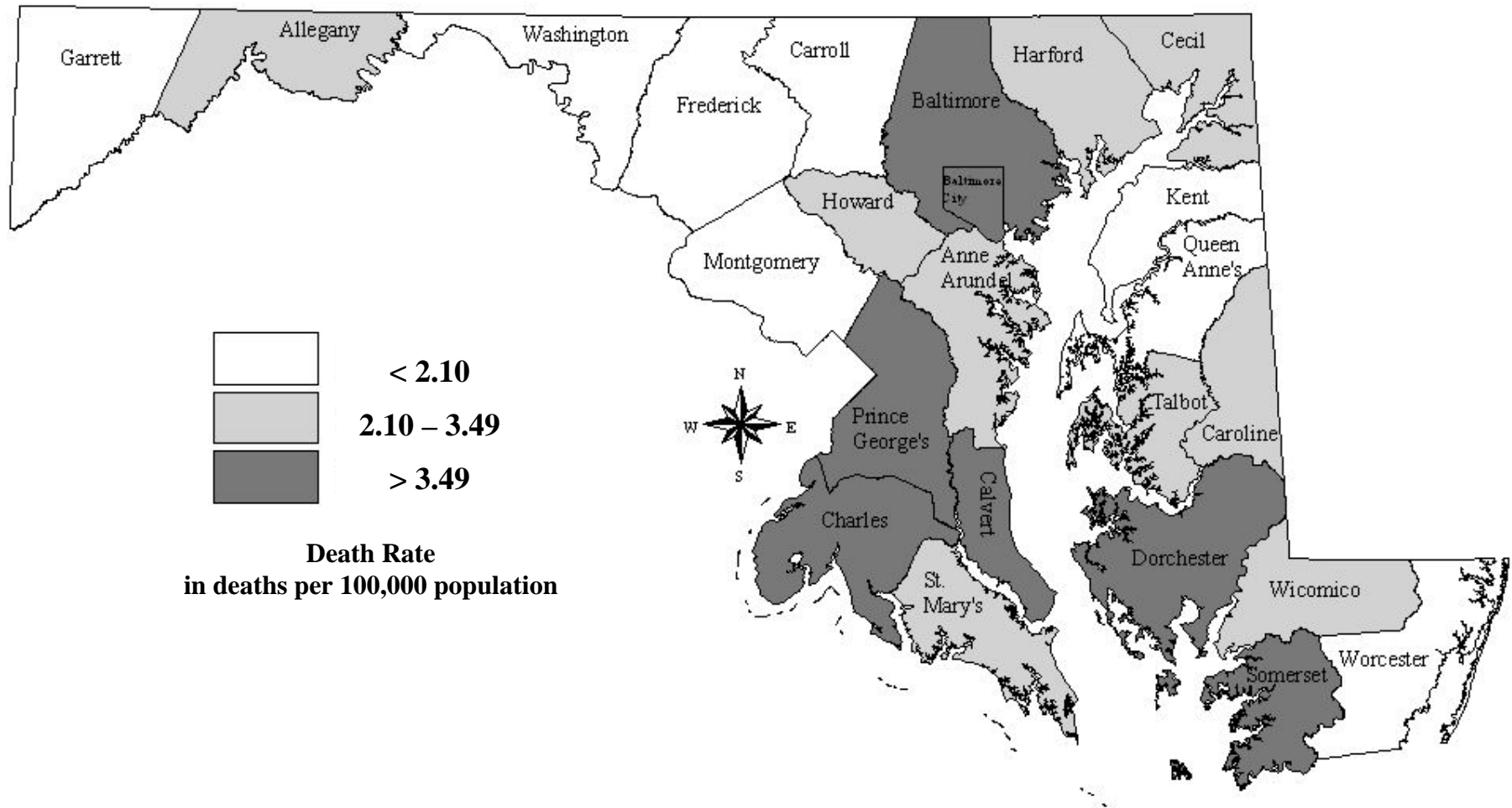


Figure 3. RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT HOMICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.

This map portrays Homicide Death Rates throughout the geographic regions of Maryland. It is based on the figures set forth in Table 26. The rates calculated for regions with smaller populations naturally tend to be more variable than those recorded for more populous regions. Consequently, it is important to remember that they are more likely to be different from year to year, even without any real change in the region's underlying population risk for homicide death.



## RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ In 2003, there were a total of 749 deaths of undetermined manner in the state of Maryland.
- ❖ The average age of these victims was 43 years.
- ❖ Among the deaths of undetermined manner, a substantial proportion was aged 35-44 (276 or 37%).
- ❖ The rate of death was also highest among 35-44 year old adults at 30.4 per 100,000.
- ❖ The ratio of male to female deaths was roughly 2.6 to 1.
- ❖ The majority of deaths occurred among persons of White race (468 or 63%).
- ❖ Blacks were victims at 1.4 times the rate of Whites (17.8 per 100,000 compared to 12.9 per 100,000, respectively).
- ❖ Baltimore City's undetermined manner death rate (40.9 per 100,000) was 3 times the State rate (13.6 per 100,000).
- ❖ Compared with other marital status levels, persons whose deaths were of undetermined manner were most frequently individuals who had never been married (371 or 49.5%).
- ❖ Most victims had obtained at least 12 years of education (72% of those for whom education levels were known).

**Table 27. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER, 2003.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	543	72.5	20.4
Female	206	27.5	7.3
<b>Race</b>			
White	468	62.5	12.9
Black	276	36.8	17.8
NBNW*	5	0.7	1.4
<b>Age Group</b>			
Under 1	7	0.9	9.5
Age1-4	2	0.3	-
Age5-9	1	0.1	-
Age10-14	0	0.0	-
Age15-19	18	2.4	4.7
Age20-24	53	7.1	14.9
Age25-34	120	16.0	16.7
Age35-44	276	36.8	30.4
Age45-54	217	29.0	26.6
Age55-64	38	5.1	6.9
Age65-74	12	1.6	3.7
Age75-84	1	0.1	-
85 and older	2	0.3	-
Unknown	2	0.3	
Totals	749.0	100	13.6

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 28. MECHANISMS OF FATAL INJURY AMONG MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER, 2003.**

Method of Fatal Injury	Number	%
Poisoning	682	91.1
Other Transport Vehicle	28	3.7
Falls	4	0.5
Firearm	3	0.4
Motor Vehicle	3	0.4
Blunt Instrument	2	0.3
Drowning	2	0.3
Fires or Burns	2	0.3
Sharp Instrument	2	0.3
Neglect	1	0.1
Insufficient Info*	8	1.1
Unknown	12	1.6

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records

**Table 29. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY RACE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
White	336	61.9	18.9	132	64.1	7.2	468	62.5	12.9
Black	202	37.2	27.9	74	35.9	9.0	276	36.8	17.8
NBNW*	5	0.9	3.0	0	0.0	-	5	0.7	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

- Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 30. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY AGE AND GENDER, 2003.**

	Male			Female			Total		
	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>	No.	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<1	4	0.7	-	3	1.5	-	7	0.9	9.5
1-4	1	0.2	-	1	0.5	-	2	0.3	-
5-9	0	0.0	-	1	0.5	-	1	0.1	-
10-14	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	-
15-19	14	2.6	7.1	4	1.9	-	18	2.4	4.7
20-24	42	7.7	23.2	11	5.3	6.3	53	7.1	14.9
25-34	90	16.6	25.6	30	14.6	8.1	120	16.0	16.7
35-44	196	36.1	44.6	80	38.8	17.0	276	36.8	30.4
45-54	152	28.0	38.9	65	31.6	15.3	217	29.0	26.6
55-64	32	5.9	12.1	6	2.9	2.1	38	5.1	6.9
65-74	8	1.5	5.5	4	1.9	-	12	1.6	3.7
75-84	1	0.2	-	0	0.0	-	1	0.1	-
85 and Older	1	0.2	-	1	0.5	-	2	0.3	-
Unknown	2	0.4		0	0.0		2	0.3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>206.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

**Table 31. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY YEARS OF EDUCATION, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION, AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	Number	%	Rate <sup>1,2</sup>
Less than 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	207	28.1	66.358
Completed High School	351	47.6	31.817
Greater than 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	170	23.1	6.2879
Unknown	8	1.1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.  
<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marylandbrfss.org](http://www.marylandbrfss.org)).

**Table 32. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY MARITAL STATUS, 2003. DATA IS FOR RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 18 OR OLDER.**

	All Resident Victims		Resident Victims 18 Years and Older <sup>2</sup>		
	Number	%	Number	%	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Married	194	25.9	193	26	8.0
Unmarried	536	71.6	524	71	31.0
Never Married *	<b>371</b>	<b>49.5</b>			
Divorced *	<b>144</b>	<b>19.2</b>			
Widowed *	<b>21</b>	<b>2.8</b>			
Unknown	19	2.5	19	2.6	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population.

<sup>2</sup> Rates were calculated using BRFSS data for Maryland Residents 18 years and older ([www.marvlandbrfss.org](http://www.marvlandbrfss.org)).

\* The subcategories of 'unmarried' status were identifiable in MVDRS but not within the BRFSS. 'Unmarried' is the sum of the subcategories in this analysis. The BRFSS estimates of prevalence of the marital status trait levels were used to calculate rates.

**Table 33. MARYLAND 2003, ADDITIONAL MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATH OF UNDETERMINED MANNER VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS.**

Victim Characteristics	Number	%
Veteran	86	11.5
Autopsy Performed	730	97.5
Injured at Work	3	0.4
Place of Death:		
Dead on Arrival	58	7.7
Decedent's Home	197	26.3
Emergency Department	182	24.3
Hospital Inpatient	54	7.2
Hospice	0	0.0
Nursing Home	1	0.1
Other	257	34.3

**Table 34. MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATH OF UNDETERMINED MANNER VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCES, 2003.\***

Victim Circumstances	Number	%
Current Depressed Mood	9	1.4
Current Mental Health Problem	201	30.2
Ever Treated for Mental Health Illness	200	30.0
Physical Health Problem	15	2.3
Alcohol Problem	179	26.9
<b>Life Stressor Circumstances</b>		
Job Problem	1	0.2
<b>Licit and Illicit Substances</b>		
Antidepressant Use	168	25.2

\* In 2003, the circumstances were known in 666 (88.9%) instances. Only known circumstances are detailed in Table 34.

**Table 35. NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>
Allegany	17	2.3	23.1
Anne Arundel	47	6.3	9.3
Baltimore County	131	17.5	16.9
Calvert	5	0.7	5.9
Caroline	5	0.7	16.2
Carroll	25	3.3	15.3
Cecil	13	1.7	14.0
Charles	10	1.3	7.5
Dorchester	5	0.7	16.3
Frederick	11	1.5	5.1
Garrett	2	0.3	-
Harford	40	5.3	17.2
Howard	17	2.3	6.4
Kent	1	0.1	-
Montgomery	35	4.7	3.8
Prince George's	47	6.3	5.6
Queen Anne's	6	0.8	13.6
St. Mary's	4	0.5	-
Somerset	2	0.3	-
Talbot	3	0.4	-
Washington	7	0.9	5.1
Wicomico	9	1.2	10.3
Worcester	7	0.9	14.1
Baltimore City	299	39.9	47.6
Unknown	1	0.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population  
 - Rates were not calculated for counts under 5.

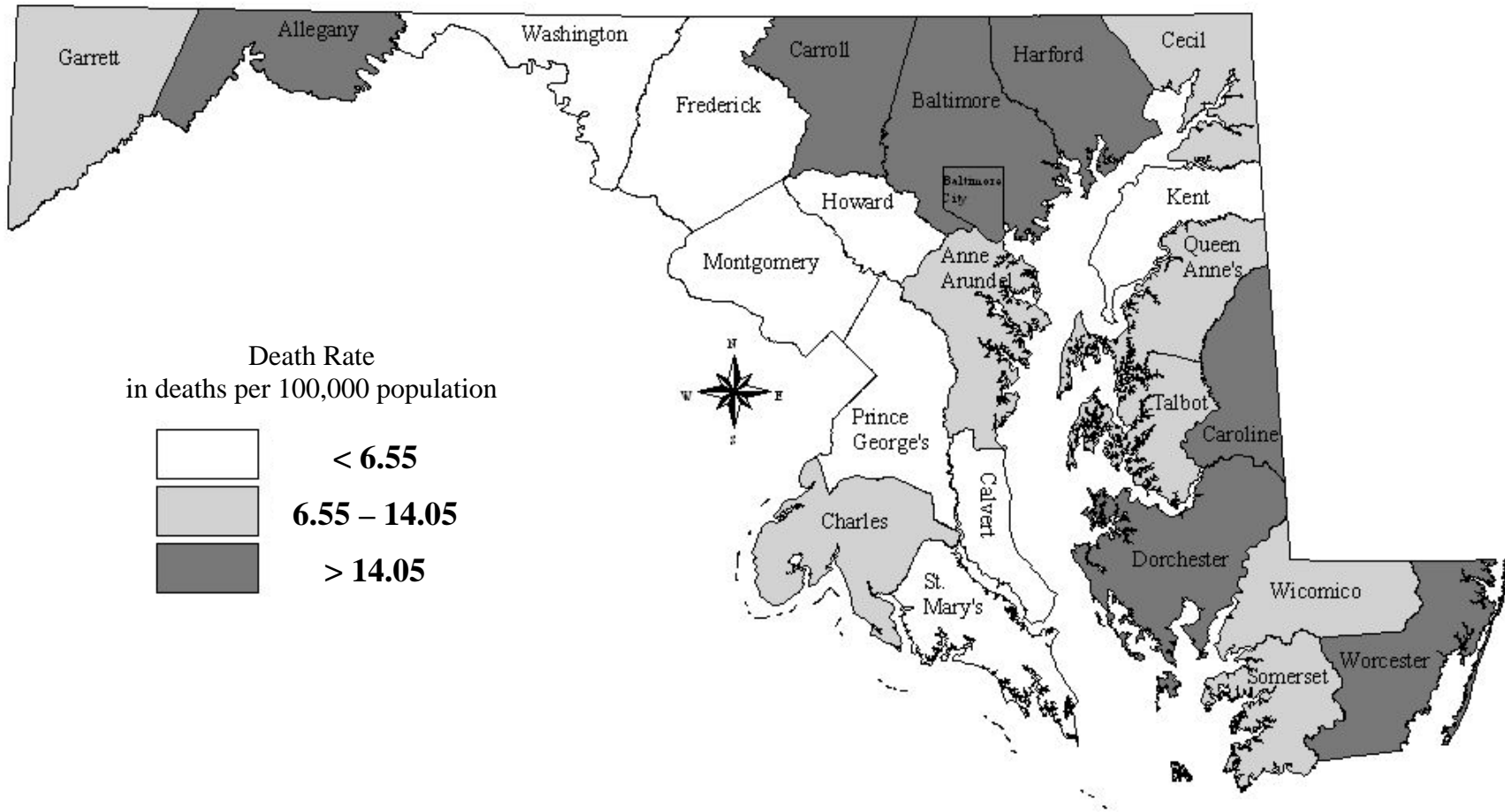


Figure 4. RATES OF MARYLAND RESIDENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2003.

This map portrays Death Rates (Undetermined manner) throughout the geographic regions of Maryland. It is based on the figures set forth in Table 35. The rates calculated for regions with smaller populations naturally tend to be more variable than those recorded for more populous regions. Consequently, it is important to remember that they are more likely to be different from year to year, even without any real change in the region's underlying population risk for undetermined manner of death.

## STATE-OCCURRENT VIOLENT DEATH - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ The 2003 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) database includes a total of 1834 victims and victim/suspects for whom death certificates were available. 99% (1817) were victims alone and 1% (17) were both victims and suspects in violent death incidents where at least one other person died. All victim/suspects were male.
- ❖ 30% (551) of Maryland-occurrent violent deaths were homicides, 27% (497) were suicides and 43% (786) were deaths of undetermined manner (see Figure 5).
- ❖ Of these violent death victims, 78.3% (1436) were male and 21.7% (398) were female.
- ❖ 53.7% (984) were White, 43.8% (804) Black, and 2.5% (46) were NBNW (all other race distinctions, combined).
- ❖ Over half of these victims (997 or 54.4%) had never been married. Married persons accounted for 25% (458) and divorced individuals accounted for 14.3% (262).
- ❖ 1.2% (22) of victims were injured while at work. The overwhelming majority of victims (1769 or 96.5%) were not injured at work.
- ❖ Among the cases where autopsy status was known from the records, the majority of victims (1666 or 91%) had a full or partial autopsy performed. Only 9% (164) were not autopsied.

**Table 36. NUMBERS, PERCENTS OF MARYLAND-OCCURRENT VIOLENT DEATHS, 2003.**

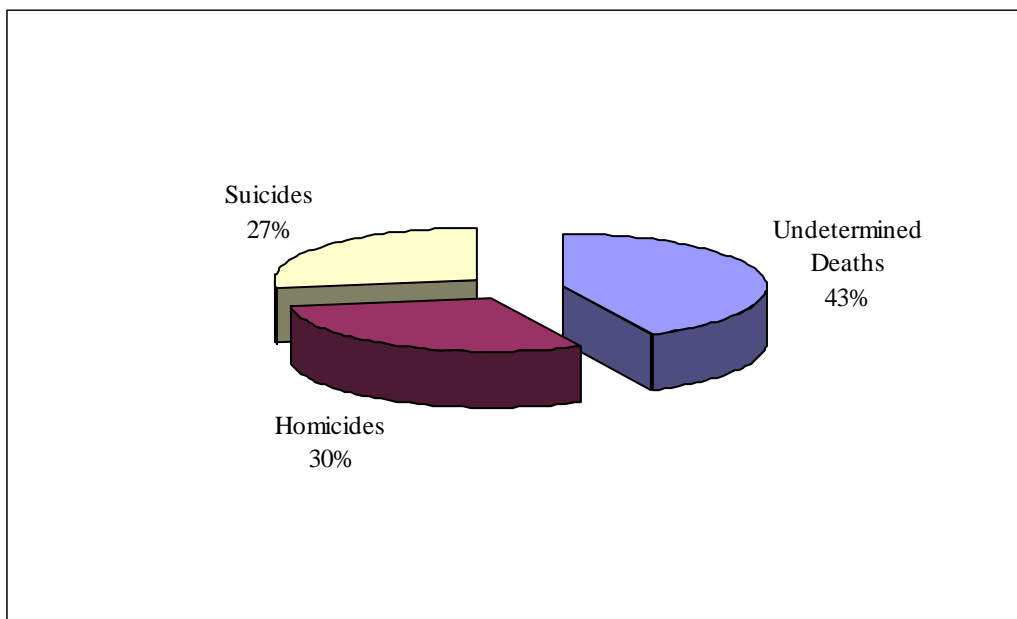
<b>VIOLENT DEATHS</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>1834</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>State of Residence</i>		
Maryland	1715	96.7
All Other States	110	2.8
Unknown	9	0.5
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	1436	78.3
Female	398	21.7
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	458	25
Never Married	997	54.4
Widowed	83	4.5
Divorced	262	14.3
Unknown	34	1.9
<i>Race</i>		
White	984	53.7
Black	804	43.8
NBNW*	46	2.5

\*NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 37. VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL VIOLENT DEATHS (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<i><b>Veteran Status</b></i>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	237	12.9
No	1565	85.3
Unknown	32	1.7
<i><b>Injured at Work</b></i>		
Yes	22	1.2
No	1769	96.5
Unknown	40	2.2
Not Applicable	3	0.2
<i><b>Autopsy Performed</b></i>		
Autopsied	1666	90.8
Not Autopsied	164	8.9
Unknown	4	0.2
<i><b>Place of Death</b></i>		
Dead on Arrival	130	7.1
Decedent's Home	469	25.6
Emergency Department	390	21.3
Hospital Inpatient	156	8.5
Hospice	2	0.1
Nursing Home	28	1.5
Other	658	35.9
Undetermined	1	0.1

**Figure 5. ALL VIOLENT DEATHS BY MANNER (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**





## STATE-OCCURRENT SUICIDE - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ There were 497 suicide victims in the MVDRS database. Persons classified as victims alone accounted for 97.2% (483) and those that were both a victim and a suspect in a multiple death incident accounted for 2.8% (14) of all Suicides.
- ❖ Males accounted for 80.3% (399) of suicides while females accounted for 19.7% (98) of suicides.
- ❖ 82.3% (409) were White, 13.1% (65) were Black, and 4.6% (23) were NBNW (all other race distinctions, combined).
- ❖ Of the 491 victims for whom marital status was known, 39.7% (195) of suicide victims were never married, while 34.6% (170) were married.
- ❖ For cases where known (488), the overwhelming majority of suicide injuries (481 or 98.5%) did not occur at work. Only 1.4% (7) of injuries occurred at work.
- ❖ For cases where autopsy status was known (496), 71.1% (354) had an autopsy. 29.0% (142) were not autopsied.
- ❖ Circumstance information was abstracted for 85.5% (425) of suicide deaths.

**Table 38. CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL SUICIDES (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>SUICIDE</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>497</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>State of Residence</b>		
Maryland	470	94.6
All Other States	25	5.0
Not Applicable	1	0.2
Unknown	1	0.2
<b>Person Type</b>		
Victim	483	97.2
Victim and Suspect	14	2.8
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	399	80.3
Female	98	19.7
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	170	34.2
Never Married	195	39.2
Widowed	49	9.9
Divorced	77	15.5
Unknown	6	1.2
<b>Race</b>		
White	409	82.3
Black	65	13.1
NBNW	23	4.6

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 39. VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL SUICIDES (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>SUICIDE</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>497</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Yes	113	22.7
No	379	76.3
Unknown	5	1
<b>Injured at Work</b>		
Yes	7	1.4
No	481	96.8
Unknown	9	1.8
<b>Autopsy Performed</b>		
Autopsied	354	71.2
Not Autopsied	142	28.6
Unknown	1	0.2
<b>Place of Death</b>		
Dead on Arrival	12	2.4
Decedent's Home	190	38.2
Emergency Department	52	10.5
Hospital Inpatient	25	5
Hospice	0	0
Nursing Home	24	4.8
Other	194	39

**Table 40. VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALL SUICIDES (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>Circumstance Information</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	425	85.5
No	59	11.9
Insufficient Info*	13	2.6
<b>Depressed Mood**</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>Mental Health Problem**</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>42.8</b>
<b>Ever Treated for Mental Illness**</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>41.9</b>
<b>Alcohol Problem**</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>Physical Health Problem**</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>Job Problem**</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5.7</b>

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records

\*\* The divisor for all these percentages is 425, the number of cases for which circumstance information was obtained.

## STATE-OCCURRENT HOMICIDE - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ The total number of homicides in the 2003 MVDRS database was 551. 99.5 % (548) were victims alone and 0.5% (3) were both a victim and suspect in a multiple death incident.
- ❖ 84.6% (466) were male and 15.4% (85) were female.
- ❖ 15.4% (85) were White, 82% (452) were Black, and 2.6% (14) were NBNW (all other race distinctions, combined).
- ❖ Where the victims' marital status was known (548), the majority of homicide victims, 75.9% (416) had never been married. 15.9% (87) of homicide victims were married.
- ❖ Only 2% (11) were injured while at work. The overwhelming majority (528 or 98.0%) were not injured at work (of those where this information was both known and applicable).
- ❖ In 99.1% (546) of incidents a full or partial autopsy was performed. No indication of autopsy was found in 0.7% (4) of the incidents.

**Table 41. CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL HOMICIDES (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

HOMICIDE	Number	%
<i>Total</i>	<b>551</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>State of Residence</b>		
Maryland	496	90.0
All Other States	55	10.0
Unknown	0	0.0
<b>Person Type</b>		
Victim	548	99.5
Victim and Suspect	3	0.5
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	466	84.6
Female	85	15.4
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	87	15.8
Never Married	416	75.5
Widowed	12	2.2
Divorced	33	6
Unknown	3	0.5
<b>Race</b>		
White	85	15.4
Black	452	82
NBNW*	14	2.6

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 42. VICTIM CHARACTERICS OF ALL HOMICIDES (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>Veteran Status</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	34	6.2
No	514	93.3
Unknown	3	0.5
<b>Injured at Work</b>		
Yes	11	2
No	528	95.8
Unknown	10	1.8
Not Applicable	2	0.4
<b>Autopsy Performed</b>		
Autopsied	546	99.1
Not Autopsied	4	0.7
Unknown	1	0.2
<b>Place of Death</b>		
Dead on Arrival	55	10
Decedent's Home	76	13.8
Emergency Department	148	26.9
Hospital Inpatient	72	13.1
Hospice	2	0.4
Nursing Home	3	0.5
Other	194	35.2
Undetermined	1	0.2
<b>Circumstances</b>		
Yes	195	35.4
No	353	64.1
Insufficient Info*	3	0.5
<b>Drug Involvement**</b>	36	18.5

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records  
 \*\* The divisor for this percentage is 195, the number of cases for which circumstance information was obtained.

## STATE-OCCURRENT DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER - HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- ❖ There were 786 deaths where the manner of death remained undetermined.
- ❖ Of these victims, 72.6% (571) were male and 27.4% (215) were female.
- ❖ 62.3% (490) were White, 36.5% (287) were Black, and 1.2% (9) were NBNW (all other race distinctions, combined).
- ❖ About half of the victims whose marital status was known (386 or 50.7%) had never been married. Married persons accounted for 26.4% (201) of the deaths of undetermined manner for which the marital status was known.
- ❖ Where this information was known, the overwhelming majority of the victim population (760 or 99.5%) was not injured while at work.
- ❖ Of those cases where autopsy status was known, full or partial autopsy was performed on the majority of victims (766 or 97.7%). Only 2.3% (18) were not autopsied.
- ❖ Circumstance information was obtained for 88.4% of deaths of undetermined manner.

**Table 43. CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL MARYLAND DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>UNDETERMINED DEATHS</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>State of Residence</b>		
Maryland	749	95.3
All Other States	28	3.6
Not Applicable	1	0.1
Unknown	8	1.0
<b>Person Type</b>		
Victim	786	100
Victim and Suspect	0	0
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	571	72.64
Female	215	27.35
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	201	25.6
Never Married	386	49.1
Widowed	22	2.8
Divorced	152	19.3
Unknown	25	3.2
<b>Race</b>		
White	490	62.3
Black	287	36.5
NBNW*	9	1.2

\* NBNW (non-black/non-white) = all victims not identified as black or white race.

**Table 44. VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL MARYLAND DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>Undetermined Death</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Yes	90	11.5
No	672	85.5
Unknown	24	3.1
<b>Injured at Work</b>		
Yes	4	0.5
No	760	96.7
Unknown	21	2.7
Not Applicable	1	0.1
<b>Autopsy Performed</b>		
Autopsied	766	97.5
Not Autopsied	18	2.3
Unknown	2	0.3
<b>Place of Death</b>		
Dead on Arrival	63	8
Decedent's Home	203	25.8
Emergency Department	190	24.2
Hospital Inpatient	59	7.5
Hospice	0	0
Nursing Home	1	0.1
Other	270	34.4

**Table 45. VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL MARYLAND DEATHS OF UNDETERMINED MANNER (INCLUDING MARYLAND AND NON-MARYLAND RESIDENTS), 2003.**

<b>Circumstance Information</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	695	88.4
No	88	11.2
Insufficient Info*	3	0.4
<b>Depressed Mood**</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Mental Health Problem**</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>Ever Treated for Mental Illness**</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>29.5</b>
<b>Alcohol Problem**</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>Physical Health Problem**</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Job Problem**</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

\* The label 'Insufficient Info' indicates that this information was not found in any of the available source records.

\*\* The divisor for all these percentages is 695, the number of cases for which circumstance information was obtained.

## APPENDIX

### 2003 Maryland Population used to standardize within-state risk comparisons

Age Group	Total by Age	Age by Gender		Age by Race			Age by Race by Gender					
		Male	Female	Black	White	Other	Black		White		Other	
							Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
00-04	364,507	185,481	179,026	117,950	216,657	29,900	59,721	58,229	110,677	105,980	15,083	14,817
05-09	369,378	188,820	180,558	117,740	223,426	28,212	59,925	57,815	114,694	108,732	14,201	14,011
10-14	409,468	209,703	199,765	134,605	248,347	26,516	68,516	66,089	127,538	120,809	13,649	12,867
15-19	386,908	198,571	188,337	122,086	239,700	25,122	61,759	60,327	123,963	115,737	12,849	12,273
20-24	355,306	181,013	174,293	112,660	217,619	25,027	55,416	57,244	113,156	104,463	12,441	12,586
25-29	328,847	161,213	167,634	100,403	201,109	27,335	46,893	53,510	101,165	99,944	13,155	14,180
30-34	391,805	189,767	202,038	118,615	242,633	30,557	54,460	64,155	120,640	121,993	14,667	15,890
35-39	439,426	212,551	226,875	130,209	280,457	28,760	59,321	70,888	139,586	140,871	13,644	15,116
40-44	469,356	227,014	242,342	132,933	309,061	27,362	60,517	72,416	153,681	155,380	12,816	14,546
45-49	435,693	209,127	226,566	116,312	294,658	24,723	52,140	64,172	145,468	149,190	11,519	13,204
50-54	380,832	181,240	199,592	99,440	260,945	20,447	43,766	55,674	128,318	132,627	9,156	11,291
55-59	318,147	152,315	165,832	74,080	228,019	16,048	33,032	41,048	111,747	116,272	7,536	8,512
60-64	234,256	111,425	122,831	52,861	169,267	12,128	23,229	29,632	82,396	86,871	5,800	6,328
65-69	174,920	80,457	94,463	39,378	126,764	8,778	16,821	22,557	59,329	67,435	4,307	4,471
70-74	149,617	66,142	83,475	30,192	113,287	6,138	12,436	17,756	50,968	62,319	2,738	3,400
75-79	128,081	51,767	76,314	21,855	102,070	4,156	8,186	13,669	41,814	60,256	1,767	2,389
80-84	94,867	35,371	59,496	14,453	77,846	2,568	4,879	9,574	29,467	48,379	1,025	1,543
85+	77,495	23,666	53,829	11,609	63,996	1,890	3,178	8,431	19,865	44,131	623	1,267
Totals	5,508,909	2,665,643	2,843,266	1,547,381	3,615,861	345,667	724,195	823,186	1,774,472	1,841,389	166,976	178,691

## 2003 Maryland Geographic Region Populations

2003 Maryland Geographic Region Populations			
Geographic Region	Population	Geographic Region	Population
Allegany	73,668	Harford	232,175
Anne Arundel	506,620	Howard	264,265
Baltimore County	777,184	Kent	19,680
Baltimore City	628,670	Montgomery	918,881
Calvert	84,110	Prince George's	838,716
Caroline	30,861	Queen Anne's	44,108
Carrol	163,207	Somerset	25,447
Cecil	92,746	St. Mary's	92,754
Charles	133,049	Talbot	34,670
Dorchester	30,612	Washington	136,796
Frederick	213,662	Wicomico	87,375
Garrett	30,049	Worcester	49,604
		Total	<b>5,508,909</b>

## ICD-10 External Causes of Death Codes for Manners of Death Meeting the NVDRS Case Definition

Manner of Death	Death <1 year after injury	Death >1 year after injury
Suicide	X60-X84	Y87.0
Homicide	X85-X99, Y00-Y-09	Y87.1
Undetermined Intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9



**Discrimination Policy:**

**The services and facilities of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. This policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin, and applies to the provisions of employment and granting of advantages, privileges, and accommodations. The Department, in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits, and employment opportunities.**

