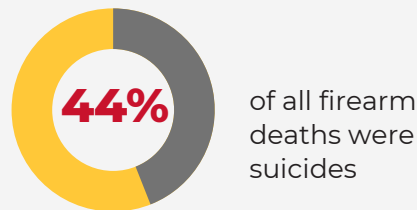
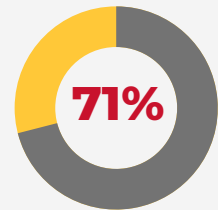


Focus On: Firearm Suicides 2024

Did You Know?

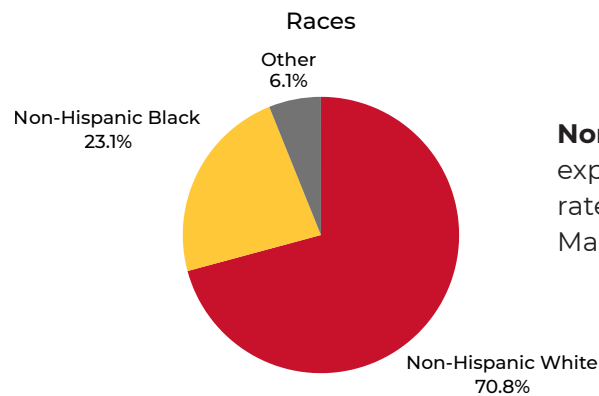
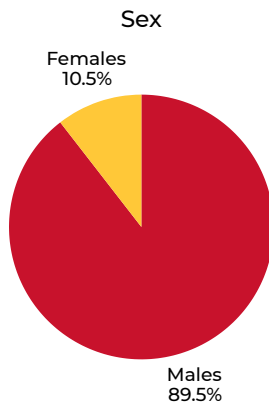


On average, about
71% of firearm
suicides **involved a
handgun**



*Data from 2019-2023

Who Is Most Affected?



Non-Hispanic White Males 65 +
experience firearm suicide at a
rate **four times higher** than
Maryland's overall rate.

Preceding Circumstances (2023)*

47%
had a **known
mental health
diagnosis**

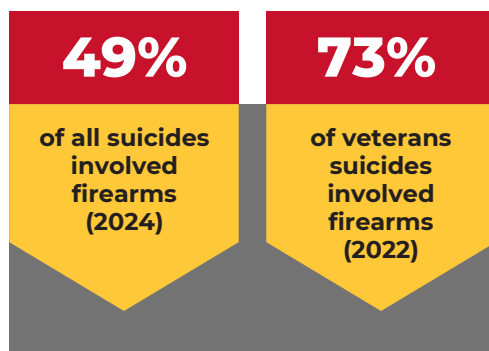


1 in 5 
had a history of **mental health
and/or substance use treatment**

9% 
had previously
attempted suicide

*Circumstance data is limited to information documented in the law enforcement and/or medical examiner files. Information on mental health and substance use disorder history comes solely from these sources and not medical records or other treatment records. This could indicate that these percentages are potentially an undercount of preceding circumstances.

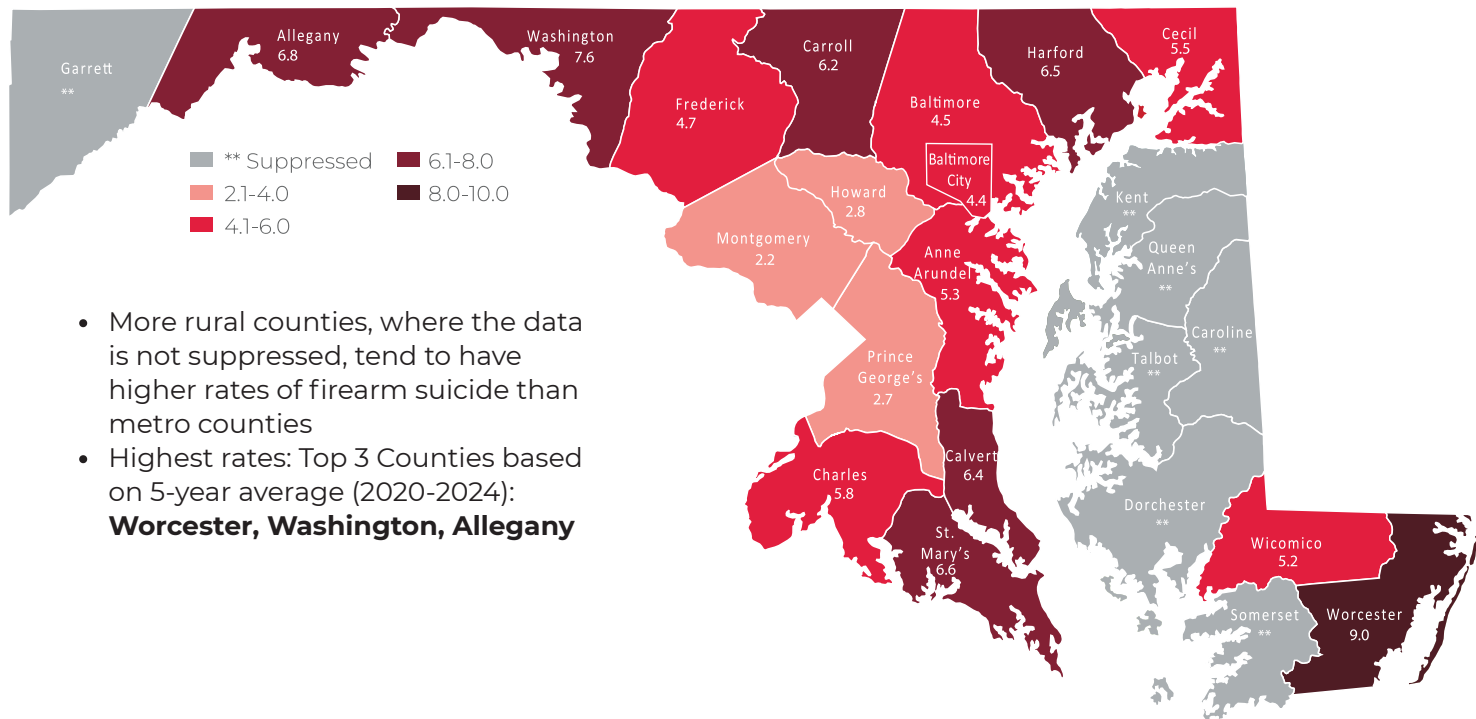
Lethal Means Matter



Firearms are the **most commonly used method**
in suicides, particularly among **veterans**.

Based on most recent analysis (2022) from
Maryland Veteran Suicide Data Sheet

Communities Across Maryland (based on 5-year average)



- More rural counties, where the data is not suppressed, tend to have higher rates of firearm suicide than metro counties
- Highest rates: Top 3 Counties based on 5-year average (2020-2024): **Worcester, Washington, Allegany**

Prevention Works

	Safe and Secure Storage can help those in crisis from accessing guns in the home
	Child Access Prevention Laws have shown to be effective at reducing overall youth suicide ^[1]
	Extreme Risk Protection Orders are promising tools to prevent those at elevated risk of harm from gaining access to a firearm ^[2]
	Lethal Means Safety Counseling is an effective strategy to train clinicians to have important conversations with patients about safe storage to reduce firearm suicide risk ^[3]

Available Resources

Learn more about safely storing firearms and how it can reduce youth suicide:

Firearm Safe Storage/Youth Suicide Prevention Toolkit



988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

CALL OR TEXT 988
is free, confidential, and available 24/7

Notes:

Data is sourced from the Maryland Department of Health's Firearm Violence Data Dashboard unless otherwise noted
2024 data is provisional and subject to change

^[1] Webster DW, Vernick JS, Zeoli AM, Manganello JA. Association Between Youth-Focused Firearm Laws and Youth Suicides. JAMA. 2004;292(5):594-601. doi:10.1001/jama.292.5.594
^[2] Swanson J et al., Implementation and Effectiveness of Connecticut's Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does it Prevent Suicides?, 80 Law and Contemporary Problems 179-208 (2017) Available at: <http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/lcp/vol80/iss2/8>
^[3] Albright TL, Burge SK. Improving firearm storage habits: impact of brief office counseling by family physicians. J Am Board Fam Pract. 2003 Jan-Feb;16(1):40-6. doi: 10.3122/jabfm.16.1.40. PMID: 12583649.