

Injury Data Highlight: Suicides in Ohio, 2017

The Ohio Violent Death Reporting System

This injury data highlight presents data collected in the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS) on Ohio residents who died by suicide in Ohio in 2017. There were 1,712 suicide deaths in 2017.

Trends by Demographic

Figure 1. Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age and Sex, Ohio, 2017

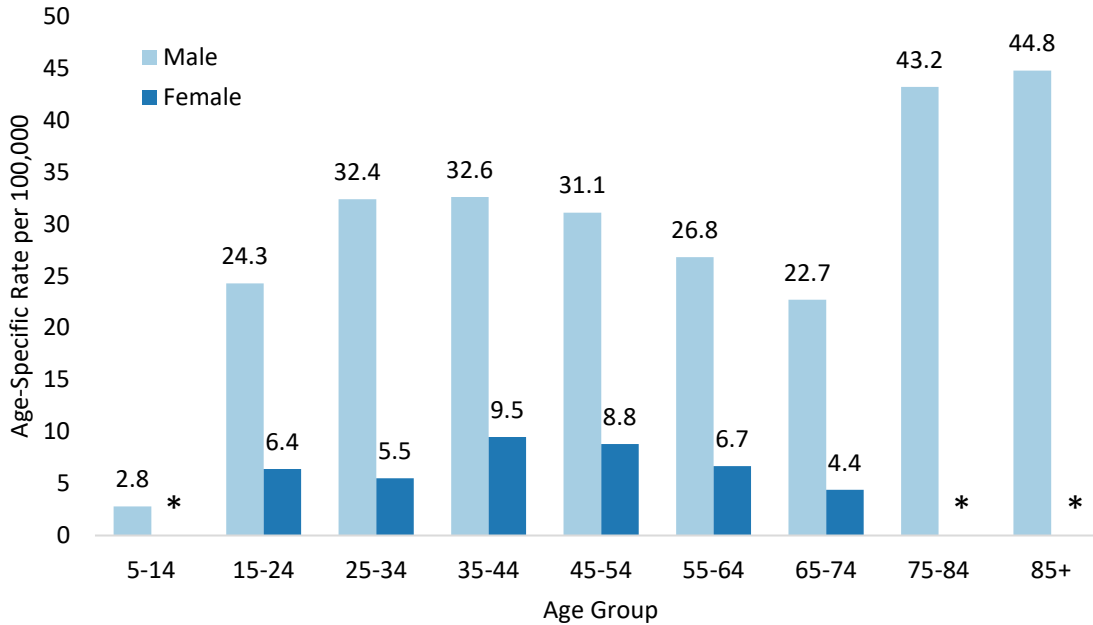
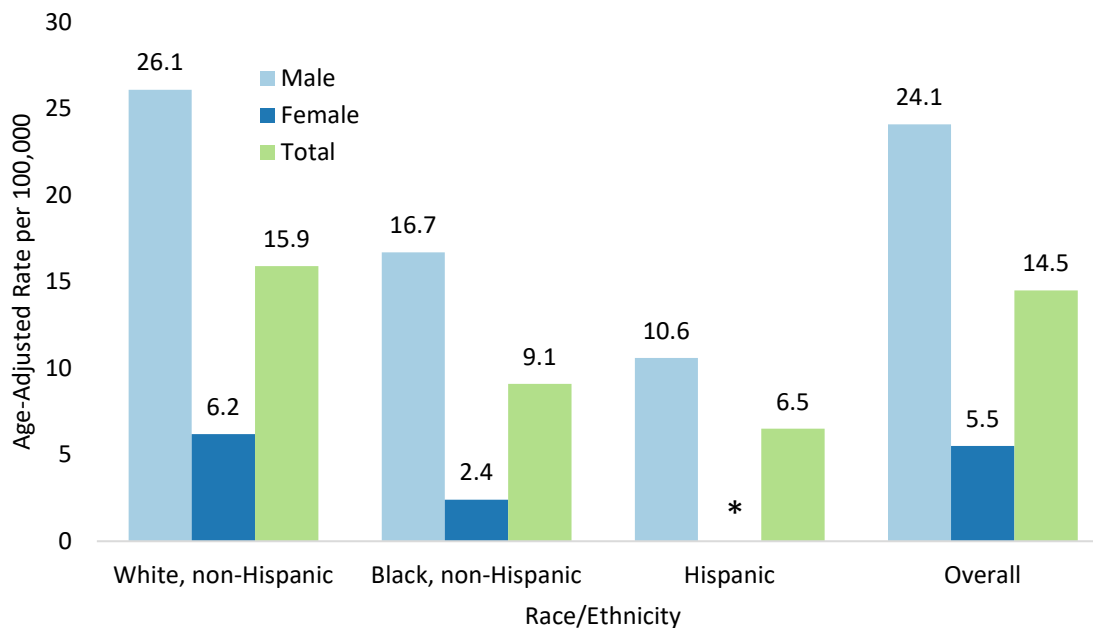


Figure 2. Rate of Suicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Ohio, 2017



NOTE: Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive. Specified race (white, black) excludes Hispanic ethnicity. Other race/ethnicity groups not shown due to small numbers.

*Rates were suppressed for counts <10 for all measures.

For more information on OH-VDRS, including data collection and methods, please visit: odh.ohio.gov/ohvdrs.

FAST FACTS

- The age-adjusted suicide rate in 2017 was 14.5 per 100,000 Ohio residents.
- The suicide rate was highest among males aged 85 or older (44.8 per 100,000).
- Among females, the highest rate was for those aged 35 to 44 (9.5 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate for black, non-Hispanic males was seven times higher than the rate for black, non-Hispanic females.
- The suicide rate for white, non-Hispanic males was about four times higher than the rate for white, non-Hispanic females.

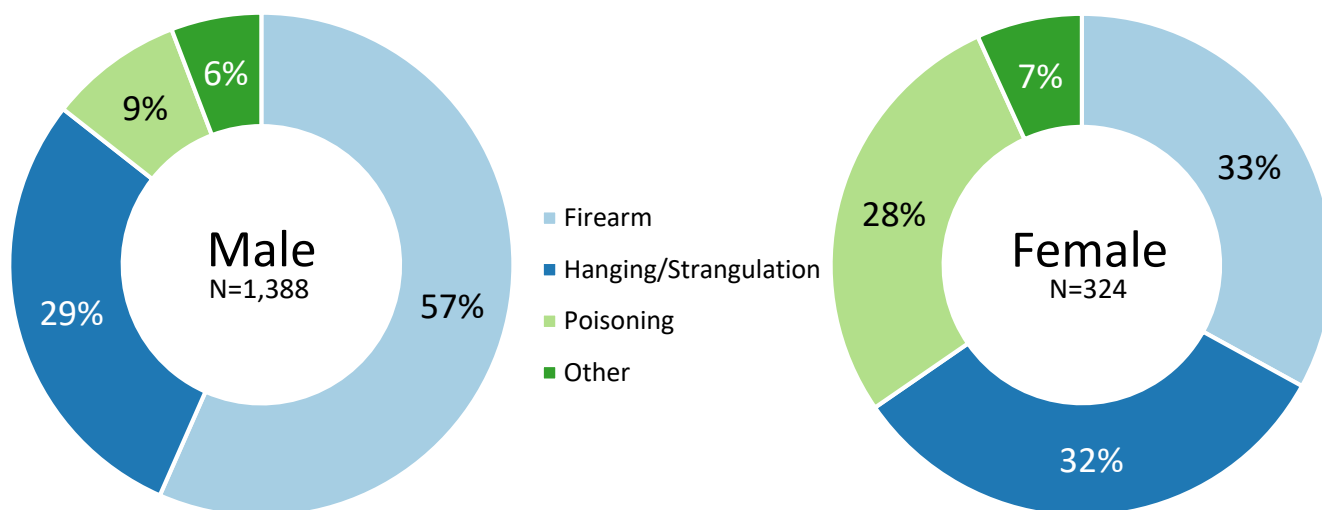
RESOURCES



Crisis Text Line
Text "4HOPE" to 741741

Mechanism

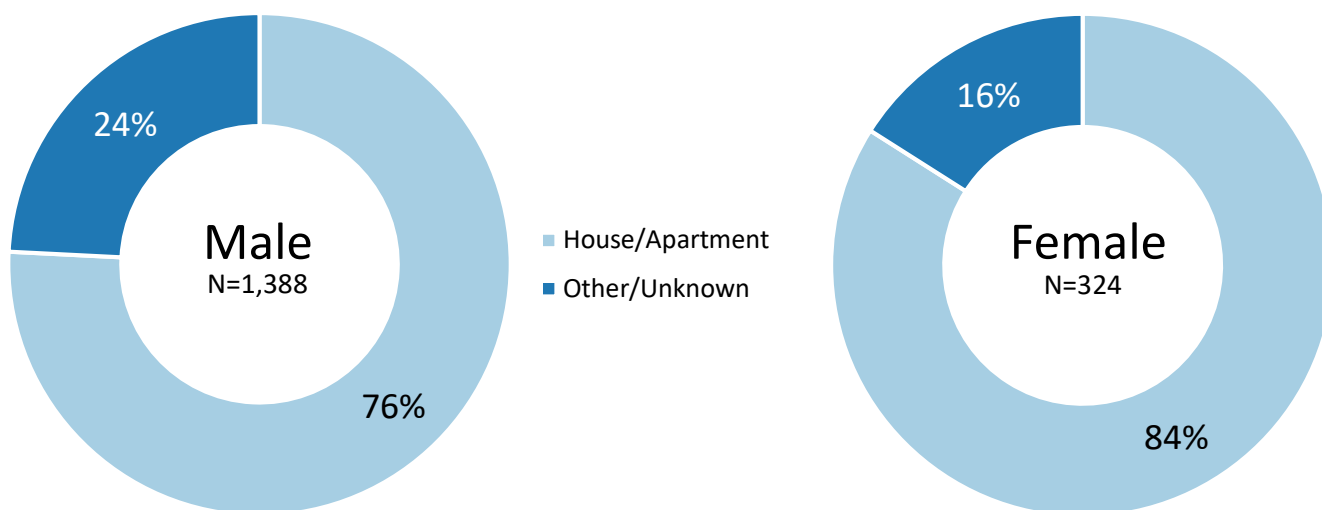
Figure 3. Percentage of Suicide Deaths by Mechanism and Sex, Ohio, 2017



- Firearm was the leading mechanism of suicide among both males (57%) and females (33%), accounting for 52% of all suicide deaths (data not shown).
- Hanging/strangulation was the second leading mechanism of suicide, accounting for 30% of all suicide deaths (data not shown).
- In 2017, suicide by poisoning was three times higher among females (28%) than males (9%).

Location

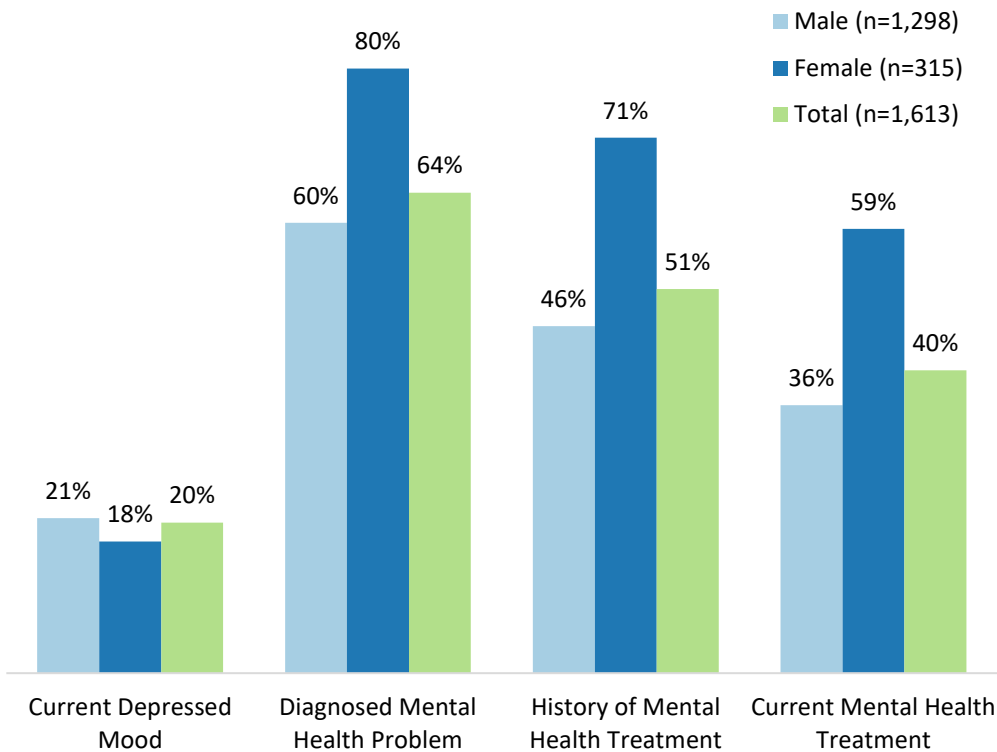
Figure 4. Percentage of Suicide Deaths by Location of Injury and Sex, Ohio, 2017



- Among both male and female suicide decedents, injury location was most often a house or apartment, 76% and 84%, respectively.

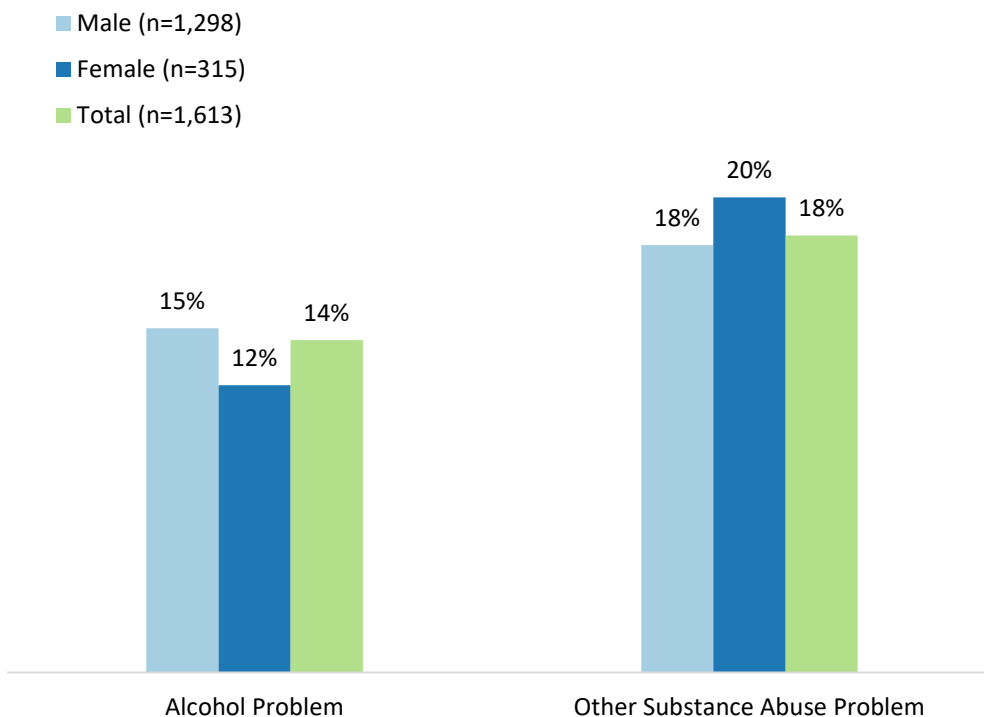
Circumstances

Figure 5. Mental Health Circumstances of Suicide Decedents by Sex, Ohio, 2017



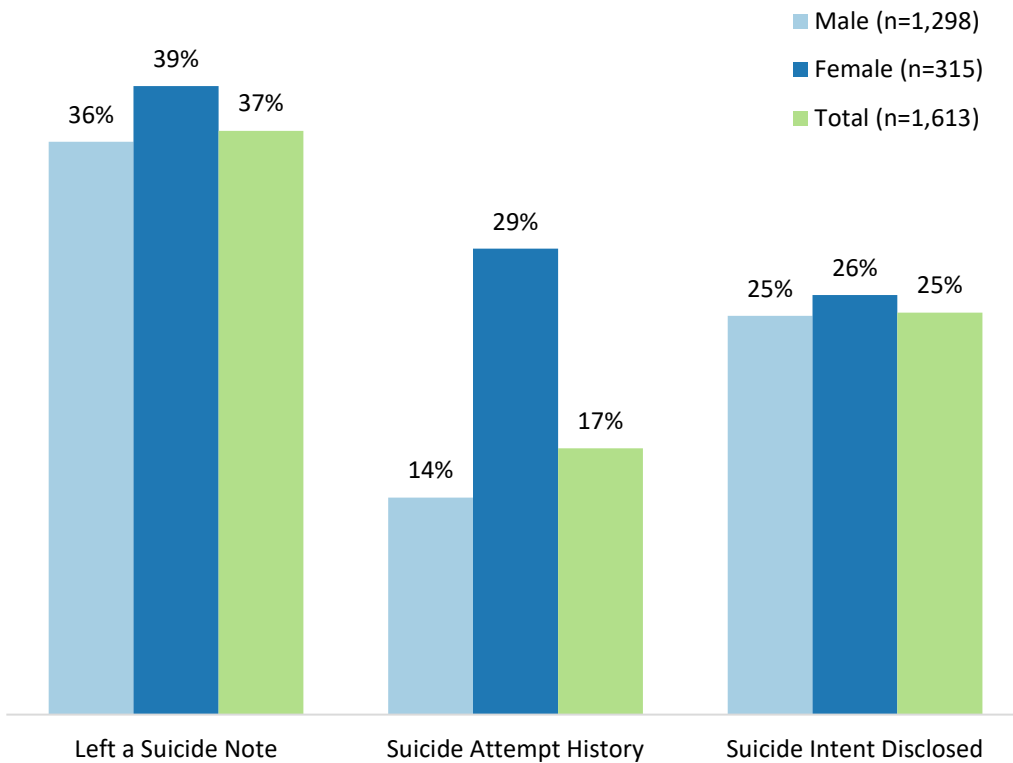
- Of the total 1,712 suicide decedents in 2017, 1,613 had at least one type of circumstance reported. Figures 5 through 8 present data collected from those 1,613 decedents.
- One-fifth of these suicide decedents were perceived by themselves or others to have a depressed mood at the time of injury.
- More than 60% of these suicide decedents had a current diagnosed mental health problem reported at the time of injury and 40% were receiving mental health treatment.

Figure 6. Substance Abuse Circumstances of Suicide Decedents by Sex, Ohio, 2017



- Females had higher percentages of diagnosed mental health problems and current and past mental health treatment than males.
- 14% of these suicide decedents were perceived by themselves or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to, alcohol.
- 18% of these suicide decedents were perceived by themselves or others to have a problem with, or to be addicted to, drugs other than alcohol.

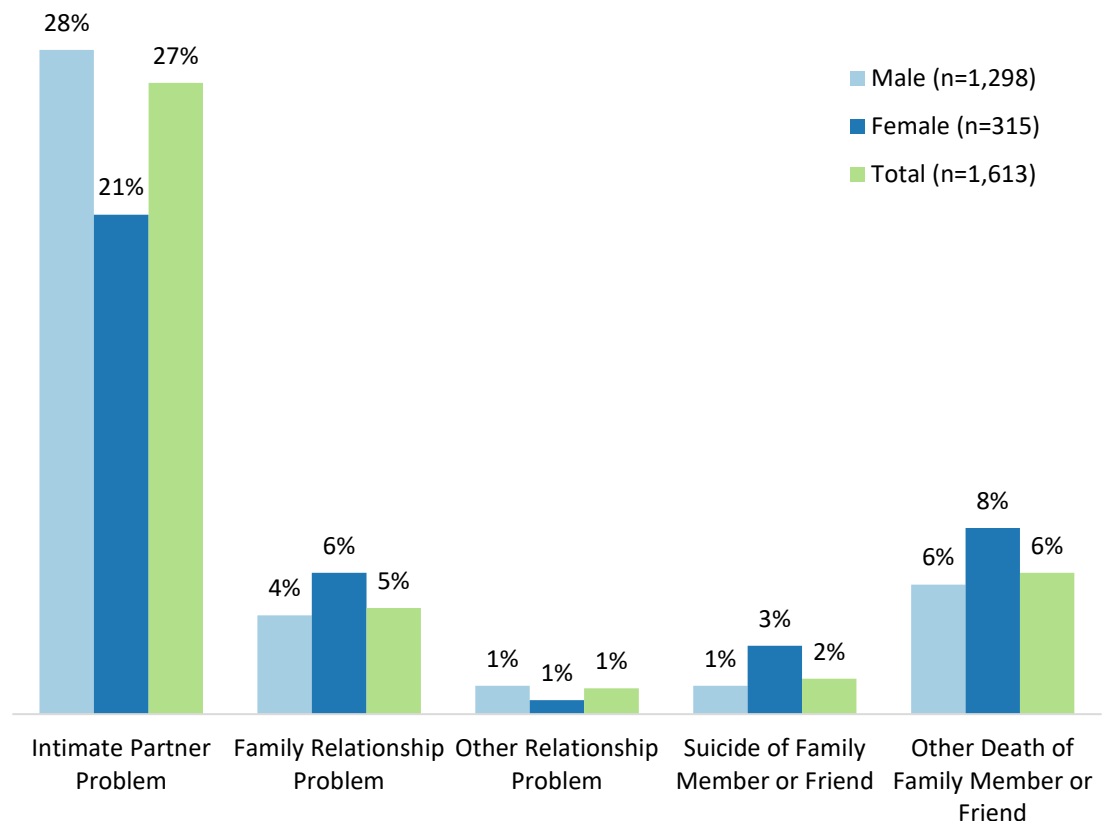
Figure 7. Suicide Event Circumstances of Suicide Decedents by Sex, Ohio, 2017



- Less than 40% of these suicide decedents left a suicide note.
- Females were twice as likely to have prior suicide attempts compared with males.
- A quarter of these suicide decedents disclosed their thoughts or plans to die by suicide within one month of injury.

Figure 8. Relationship Stressors of Suicide Decedents by Sex, Ohio, 2017

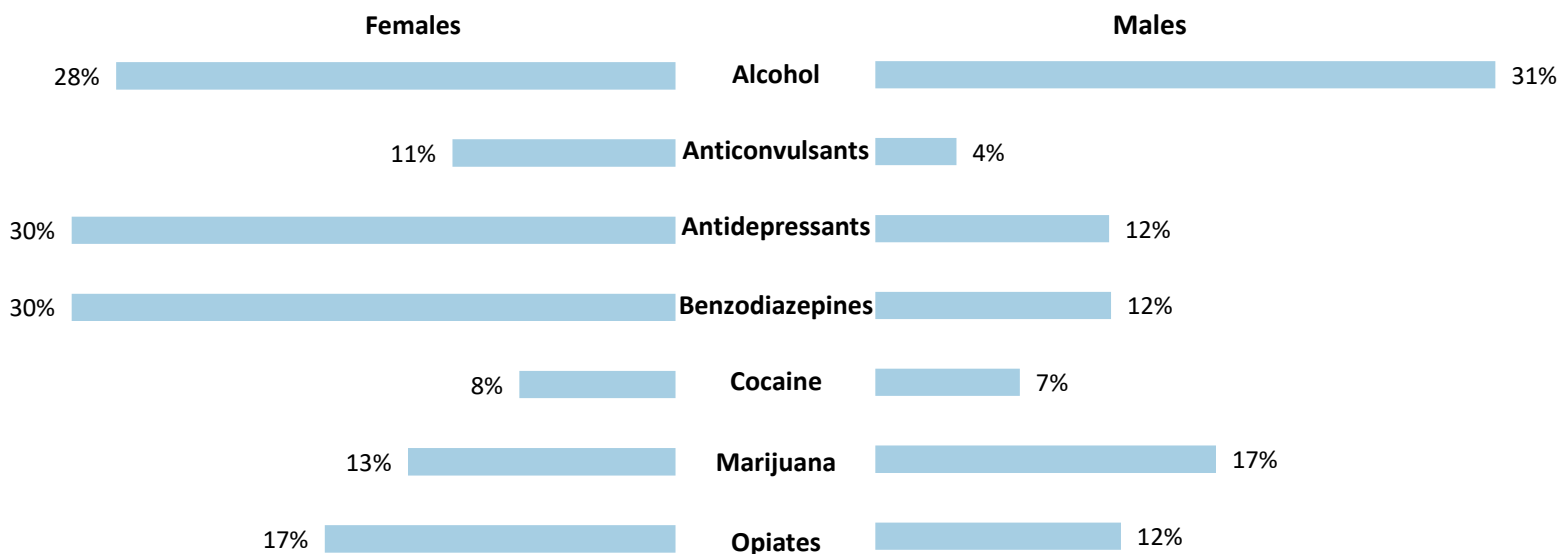
- Evidence of an intimate partner problem (e.g., break-up, argument, affair) was reported for 27% of these suicide decedents and was the most common type of relationship problem overall.
- 2% of these suicide decedents were affected by a family member or friend dying by suicide, and 6% were affected by a non-suicide death of a family member or friend.



Source: ODH OH-VDRS.

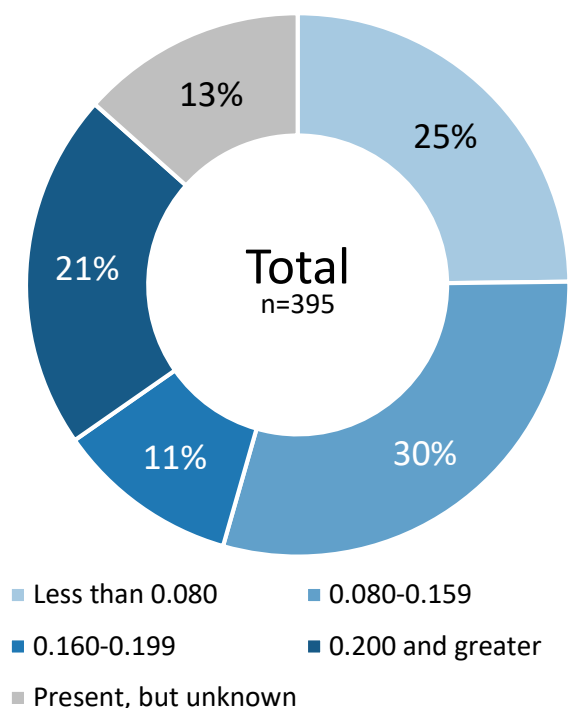
Toxicology

Figure 9. Percentage of Suicide Decedents Testing Positive for Select Substances by Sex, Ohio, 2017



Alcohol was the most common substance present at the time of death per toxicology findings for suicide decedents (31% overall).

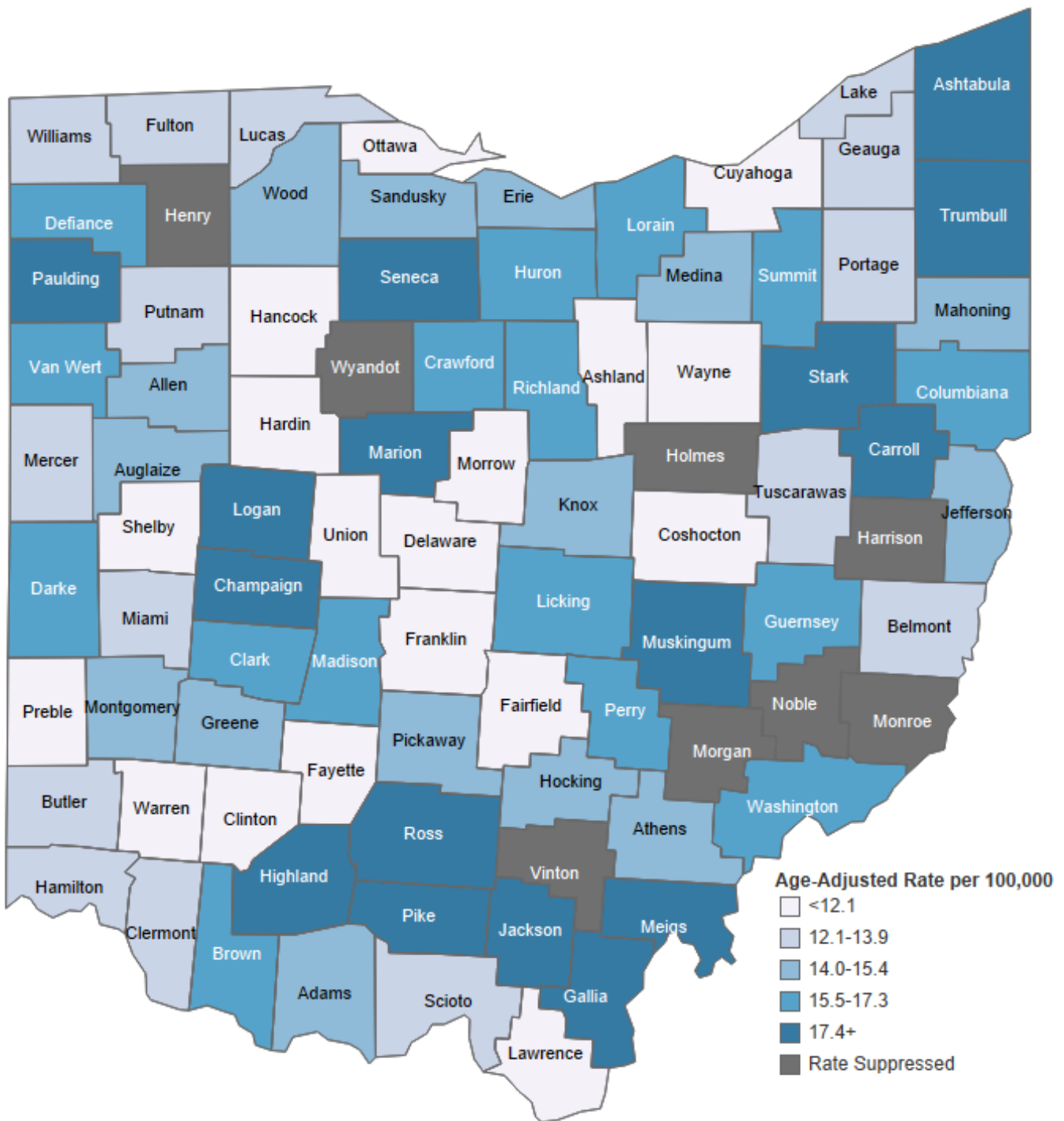
Figure 10. Blood Alcohol Concentration Results for Suicide Decedents who Tested Positive for Alcohol, Ohio, 2017



TOXICOLOGY FAST FACTS

- Percentages in Figure 9 are based on suicide deaths with available toxicology results (n=1,293) regardless of mechanism.
- 30% of females had antidepressants and/or benzodiazepines present in their toxicology report compared with 12% of males.
- Of the suicide decedents with positive toxicology results for alcohol (n=395), approximately 60% had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher.

Figure 11. Average Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate by County, Ohio, 2015-2017



- Between 2015 and 2017, Pike County had the highest age-adjusted suicide rate (25.5), and Union County had the lowest suicide rate (8.3).
- Among the 16 counties with suicide rates of 17.4 or greater, 10 were designated Appalachian counties and five were designated rural counties.
- Among metropolitan counties, Stark County had the highest age-adjusted suicide rate (18.5).