

ANALYSIS OF CASES BY MANNER OF DEATH

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Manner of Death is a classification based on the circumstances surrounding the cause of death and is broadly divided in natural and non-natural. There are currently five classifications for manners of death in Michigan. These are: natural, homicide, accident, suicide, and indeterminate.

A **natural** death is one that is solely or near entirely due to internal disease process(es) and/or aging.

A **homicide** is a death that occurs from the volitional actions or inactions of another person to cause fear, harm, or death. It is a neutral classification that does not imply criminal intent.

The manner of **accident** is appropriate when death results from traumatic injuries or chemical toxicity, where the outcome of death is unanticipated. There is absence of evidence of the volitional infliction of injury to produce death.

A **suicide** death results from self-inflicted acts or behaviors to bring about self-harm or cause the death of oneself.

Use of **indeterminant** for the manner of death is reserved for cases where thorough examination of currently available medical and investigative information is insufficient to select a more defined manner of death.

Table 1: Total Cases - Autopsy Status

Manner	Autopsy	Inspection	% Autopsied	Total
Accident	764	318	71%	1082
Homicide	318	0	100%	318
Indeterminate	28	1	97%	29
Natural	422	433	49%	855
Suicide	85	119	42%	204
Pending	425	137	76%	562
Subtotal	2042	1008	67%	3050

WCMEO Manner of Death

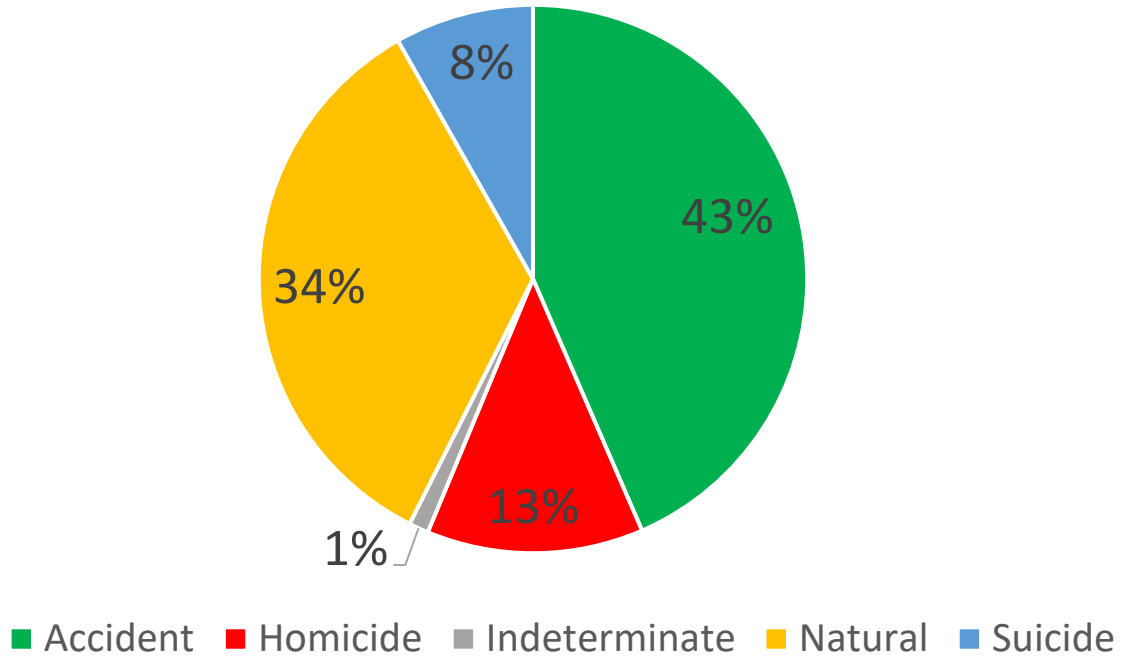
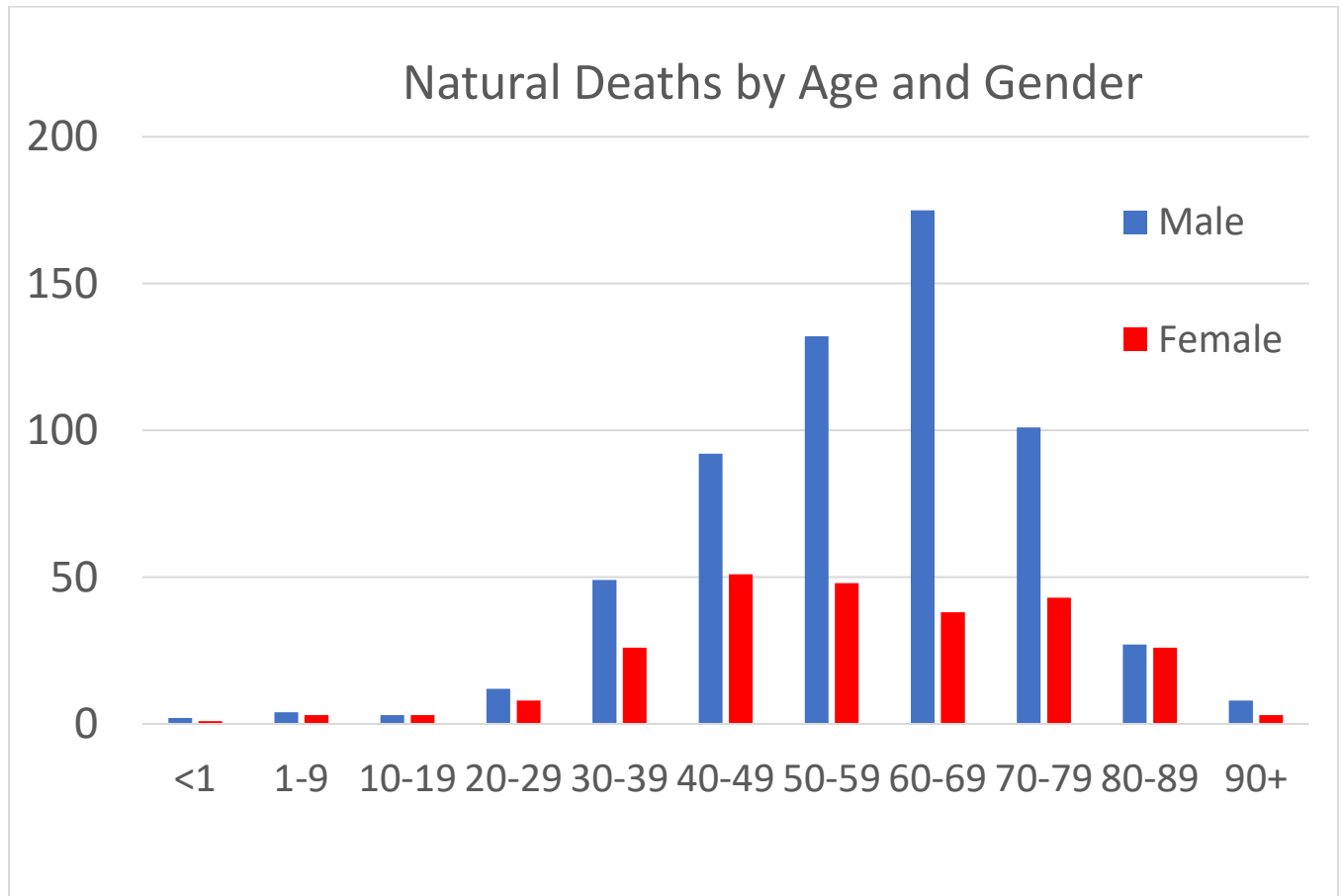


Table 2: Total Case by Gender

Manner	Male	Female	Total
Accident	755	327	1082
Homicide	277	41	318
Indeterminate	19	10	29
Natural	605	250	855
Suicide	170	34	204
Pending	385	175	560
Subtotal	2211	837	3048

NATURAL

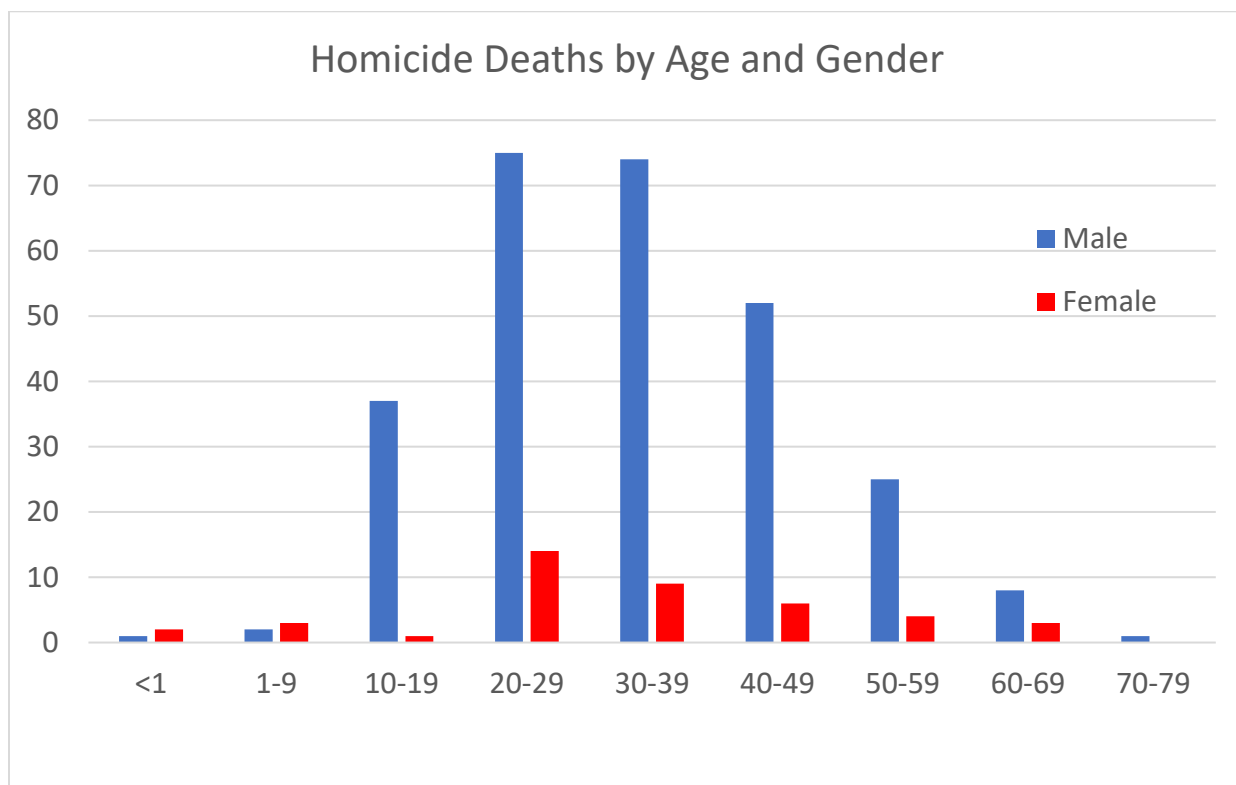
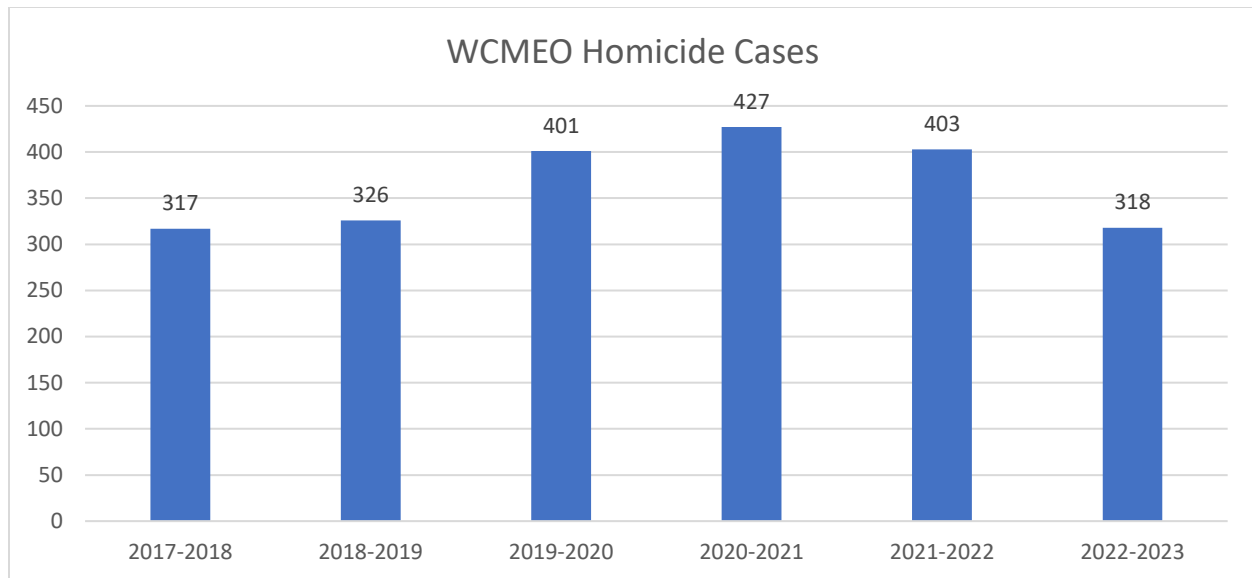
In this past fiscal year, individuals classified as having a natural manner of death (34%) has been overtaken by those with an accident manner of death (43%).



HOMICIDE

The last two fiscal cycles have experienced decreases in overall homicide cases. This most recent year saw a 21% decrease in homicide numbers as compared to the previous.

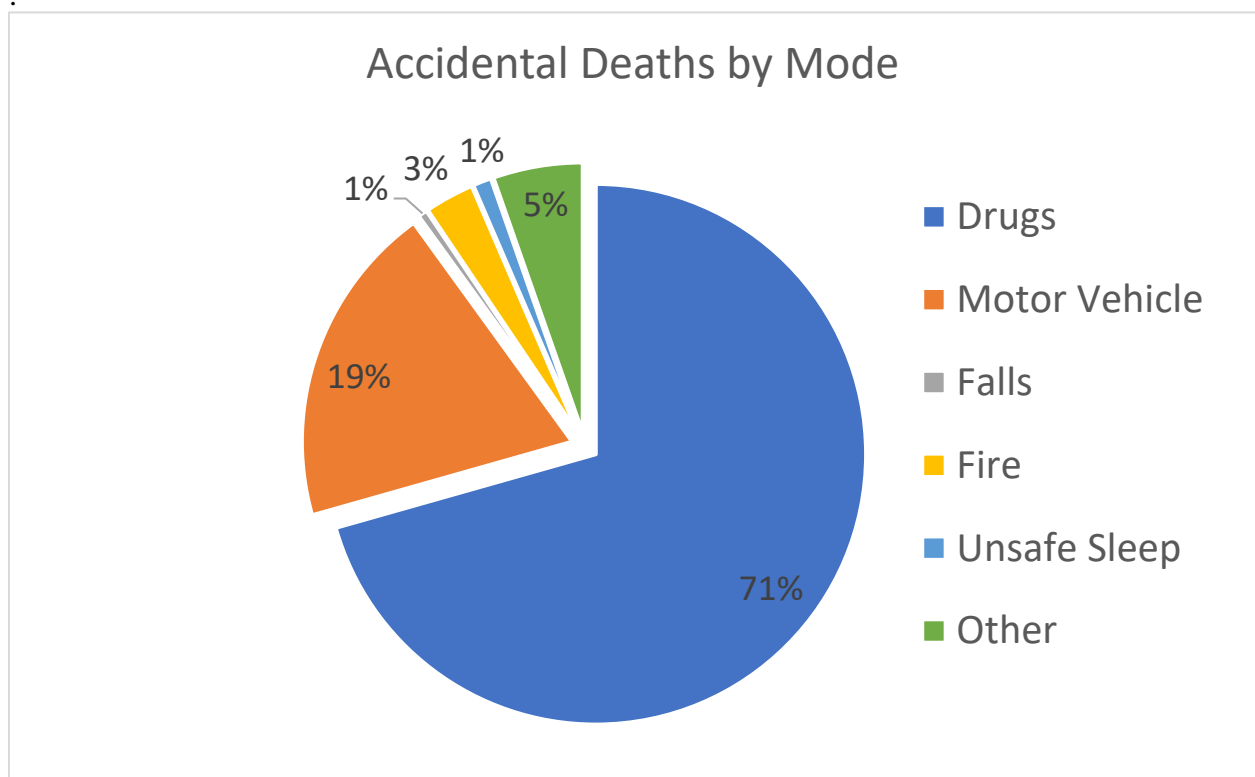
The mode of death refers to the type of event within a given category of Manner that led to death. The prevailing mode of homicide fatalities comes from firearms (88%), followed by sharp force injuries (5%), then blunt force injuries (4%), and then all other forms (3%).

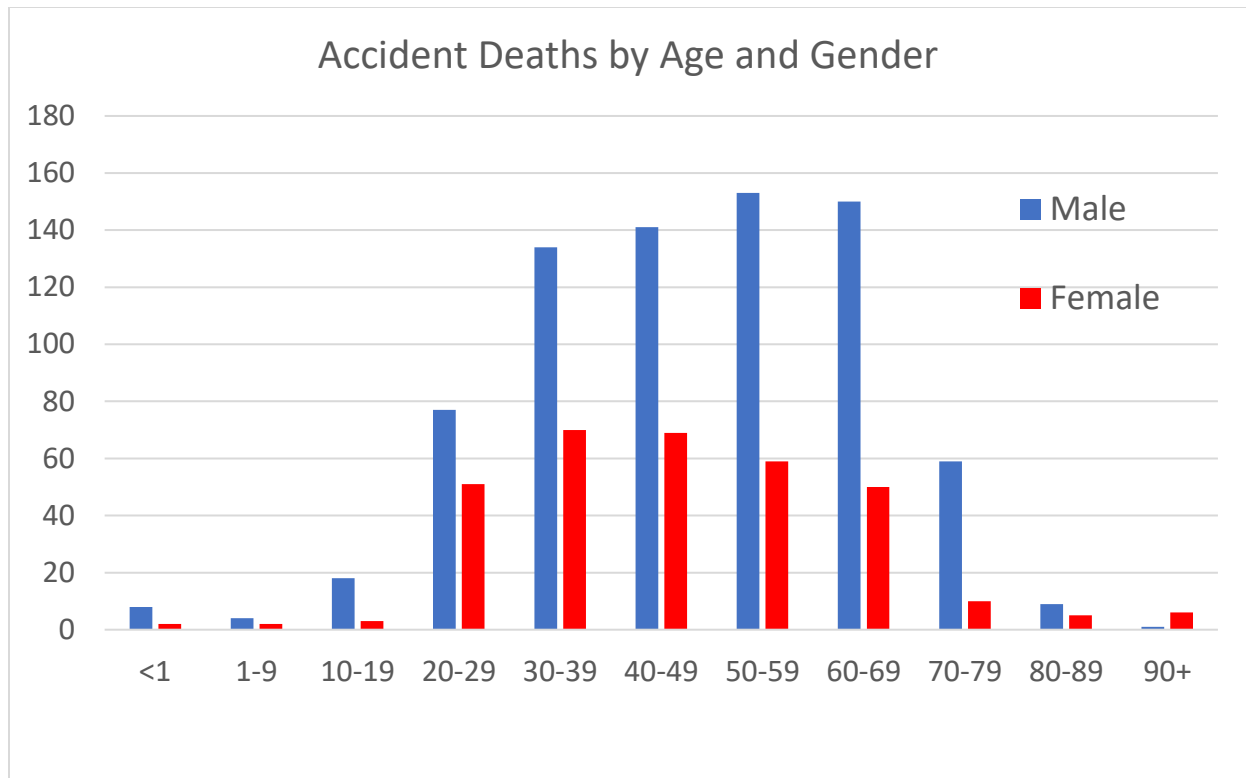


There is prevalence of homicide fatalities amongst males (87%) compared to females (13%). For both sexes, homicide fatalities are greatest in the 20 – 29 years of age, Both genders see a regular decline afterwards.

ACCIDENT

Accident is the frequently encountered manner of death of those presenting to the medical examiner's office. Drug toxicity is the most common mode of accidental deaths and outnumbers all other accidental modes combined.

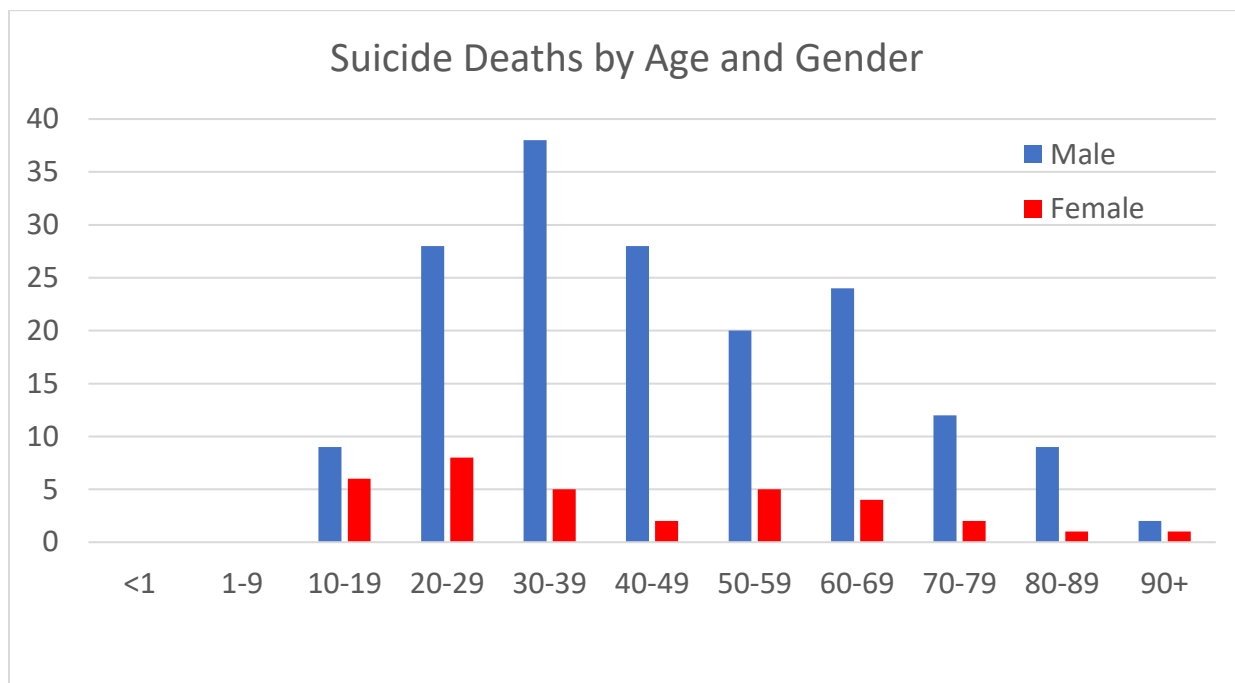
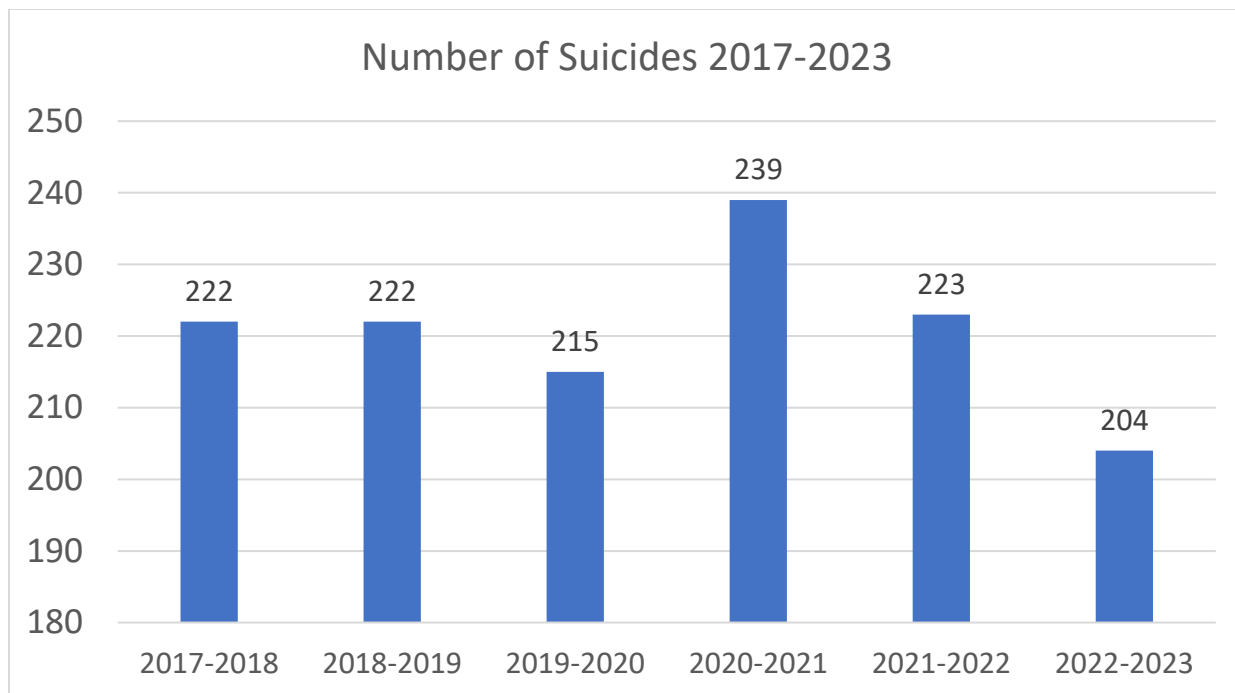




Unlike the other manners of death, the frequency of accidental deaths is more evenly distributed in the mid-adult age ranges. However, like the other manners, the extremes of age see the least number of cases.

SUICIDE

This fiscal year experienced a decrease in overall suicide deaths from 12.6 suicidal deaths per 100,000 citizens to 11.5 suicidal deaths per 100,000 citizens. This is lower than the national average of 14.4 suicidal deaths per 100,000 citizens (2022 CDC's National Center for Health Statistics).



Present is divergence in suicide deaths between males and females with 83% occurring in the male population compared to 17% in the female. The lowest suicide rates are seen from childhood to the young adulthood. When suicide deaths are combined, there is a 140% increase in suicides stepping from the 10–19 years to the 20-29 years of age bracket. In females, the suicide rates do not see significant declines until after age 70, while males see a relative downward trend.