

# Circumstances of Suicide Deaths in Maryland

## 2003-2017 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System

Revised as of April 20, 2020\*

\*Five deaths for non-residents fatally injured outside of Maryland are excluded. In addition, circumstance percentages have changed due to corrections to the denominator used for calculation.

Please note: The Maryland Vital Statistics Administration provides official death counts and rates for the State of Maryland. They can be viewed online at <https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/reports.aspx>. The Maryland Violent Death Reporting System is designed to supplement vital statistics data by providing information about the circumstances of violent death. Please refer to the Vital Statistics Administration for case counts and rates.

### Cases included in this report:

- Single-suicides of Maryland residents injured in Maryland
- Multiple-suicides of Maryland residents injured in Maryland
- Homicide followed by a single-suicide of Maryland residents injured in Maryland
- Single-suicides of out-of-state residents injured in Maryland

### Cases excluded from this report:

- Suicide deaths of out-of-state residents that were injured out-of-state and died in Maryland

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Circumstance data is limited to information documented in the law enforcement and/or medical examiner files. Information on mental health and substance abuse history comes solely from these sources and not medical records or other treatment records.

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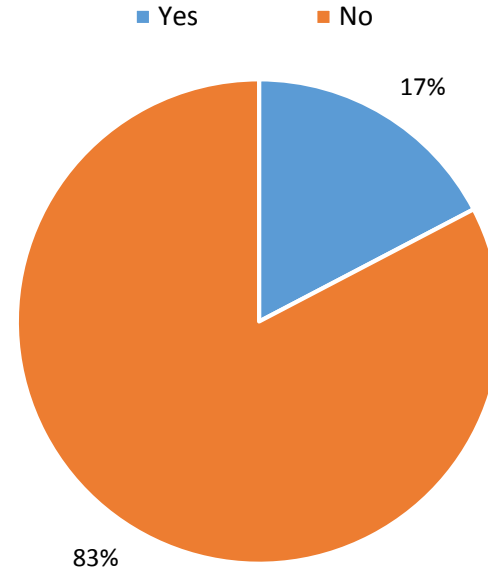
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# Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

**Table 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2017**

Year	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	Total <sup>1</sup> n
2003	112 (22.4)	388 (77.6)	500
2004	104 (21.9)	370 (78.1)	474
2005	110 (23.8)	353 (76.2)	463
2006	94 (19.1)	398 (80.9)	492
2007	104 (21.4)	381 (78.6)	485
2008	94 (19.8)	381 (80.2)	475
2009	101 (18.2)	453 (81.8)	554
2010	90 (17.9)	412 (82.1)	502
2011	105 (19.1)	444 (80.9)	549
2012	113 (20.3)	444 (79.7)	557
2013	104 (18.6)	456 (81.4)	560
2014	101 (17.9)	464 (82.1)	565
2015	107 (19.6)	438 (80.4)	545
2016	93 (16.3)	476 (83.7)	569
<sup>2</sup> 2017	109 (17.3)	520 (82.7)	629
<b>Total</b>	<b>1541 (19.5)</b>	<b>6378 (80.5)</b>	<b>7919</b>

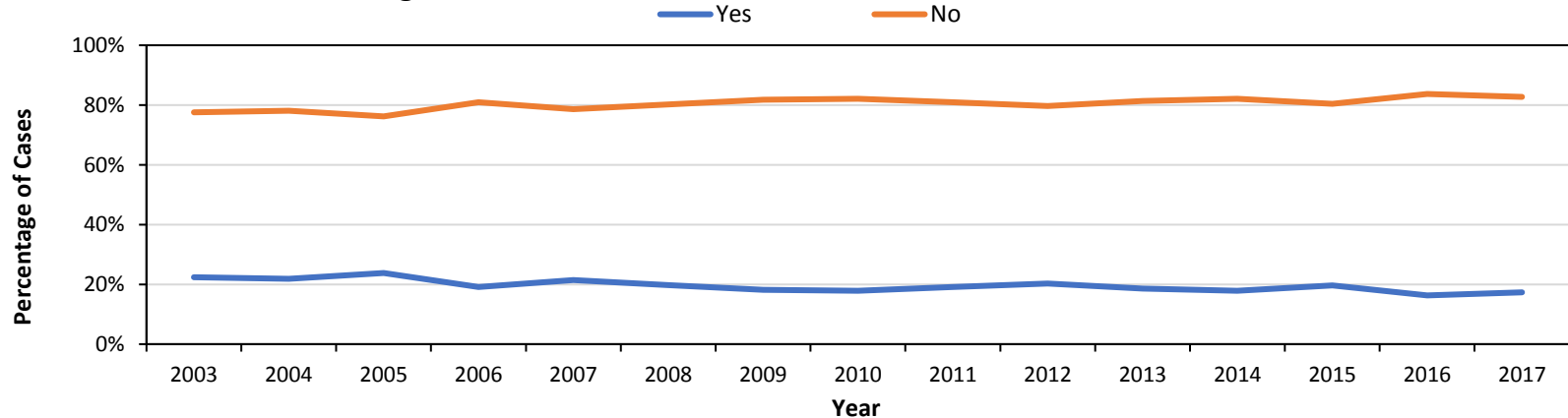
**Figure 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017**



<sup>1</sup>Cases with unknown military history (n=150) were excluded.

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 1 to the right.

**Figure 2: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2017**



n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

## Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

**Table 2: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2017**

Year	Firearm n (%)	Hanging or suffocation n (%)	Poisoning n (%)	Fall n (%)	All other <sup>1</sup> n (%)	Total n
2003	233 (46.0)	139 (27.5)	95 (18.8)	22 (4.3)	17 (3.4)	506
2004	241 (49.3)	119 (24.3)	83 (17.0)	18 (3.7)	28 (5.7)	489
2005	211 (44.9)	130 (27.7)	73 (15.5)	14 (3.0)	42 (8.9)	470
2006	237 (47.6)	131 (26.3)	74 (14.9)	19 (3.8)	37 (7.4)	498
2007	231 (46.3)	154 (30.9)	78 (15.6)	10 (2.0)	26 (5.2)	499
2008	248 (51.8)	126 (26.3)	65 (13.6)	16 (3.3)	24 (5.0)	479
2009	253 (45.3)	182 (32.6)	70 (12.5)	19 (3.4)	34 (6.1)	558
2010	221 (43.5)	162 (31.9)	75 (14.8)	18 (3.5)	32 (6.3)	508
2011	238 (43.1)	162 (29.3)	79 (14.3)	29 (5.3)	44 (8.0)	552
2012	269 (47.2)	154 (27.0)	86 (15.1)	20 (3.5)	41 (7.2)	570
2013	265 (46.5)	170 (29.8)	78 (13.7)	25 (4.4)	32 (5.6)	570
2014	277 (46.2)	192 (32.1)	88 (14.7)	14 (2.3)	28 (4.7)	599
2015	238 (43.2)	176 (31.9)	91 (16.5)	20 (3.6)	26 (4.7)	551
2016	251 (43.0)	186 (31.8)	94 (16.1)	18 (3.1)	35 (6.0)	584
<sup>2</sup> 2017	278 (43.7)	203 (31.9)	100 (15.7)	24 (3.8)	31 (4.9)	636
<b>Total</b>	<b>3691 (45.7)</b>	<b>2386 (29.6)</b>	<b>1229 (15.2)</b>	<b>286 (3.5)</b>	<b>477 (5.9)</b>	<b>8069</b>

<sup>1</sup>All other includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles.

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 3 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 3: Primary Weapon Used, 2017

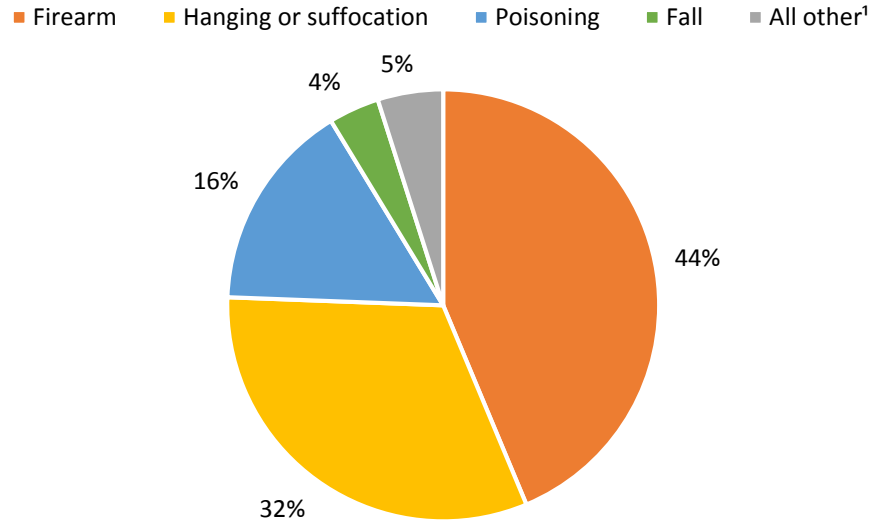
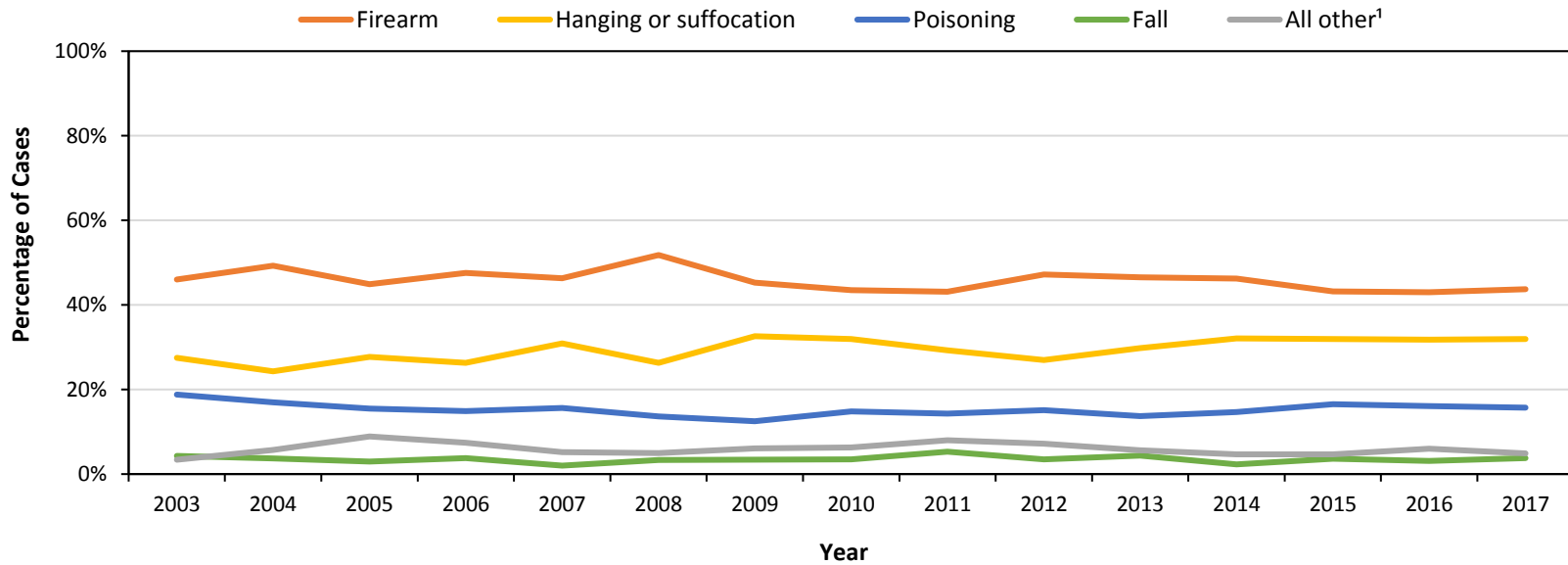


Figure 4: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2017



<sup>1</sup>All other includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Data source: 2003-2017 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS)

Revised on 04/20/2020 by GKD

Figure 5: Primary Weapon Used by Sex, 2017

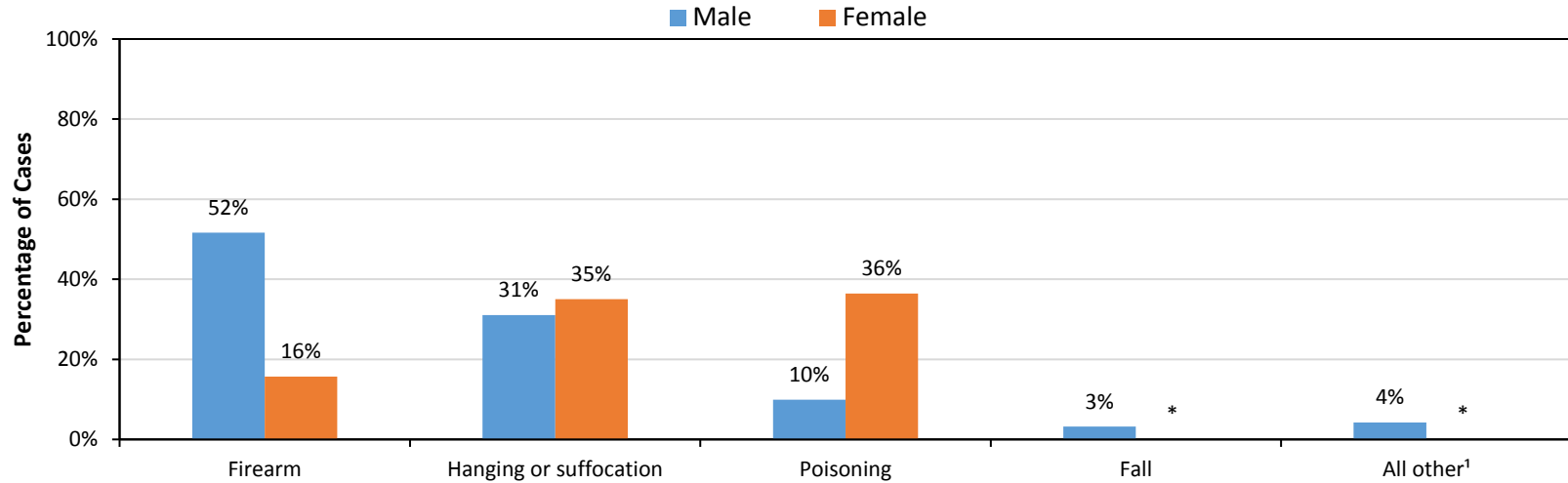
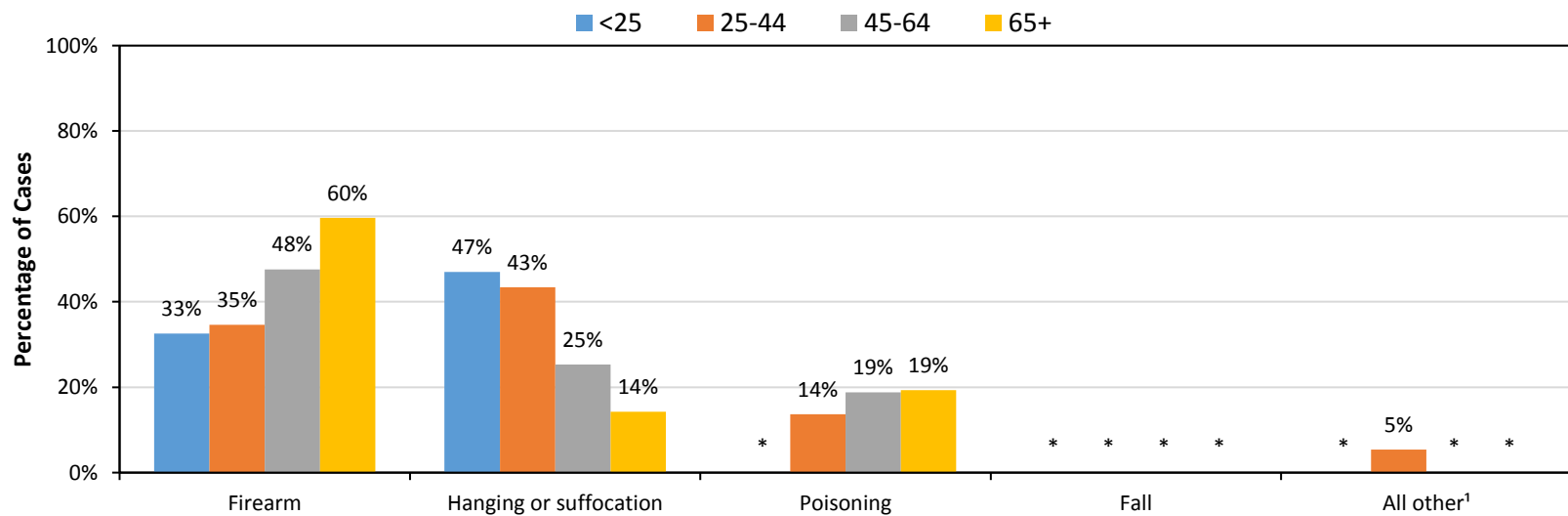


Figure 6: Primary Weapon Use by Age (years), 2017



¹All other includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Data source: 2003-2017 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS)

Revised on 04/20/2020 by GKD

Figure 7: Primary Weapon Used by Race/Ethnicity, 2017

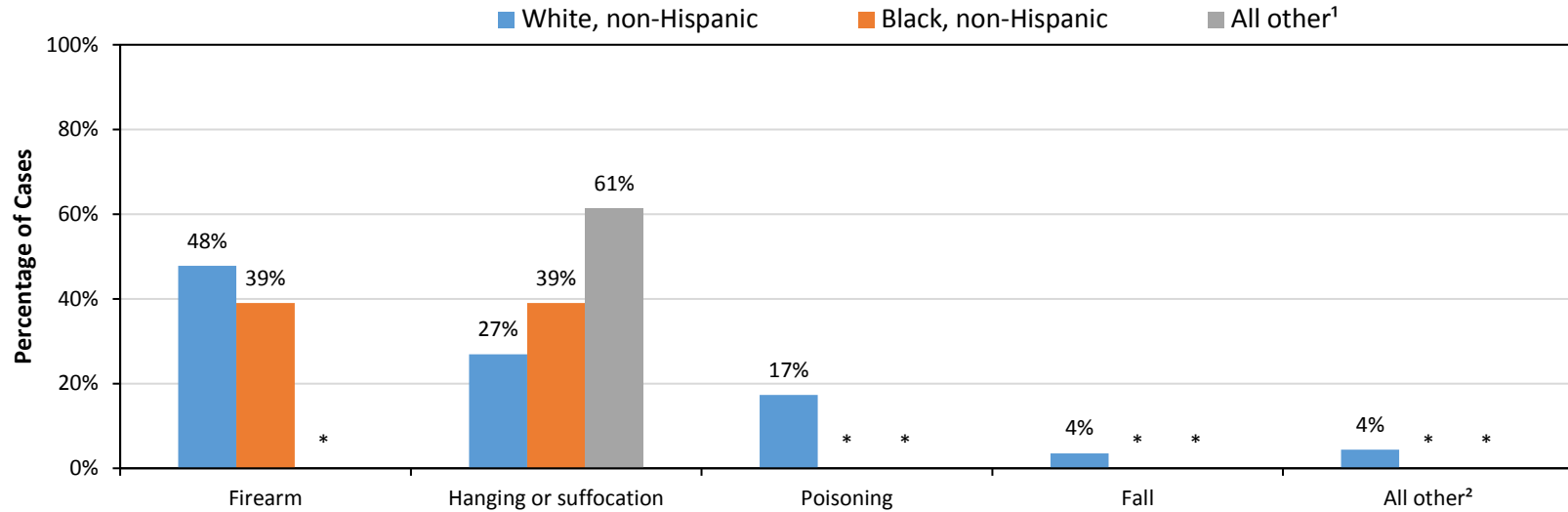
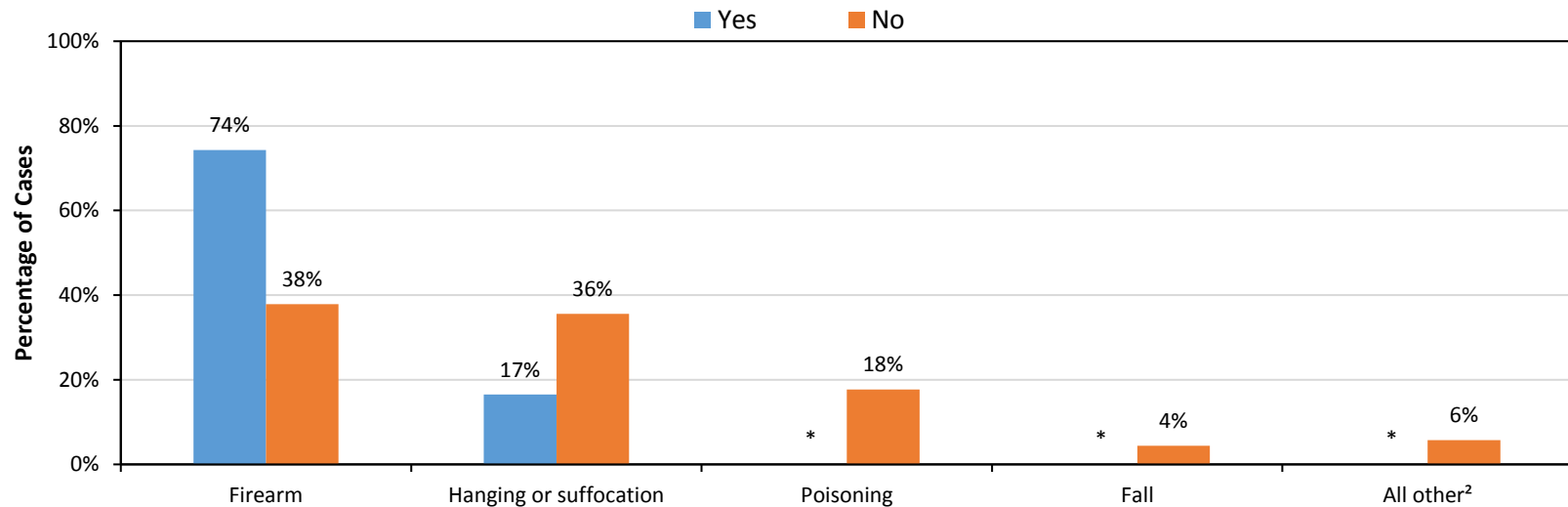


Figure 8: Primary Weapon Used by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



<sup>1</sup>All other race/ethnicity includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races.

<sup>2</sup>All other weapon includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

## Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

**Table 3: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup>, 2003-2017**

Year	Had a mental health problem n (%)	Depressed mood at time of injury n (%)	In treatment for mental health or substance abuse n (%)	Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse n (%)	Alcohol dependence or problem n (%)	Other substance abuse problem n (%)	Total n
2003	211 (41.5)	142 (27.9)	174 (34.2)	210 (41.3)	89 (17.6)	79 (15.5)	506
2004	237 (48.4)	142 (29.0)	189 (38.6)	237 (48.4)	86 (17.6)	79 (16.1)	489
2005	190 (40.3)	103 (21.9)	107 (22.7)	193 (41.0)	89 (18.9)	63 (13.4)	470
2006	185 (37.1)	98 (19.7)	91 (18.3)	187 (37.6)	88 (17.7)	91 (18.3)	498
2007	258 (51.4)	119 (23.7)	138 (27.5)	249 (49.6)	115 (23.0)	89 (17.7)	499
2008	236 (48.8)	135 (27.9)	104 (21.5)	228 (47.1)	98 (20.5)	83 (17.1)	479
2009	268 (47.9)	222 (39.7)	135 (24.2)	247 (44.2)	115 (20.6)	101 (18.1)	558
2010	219 (42.7)	244 (47.6)	120 (23.4)	184 (35.9)	78 (15.4)	88 (17.2)	508
2011	229 (41.3)	261 (47.1)	156 (28.2)	205 (37.0)	104 (18.8)	94 (17.0)	552
2012	196 (34.3)	227 (39.7)	118 (20.6)	155 (27.1)	55 (9.6)	75 (13.1)	570
2013	249 (43.5)	235 (41.0)	166 (29.0)	211 (36.8)	85 (14.9)	92 (16.1)	570
2014	293 (48.8)	166 (27.6)	157 (26.1)	199 (33.1)	78 (13.0)	83 (13.8)	599
2015	305 (55.2)	153 (27.7)	142 (25.7)	210 (38.0)	119 (21.6)	102 (18.4)	551
2016	313 (53.2)	156 (26.5)	98 (16.7)	249 (42.3)	112 (19.2)	81 (13.8)	584
<sup>2</sup> 2017	270 (42.1)	124 (19.3)	93 (14.5)	197 (30.7)	90 (14.2)	86 (13.5)	636
Total	3659 (45.1)	2527 (31.2)	1988 (24.5)	3161 (39.0)	1401 (17.4)	1286 (15.9)	8069

<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 9 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11



Figure 9: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup>, 2017

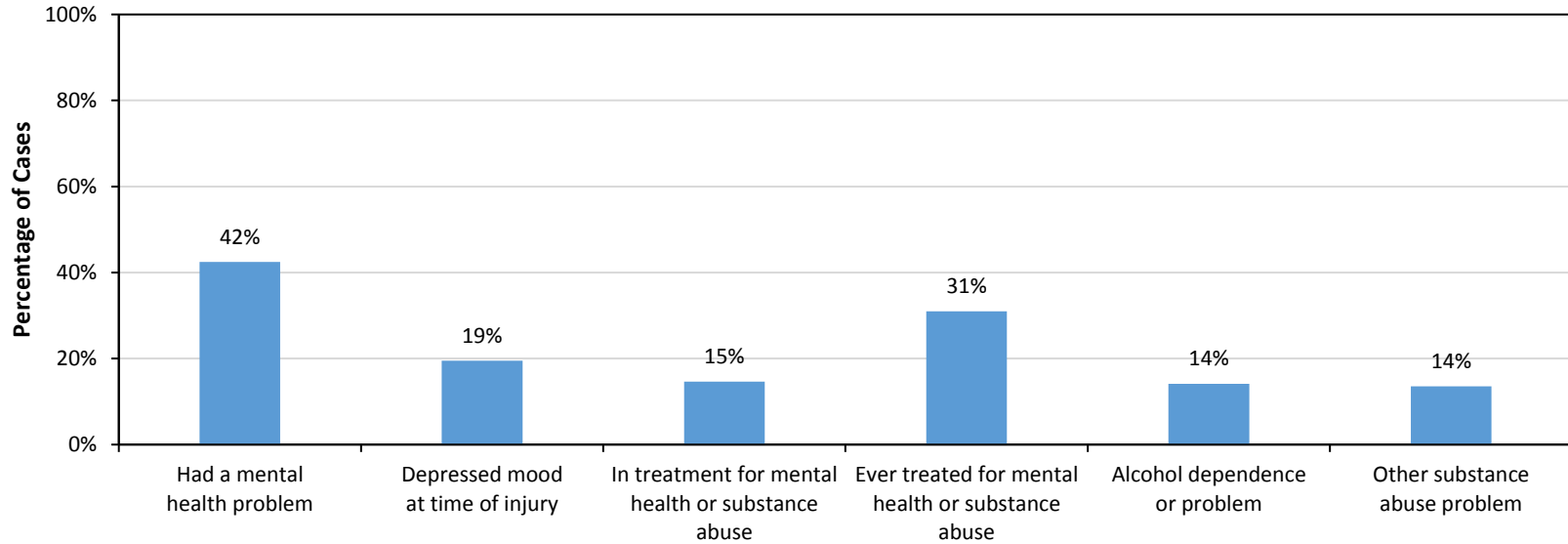
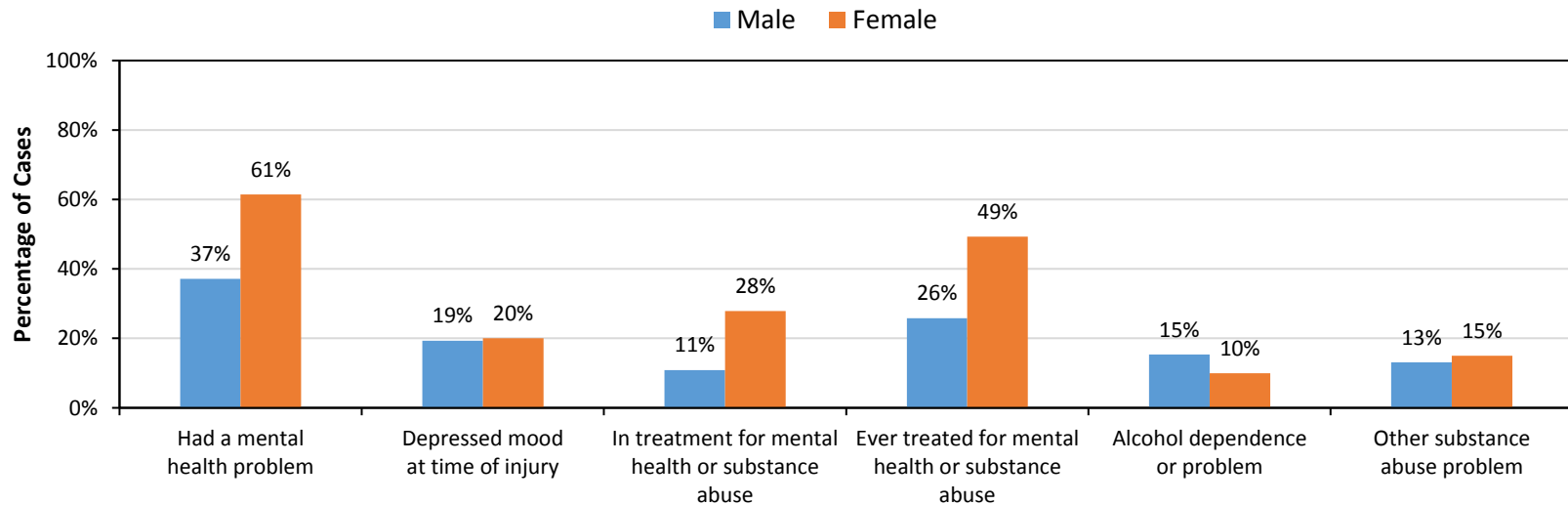


Figure 10: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup> by Sex, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 11: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup> by Age (years), 2017

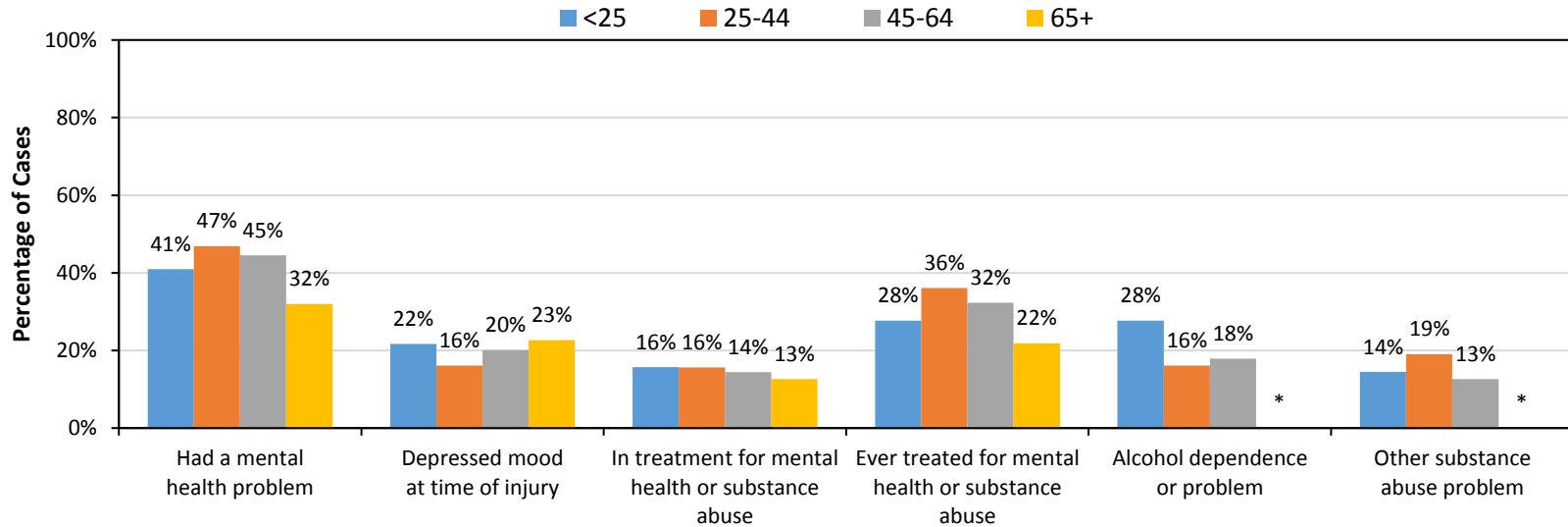
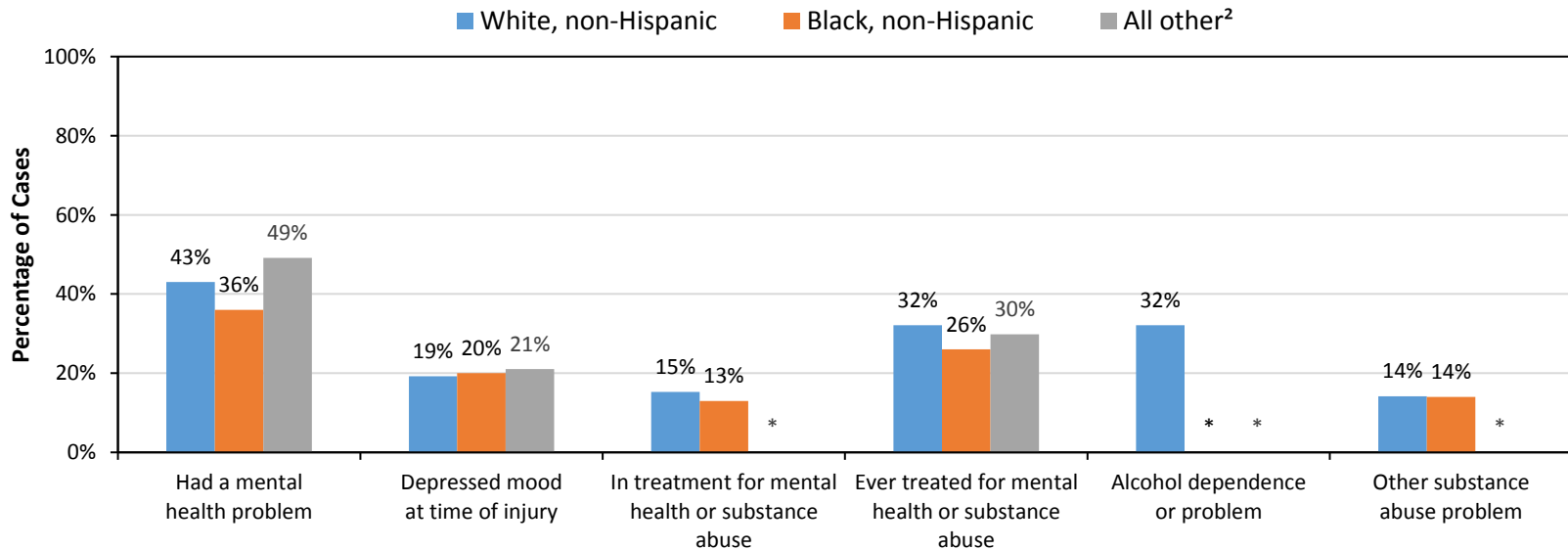


Figure 12: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

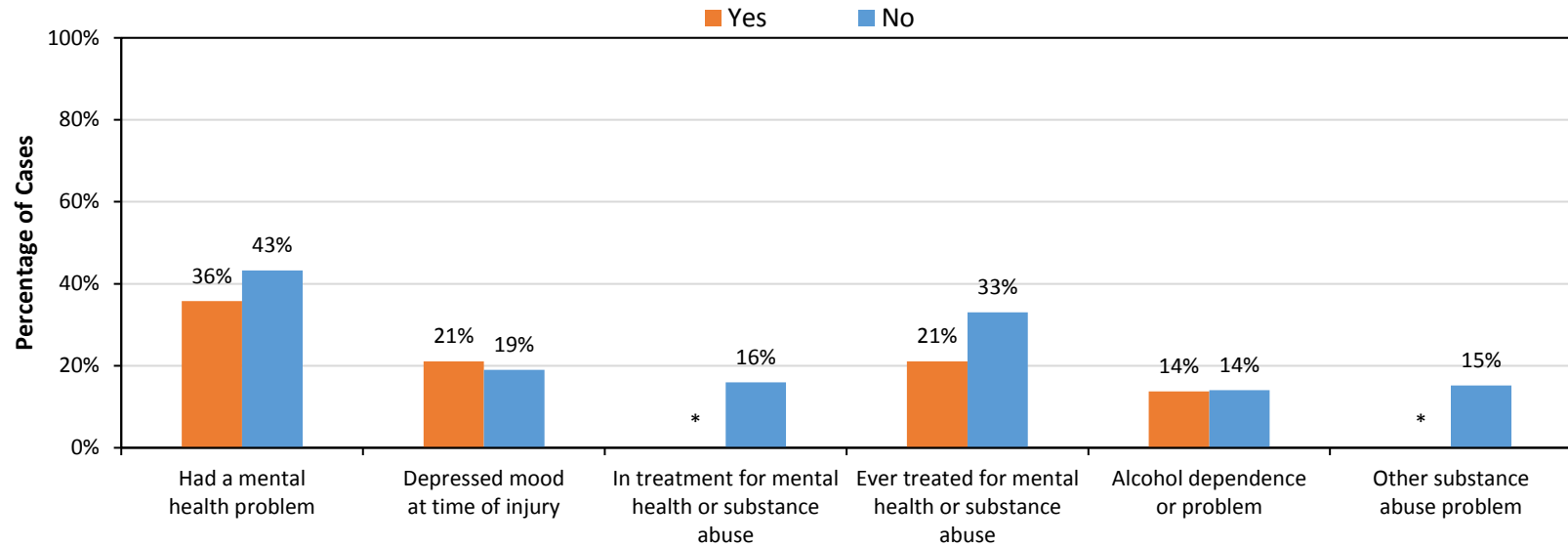
<sup>2</sup>All other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 13: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction<sup>1</sup> by Ever Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

## Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

**Table 4: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup>, 2003-2017**

Year	History of suicide attempt(s) n (%)	History of suicidal thoughts/plans n (%)	Disclosed their thoughts/plans n (%)	Left a suicide note n (%)	Total n	
2003	82 (16.2)	First collected in 2013	121 (23.9)	175 (34.6)	506	
2004	94 (19.2)		113 (23.1)	155 (31.7)	489	
2005	86 (18.3)		93 (19.8)	169 (36.0)	470	
2006	84 (16.9)		89 (17.9)	150 (30.1)	498	
2007	101 (20.2)		107 (21.4)	168 (33.7)	499	
2008	89 (18.6)		99 (20.7)	151 (31.5)	479	
2009	115 (20.6)		188 (33.7)	199 (35.7)	558	
2010	107 (21.1)		185 (36.4)	174 (34.3)	508	
2011	112 (20.3)		207 (37.5)	188 (34.1)	552	
2012	91 (16.0)		149 (26.1)	200 (35.1)	570	
2013	112 (19.6)		188 (33.0)	133 (23.3)	172 (30.2)	570
2014	128 (21.4)		188 (31.4)	158 (26.4)	196 (32.7)	599
2015	116 (21.1)	182 (33.0)	129 (23.4)	218 (39.6)	551	
2016	110 (18.8)	200 (34.2)	118 (20.2)	221 (37.8)	584	
<sup>2</sup> 2017	93 (14.6)	121 (19.0)	111 (17.5)	186 (29.2)	636	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1520 (18.8)</b>	<b>1016 (12.6)</b>	<b>2000 (24.8)</b>	<b>2722 (33.7)</b>	<b>8069</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 14 on next page.

Figure 14: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup>, 2017

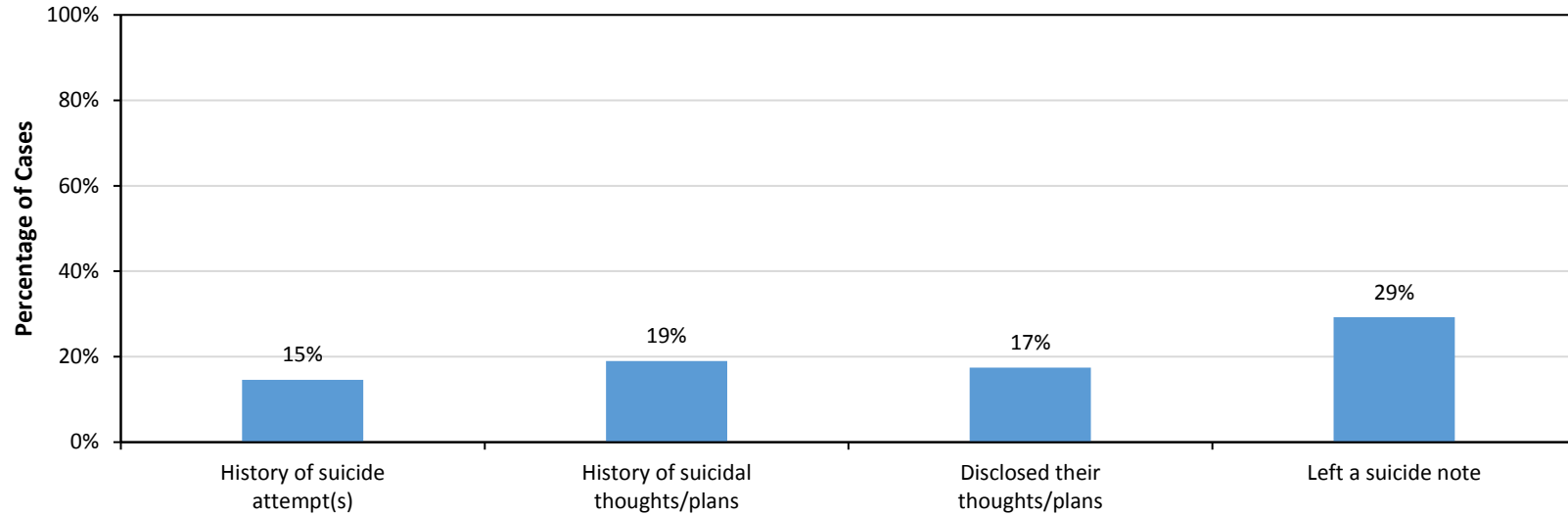
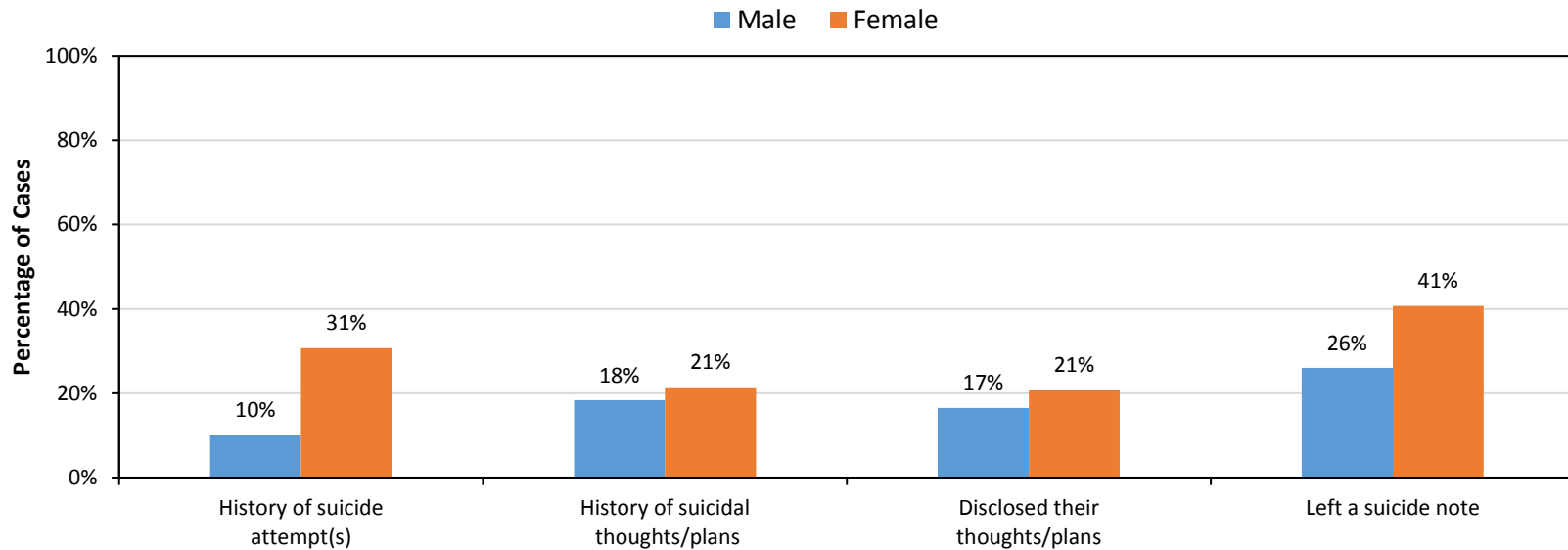


Figure 15: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup> by Sex, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 16: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup> by Age Group, 2017

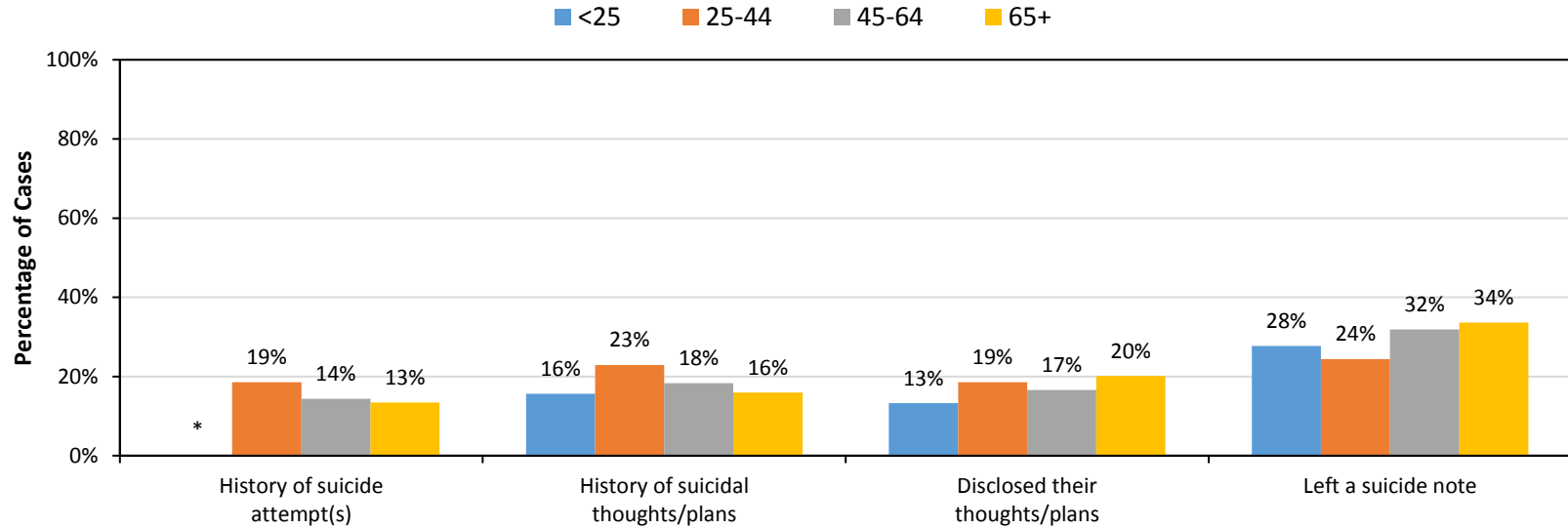
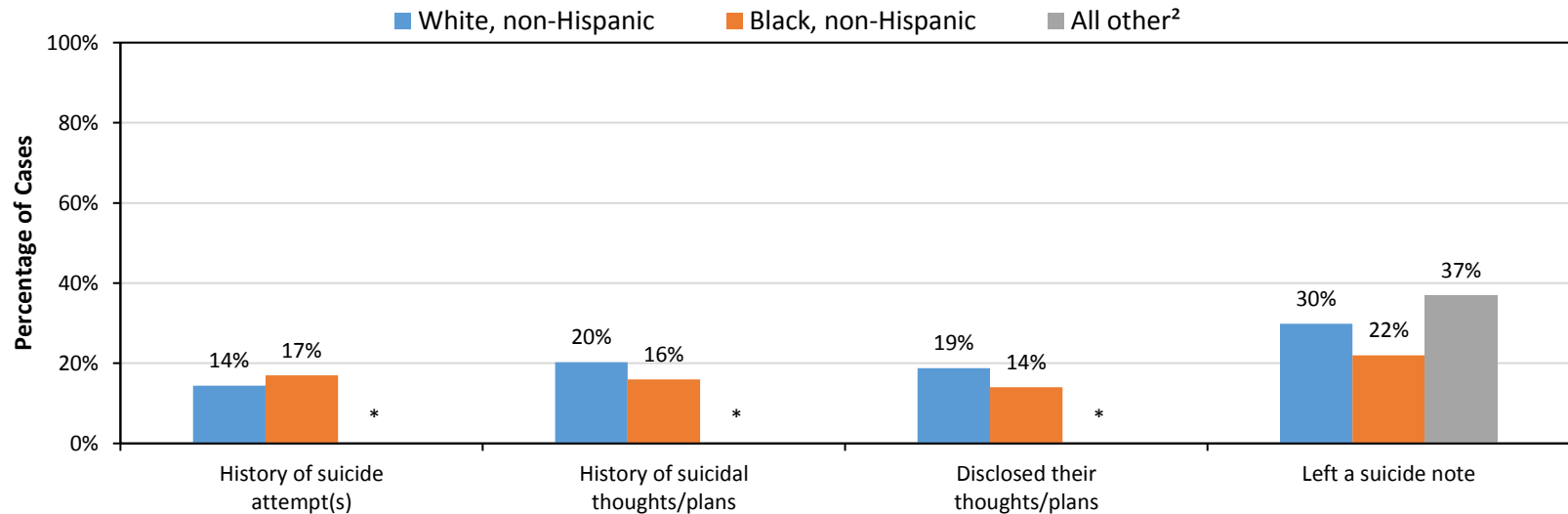


Figure 17: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

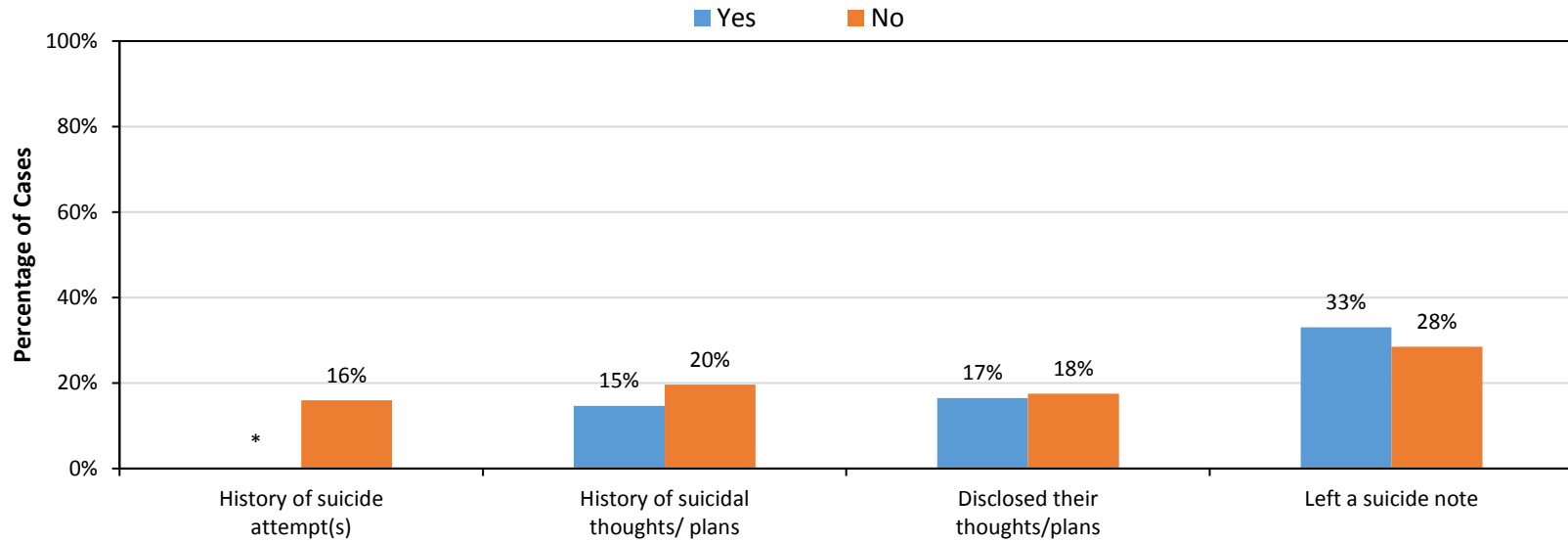
<sup>2</sup>All other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 17: Circumstances: Suicide Specific<sup>1</sup> by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Table 5: Circumstances: Relationships<sup>1</sup>, 2003-2017

Year	Problem with current or former intimate partner n (%)	Problem with family member n (%)	Argument/conflict led to death n (%)	Total n		
2003	117 (23.1)	First collected in 2013		506		
2004	96 (19.6)			489		
2005	101 (21.5)			470		
2006	119 (23.9)			498		
2007	132 (26.5)			499		
2008	108 (22.5)			479		
2009	144 (25.8)			558		
2010	144 (28.3)			508		
2011	146 (26.4)			552		
2012	136 (23.9)			570		
2013	157 (27.5)			34 (6.0)	83 (14.6)	570
2014	146 (24.4)			41 (6.8)	71 (11.9)	599
2015	96 (17.4)	15 (2.7)	65 (11.8)	551		
2016	92 (15.8)	21 (3.6)	65 (11.1)	584		
<sup>2</sup> 2017	107 (16.8)	15 (2.4)	73 (11.5)	636		
Total	1841 (22.8)	227 (2.8)	583 (7.2)	8069		

<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 18 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11



Figure 18: Circumstances: Relationships<sup>1</sup>, 2017

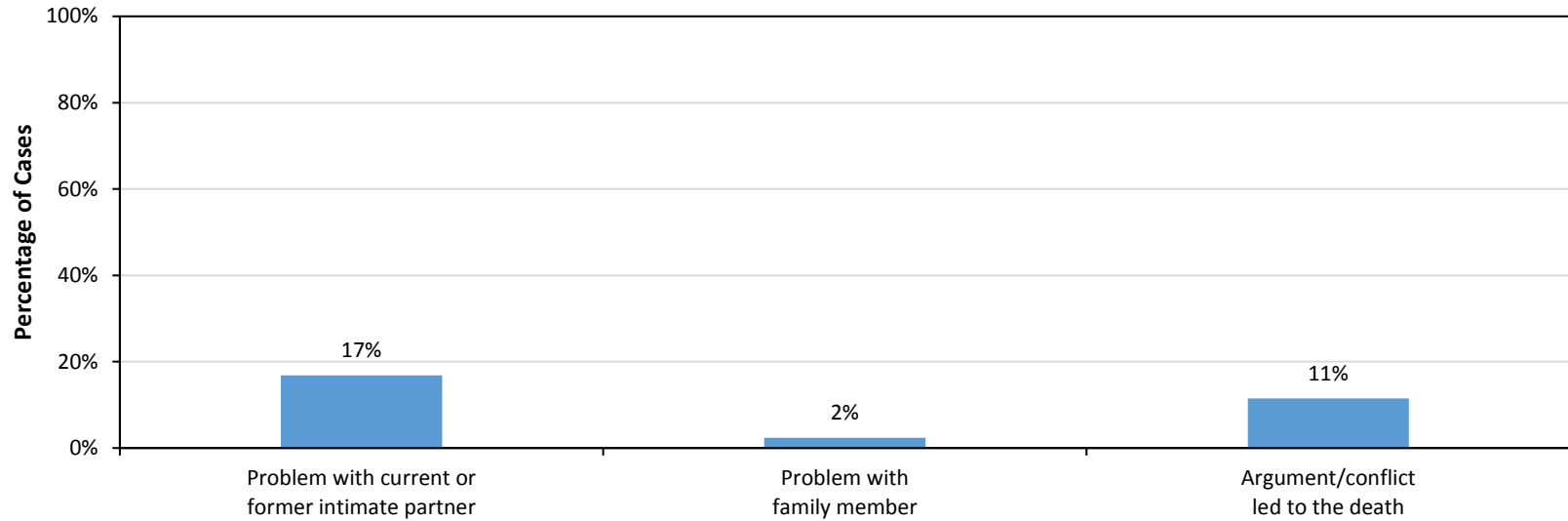
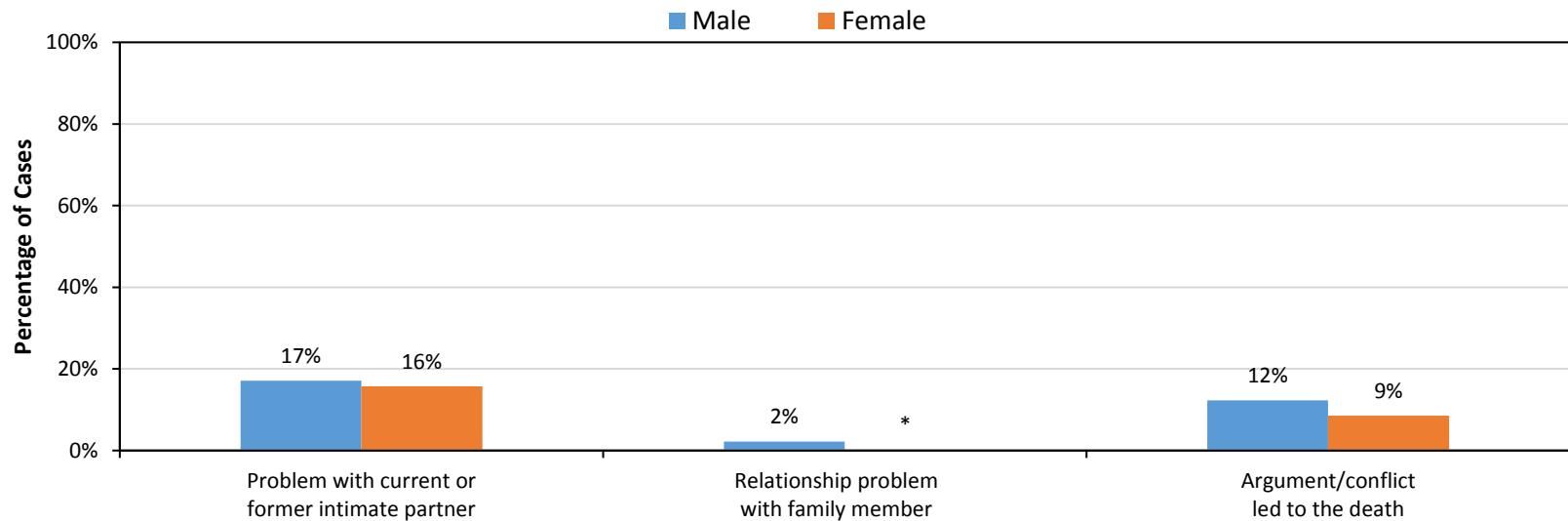


Figure 19: Circumstances: Relationships by Sex<sup>1</sup>, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 20: Circumstances: Relationships<sup>1</sup> by Age (years), 2017

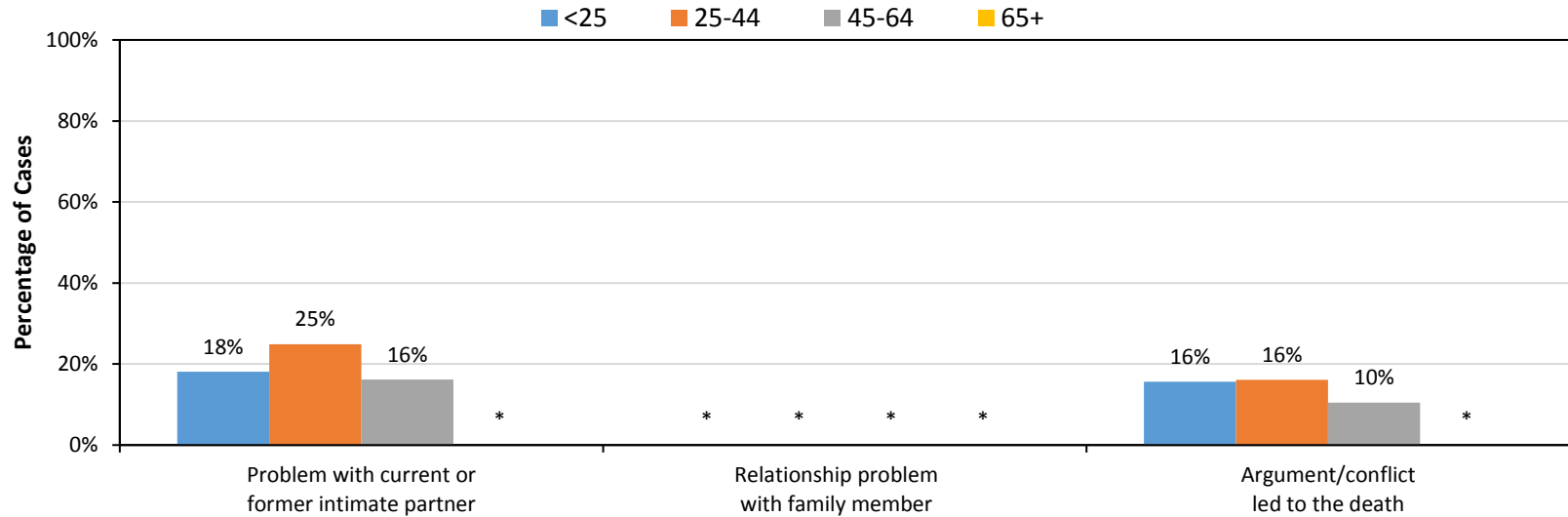
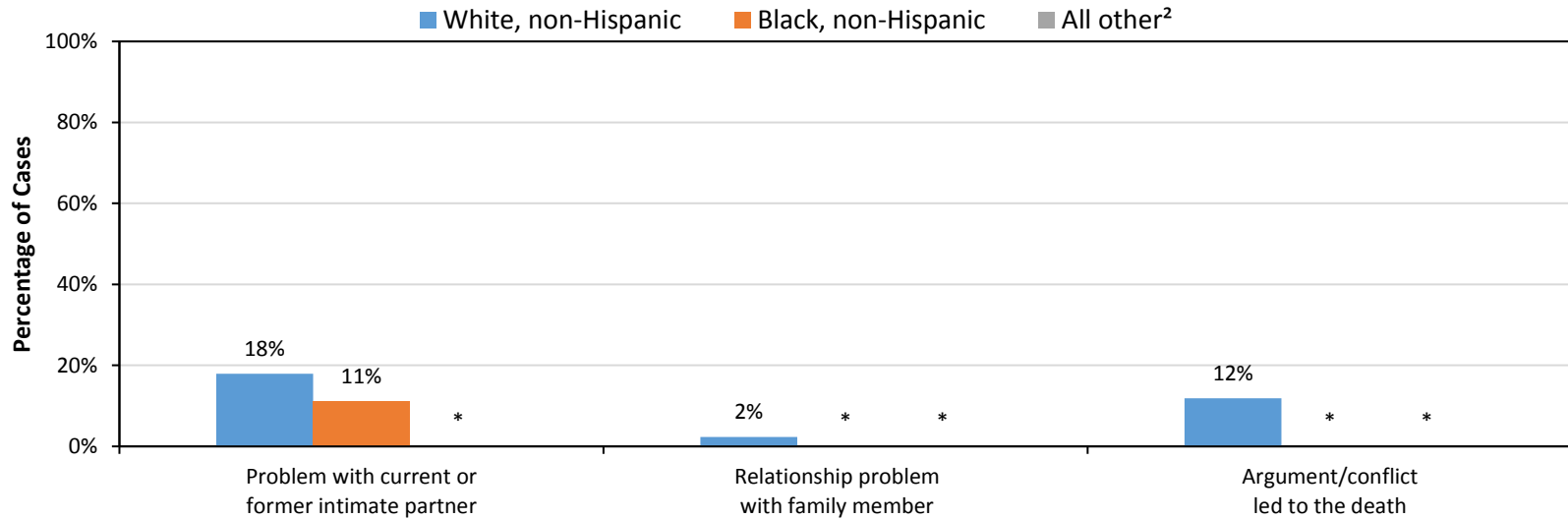


Figure 21: Circumstances: Relationships<sup>1</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

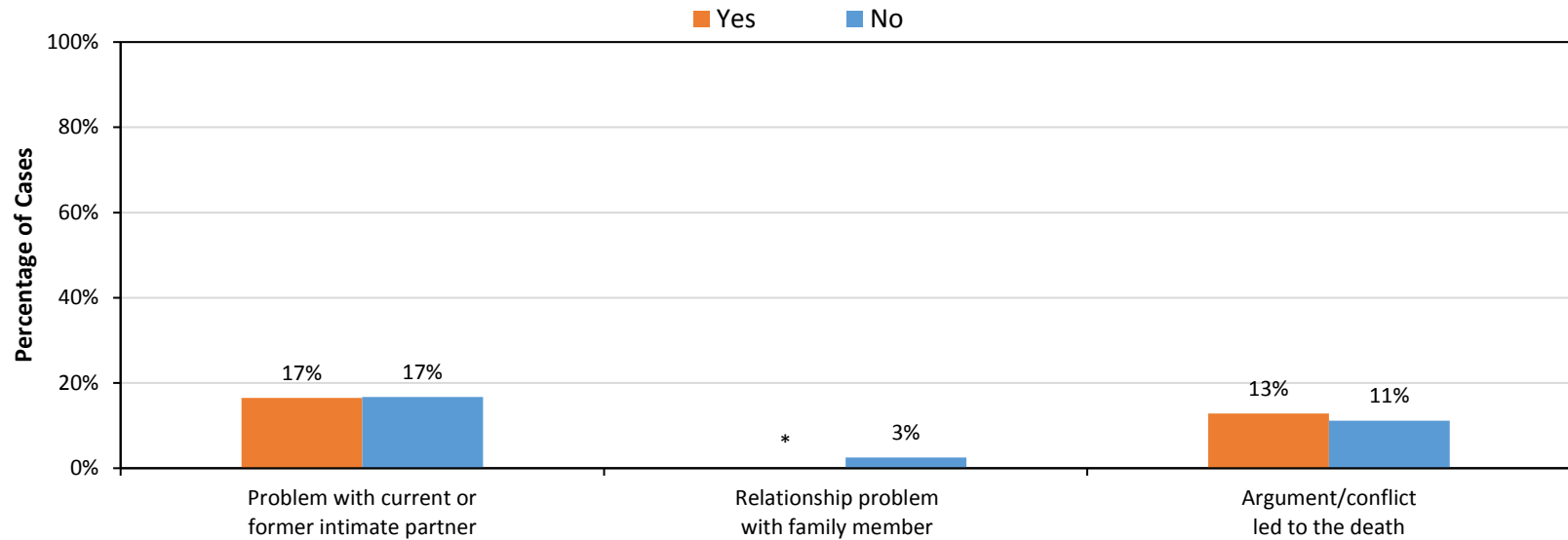
<sup>2</sup>All other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 22: Circumstances: Relationships<sup>1</sup> by Ever Served in U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Table 6: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup>, 2003-2017

Year	Criminal legal problem n (%)	Physical health problem n (%)	Job problem n (%)	Financial problem n (%)	Recent eviction or loss of housing n (%)	Death (non-suicide) of family/friend n (%)	Total n
2003	53 (10.5)	70 (13.8)	36 (7.1)	44 (8.7)	First collected in 2009	18 (3.6)	506
2004	42 (8.6)	54 (11.0)	47 (9.6)	34 (7.0)		28 (5.7)	489
2005	34 (7.2)	100 (21.3)	32 (6.8)	25 (5.3)		25 (5.3)	470
2006	47 (9.4)	104 (20.9)	39 (7.8)	36 (7.2)		21 (4.2)	498
2007	32 (6.4)	88 (17.6)	44 (8.8)	60 (12.0)		37 (7.4)	499
2008	47 (9.8)	117 (24.4)	53 (11.1)	57 (11.9)		42 (8.8)	479
2009	56 (10)	107 (19.2)	85 (15.2)	78 (14.0)	28 (5.0)	35 (6.3)	558
2010	36 (7.1)	110 (21.7)	77 (15.2)	72 (14.2)	23 (4.5)	49 (9.6)	508
2011	47 (8.5)	113 (20.5)	76 (13.8)	82 (14.9)	22 (4.0)	24 (4.3)	552
2012	48 (8.4)	64 (11.2)	73 (12.8)	58 (10.2)	22 (3.9)	22 (3.9)	570
2013	45 (7.9)	64 (11.2)	76 (13.3)	81 (14.2)	28 (4.9)	42 (7.4)	570
2014	33 (5.5)	83 (13.9)	63 (10.5)	54 (9.0)	21 (3.5)	33 (5.5)	599
2015	18 (3.3)	69 (12.5)	34 (6.2)	34 (6.2)	12 (2.2)	12 (2.2)	551
2016	28 (4.8)	58 (9.9)	49 (8.4)	41 (7.0)	11 (1.9)	41 (7.0)	584
<sup>2</sup> 2017	35 (5.5)	67 (10.5)	46 (7.2)	32 (5.0)	12 (1.9)	37 (5.8)	636
<b>Total</b>	601 (7.4)	1268 (15.7)	830 (10.3)	788 (9.8)	185 (2.3)	466 (5.8)	8069

<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

<sup>2</sup>2017 data displayed in Figure 23 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 23: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup>, 2017

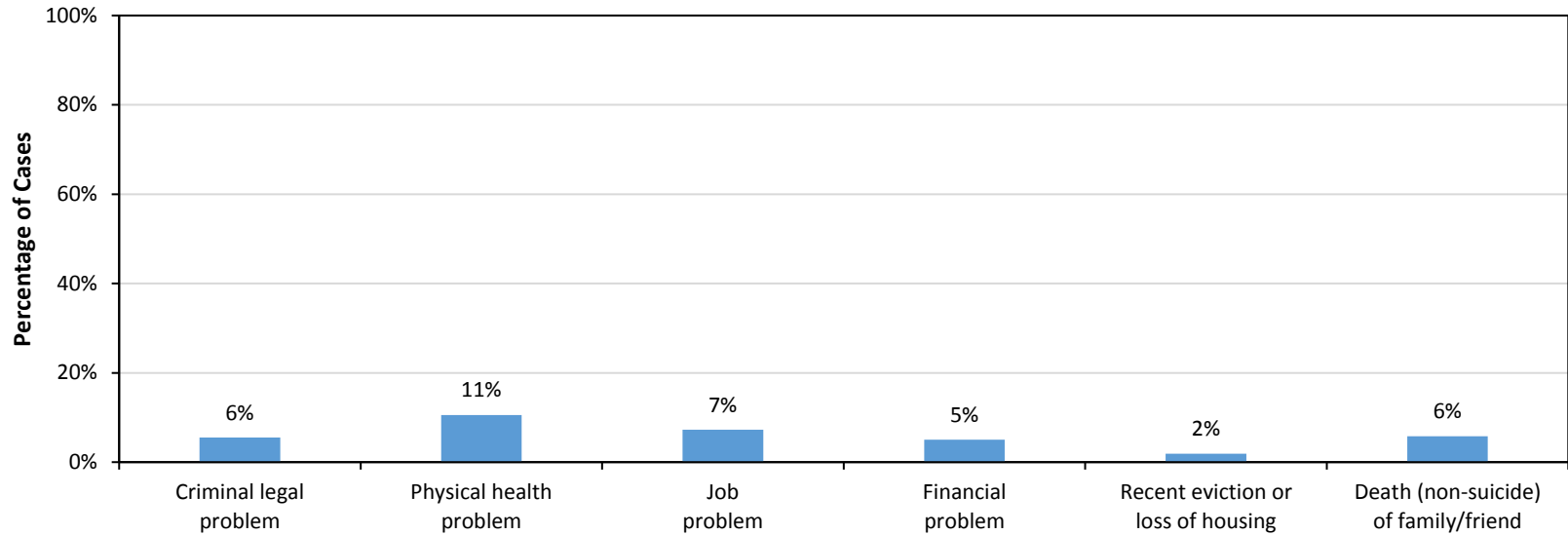
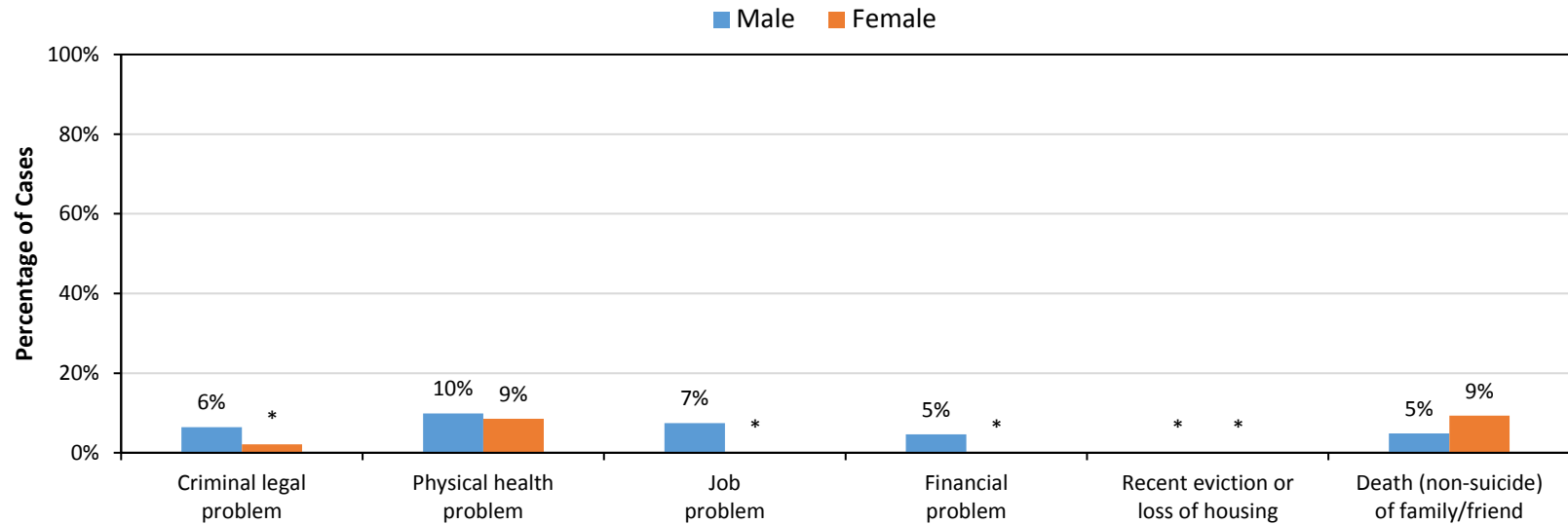


Figure 24: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup> by Sex, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 25: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup> by Age (years), 2017

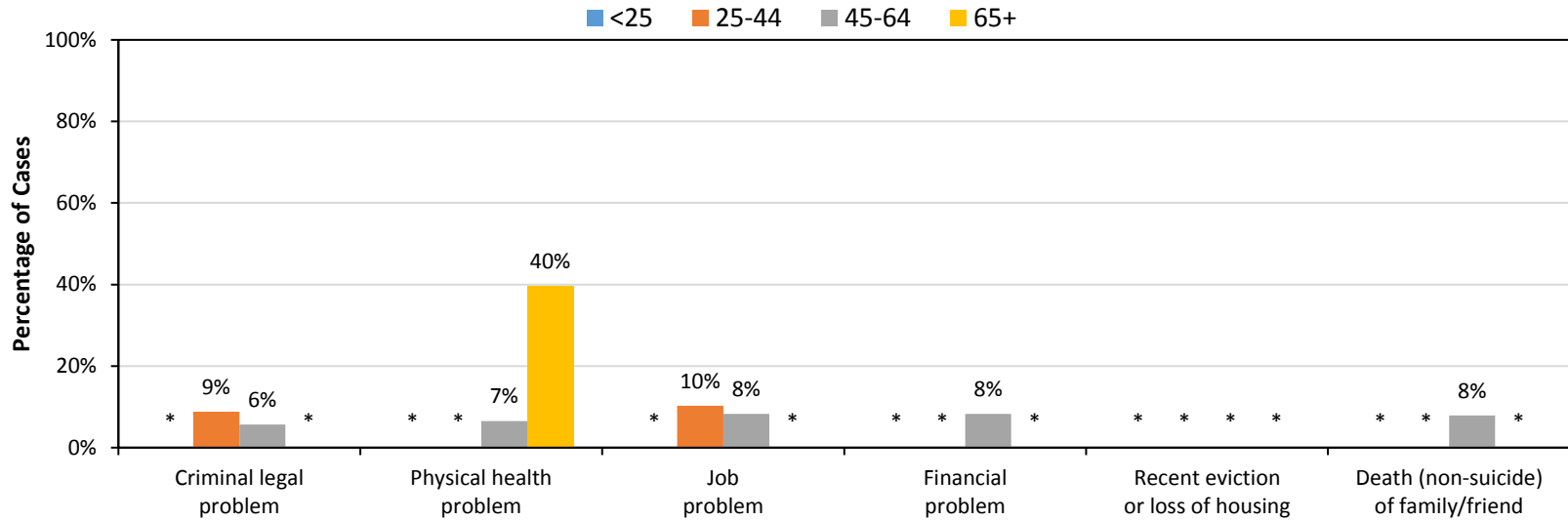
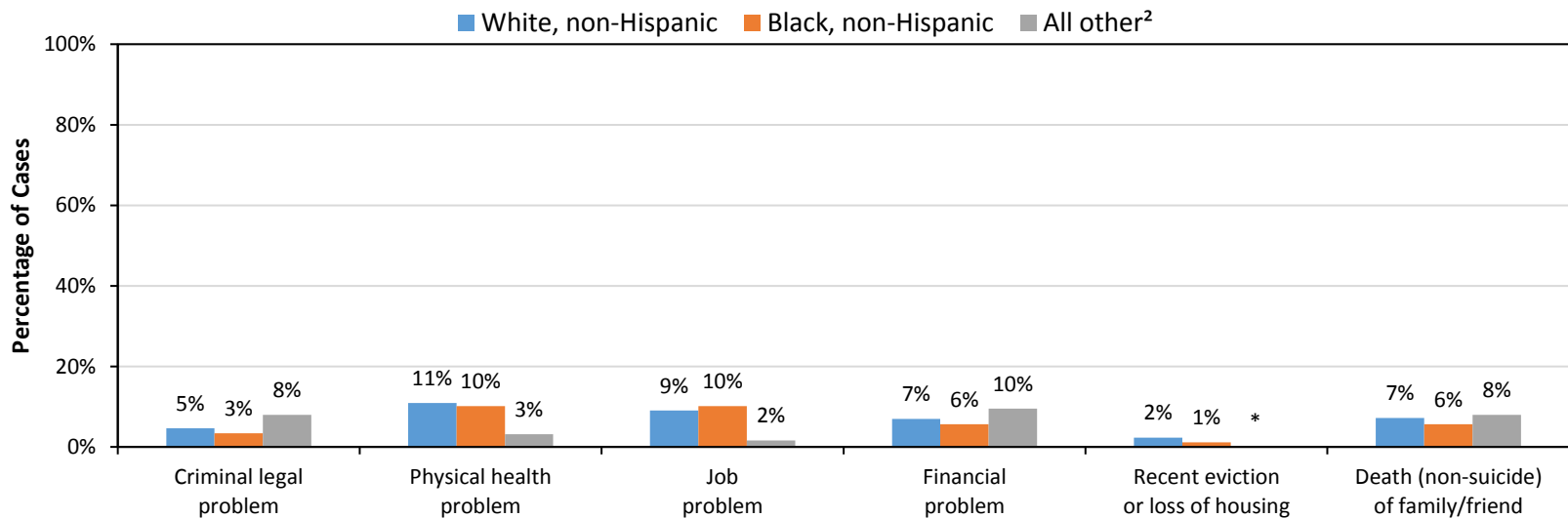


Figure 26: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup> by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

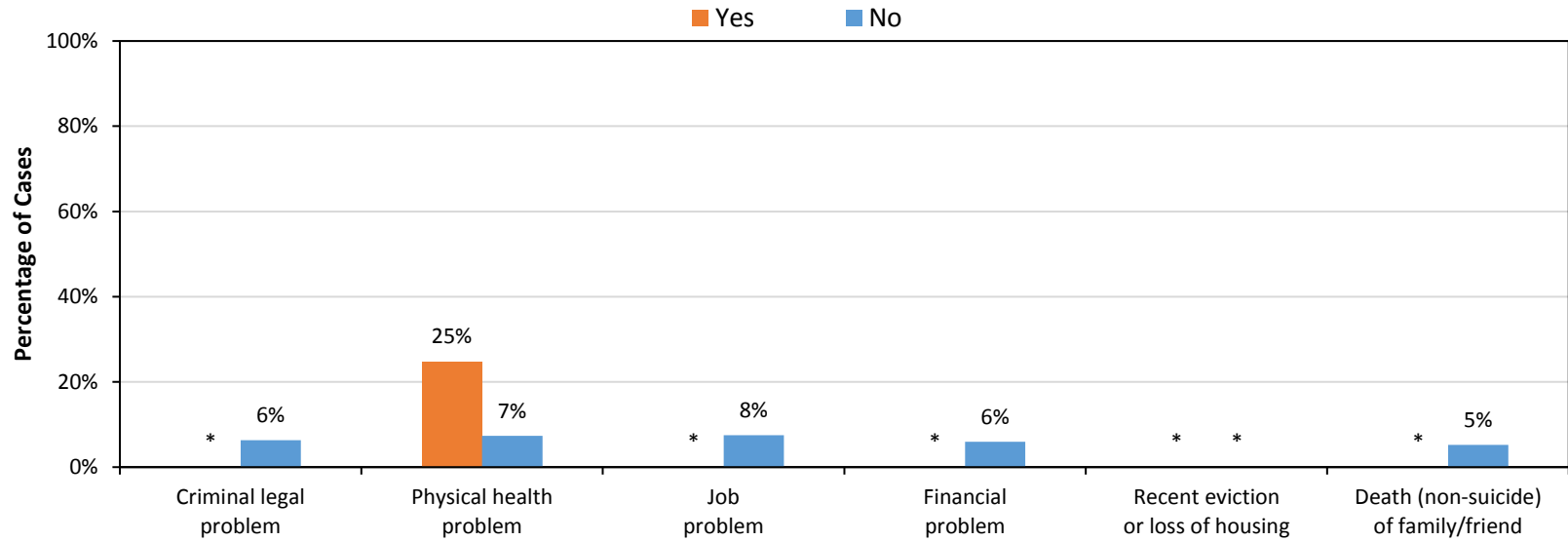
<sup>2</sup>All other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 27: Circumstances: Life Stressors<sup>1</sup> by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Health history data may be incomplete. See note on Table of Contents (page 2).

n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

\* = Data suppressed due to n < 11