

# Suicide Fatality Review (SFR) Report- 2024

Deaths finalized from January 1, 2024, through  
December 31, 2024

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**Clermont County**  
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# Table of Contents

- SFR Overview
- SFR Committee
- Data Sources & Analysis
- Data & Findings
- Identified Trends
- Recommendations



# SFR Overview

The Clermont County SFR Committee was formed in 2023 as governed by the Ohio Revised Code 307.641 to 307.649.

This presentation is an overview of all confirmed suicide deaths of Clermont County residents in 2024.

The ultimate purpose of the fatality committee is to reduce the number of suicide deaths by identifying the circumstances surrounding the deaths to inform recommendations for prevention.

The goal of this report is to provide a snapshot of the trends related to suicide deaths among Clermont County residents, identify higher risk populations, identify areas for strategies and activities to work towards prevention of fatalities, influence policy change, and influence equity promotion.

A summary of these findings will be included annually in the Community Health Assessment or Community Health Assessment Update.



# SFR Committee

The Suicide Fatality Review (SFR) Committee meets once per year to review data from all confirmed suicide deaths of Clermont County residents. Three to five cases are chosen to discuss in greater depth in order to identify prevention strategies. Members include the Clermont County Health Commissioner and those selected including

- The chief of police of a police department in the county or region or the county sheriff or a designee of the chief or sheriff
- A public health official or the official's designee
- The executive director of a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services or the executive director's designee
- A physician
- County coroner

All members must abide by all local, state, and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the security, privacy, and confidentiality of medical records' information, (also referred to as protected health information or PHI).



# SFR Data Sources

- Ohio Mortality Warehouse
- Patient Medical Records
- Death Certificates
- Online Public Information
  - Criminal records search
  - Social media
  - Obituaries



# SFR Data Analysis

“Data analysis is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modelling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions, and supporting decision-making,” (PHAB, 2022).

## *Purpose*

The purpose of reviewing the trending data is to identify meaning from the data, draw conclusions, and make informed decisions.

## *Methods for interpretation*

The use of data analysis software to review data trends and interpret statistical significance. Data analysis tools included: Excel and R Studio

## *Types of analysis*

Descriptive analysis (mean, median, mode, and standard deviation)

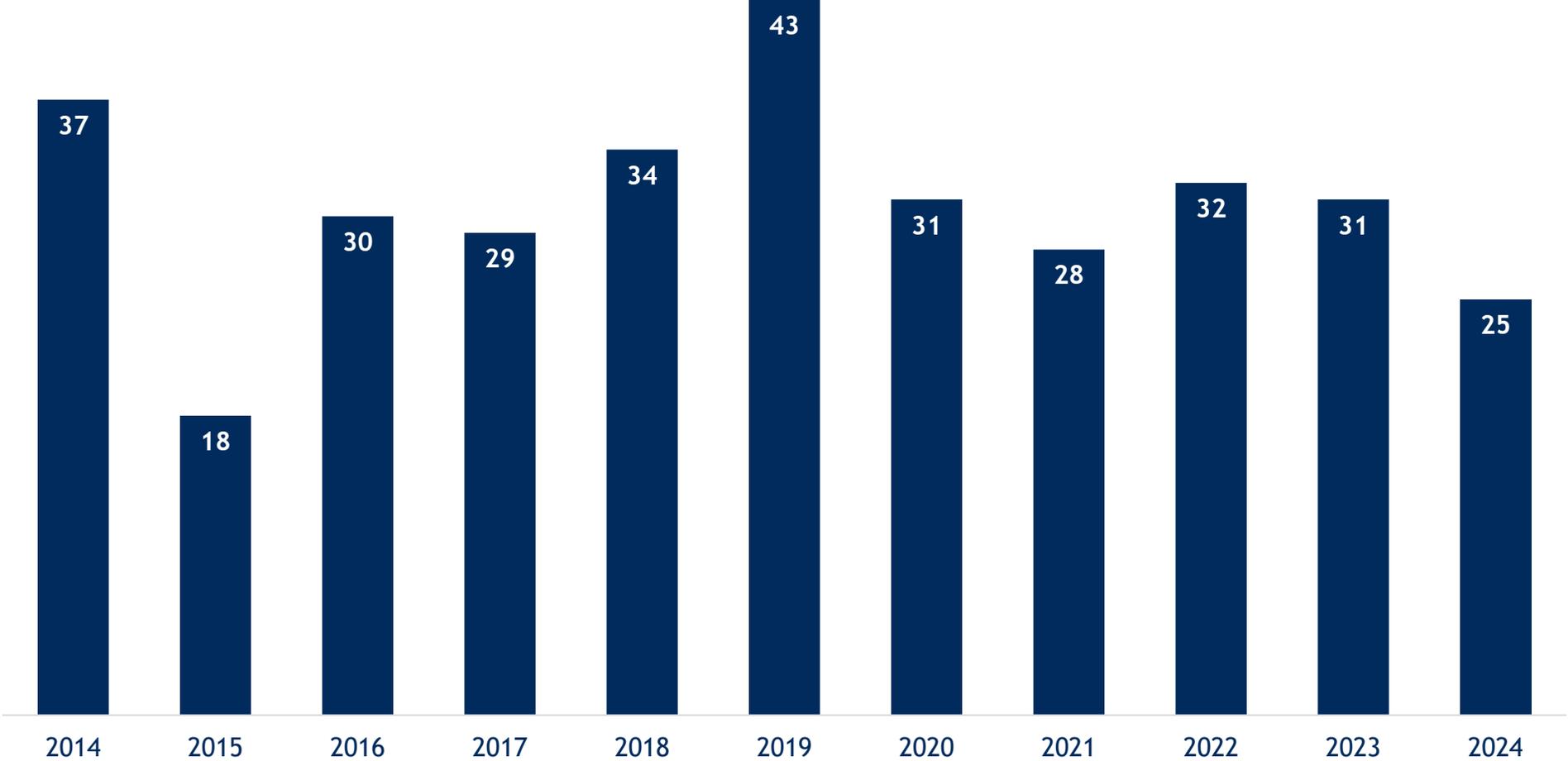
Exploratory data analysis (visualizations and uncover patterns)

## *Data visualization*

“Data visualization is the process of displaying data/information in graphical charts, figures and bars. It is used as means to deliver visual reporting to users for the performance, operations or general statistics of an application, network, hardware or virtually any IT asset (Techopedia. Data Visualization. June 5, 2018),” (PHAB, 2022). The use of charts, graphs, maps, bullet points, and data elements display the relationships and meaning found within the variables.



# In 2024, there were 25 suicide deaths among Clermont County residents.

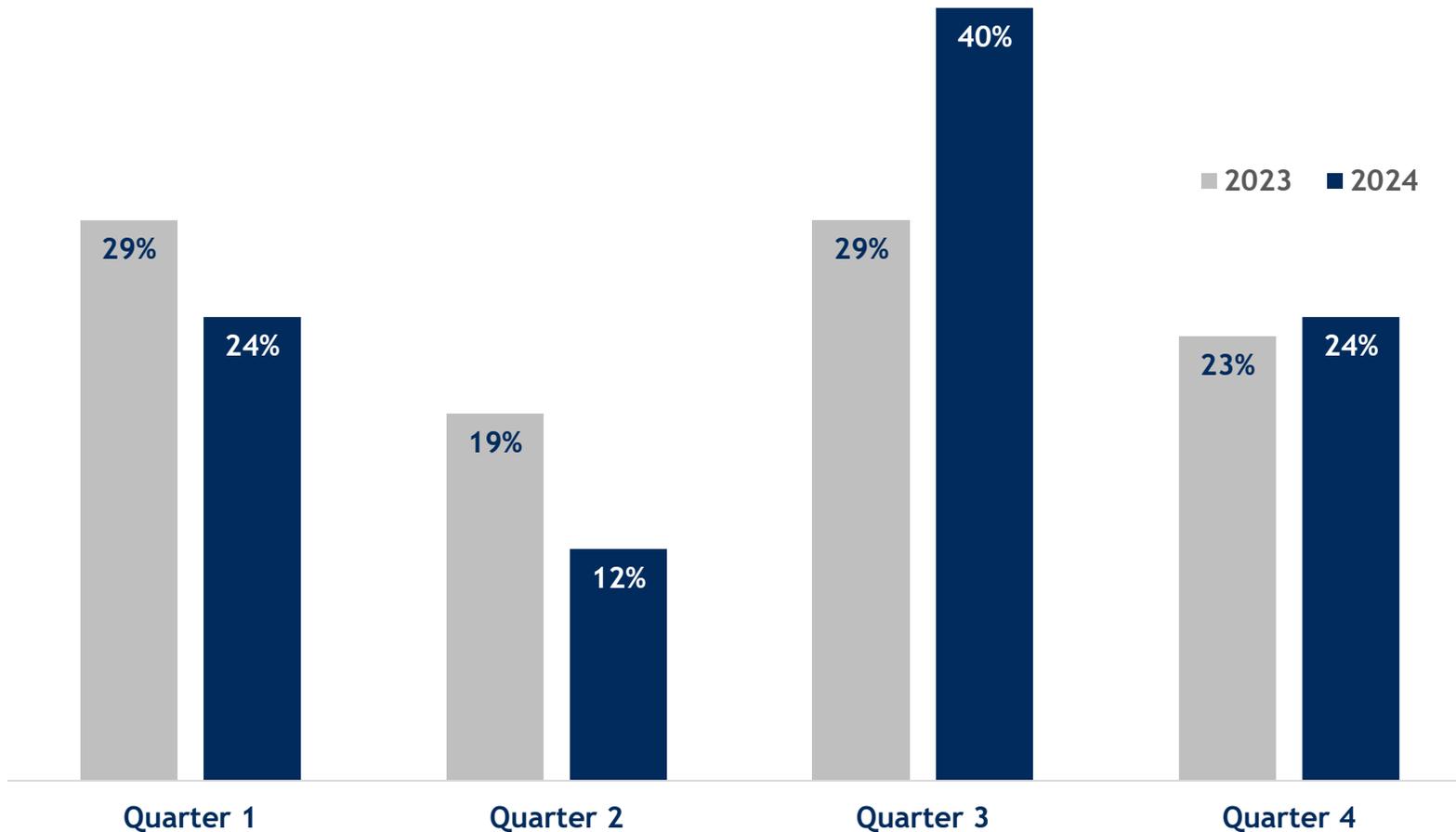


Slope of trend: -0.063. P-value: 0.923. R<sup>2</sup>: 0.001. While the counts have slightly decreased over time, this result is NOT statistically significant. The low R<sup>2</sup> means that the year-to-year variation is largely not explained by a consistent trend.

Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.



# In 2024, 40% of deaths occurred in quarter 3 (July, August, September).

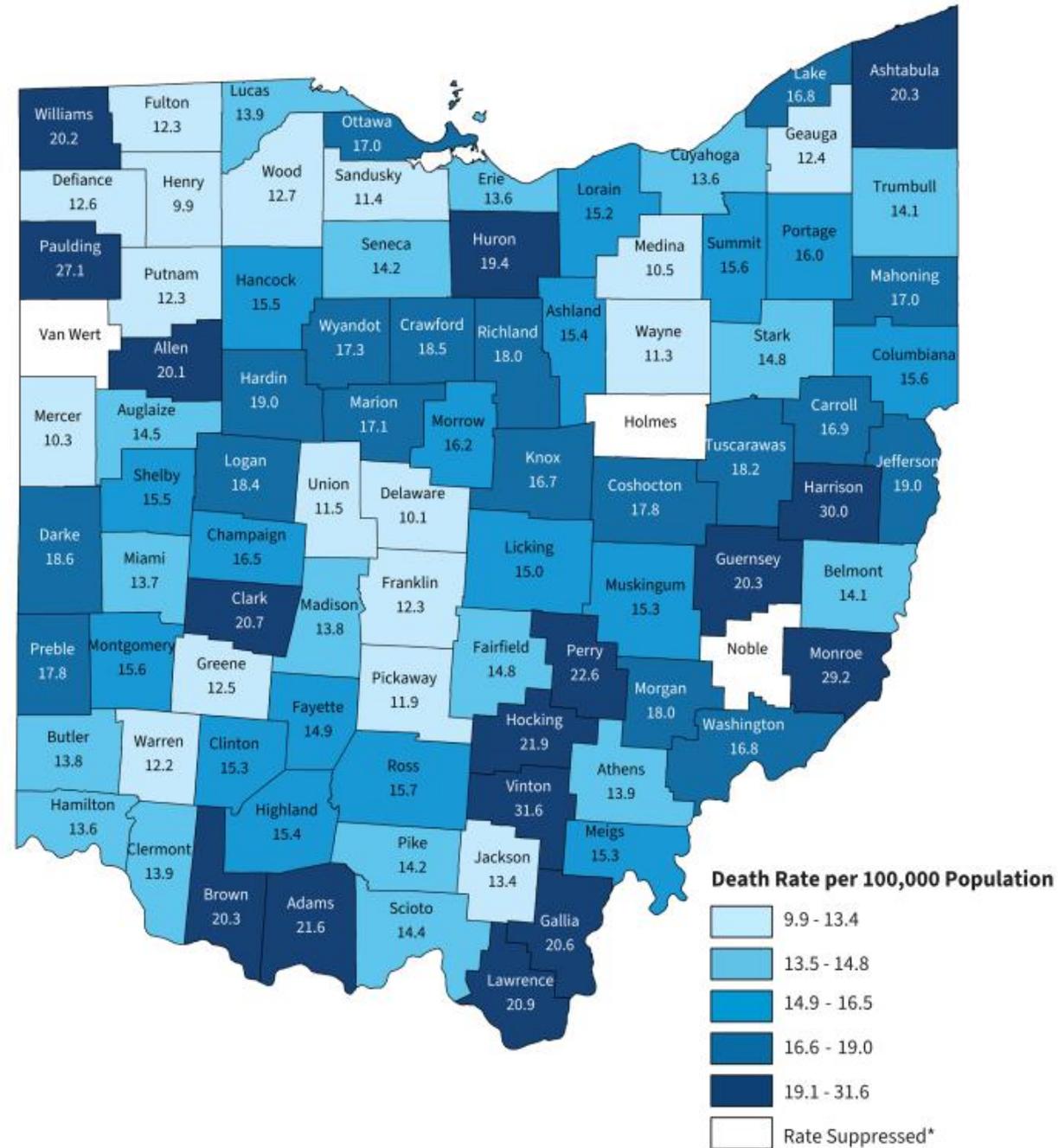


While suicide death can happen during any time of year, there is evidence to suggest that patterns of attempted and completed suicide increase during late spring and summer.



Figure 12. Average Age-Adjusted Rate of Suicide Deaths by County<sup>1</sup>, Ohio, 2020-2023

From 2020-2023 the average age-adjusted rate of suicide deaths in Clermont County was 13.9 per 100,000 population.

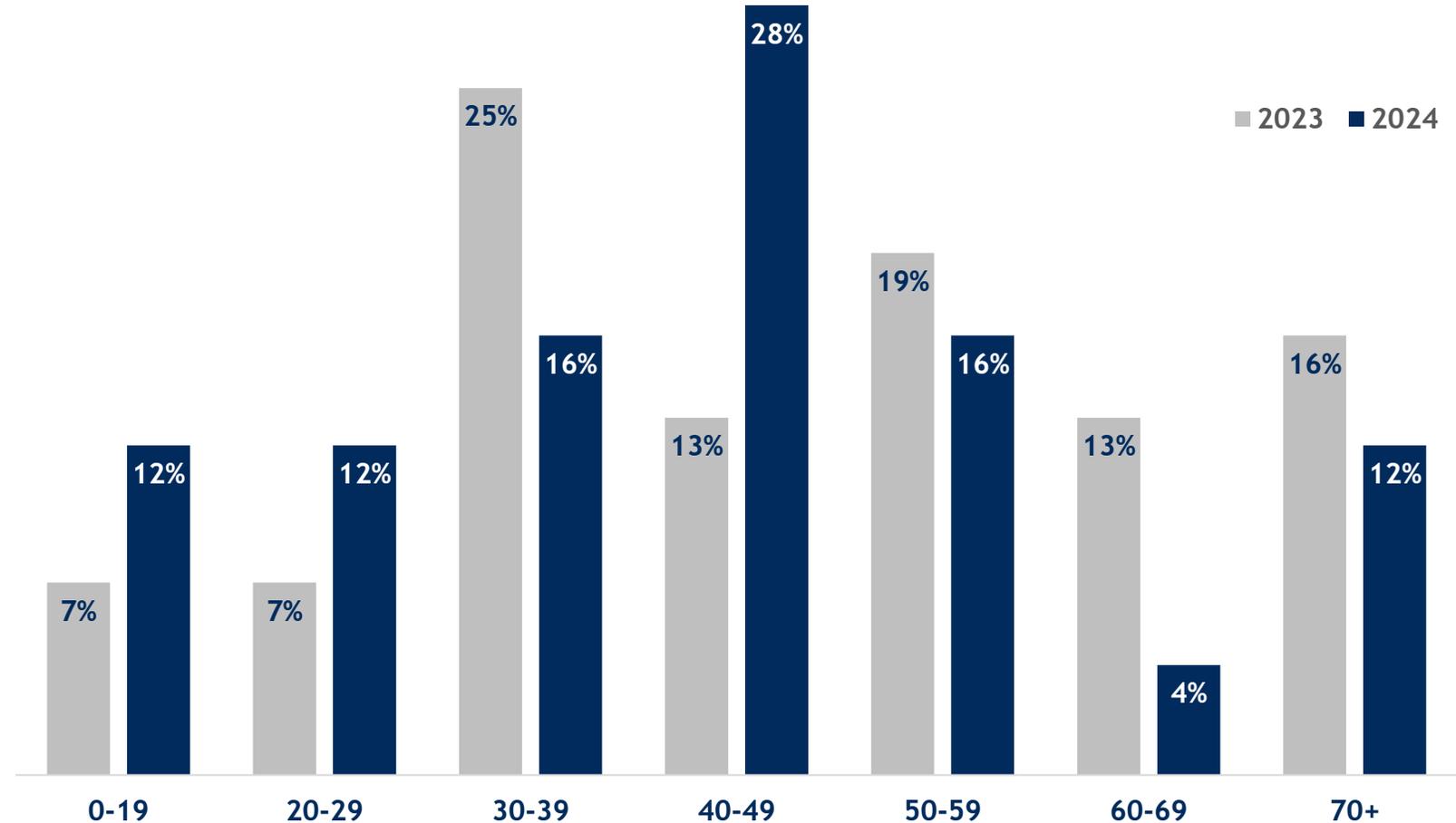


# DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIOECONOMICS

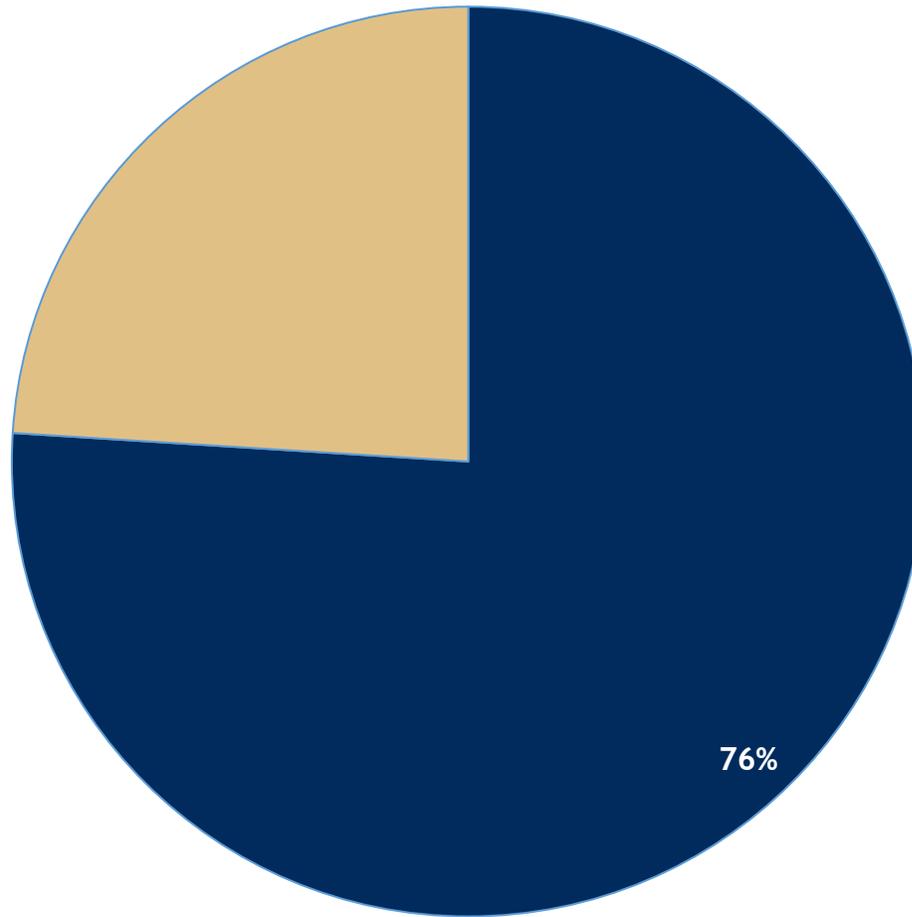


# In 2024, the largest percentage of decedents were in the 40-49 age group.

“Midlife suicide is strongly associated with socioeconomic difficulties and physical and psychiatric illnesses that are common in this age population.”



# In 2024, about 3 out of every 4 decedents were male.



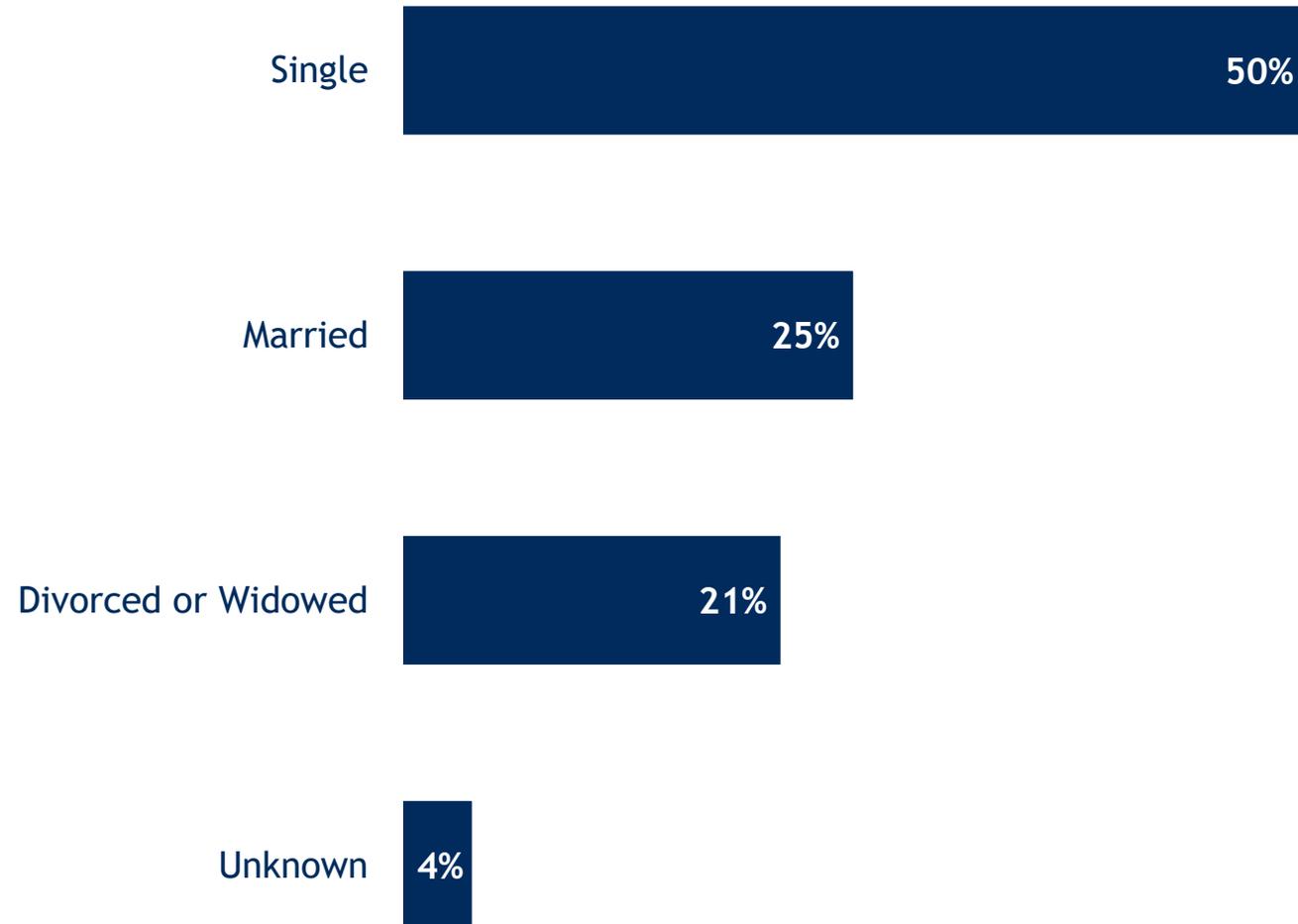
“Compared to women, men are less likely to seek help for mental health difficulties.

Key processes that may improve help-seeking attitudes, intentions, or behaviors for men include using role models to convey information, psychoeducational material to improve mental health knowledge, assistance with recognizing and managing symptoms, active problem-solving tasks, motivating behavior change, signposting services, and content that builds on positive male traits (e.g., responsibility and strength).”

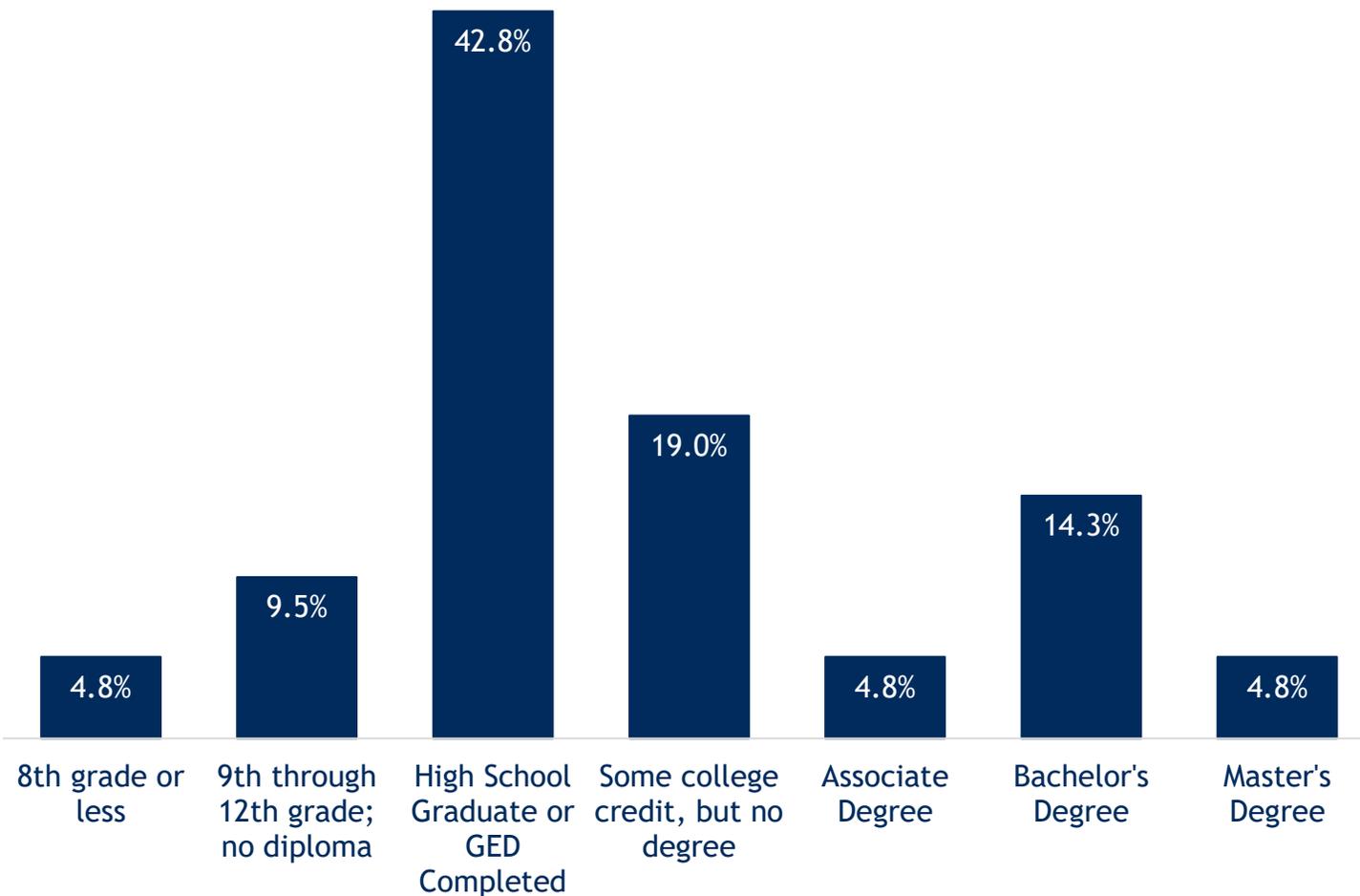


# 71% of adult decedents were single, divorced, or widowed.

“Suicide risk is strongly associated with a single status of any form with the highest risk during a marital separation, but the increased risk varies in strength according to individual-level factors. The stress and loss of support induced by marital dissolution are important contributing risk factors for suicide, and persons with low income may be especially vulnerable.”



While **85.7%** of decedents over the age of 21 completed a high school diploma or GED, **80.9%** did not complete a Bachelor's degree.



Only **19.1%** of decedents over 21 held a Bachelor's or higher compared to the county population estimate of 30.2%\*

**Education is a social determinant of health. It makes individuals more likely to find employment that pays a living wage, access quality healthcare, and live in a safe environment.**

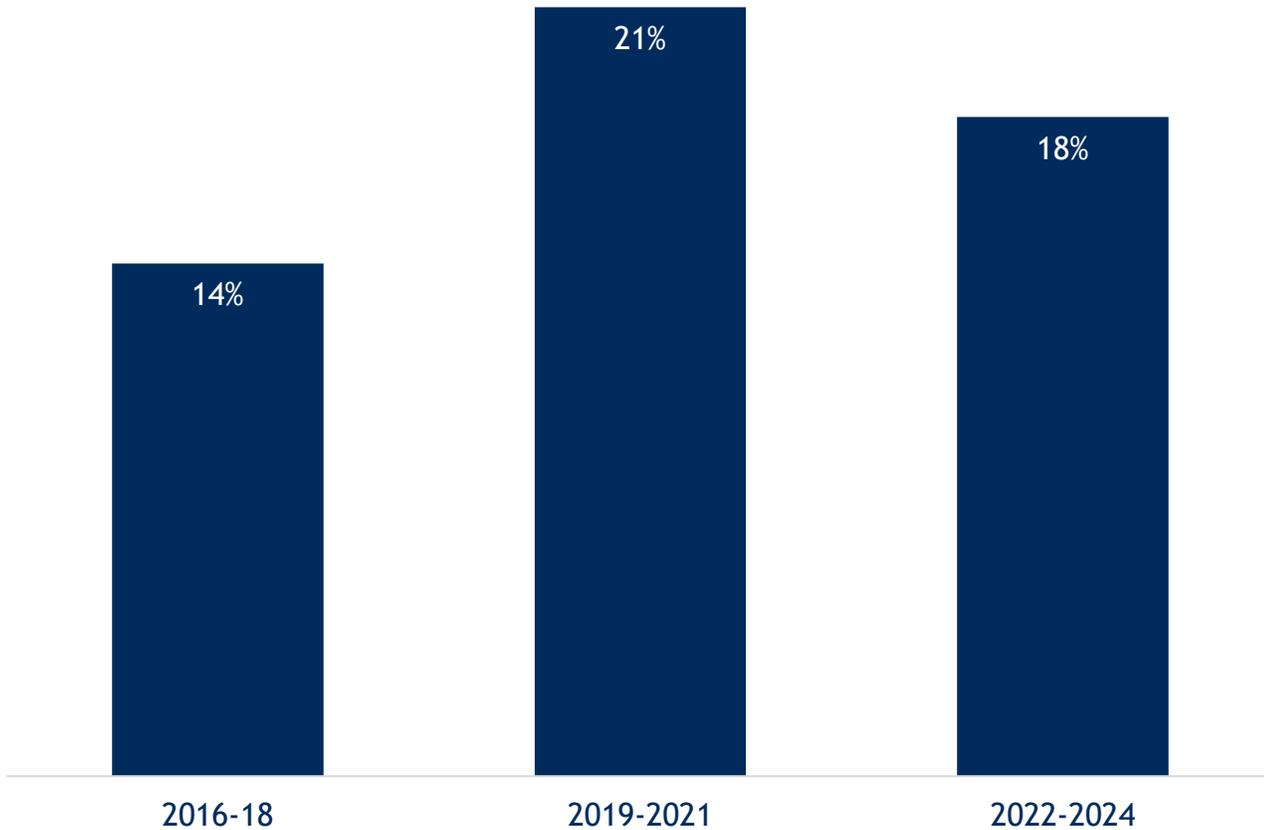
Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner's Office. Primary Data.

\*<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/clermontcountyohio/PST045222>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7326385/>



# From 2022-2024, veterans accounted for 18% of all suicide deaths.



Veterans make up about 8% of the adult population in the county.\*

“Veterans can be at risk for suicide for a variety of reasons. Some are coping with the effects of aging, homelessness, or unaddressed chronic health conditions stemming from military service. Many Veterans have underlying mental health conditions or substance use disorders, in some cases aggravated by their military service, which increases their risk of suicide. Many recently discharged servicemembers have difficulty with personal relationships or their transition back to civilian life.”

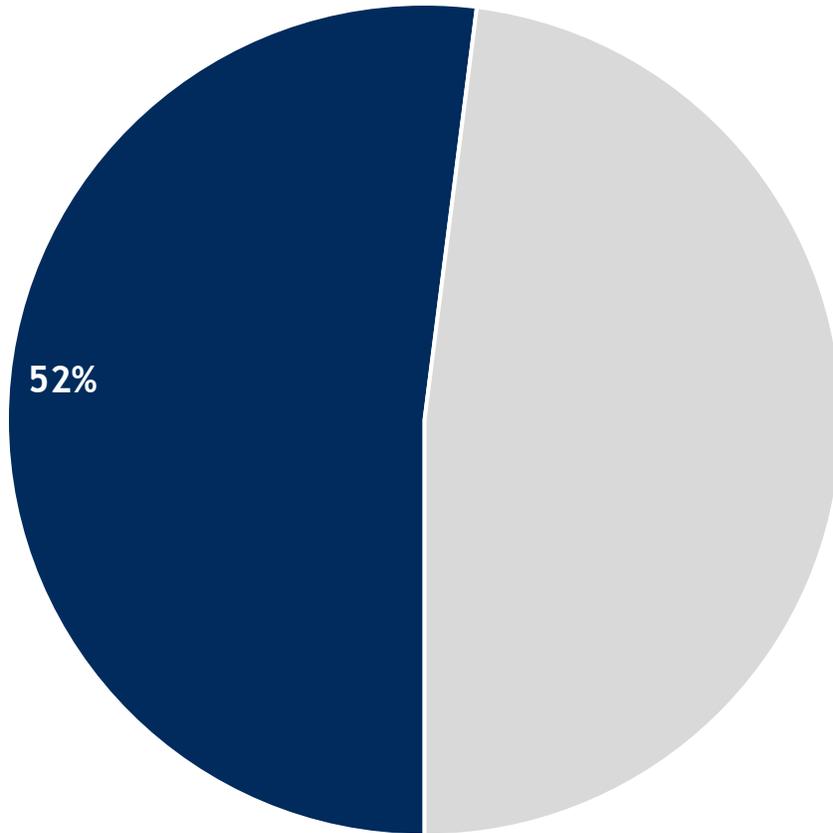
Source: Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, Clermont County Coroner’s Office. Primary Data.

\*<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/clermontcountyohio/PST045222>

<https://www.research.va.gov/topics/suicide.cfm>



52% of decedents had previous interaction with the **criminal legal system** in Clermont or Hamilton county.



However, only 3 decedents had a criminal charge within 12 months of their death.

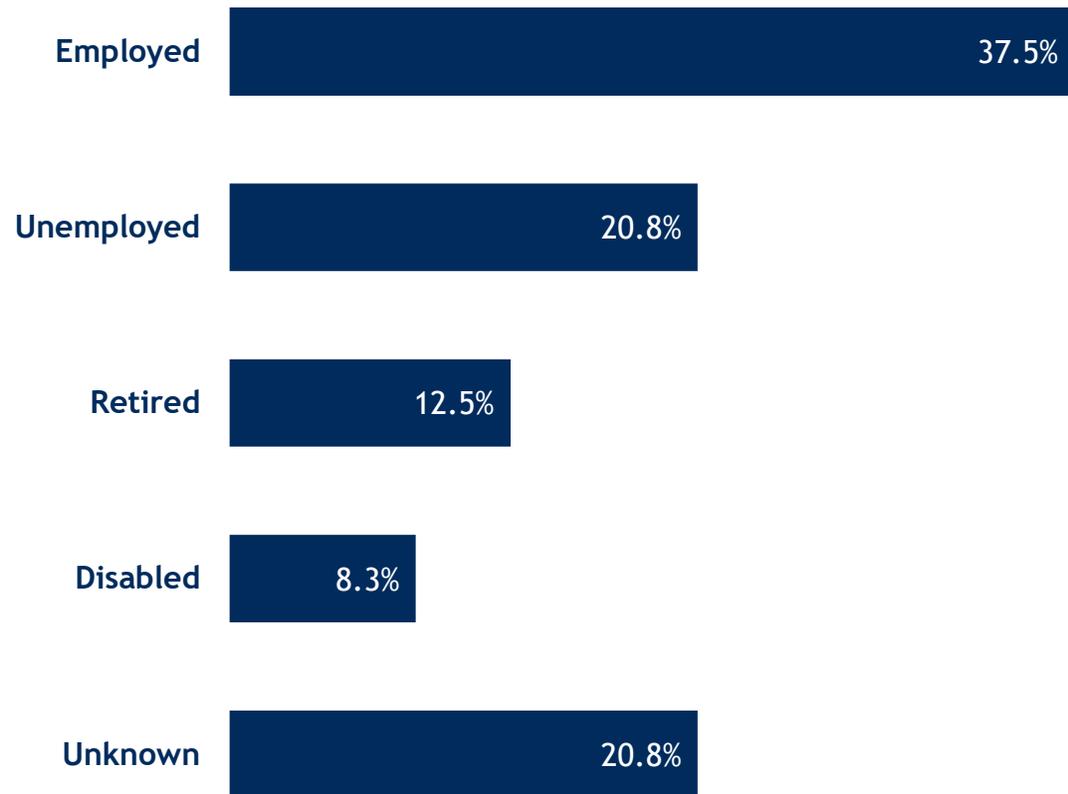
The most common charges were DUI/OVI and drug possession.

Interaction with the criminal legal system could serve as a point of intervention.

Understanding the adverse effects of legal system interaction could also better inform policy.



# Only 37.5% of adult decedents were known to have been employed at the time of their death.

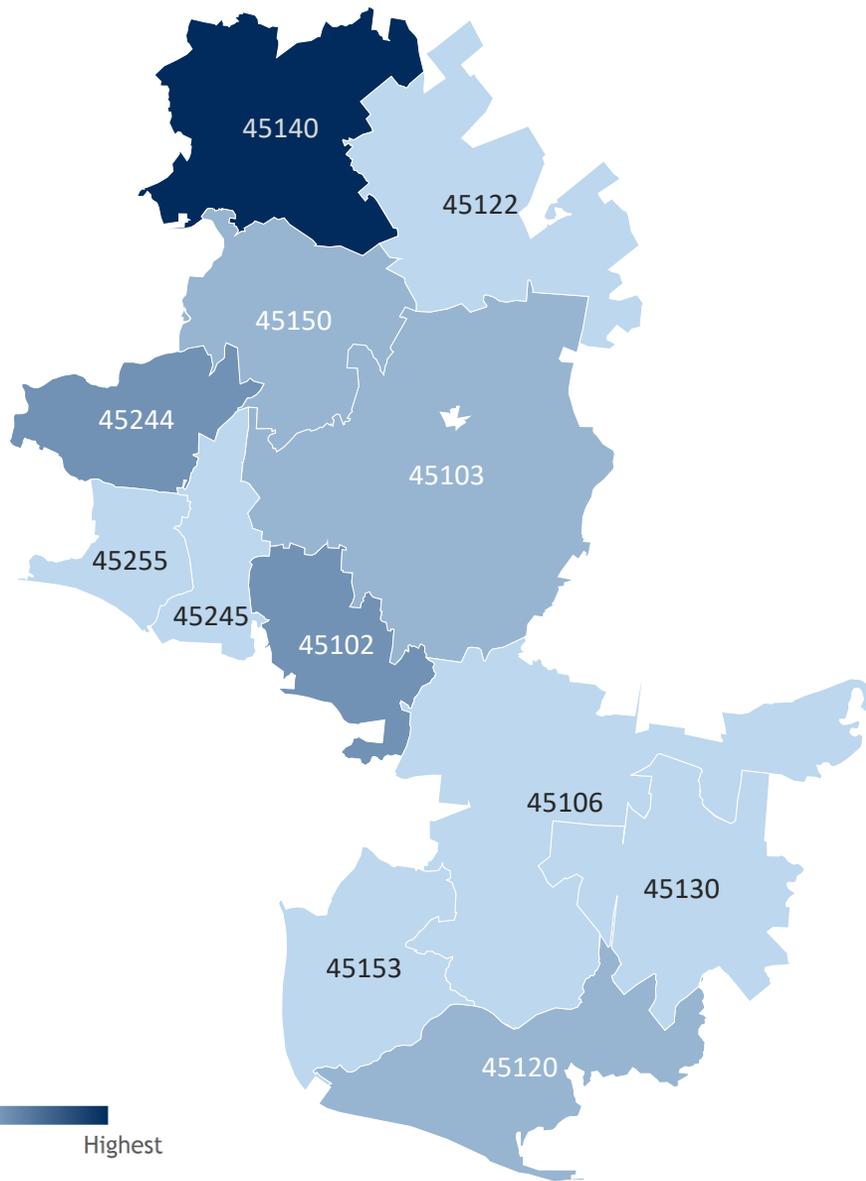


Additionally, 3 decedents were recently **evicted** or in the process of being evicted from their home.  
4 decedents had noted **financial struggles**.

**Financial instability** due to unemployment is linked to poorer mental health.

**Economic stability** is a social determinant of health that is linked to health outcomes.





In 2024, the residence ZIP Codes most seen were

- 45140 (Loveland)**
- 45244 (Cincinnati)**
- 45102 (Amelia)**
- 45150 (Milford)**
- 45103 (Batavia)**
- 45120 (Felicity)**

The mobilization of prevention resources can be prioritized in the areas most impacted.

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# HEALTH FACTORS



# 68% had a documented or reported physical illness.

Noted physical illnesses included

**Chronic pain**

**Diseases of the heart**

**Obesity**

**Diabetes**

**Sleep disorders**

Chronic pain included musculoskeletal pain, peripheral nervous system pain, abdominal/pelvic pain, and ongoing dental pain.

“Suicide prevention implementation in primary care is needed due to the increasing rate of suicide in the past few decades, particularly for young and marginalized people. Primary care is the most likely point of contact for suicidal patients in the healthcare system.”



# 68% had a documented or reported mental illness.

The most common mental illnesses were

**Depression (52%)**

**Anxiety (48%)**

Other mental illnesses identified include **PTSD, ADHD, Schizophrenia, cognitive disorders, and anorexia nervosa.**

**32% had a history of substance abuse or dependence.**

Mental illness is likely under-reported due to lack of access to medical history and lack of physical evidence in the autopsy.

“Training primary care physicians in depression recognition and treatment prevents suicide. Educating youth regarding depression and suicidal behavior, and active outreach of psychiatric patients after discharge or a suicidal crisis prevents suicidal behavior.”



# Additional Medical Information

**13 decedents (52%)  
had contact with a medical  
provider in the 12 months  
prior to their death.**

**These included routine office  
visits to providers,  
emergency department  
visits, and hospitalizations.**

**6 decedents (24%)  
had a history of  
suicidal ideation or  
experienced a  
previous suicide  
attempt.**

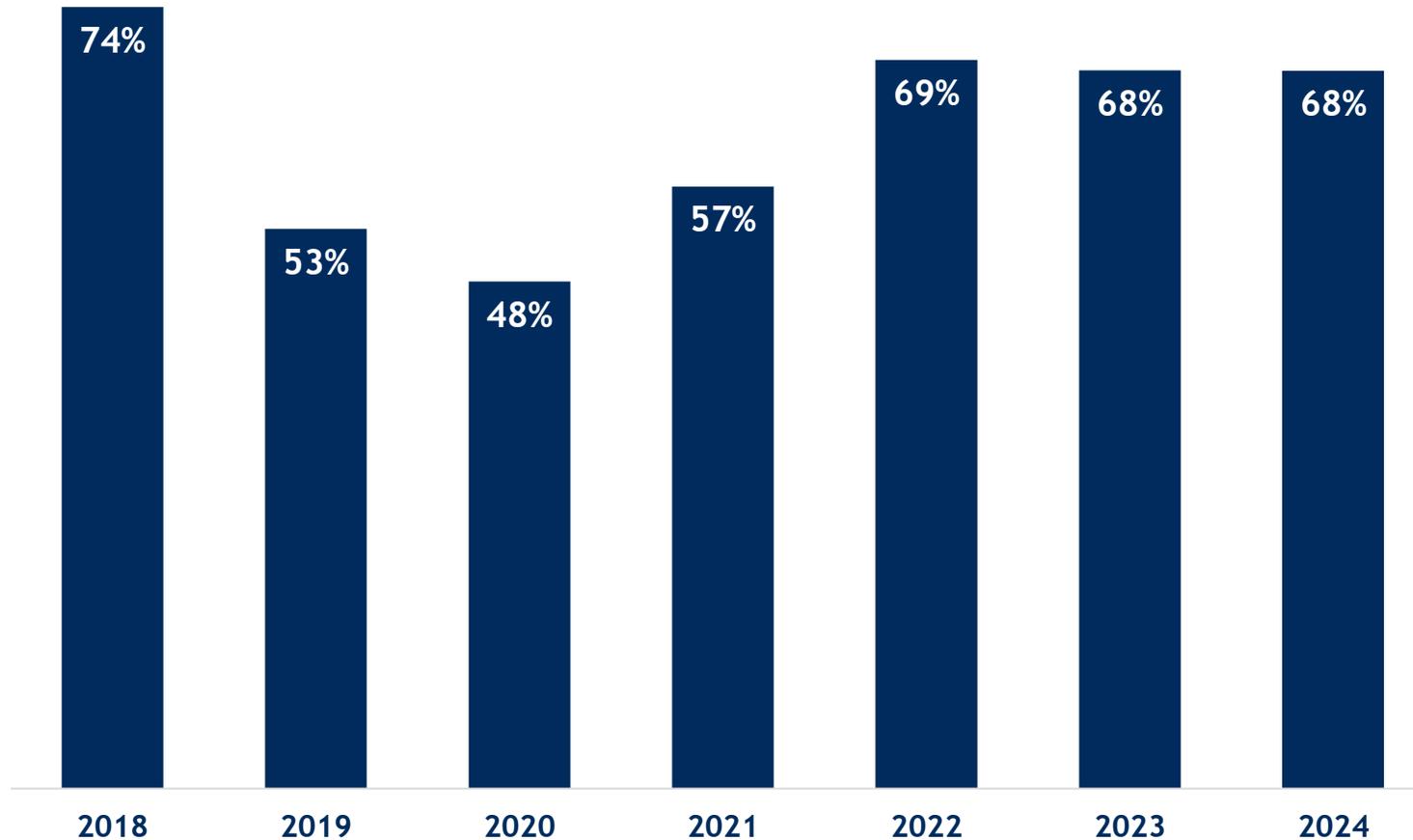
**It is vital to continue strengthening screening efforts and  
intervention by providers along with follow up for those who have  
been treated for suicide attempt or ideation.**



# DEATH INVESTIGATION



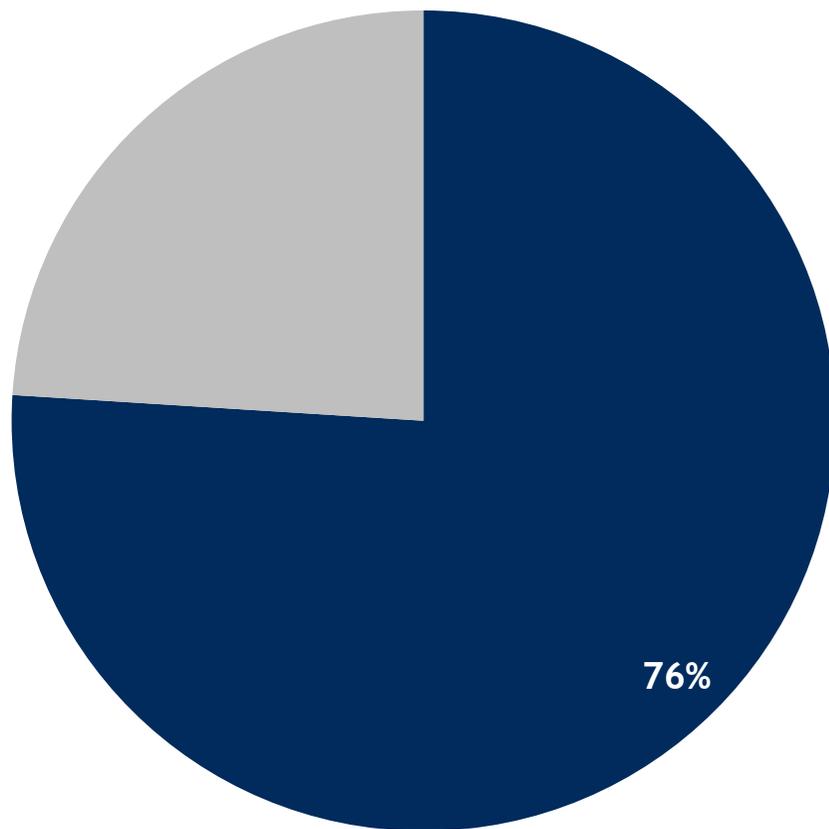
# In 2024, firearms were involved in 68% of deaths.



**Lethal Means Safety** is a key aspect of suicide prevention. This includes providing safe storage methods and education on safety behaviors.



**76% of injuries occurred at the decedent's home.**

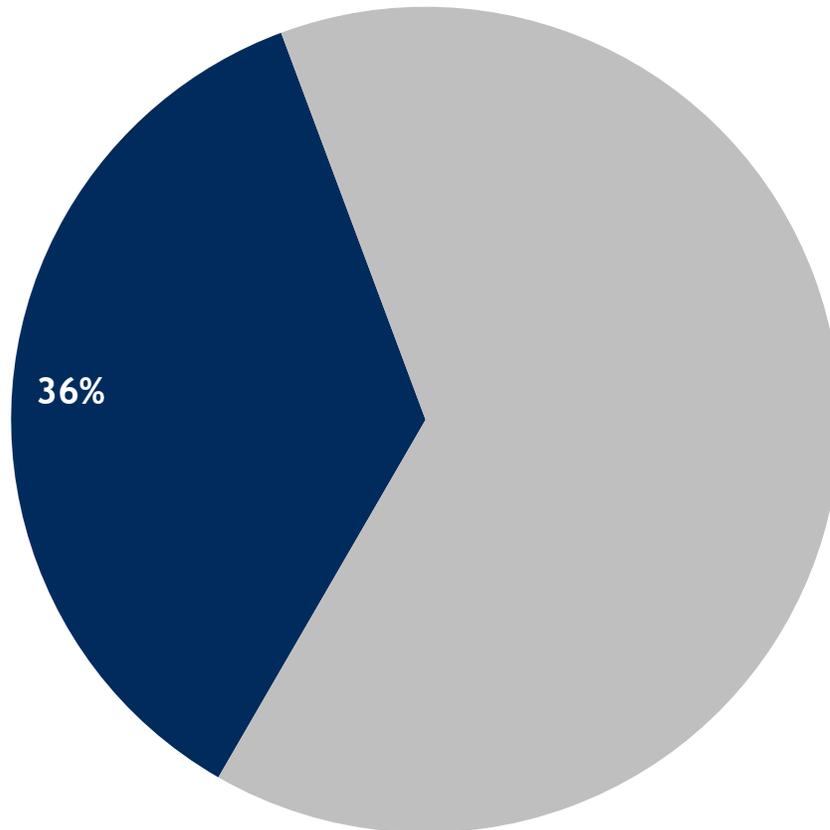


Other locations included the roadway, a hotel, and a state park.

100% of deaths occurred at the location of injury.



# Substances were found at the scene in 36% of cases.



Substances found included prescription medication bottles both filled and empty, alcohol containers, and marijuana.

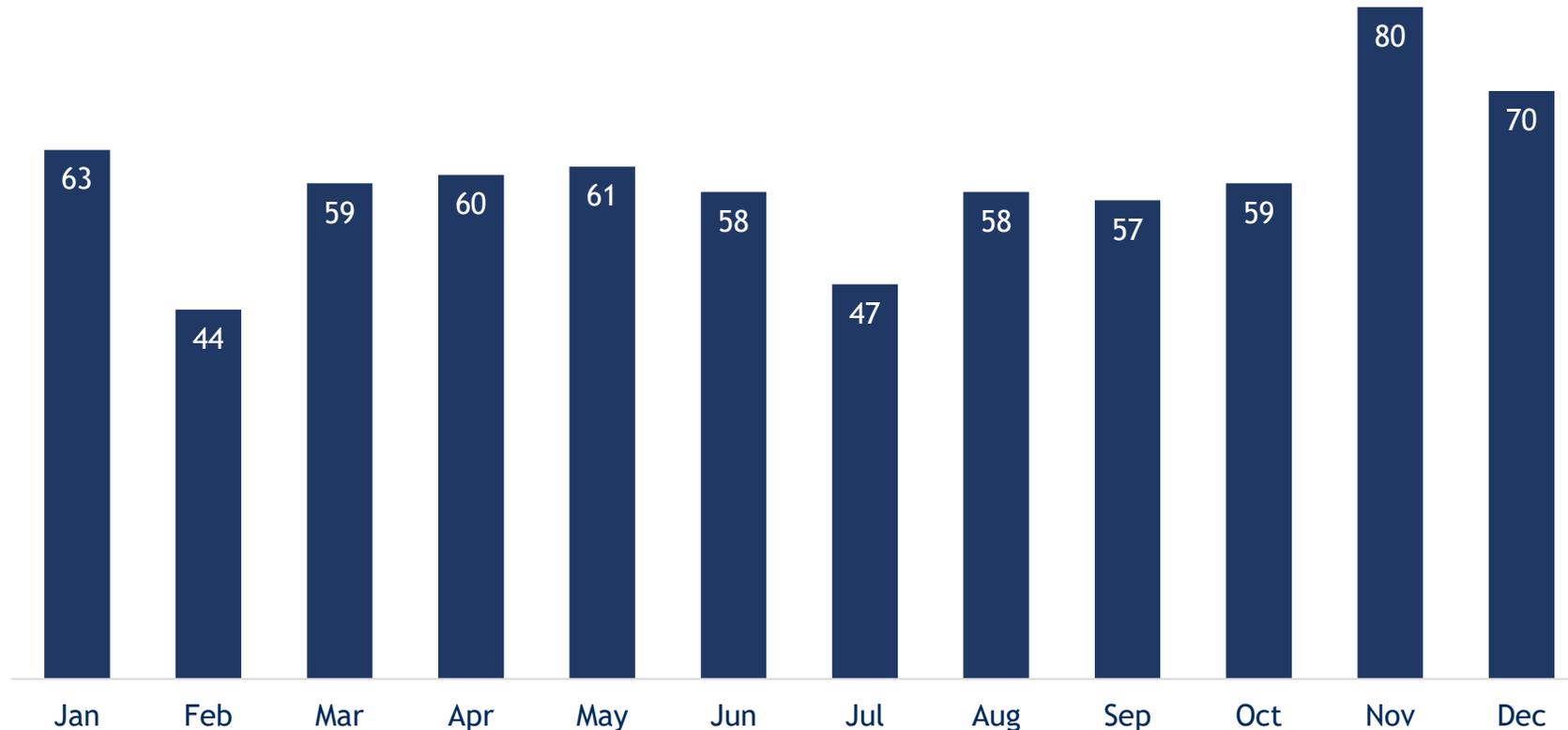
“Drug use may precipitate a period of elevated risk for suicide or be taken in response to a critical situation. Risk periods are relatively brief and once they are overcome, the likelihood of suicide drops; therefore, a reduction in access to drugs during these critical times may reduce suicides, particularly if these drugs reduce inhibition.”



# Surveillance Data



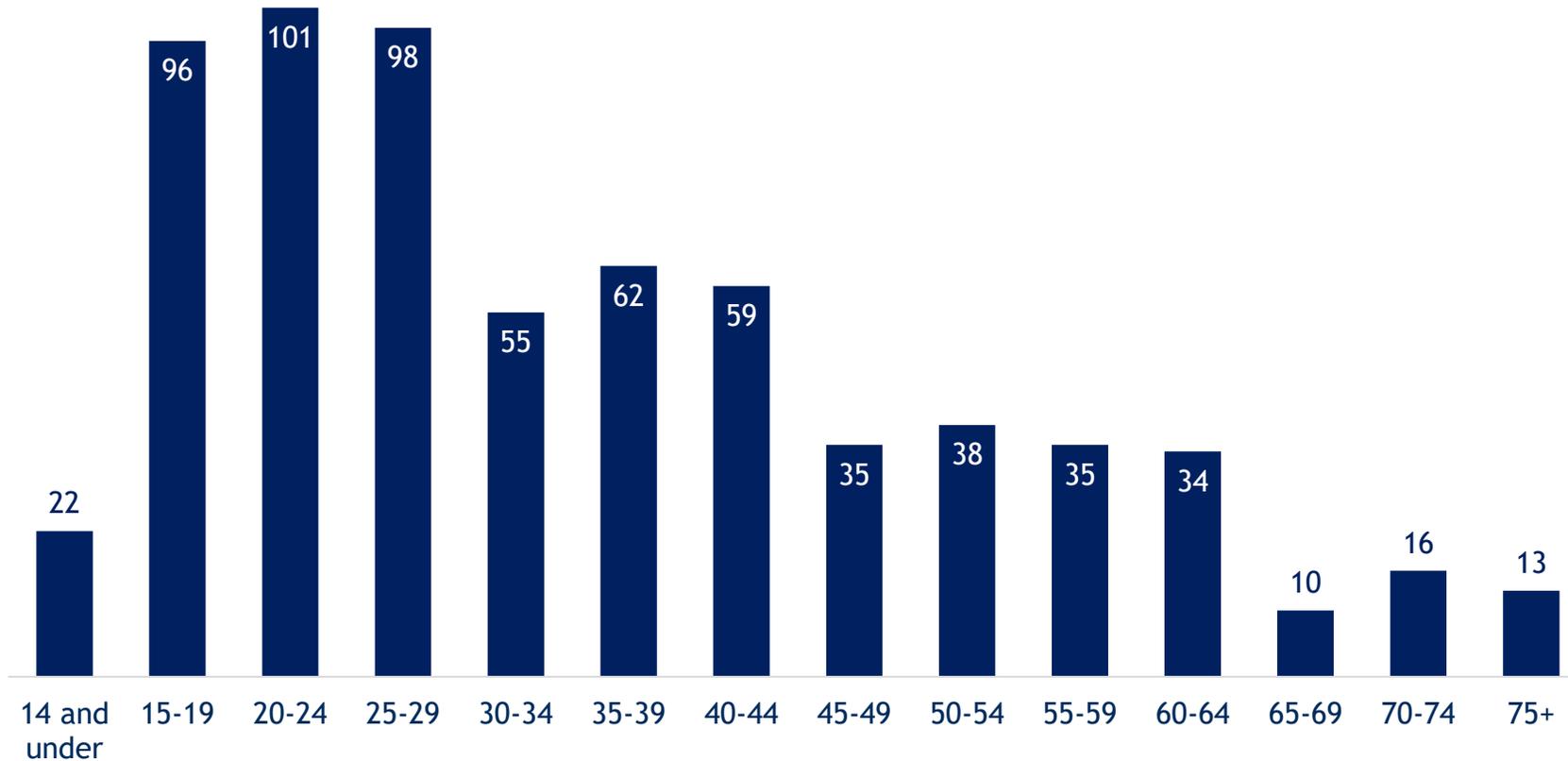
There were **716** visits to emergency departments for self-harm, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempt from Clermont County residents.



**“Suicide attempts are up to 30 times more common compared to suicides; they are however important predictors of repeated attempts as well as completed suicides.”**



Among these individuals who were seen in an emergency department, **44%** were in the **15-29** age range.



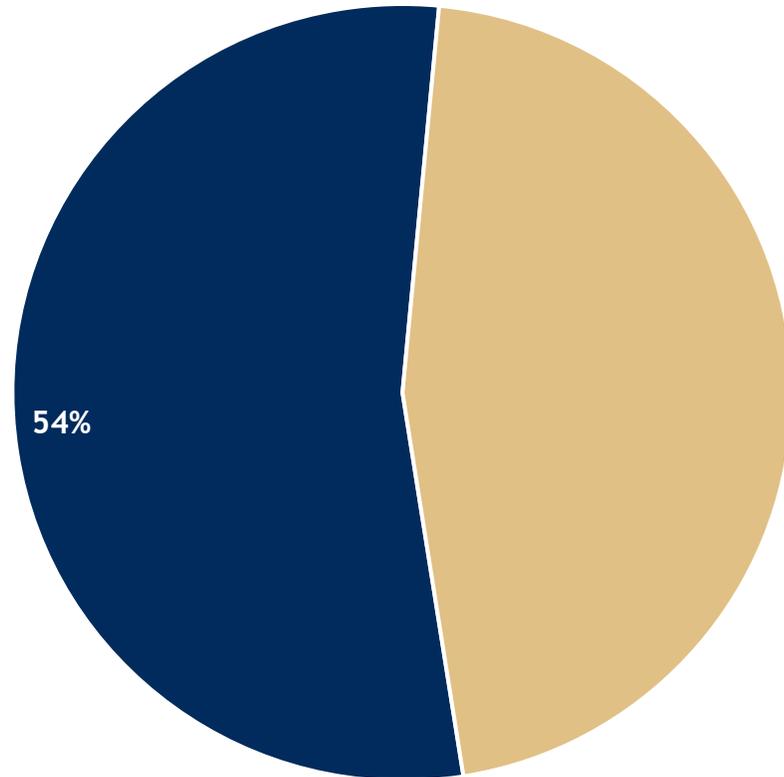
Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10- to 24-year-olds in the United States.

Factors contributing to increased risk of suicide in adolescents include:

- Preexisting mental health disorders
- Previous self-injurious thoughts and behaviors
- Having physical, intellectual, or learning disabilities
- Substance use
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Social media usage
- Living in rural areas
- Placement in foster care
- Involvement in the juvenile justice system
- LGBTQ identification



Among all individuals who were seen in an emergency department, the majority were **female**.



While men are more likely to die by suicide due to use of lethal means, **women** are more likely to attempt suicide. For every suicide attempt a woman has, her risk of future death by suicide increases.

Among women, factors like having a low income, experiencing any prior trauma, and experiencing incarceration may increase risk of suicide more compared to men.



# TRENDS



# Identified Trends

- The number of deaths in 2024 was lower than in 2022-23 and lower than the average from 2014-23 which is 31.
- Most deaths continue to be among males.
- Firearms continue to be the leading mechanism of death.
- The months with the highest numbers were July and August, which is consistent with past trends.
- The highest number of decedents were in the 40-49 age group, which is consistent with past trends.
- Only 2 decedents were identified as veterans, which is a lower proportion compared to past years. They accounted for 8% of deaths, which is the same percentage of the adult population in the county.
- 3 decedents were recently evicted from their home or had received eviction notices.
- 4 decedents had noted financial struggles.



# Data to Action: Strategies and Activities



# Strategies and Activities

**The Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board conducted Crisis Intervention Training in 2024.**

- 18 Law Enforcement Officers, two Probation Officers, and two Corrections Officers graduated from the five-day training and learned skills on how to handle mental health crisis events.
- This marks the 16th completed CIT training for Clermont County. Clermont County CIT has been in existence since 2011 and has trained over 90% of law enforcement in the County.



# Strategies and Activities

**The Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board and Clermont County Suicide Prevention Coalition** worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to launch a new initiative aimed at suicide prevention. As part of this effort, signs featuring the Clermont and Brown County Crisis Line (513-528-7283), National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988), and the National Veterans Crisis Line (988, press 1), all available 24/7, were installed at East Fork Lake State Park and Stonelick State Park. This initiative is designed to spread the message “You Are Not Alone” and make resources more accessible across the County.



# Strategies and Activities

The Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board awarded 14 mini-grants to local organizations. These included

- **Inter Parish Ministry, Food Pantry Summer Picnic:** To provide summer picnics, hot meals, and “pop-up” picnics in various communities, along with mental health resource information and empowerment items. This program supports the well-being of food-insecure families and individuals.
- **Milford Pattison Elementary, Second Step Social Emotional Learning:** To support the purchase of additional curriculum materials for social-emotional learning in primary grades.
- **Milford School District, Sources of Strength (SOS):** Funding for the SOS program in six elementary schools. SOS focuses on suicide prevention and enhancing student resilience and well-being.
- **New Richmond Middle School, Sources of Strength (SOS):** To continue efforts in improving student mental health through early intervention and suicide prevention training.
- **Streetlight Ministry, Homeless Outreach:** To provide essential resources and connect the homeless population with mental health, addiction, and other services.
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Charitable Pharmacy:** To support staffing at the Charitable Pharmacy, which provides free medication and health education to uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- **YWCA House of Peace, Support Groups:** To provide learning materials and self-care supplies for support groups addressing trauma, emotional regulation, and healthy relationships among residents.



# Strategies and Activities

## The Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board

- Total Wellbeing Inside and Out event hosted in May 2024 with 76 participants.
- Suicide Prevention Summit hosted in May 2024 with 50 participants.
- Suicide Awareness Candlelight Vigil held in September
- Lethal Means prevention boxes have been handed out to local gun stores, restaurants, community agencies, and libraries.
- In September and October, radio ads ran focusing on promoting prevention, reducing stigma, and the (513) 528-SAVE crisis line.



# Strategies and Activities

## Clermont County Educational Service Center

- Trauma-informed care continues to be across multiple school districts, and Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) remains embedded in classroom activities and separate facilities serving students with special needs.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) is in place in several school districts and the capacity to involve increased numbers of students in the process continues to increase.
- Board-certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) are being trained and deployed across school districts and subsequently are training and supervising Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) to assertively identify and address unhealthy and at-risk behaviors.
- Current programs including Olweus Bullying Prevention, Signs of Suicide (SOS), Grant Us Hope, and Teens against Bullying (TAB) remain in place.



# Strategies and Activities

## Clermont Board of Developmental Disabilities

- Trainings and support groups, including SURE refreshers (Clermont Board of Developmental Disabilities core values: Safe and Supportive Environment, Understand, Responsibility and Respect, Engagement), Internet Safety, Trauma-informed Care, Life Skills, Behavior Concepts, De-escalation/Crisis Response, and Resilience and Behavior Support strategies.
- Behavior Support: 161 individuals served.
- Community Integrated Training and Education (CITE) services: 52 referrals, 62 individuals served.
- Mental Health supports: 45 individuals.
- Psychiatry service transfers: 34 individuals.
- Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (SWOCOG) 4-bed respite program: 7 individuals.
- Got Respite: 11 individuals.
- Partnered with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health to co-facilitate a yearlong Dialectical Behavioral Therapy group for our individuals.



# Strategies and Activities

## Clermont County Public Health - WIC

- Provides depression screening for WIC participants, making referrals as needed, and offering information on what to do if experiencing signs of depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns.
- 197 participants were active in 2024 and have been identified as dealing with depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns.



# Recommendations



# Recommendations

The purpose of the Suicide Fatality Review (SFR) is to provide a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of the circumstances of identified deaths to understand how and why the fatality occurred. Case review findings are used to catalyze action to prevent other deaths and ultimately improve the health and safety of individuals, families, and communities.

During the review process, SFR team members bring relevant agency records to the case review meeting. These records contain the information teams use to determine what happened in the individual's life, what led to the death, and what the community's response to the death looked like. The team then documents extensive data on the individual, the family/ support system, the incident leading to the death, the death investigation, cause-specific risk and protective factors, and systems issues and barriers. The team also documents findings and prevention recommendations. The recommendations presented were developed through this process.



# Recommendations

- Increase support for primary intervention and upstream prevention including:
  - generational/family support
  - preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
  - preventing events that cause PTSD
  - improving quality of care for those with PTSD
- Greater coordination between hospital systems and Clermont County services to ensure follow up and referral to support services for individuals experiencing mental health conditions.
- Policies to ensure that mobile crisis is notified every time police are called for a mental health crisis.
- Promote the local 528-SAVE crisis hotline in addition to 988.
- Stigma reduction initiatives in accessing mental health care for men and veterans including peer mentorship programs.
- Increase access to affordable housing and provide sustainable housing solutions.
- Greater outreach for older adults experiencing social isolation.
- Transitional services between childhood and adulthood once an individual turns 18.
- Greater support for parents of children who are experiencing bullying in school and/or mental health crises for child to obtain appropriate services (NAMI, etc.).
- Require completion of the Certified Clinical Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) Workshop as a requirement for licensure and at the renewal of licensure for all medical and mental health providers including the following provider types: physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, social workers, clinical counselors, and others.
- Provide CALM training to families upon patient discharge.
- Build out a follow up process for grieving family.



# QUESTIONS

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