Circumstances of Suicide Deaths in Maryland

2003-2018 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System

Created on 03/31/2021

<u>Please note</u>: 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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Table 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2018

| | Yes | No | Total ¹ |
|-------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Year | n (%) | n (%) | n |
| 2003 | 112 (22.4) | 387 (77.6) | 499 |
| 2004 | 104 (21.9) | 370 (78.1) | 474 |
| 2005 | 110 (23.8) | 352 (76.2) | 462 |
| 2006 | 94 (19.1) | 397 (80.9) | 491 |
| 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 (18.0) | 411 (82.0) | 501 |
| 2011 | 105 (19.2) | 442 (80.8) | 547 |
| 2012 | 113 (20.4) | 442 (79.6) | 555 |
| 2013 | 104 (18.7) | 453 (81.3) | 557 |
| 2014 | 101 (17.9) | 434 (82.1) | 564 |
| 2015 | 107 (19.6) | 438 (80.4) | 545 |
| 2016 | 99 (16.2) | 475 (83.8) | 567 |
| 2017 | 109 (17.4) | 519 (82.6) | 628 |
| ²2018 | 113 (17.5) | 533 (82.5) | 646 |
| Total | 1653 (19.3) | 6897 (80.7) | 8550 |

Figure 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2018

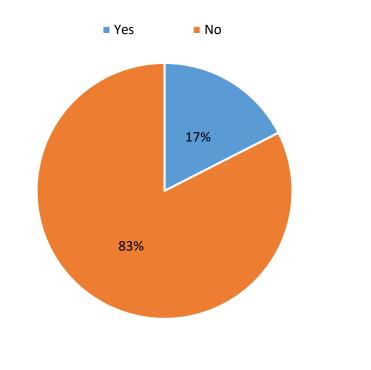
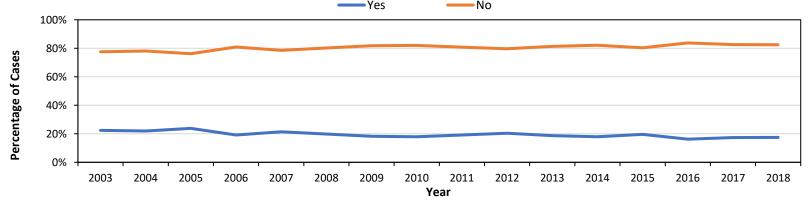


Figure 2: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

¹Cases with unknown military history (n=162) were excluded.

²2018 data displayed in Figure 1 to the right.

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

Table 2: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2018

| | Firearm | Hanging or suffocation | Poisoning | Fall | All other weapons ¹ | Total |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Year | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n |
| 2003 | 233 (46.1) | 139 (27.5) | 94 (18.6) | 22 (4.4) | 17 (3.4) | 505 |
| 2004 | 241 (49.3) | 119 (24.3) | 83 (17.0) | 18 (3.7) | 28 (5.7) | 489 |
| 2005 | 211 (45.0) | 130 (27.7) | 73 (15.6) | 14 (3.0) | 41 (8.7) | 469 |
| 2006 | 236 (47.6) | 131 (26.4) | 74 (14.9) | 19 (3.8) | 36 (7.3) | 496 |
| 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 (43.6) | 162 (32.0) | 75 (14.8) | 17 (3.4) | 32 (6.3) | 507 |
| 2011 | 278 (43.1) | 162 (29.5) | 78 (14.2) | 29 (5.3) | 44 (8.0) | 550 |
| 2012 | 269 (47.4) | 154 (27.1) | 86 (15.1) | 19 (3.3) | 40 (7.0) | 568 |
| 2013 | 264 (46.6) | 170 (30.0) | 78 (13.8) | 23 (4.1) | 32 (5.6) | 567 |
| 2014 | 276 (46.2) | 192 (32.1) | 88 (14.7) | 14 (2.3) | 28 (4.7) | 598 |
| 2015 | 238 (43.2) | 176 (31.9) | 91 (16.5) | 20 (3.6) | 26 (4.7) | 551 |
| 2016 | 250 (43.0) | 185 (31.8) | 94 (16.2) | 18 (3.1) | 35 (6.0) | 582 |
| 2017 | 277 (43.6) | 203 (32.0) | 100 (15.7) | 24 (3.8) | 31 (4.9) | 635 |
| ²2018 | 261 (39.6) | 231 (35.1) | 107 (16.2) | 23 (3.5) | 37 (5.6) | 659 |
| otal | 3946 (45.3) | 2616 (30.0) | 1334 (15.3) | 305 (3.5) | 511 (5.9) | 8712 |

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

²2018 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

Figure 3: Primary Weapon Used, 2018

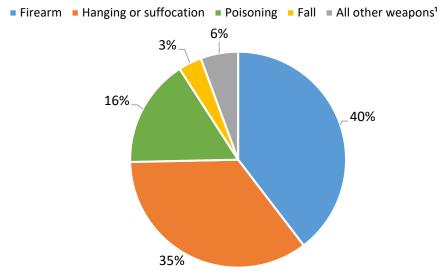
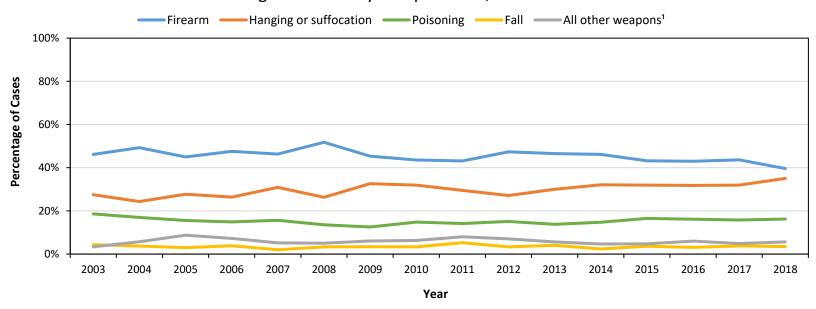


Figure 4: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2018



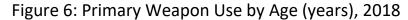
¹All other weapons includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles.

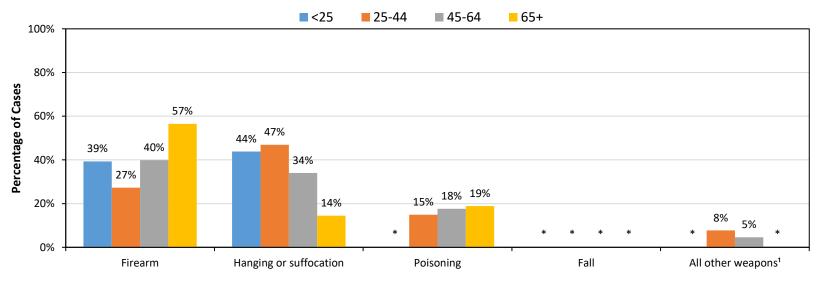
n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Male Female 100% 80% Percentage of Cases 60% 46% 38% 34% 33% 22% 20% 11% 6% 4% 0% Hanging or suffocation Firearm Poisoning Fall All other weapons1

Figure 5: Primary Weapon Used by Sex, 2018





¹All other weapons 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

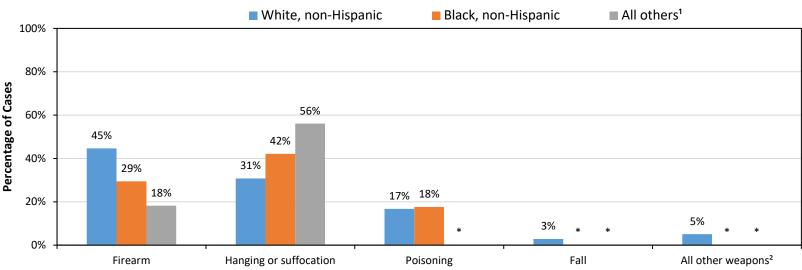
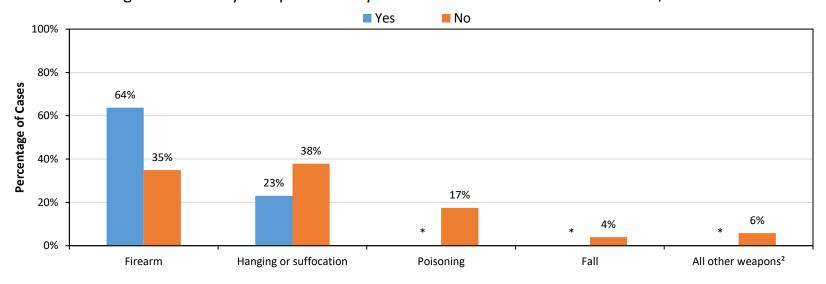


Figure 7: Primary Weapon Used by Race/Ethnicity, 2018

Figure 8: Primary Weapon Used by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2018



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

²All other weapons includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and

n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

■ Large Metro ■ Small or Medium Metro ■ Non-Metro 100% 80% 68% Percentage of Cases 60% 49% 38% 36% 33% 40% 17% 20% 5% 4% Fall Firearm Hanging or suffocation Poisoning All other weapons²

Figure 9: Primary Weapon Used by Urban-Rural¹ Classification of County of Residence, 2018

¹Large metro: counties in central or fringe metropolitan statistical areas of 1 million or more population; small or medium metro: counties in metropolitan statistical areas of populations less than 999,999; rural: counties in micropolitan statistical areas and nonmetropolitan counties of less than 49,999 (defined by the 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties).

²All other weapon includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles. Note: Out of state and homeless residents were excluded from analysis.

Table 3: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹, 2003-2018

| | Had a mental health problem | time of injury | In treatment for mental health or substance abuse | Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse | Alcohol dependence or problem | Other substance abuse problem | Total |
|-------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Year | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n |
| 2003 | ` ′ | 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 |
| 2017 | 270 (42.1) | 124 (19.3) | 93 (14.5) | 197 (30.7) | 90 (14.2) | 86 (13.5) | 636 |
| ²2018 | 340 (51.4) | 175 (26.5) | 184 (27.8) | 230 (34.8) | 125 (18.9) | 110 (16.6) | 661 |
| Total | 3659 (49.6) | 2527 (33.5) | 1988 (26.9) | 3161 (42.0) | 1401 (18.9) | 1286 (17.3) | 8069 |

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

²2018 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

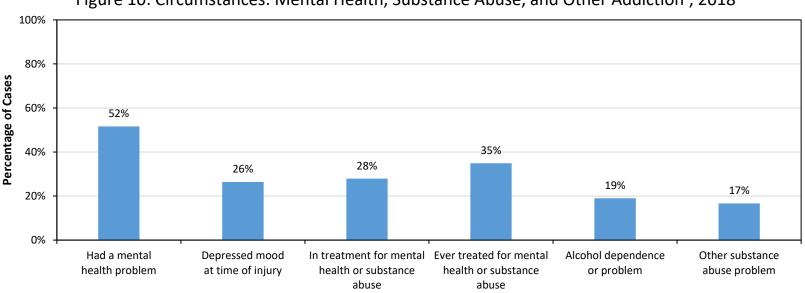
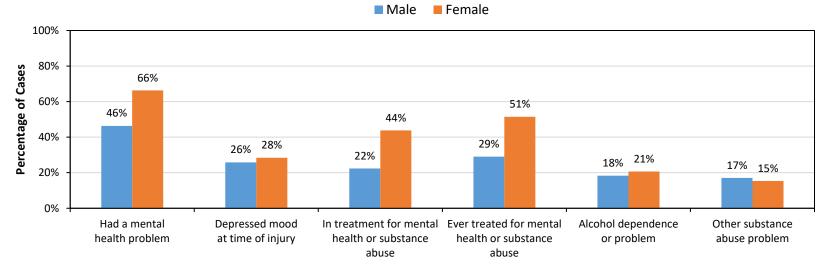


Figure 10: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹, 2018

Figure 11: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹ by Sex, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Figure 12: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹ by Age (years), 2018

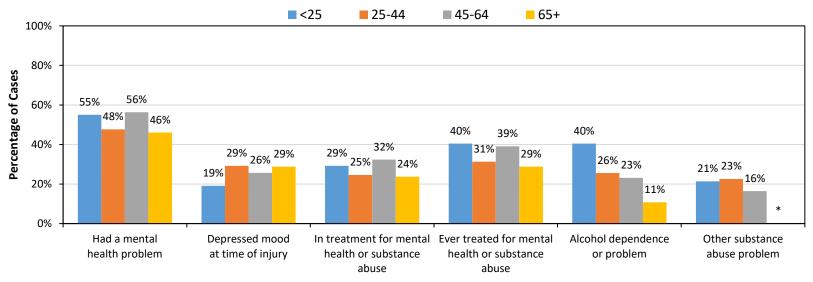
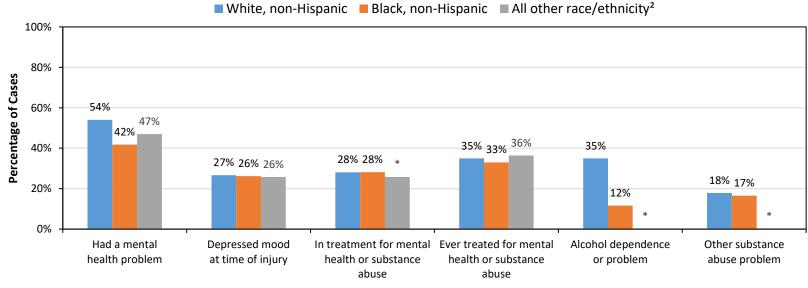


Figure 13: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹ by Race/Ethnicity, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

Figure 14: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹ by Ever Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2018

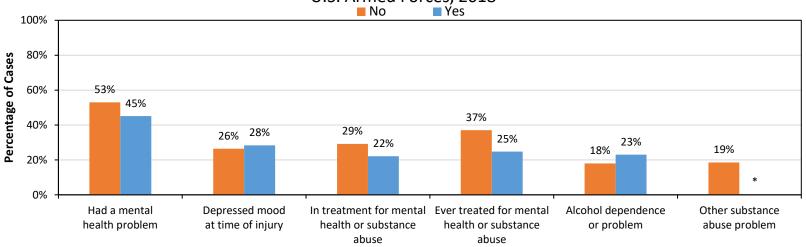
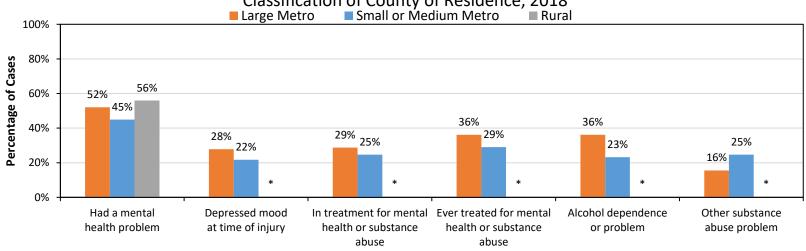


Figure 15: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction¹ by Urban-Rural²
Classification of County of Residence, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Table 4: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹, 2003-2018

| | History of suicide | History of suicidal | Disclosed their | | |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|
| | attempt(s) | thoughts/plans | thoughts/plans | Left a suicide note | Total |
| Year | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n (%) | n |
| 2003 | 82 (16.2) | | 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) | First collected | 107 (21.4) | 168 (33.7) | 499 |
| 2008 | 89 (18.6) | in 2013 | 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 |
| 2017 | 93 (14.6) | 121 (19.0) | 111 (17.5) | 186 (29.2) | 636 |
| ²2018 | 150 (22.7) | 248 (37.5) | 138 (20.9) | 220 (33.3) | 661 |
| Total | 1670 (19.1) | 1264 (14.5) | 2138 (24.5) | 2942 (33.7) | 8730 |

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

²2018 data displayed in Figure 14 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

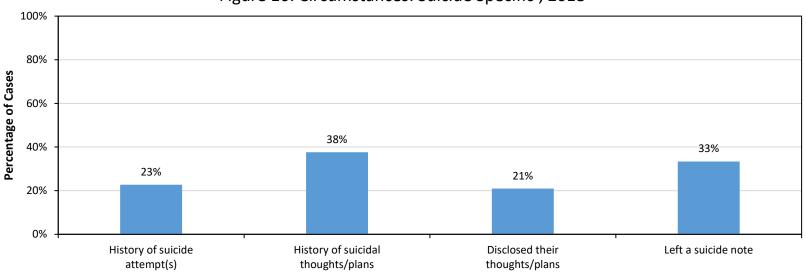
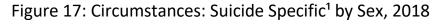
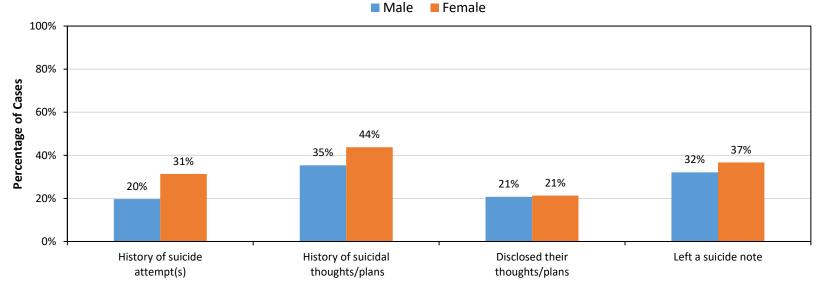


Figure 16: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹, 2018





n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Figure 18: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹ by Age Group, 2018

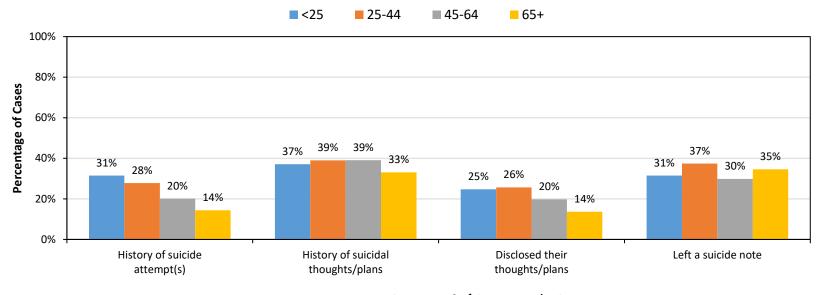
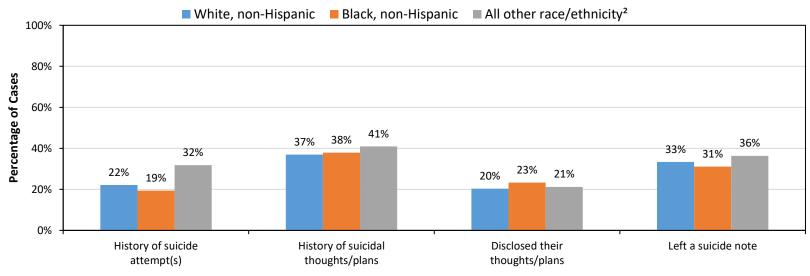


Figure 19: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹ by Race/Ethnicity, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

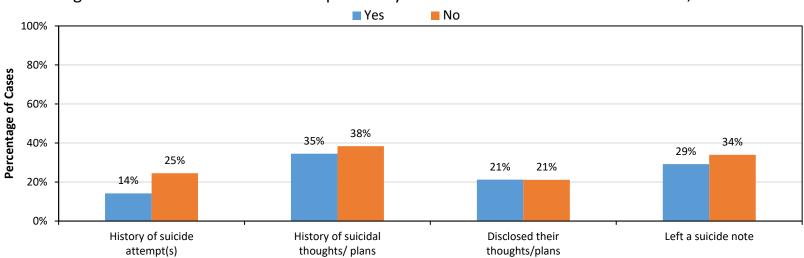
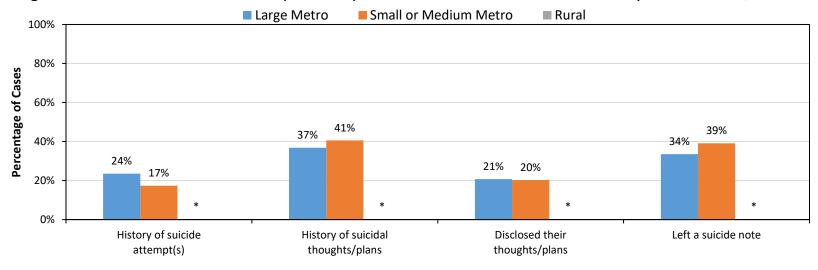


Figure 20: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹ by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2018

Figure 21: Circumstances: Suicide Specific¹ by Urban-Rural² Classification of County of Residence, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Table 5: Circumstances: Relationships¹, 2003-2018

| | Problem with | • | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| | current or former | Problem with family | Argument/conflict | |
| | intimate partner | member | led to death | Total |
| Year | n (%) | n (%) | | n |
| 2003 | 117 (23.1) | | | 506 |
| 2004 | 96 (19.6) | | | 489 |
| 2005 | 101 (21.5) | | | 470 |
| 2006 | 119 (23.9) | | | 498 |
| 2007 | 132 (26.5) | First called | tad in 2012 | 499 |
| 2008 | 108 (22.5) | First collect | ted in 2013 | 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 |
| 2017 | 107 (16.8) | 15 (2.4) | 73 (11.5) | 636 |
| ²2018 | 147 (22.2) | 37 (5.6) 87 (13.2) | | 661 |
| Total | 1988 (22.8) | 264 (3.0) | 670 (7.7) | 8730 |

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

²2018 data displayed in Figure 18 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

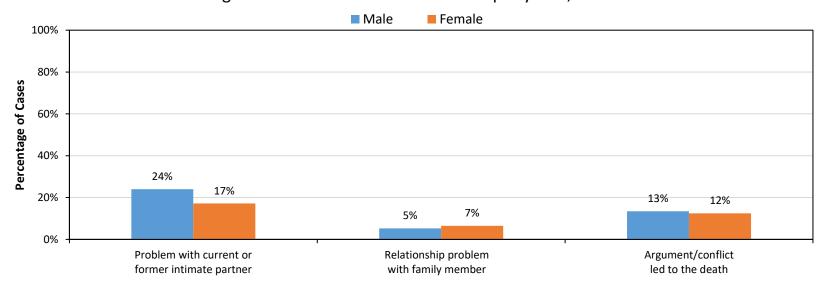
^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

100% 80% Percentage of Cases 60% 40% 22% 20% 13% 6% 0% Problem with current or Problem with Argument/conflict former intimate partner family member led to the death

Figure 22: Circumstances: Relationships¹, 2018

Figure 23: Circumstances: Relationships by Sex¹, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

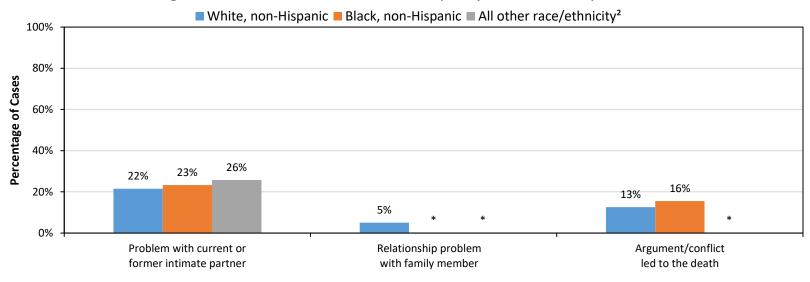
^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

<25 **25-44 45-64** 65+ 100% 80% Percentage of Cases 60% 40% 32% 24% 19% 17% 20% 12% 12% 9% 6% 6% 0% Problem with current or Relationship problem Argument/conflict former intimate partner with family member led to the death

Figure 24: Circumstances: Relationships¹ by Age (years), 2018

Figure 25: Circumstances: Relationships¹ by Race/Ethnicity, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

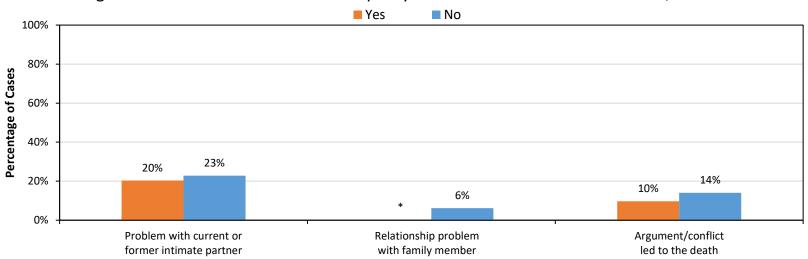
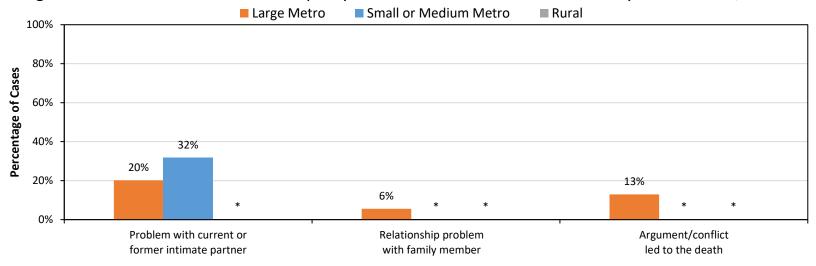


Figure 26: Circumstances: Relationships¹ by Ever Served in U.S. Armed Forces, 2018

Figure 27: Circumstances: Relationships¹ by Urban-Rural² Classification of County of Residence, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

Table 6: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹, 2003-2018

| 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) | | 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) | First collected | 25 (5.3) | 470 |
| 2006 | 47 (9.4) | 104 (20.9) | 39 (7.8) | 36 (7.2) | in 2009 | 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 |
| 2017 | 35 (5.5) | 67 (10.5) | 46 (7.2) | 32 (5.0) | 12 (1.9) | 37 (5.8) | 636 |
| ²2018 | 32 (4.8) | 83 (12.6) | 62 (9.4) | 47 (7.1) | 17 (2.6) | 37 (5.6) | 661 |
| Total | 633 (7.3) | 1351 (15.5) | 892 (10.2) | 835 (9.6) | 202 (2.3) | 503 (5.8) | 8730 |

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

²2018 data displayed in Figure 23 on next page.

n = Number of cases in the defined category

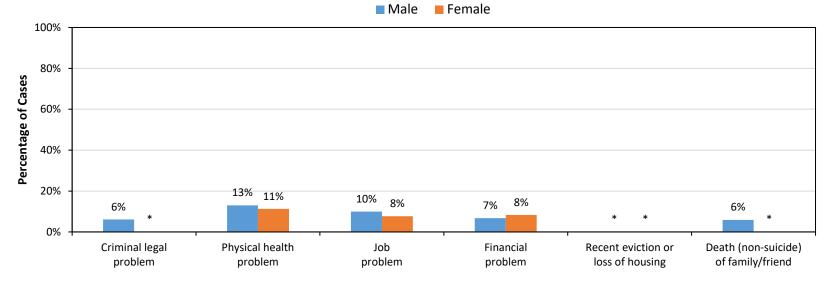
^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

100% 80% Percentage of Cases 60% 40% 20% 12% 9% 7% 6% 5% 3% 0% Criminal legal Physical health Job **Financial** Recent eviction or Death (non-suicide) problem problem problem of family/friend problem loss of housing

Figure 28: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹, 2018

Figure 29: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹ by Sex, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

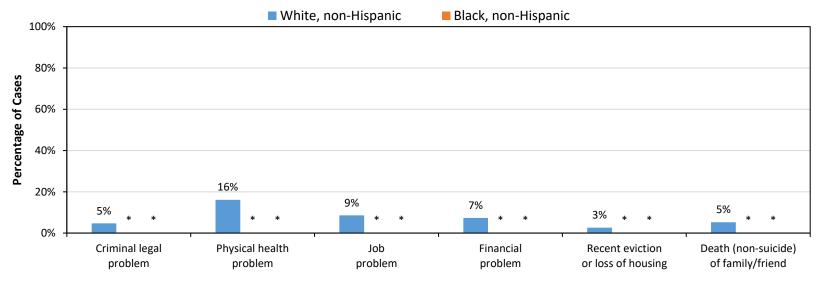
^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

^{* =} Data suppressed due to n<11

<25 **25-44 45-64 65**+ 100% 80% Percentage of Cases 60% 40% 33% 13% 11% 20% 11% 7% 7% 6% 0% Criminal legal Physical health Job Recent eviction Death (non-suicide) **Financial** of family/friend problem problem problem problem or loss of housing

Figure 30: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹ by Age (years), 2018

Figure 31: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹ by Race/Ethnicity, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

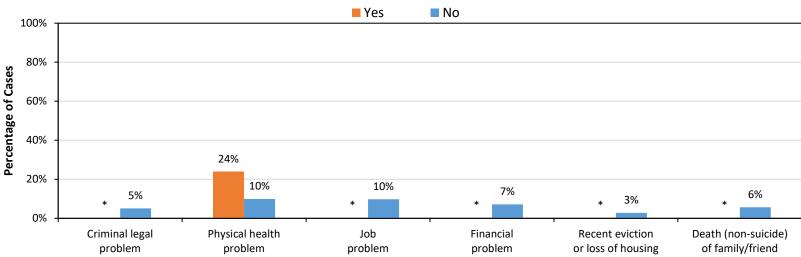
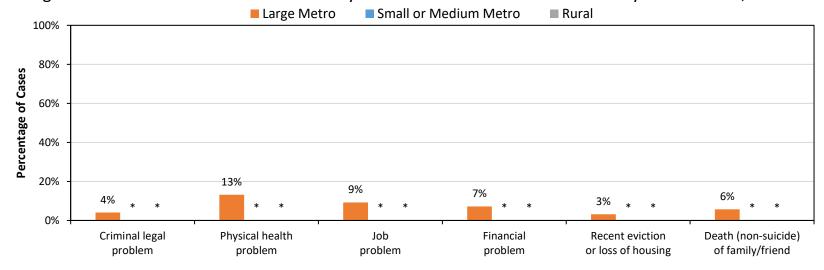


Figure 32: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹ by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2018

Figure 33: Circumstances: Life Stressors¹ by Urban-Rural² Classification of County of Residence, 2018



n = Number of cases in the defined category

^{% =} Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category