

Circumstances of Suicide Deaths in Maryland

2003-2017 Maryland Violent Death Reporting System

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.

Table of Contents

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.

Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces

Table 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2017 3
Figure 1: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 3
Figure 2: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2017 3

Primary Weapon Used

Table 2: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2017 4
Figure 3: Primary Weapon Used, 2017 5
Figure 4: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2017 5
Figure 5: Primary Weapon Used by Sex, 2017 6
Figure 6: Primary Weapon Use by Age (years), 2017 6
Figure 7: Primary Weapon Used by Race/Ethnicity, 2017 7
Figure 8: Primary Weapon Used by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 7

Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction

Table 3: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction, 2003-2017 8
Figure 9: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction, 2017 9
Figure 10: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Sex, 2017 9
Figure 11: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Age (years), 2017 10
Figure 12: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Race/Ethnicity, 2017 10
Figure 13: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Ever Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 11

Circumstances: Suicide Specific

Table 4: Circumstances: Suicide Specific, 2003-2017 12
Figure 14: Circumstances: Suicide Specific, 2017 13
Figure 15: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Sex, 2017 13
Figure 16: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Age Group, 2017 14
Figure 17: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 15

Circumstances: Relationships

Table 5: Circumstances: Relationships, 2003-2017 16
Figure 18: Circumstances: Relationships, 2017 17
Figure 19: Circumstances: Relationships by Sex, 2017 17
Figure 20: Circumstances: Relationships by Age (years), 2017 18
Figure 21: Circumstances: Relationships by Race/Ethnicity, 2017 18
Figure 22: Circumstances: Relationships by Ever Served in U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 19

Circumstances: Life Stressors

Table 6: Circumstances: Life Stressors, 2003-2017 20
Figure 23: Circumstances: Life Stressors, 2017 21
Figure 24: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Sex, 2017 21
Figure 25: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Age (years), 2017 22
Figure 26: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Race/Ethnicity, 2017 22
Figure 27: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017 23

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

Year	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	Total† n
2003	112 (22.3)	391 (77.7)	503
2004	104 (21.9)	371 (78.1)	475
2005	110 (23.7)	354 (76.3)	464
2006	94 (19.1)	398 (80.9)	492
2007	105 (21.6)	382 (78.4)	487
2008	96 (20.0)	384 (80.0)	480
2009	101 (18.2)	454 (81.8)	555
2010	90 (17.8)	417 (82.2)	507
2011	105 (19.1)	446 (80.9)	551
2012	113 (20.2)	446 (79.8)	559
2013	104 (18.5)	459 (81.5)	563
2014	101 (17.8)	466 (82.2)	567
2015	108 (19.7)	439 (80.3)	547
2016	93 (16.2)	480 (83.8)	573
‡2017	110 (17.4)	524 (82.6)	634
Total	1546 (19.4)	6411 (80.6)	7957

†Cases with unknown military history (n=151) were excluded

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

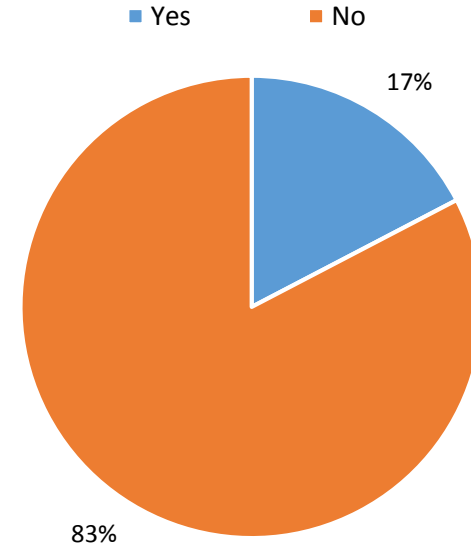
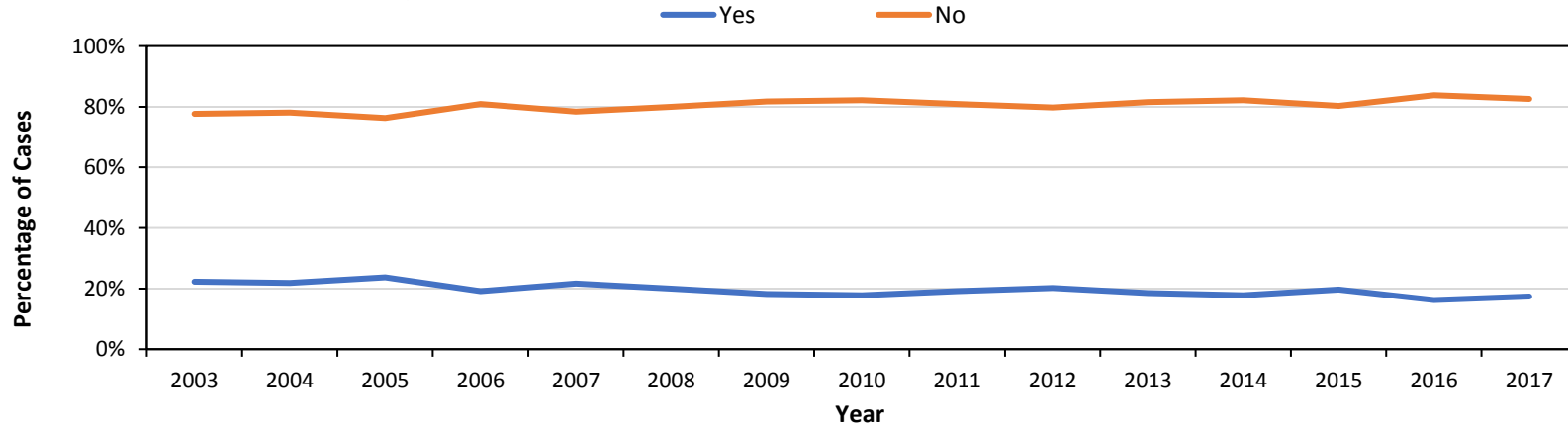


Figure 2: Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2003-2017



n = Number of cases in the defined category

% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

* = Data suppressed due to n<11

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

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 others† n (%)	Total n
2003	235 (46.2)	139 (27.3)	95 (18.7)	23 (4.5)	17 (3.3)	509
2004	242 (49.4)	119 (24.3)	83 (16.9)	18 (3.7)	28 (5.7)	490
2005	212 (45.0)	130 (27.6)	73 (15.5)	14 (3.0)	42 (8.9)	471
2006	237 (47.6)	131 (26.3)	74 (14.9)	19 (3.8)	37 (7.4)	498
2007	234 (46.6)	154 (30.7)	78 (15.5)	10 (2.0)	26 (5.2)	502
2008	251 (51.9)	126 (26.0)	66 (13.6)	16 (3.3)	25 (5.2)	484
2009	253 (45.3)	182 (32.6)	70 (12.5)	20 (3.6)	34 (6.1)	559
2010	222 (43.3)	163 (31.8)	77 (15.0)	18 (3.5)	33 (6.4)	513
2011	238 (43.0)	162 (29.2)	81 (14.6)	29 (5.2)	44 (7.9)	554
2012	270 (47.2)	155 (27.1)	86 (15.0)	20 (3.5)	41 (7.2)	572
2013	266 (46.4)	171 (29.8)	79 (13.8)	25 (4.4)	32 (5.6)	573
2014	278 (46.3)	193 (32.1)	88 (14.6)	14 (2.3)	28 (4.7)	601
2015	239 (43.2)	176 (31.8)	91 (16.5)	20 (3.6)	27 (4.9)	553
2016	254 (43.2)	186 (31.6)	95 (16.2)	18 (3.1)	35 (6.0)	588
‡2017	277 (43.2)	204 (31.8)	102 (15.9)	24 (3.7)	34 (5.3)	641
Total	3708 (45.7)	2391 (29.5)	1238 (15.3)	288 (3.6)	483 (6.0)	8108

†Other includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles

‡Highlighted data displayed 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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 3: Primary Weapon Used, 2017

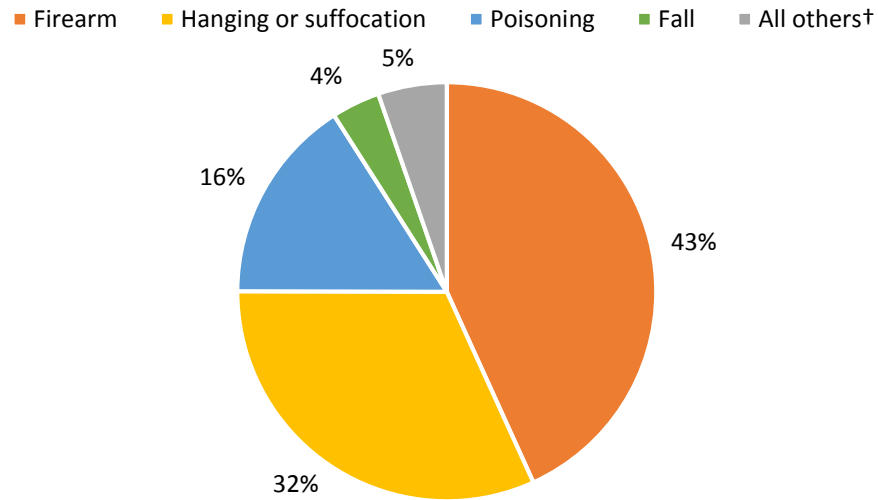
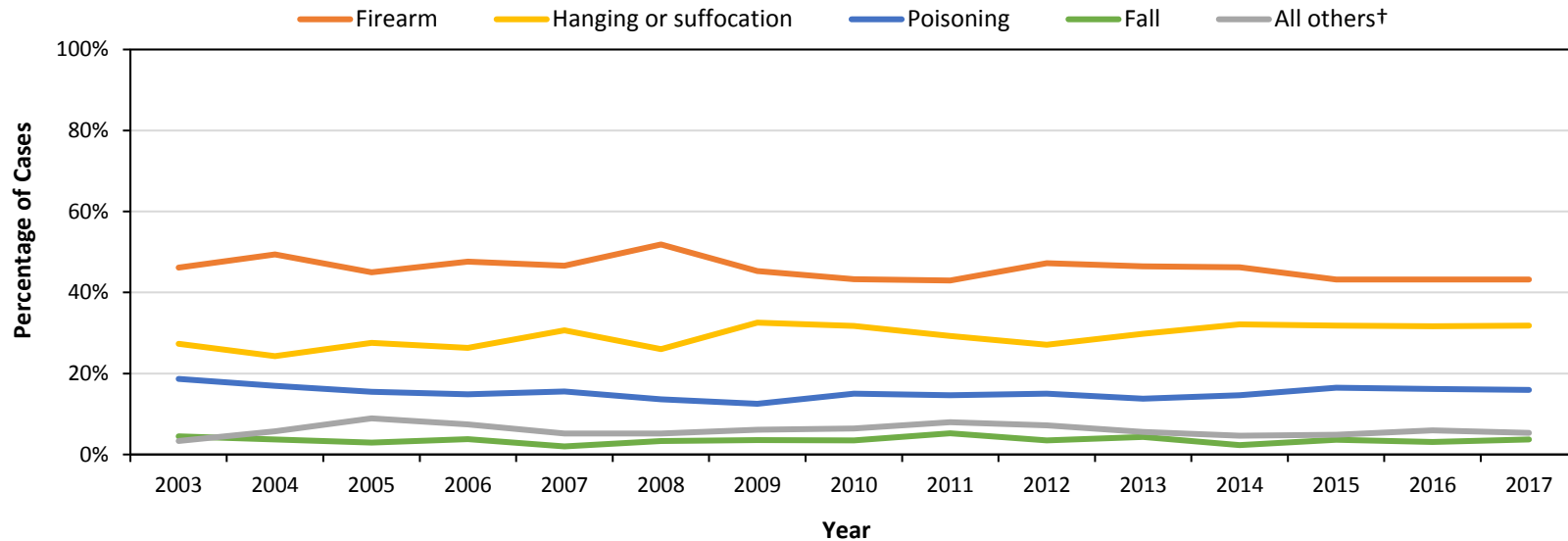


Figure 4: Primary Weapon Used, 2003-2017



†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)

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 5: Primary Weapon Used by Sex, 2017

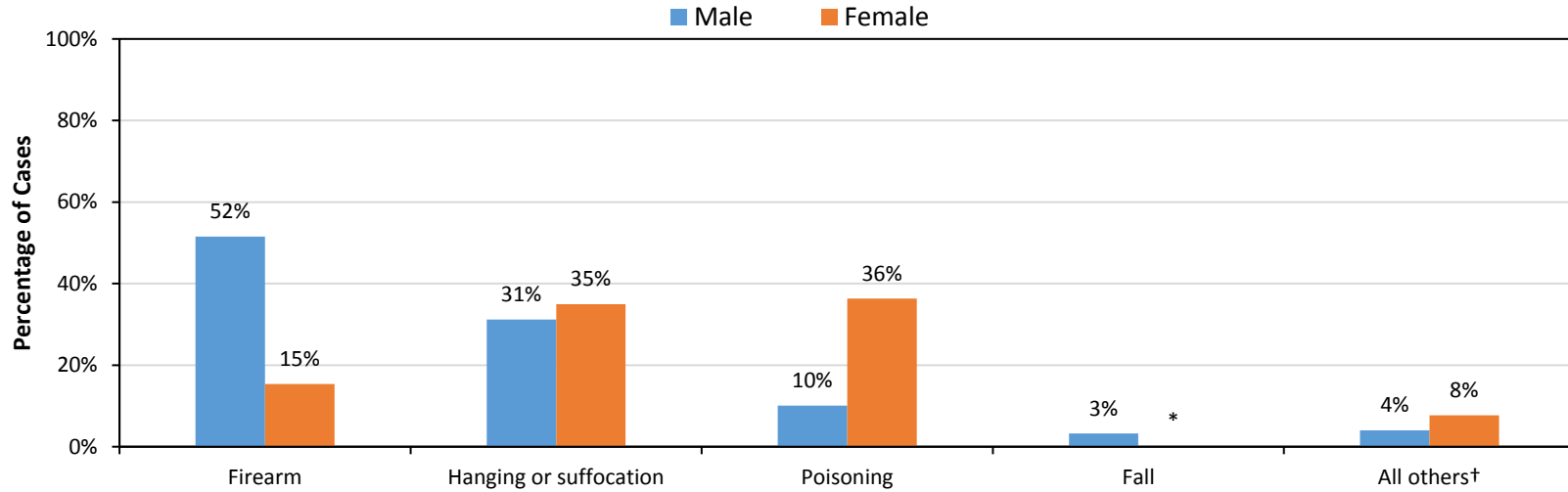
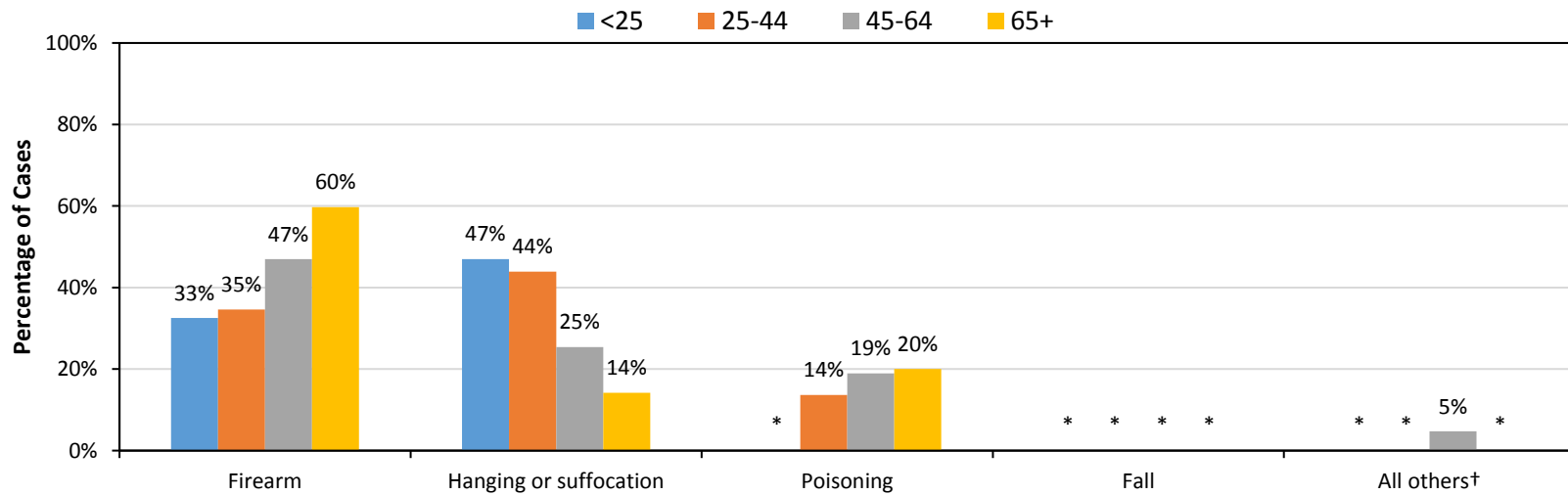


Figure 6: Primary Weapon Use by Age (years), 2017



†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)

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

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

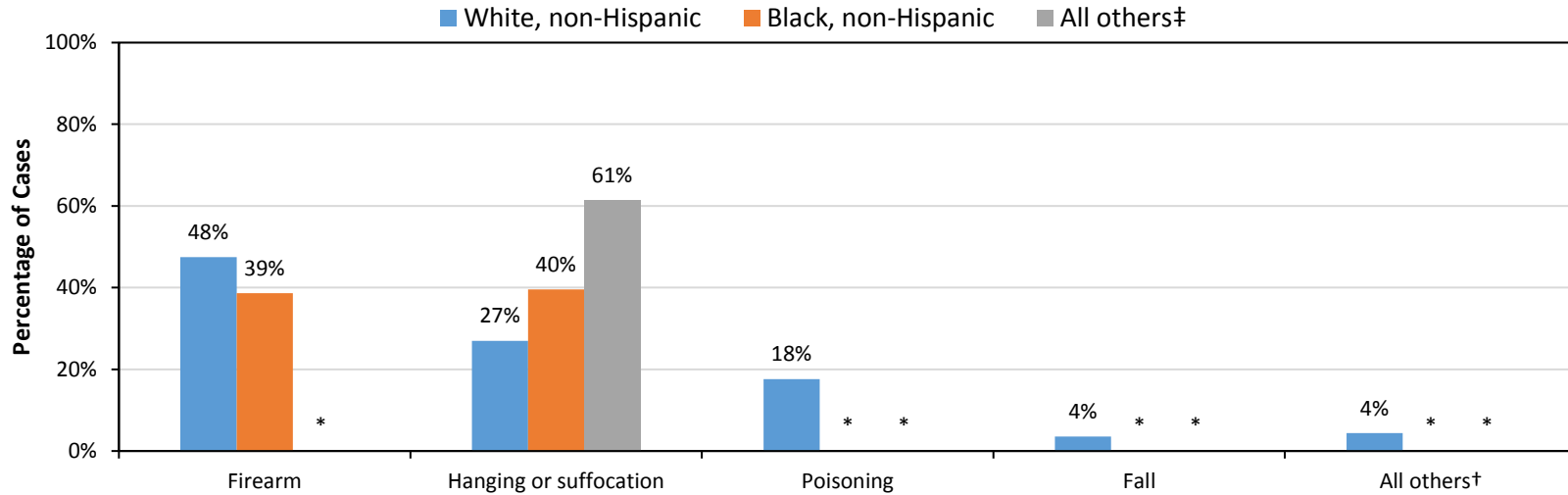
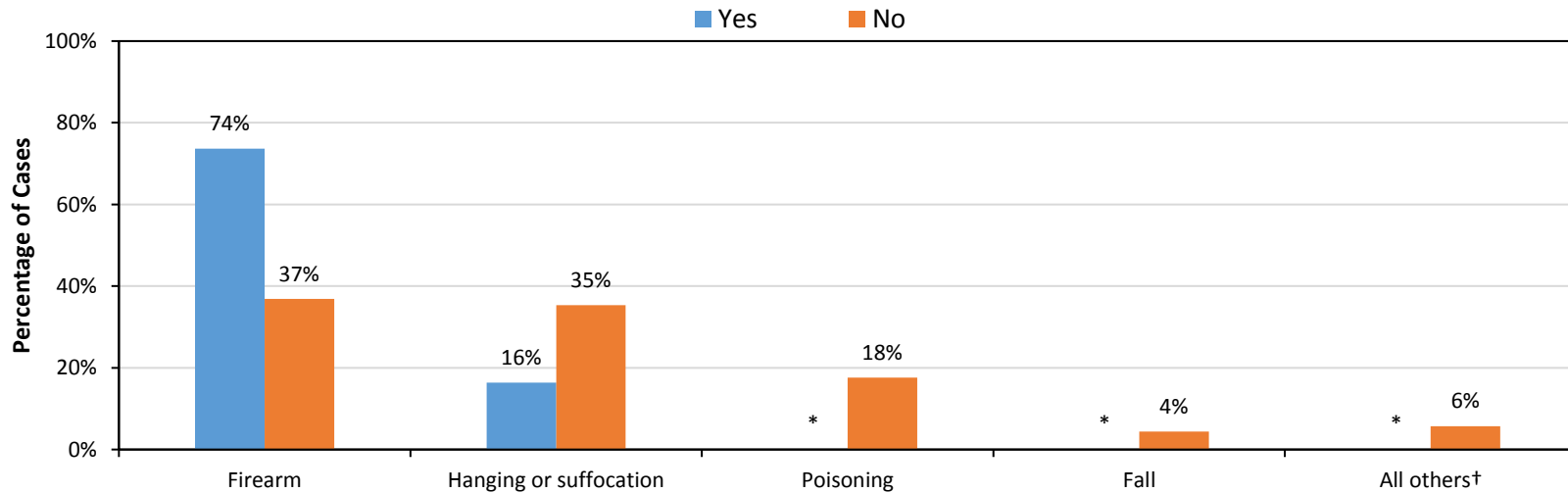


Figure 8: Primary Weapon Used by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



†Other includes: blunt instrument, drowning, electrocution, explosive, fire/burns, intentional neglect, sharp instrument, and vehicles

‡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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

Table 3: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction, 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)	90 (17.7)	80 (15.7)	466
2004	237 (48.4)	142 (29.0)	189 (38.6)	237 (48.4)	86 (17.6)	79 (16.1)	455
2005	190 (40.3)	104 (22.1)	107 (22.7)	193 (41.0)	90 (19.1)	63 (13.4)	424
2006	185 (37.1)	98 (19.7)	91 (18.3)	187 (37.6)	88 (17.7)	91 (18.3)	449
2007	260 (51.8)	119 (23.7)	138 (27.5)	251 (50.0)	115 (22.9)	89 (17.7)	473
2008	238 (49.2)	135 (27.9)	106 (21.9)	230 (47.5)	99 (20.5)	85 (17.6)	468
2009	269 (48.1)	222 (39.7)	135 (24.2)	248 (44.4)	115 (20.6)	101 (18.1)	532
2010	222 (43.3)	246 (48.0)	120 (23.4)	186 (36.3)	80 (15.6)	89 (17.3)	492
2011	230 (41.5)	262 (47.3)	156 (28.2)	205 (37.0)	104 (18.8)	94 (17.0)	524
2012	197 (34.4)	227 (39.7)	119 (20.8)	156 (27.3)	55 (9.6)	75 (13.1)	513
2013	250 (43.6)	237 (41.4)	166 (29.0)	211 (36.8)	86 (15.0)	92 (16.1)	536
2014	293 (48.8)	167 (27.8)	157 (26.1)	199 (33.1)	78 (13.0)	83 (13.8)	561
2015	306 (55.3)	153 (27.7)	142 (25.7)	211 (38.2)	120 (21.7)	102 (18.4)	518
2016	315 (53.6)	156 (26.5)	99 (16.8)	251 (42.7)	113 (19.2)	81 (13.8)	542
†2017	273 (42.6)	125 (19.5)	94 (14.7)	198 (30.9)	91 (14.2)	86 (13.4)	492
Total	3676 (45.3)	2535 (31.3)	1993 (24.6)	3173 (39.1)	1410 (17.4)	1290 (15.9)	7445

†Highlighted data displayed on next page

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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 9: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction, 2017

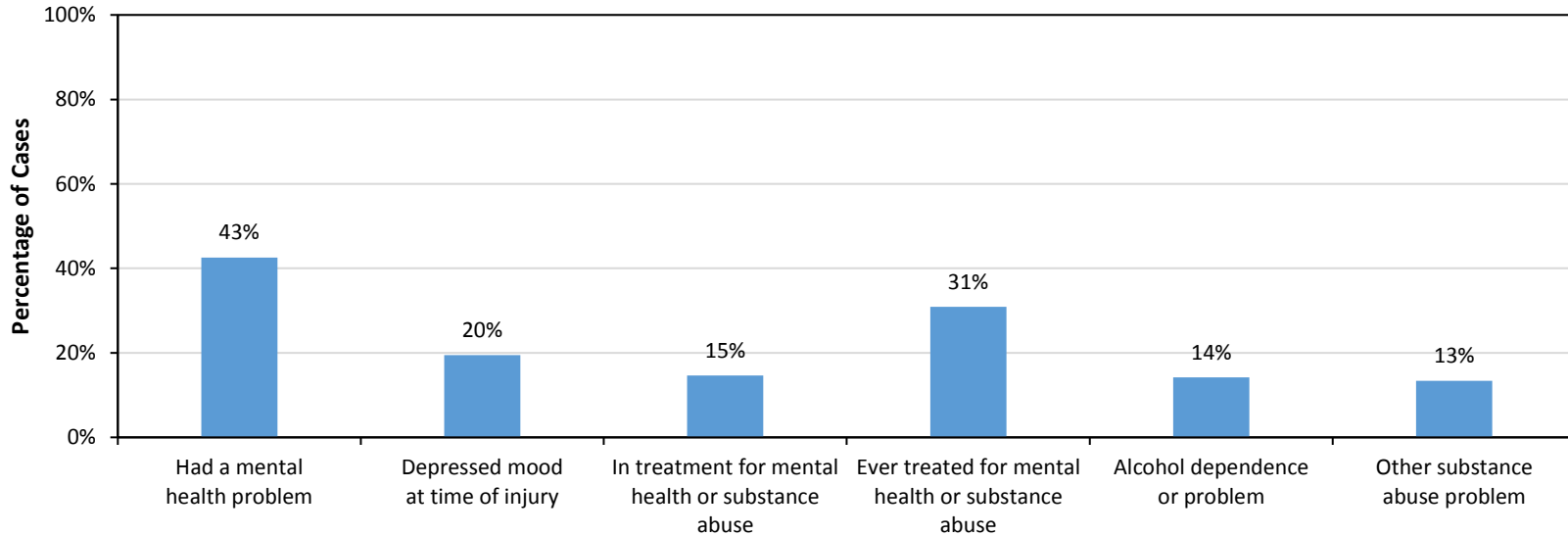
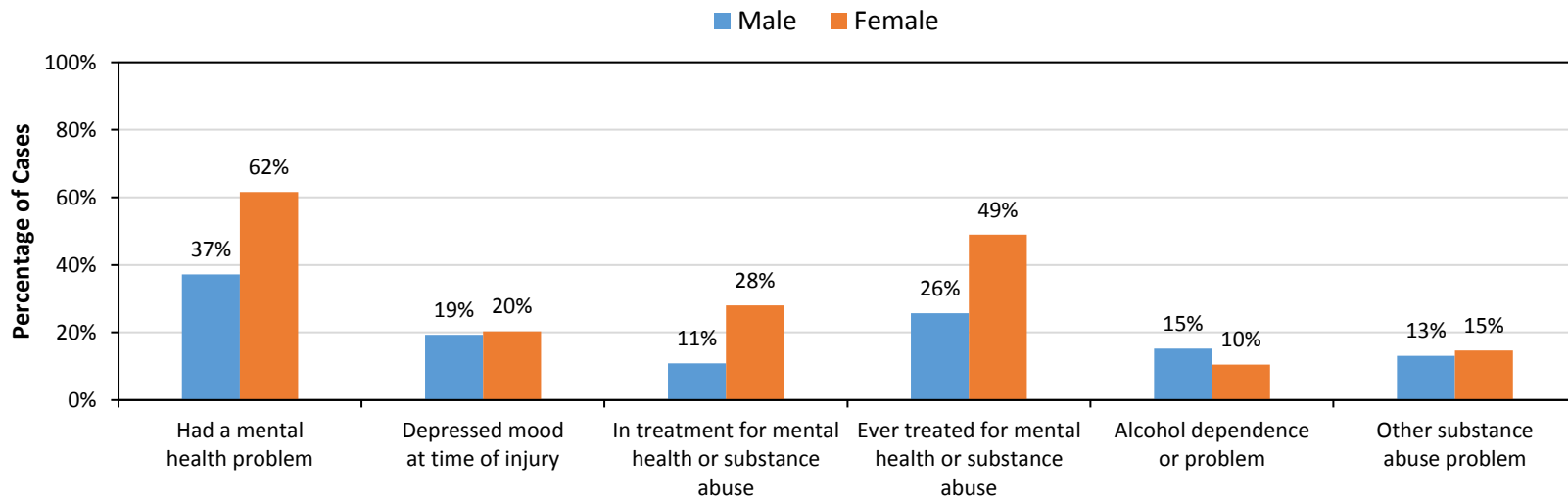


Figure 10: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Sex, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 11: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Age (years), 2017

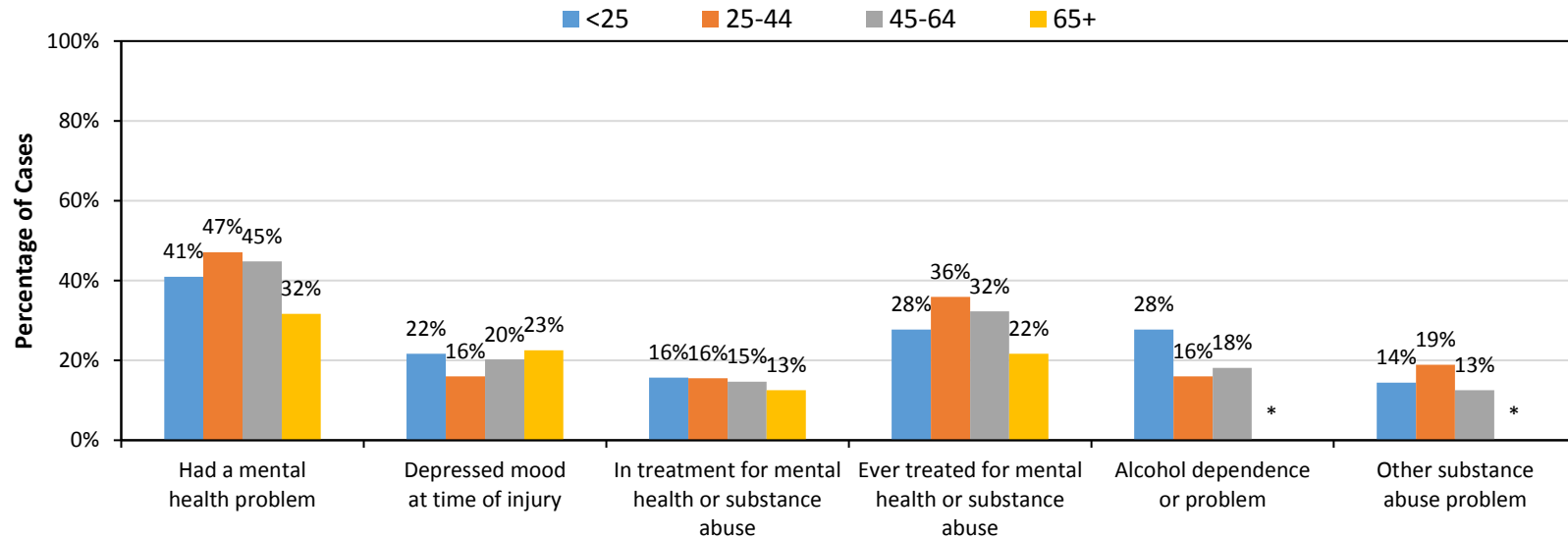
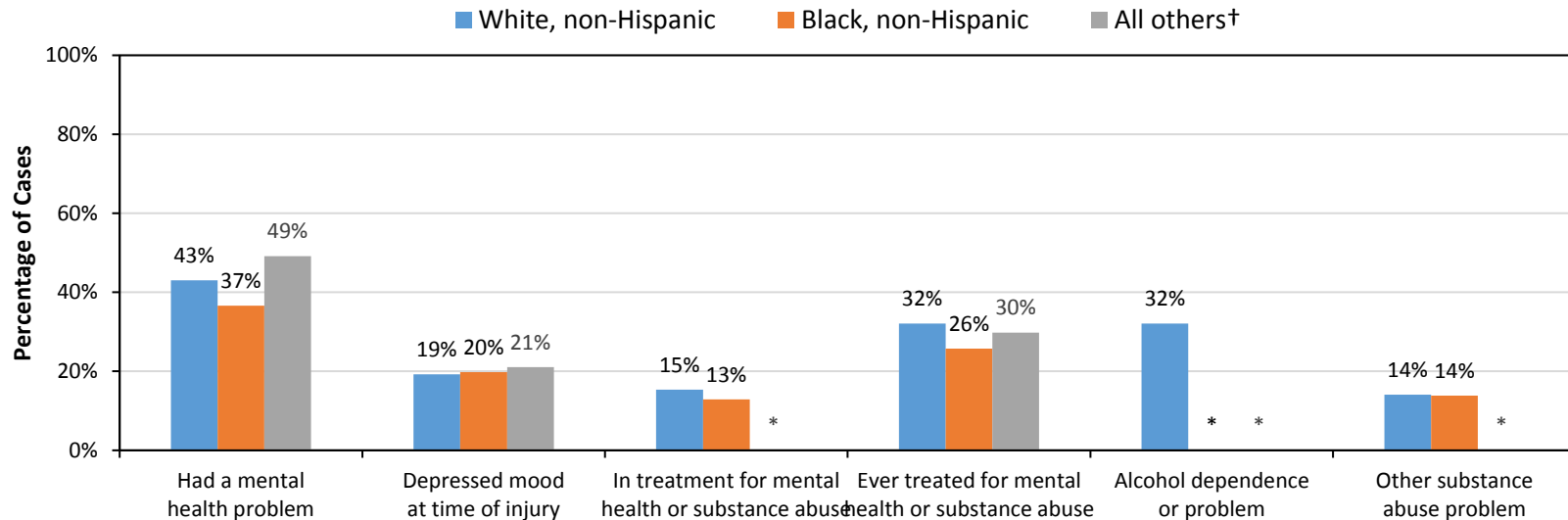


Figure 12: Circumstances: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Addiction by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



†Other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races

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

n = Number of cases in the defined category

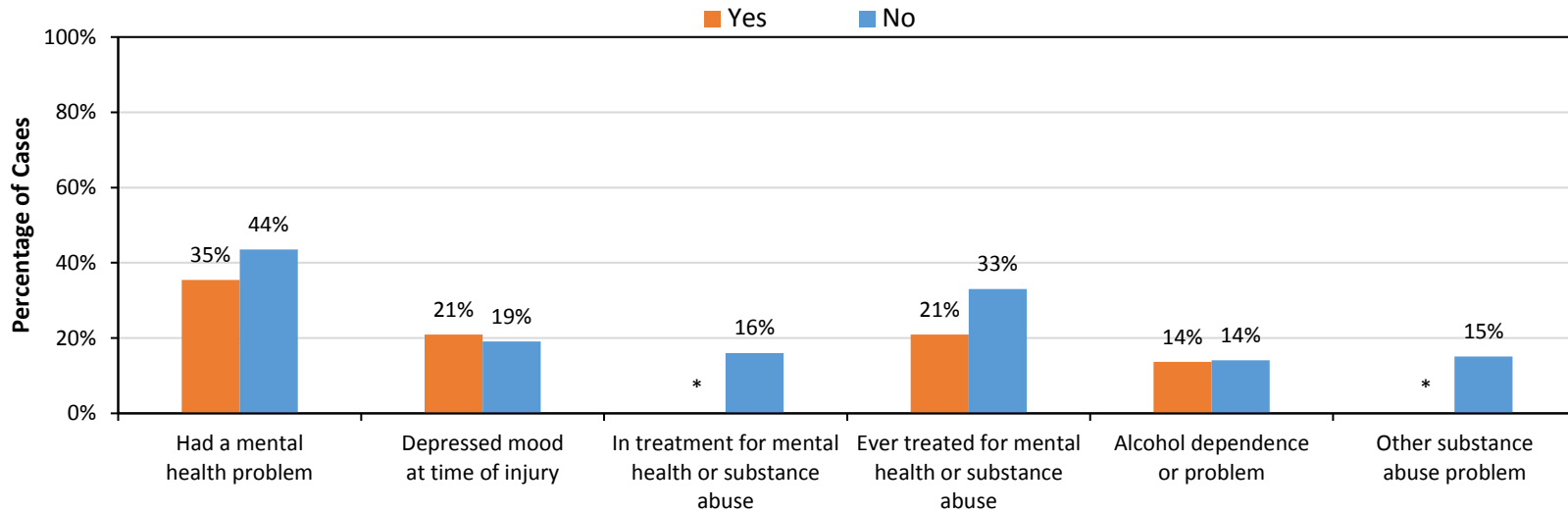
% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

* = Data suppressed due to n<11

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

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



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

Table 4: Circumstances: Suicide Specific, 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 (16.1)	First collected in 2013	121 (23.8)	176 (34.6)	466	
2004	94 (19.2)		113 (23.1)	155 (31.6)	455	
2005	86 (18.3)		93 (19.7)	169 (35.9)	424	
2006	84 (16.9)		89 (17.9)	150 (30.1)	449	
2007	102 (20.3)		107 (21.3)	168 (33.5)	473	
2008	89 (18.4)		101 (20.9)	151 (31.2)	468	
2009	115 (20.6)		188 (33.6)	199 (35.6)	532	
2010	107 (20.9)		185 (36.1)	175 (34.1)	492	
2011	113 (20.4)		207 (37.4)	189 (34.1)	524	
2012	91 (15.9)		149 (26.0)	200 (35.0)	513	
2013	113 (19.7)		189 (33.0)	133 (23.2)	172 (30.0)	536
2014	129 (21.5)		189 (31.4)	159 (26.5)	196 (32.6)	561
2015	116 (21.0)	182 (32.9)	129 (23.3)	218 (39.4)	518	
2016	111 (18.9)	201 (34.2)	118 (20.1)	223 (37.9)	542	
†2017	94 (14.7)	123 (19.2)	112 (17.5)	186 (29.0)	492	
Total	1526 (18.8)	1021 (12.6)	2004 (24.7)	2727 (33.6)	7445	

†Highlighted data displayed on next page

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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 14: Circumstances: Suicide Specific, 2017

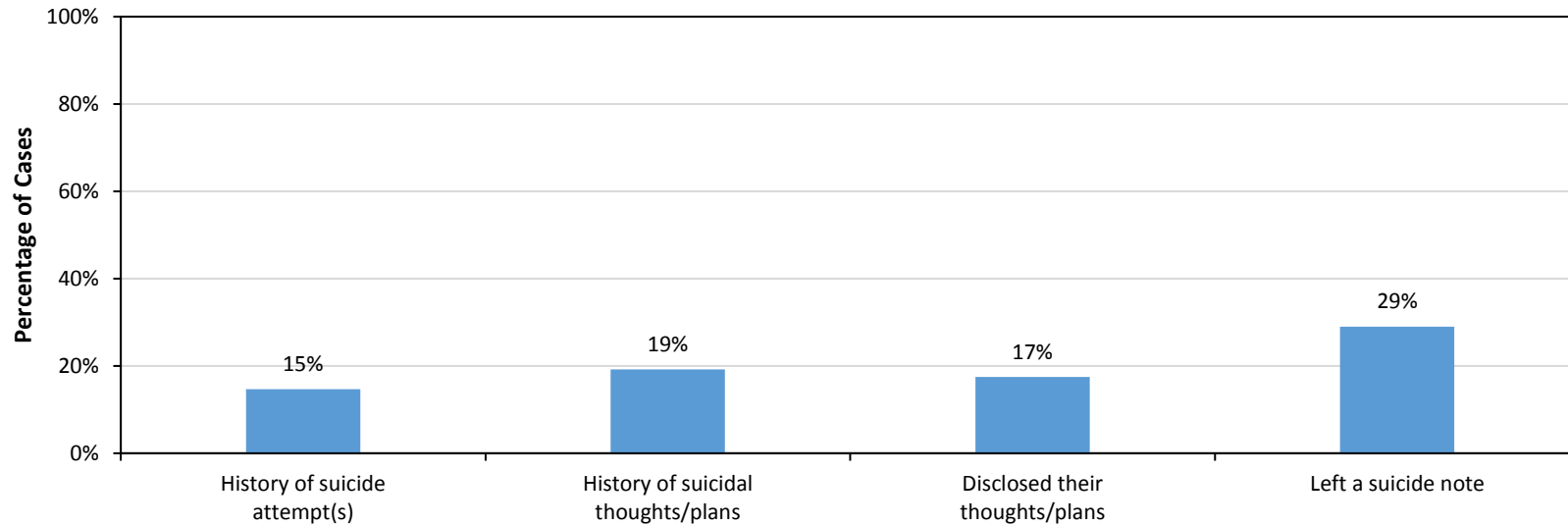
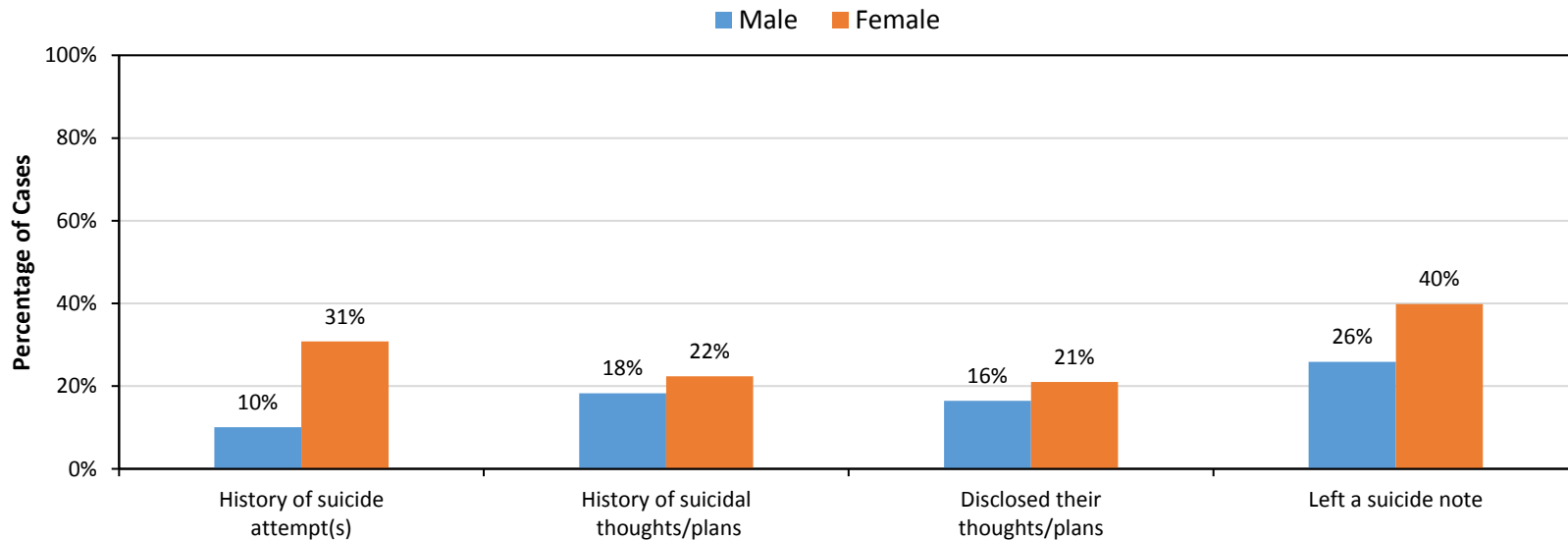


Figure 15: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Sex, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 16: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Age Group, 2017

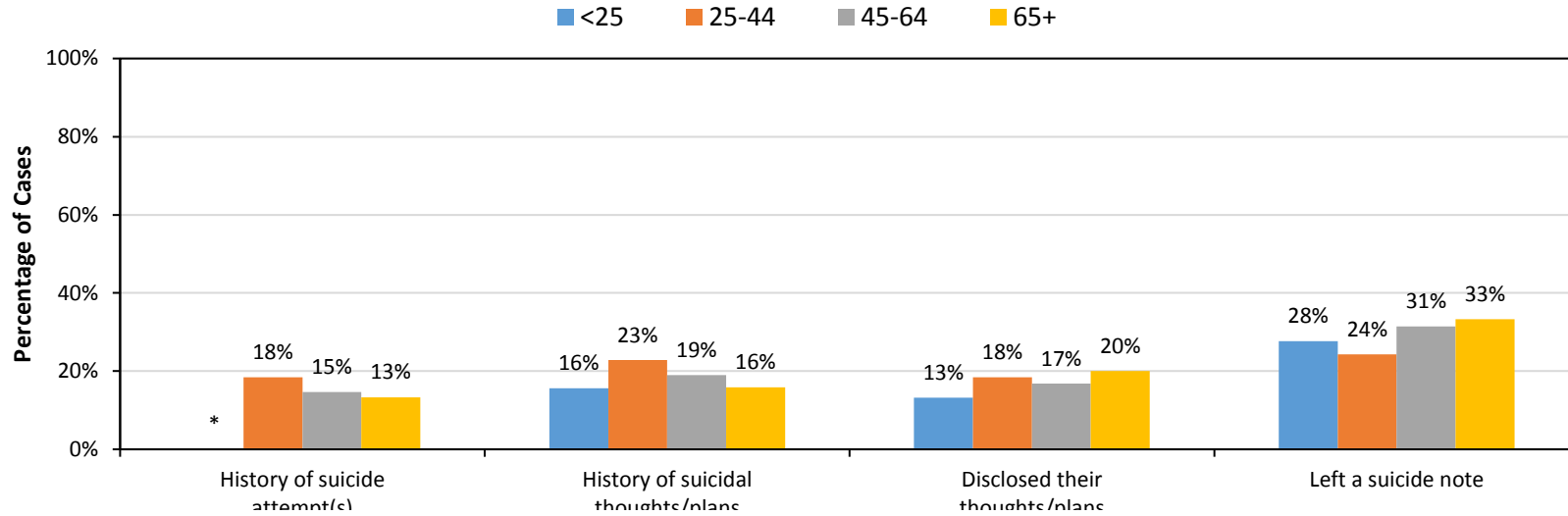
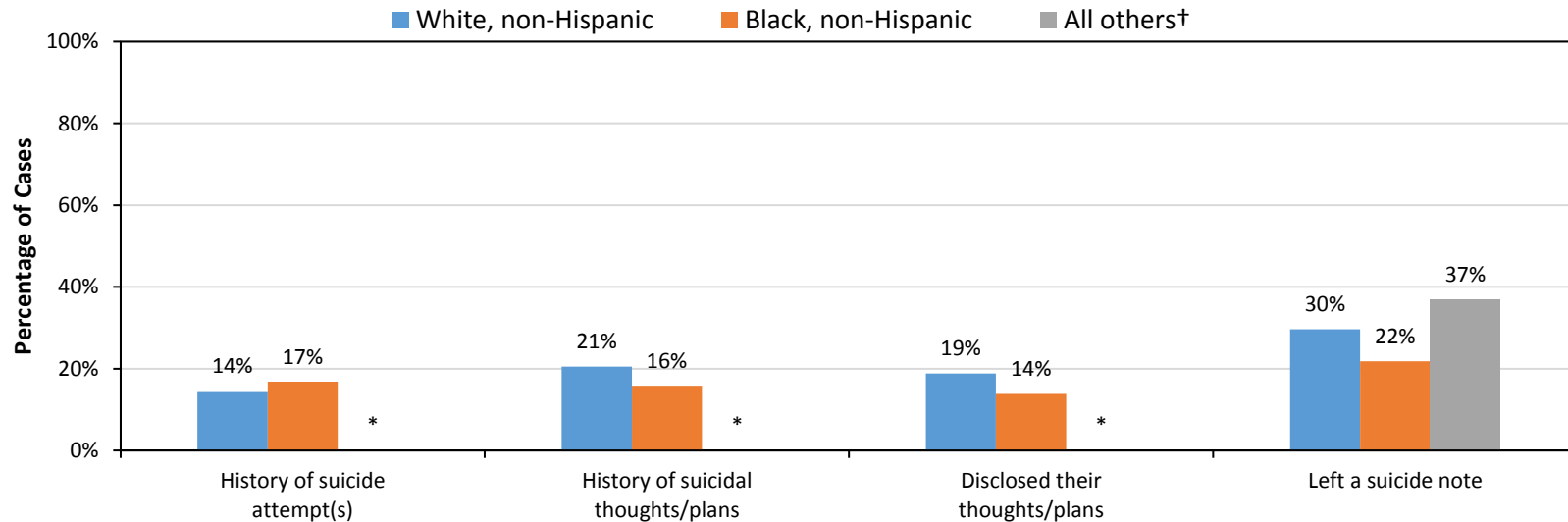


Figure 17: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



†Other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races

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

n = Number of cases in the defined category

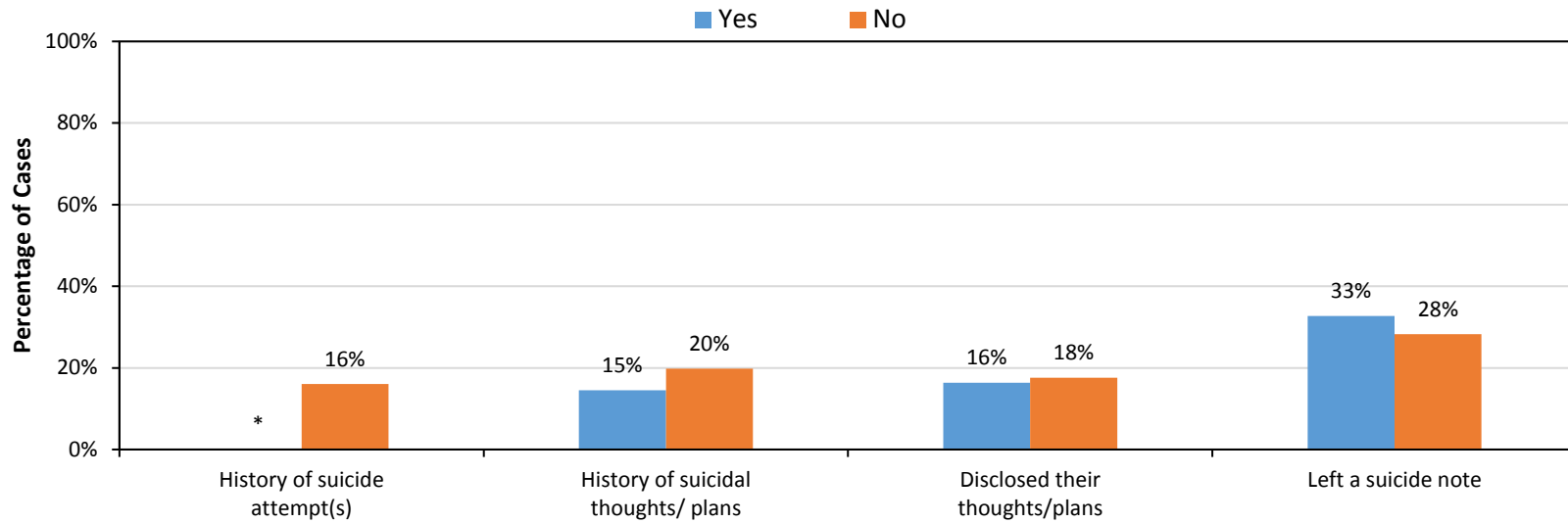
% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

* = Data suppressed due to n<11

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 17: Circumstances: Suicide Specific by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Table 5: Circumstances: Relationships, 2003-2017

	Problem with current or former intimate partner	Problem with family member	Argument/conflict led to death	Total		
Year	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n		
2003	118 (23.2)	First collected in 2013		466		
2004	96 (19.6)			455		
2005	101 (21.4)			424		
2006	119 (23.9)			449		
2007	133 (26.5)			473		
2008	109 (22.5)			468		
2009	144 (25.8)			532		
2010	145 (28.3)			492		
2011	147 (26.5)			524		
2012	136 (23.8)			513		
2013	157 (27.4)			34 (5.9)	83 (14.5)	536
2014	147 (24.5)			41 (6.8)	72 (12.0)	561
2015	96 (17.4)	15 (2.7)	65 (11.8)	518		
2016	93 (15.8)	21 (3.6)	65 (11.1)	542		
†2017	108 (16.8)	15 (2.3)	74 (11.5)	492		
Total	1849 (22.8)	227 (2.8)	585 (7.2)	7445		

†Highlighted data displayed on next page

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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 18: Circumstances: Relationships, 2017

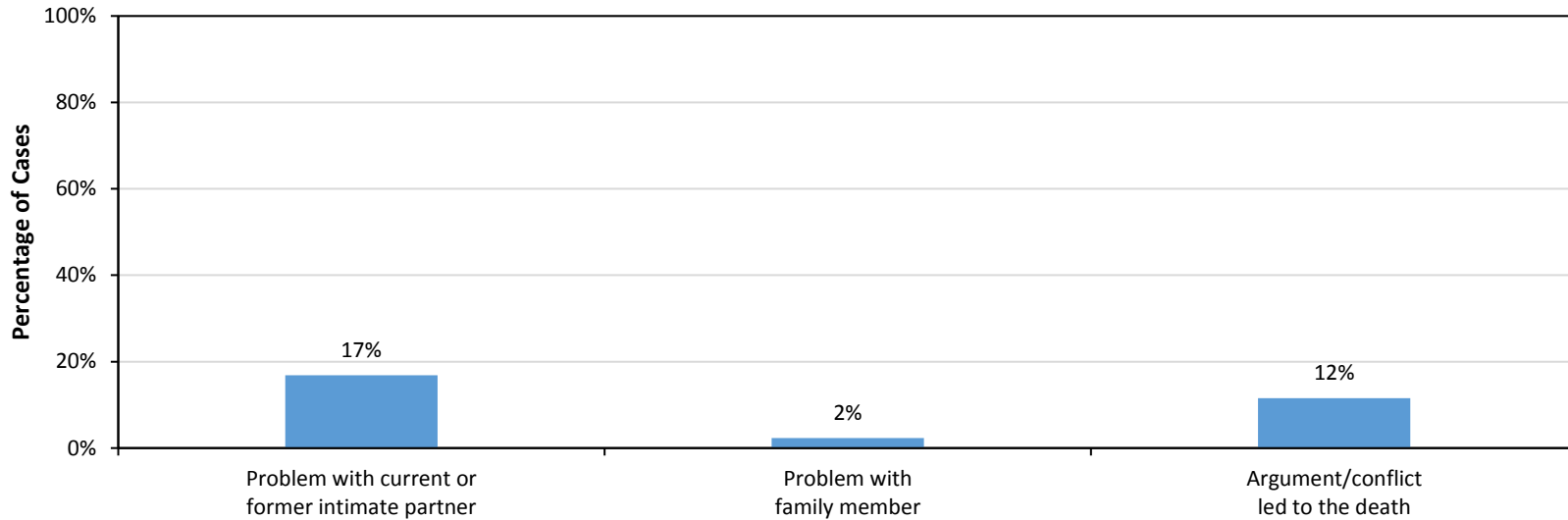
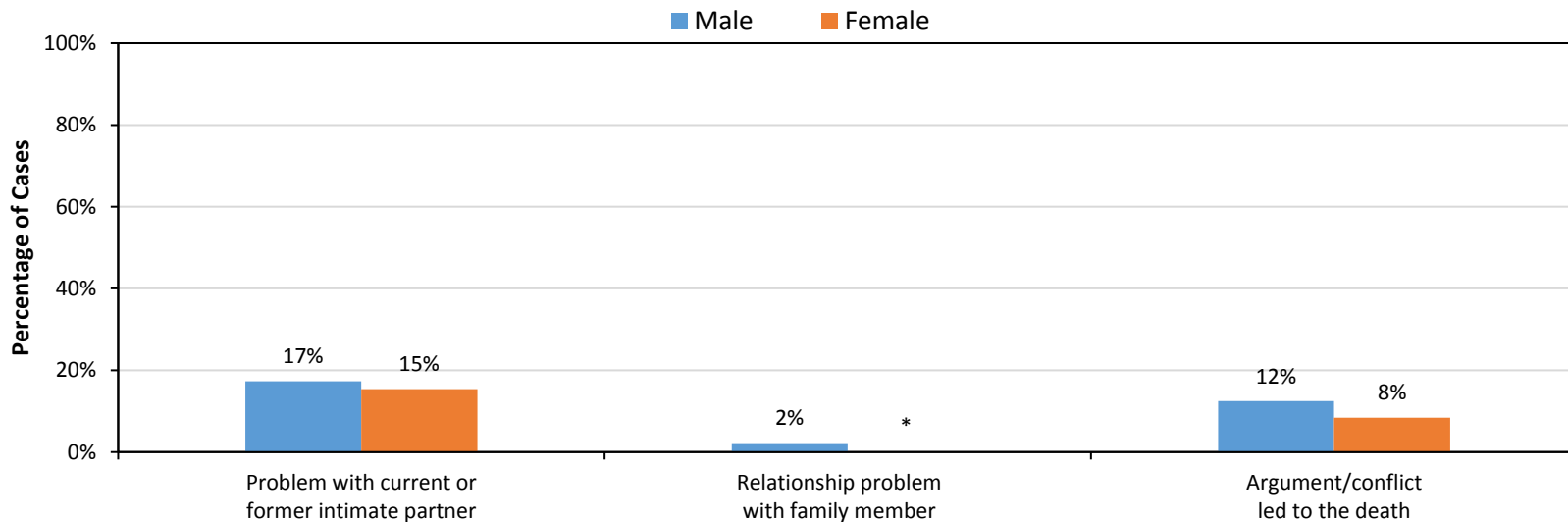


Figure 19: Circumstances: Relationships by Sex, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 20: Circumstances: Relationships by Age (years), 2017

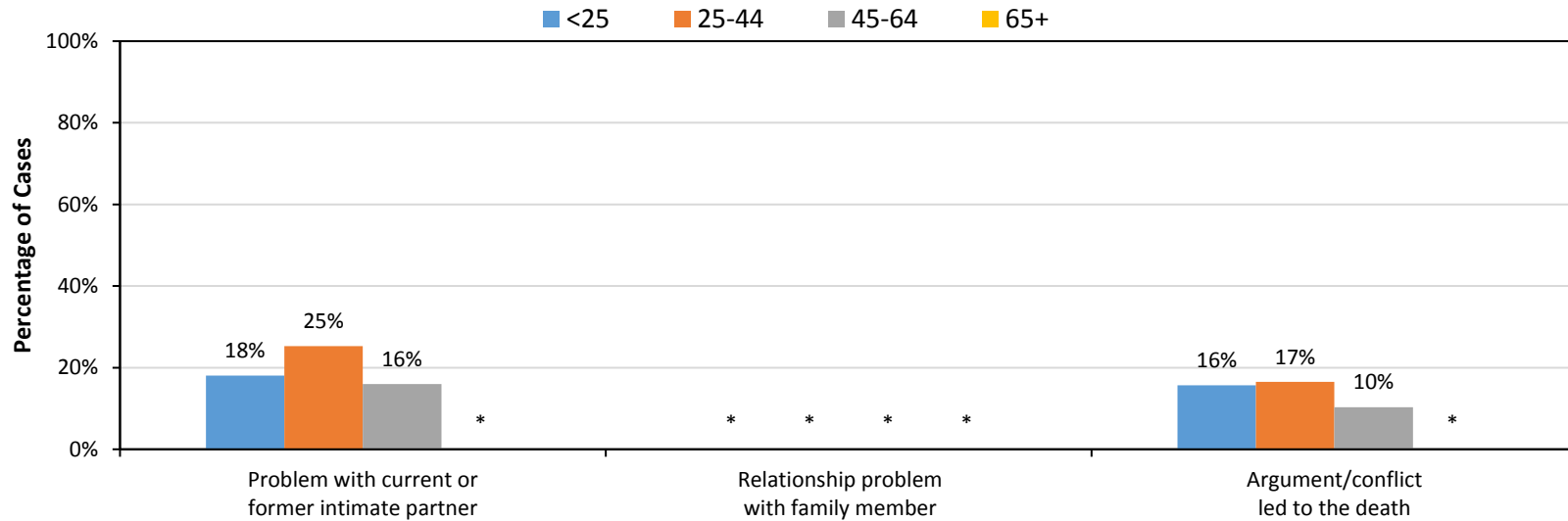
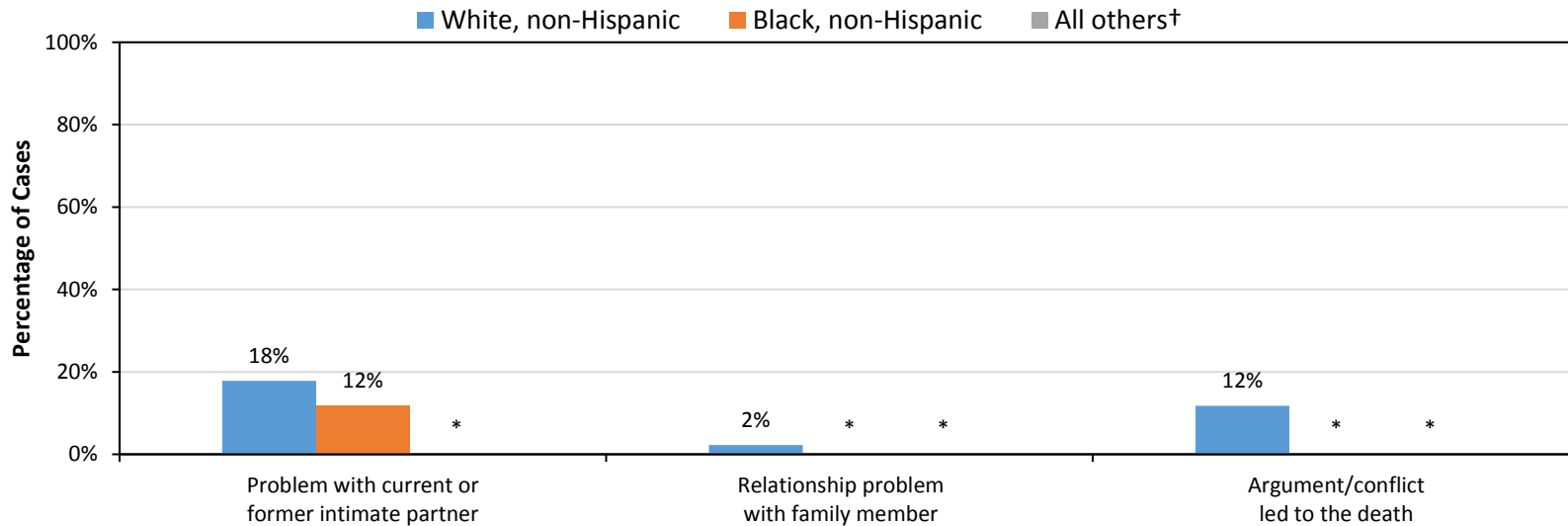


Figure 21: Circumstances: Relationships by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



†Other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races

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

n = Number of cases in the defined category

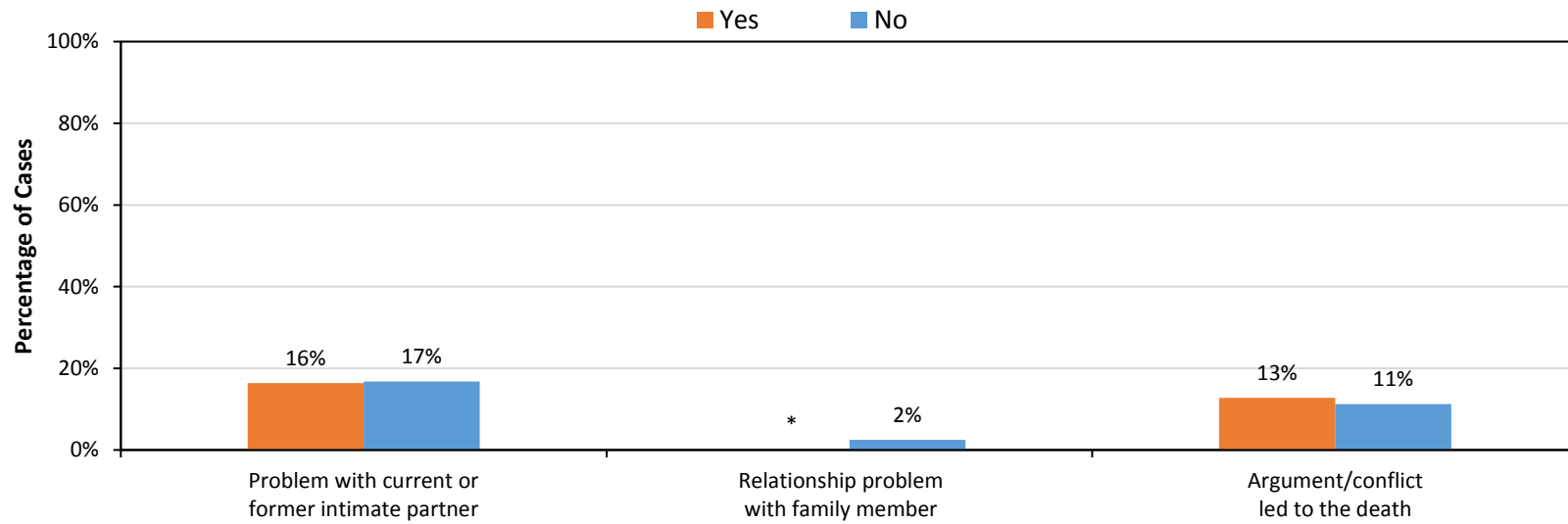
% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

* = Data suppressed due to n<11

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 22: Circumstances: Relationships by Ever Served in U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Maryland Violent Death Reporting System: Suicide Statistics

Table 6: Circumstances: Life Stressors, 2003-2017

	Criminal legal problem	Physical health problem	Job problem	Financial problem	Recent eviction or loss of housing	Death (non-suicide) of family/friend	Total
Year	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n
2003	53 (10.4)	70 (13.8)	36 (7.1)	44 (8.6)	First collected in 2009	18 (3.5)	466
2004	42 (8.6)	54 (11.0)	47 (9.6)	34 (6.9)		28 (5.7)	455
2005	34 (7.2)	100 (21.2)	33 (7.0)	25 (5.3)		25 (5.3)	424
2006	47 (9.4)	104 (20.9)	39 (7.8)	36 (7.2)		21 (4.2)	449
2007	32 (6.4)	90 (17.9)	44 (8.8)	60 (12.0)		37 (7.4)	473
2008	48 (9.9)	118 (24.4)	53 (11.0)	57 (11.8)		42 (8.7)	468
2009	56 (10.0)	107 (19.1)	85 (15.2)	78 (14.0)	28 (5.0)	35 (6.3)	532
2010	36 (7.0)	110 (21.4)	78 (15.2)	74 (14.4)	23 (4.5)	50 (9.7)	492
2011	47 (8.5)	113 (20.4)	76 (13.7)	82 (14.8)	22 (4.0)	24 (4.3)	524
2012	48 (8.4)	64 (11.2)	73 (12.8)	58 (10.1)	22 (3.8)	22 (3.8)	513
2013	45 (7.9)	64 (11.2)	76 (13.3)	81 (14.1)	28 (4.9)	43 (7.5)	536
2014	33 (5.5)	83 (13.8)	63 (10.5)	55 (9.2)	21 (3.5)	33 (5.5)	561
2015	18 (3.3)	70 (12.7)	34 (6.1)	35 (6.3)	12 (2.2)	12 (2.2)	518
2016	28 (4.8)	58 (9.9)	49 (8.3)	41 (7.0)	11 (1.9)	41 (7.0)	542
*2017	35 (5.5)	67 (10.5)	46 (7.2)	33 (5.1)	12 (1.9)	37 (5.8)	492
Total	602 (7.4)	1272 (15.7)	832 (10.3)	793 (9.8)	185 (2.3)	468 (5.8)	7445

†Highlighted data displayed on next page

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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 23: Circumstances: Life Stressors, 2017

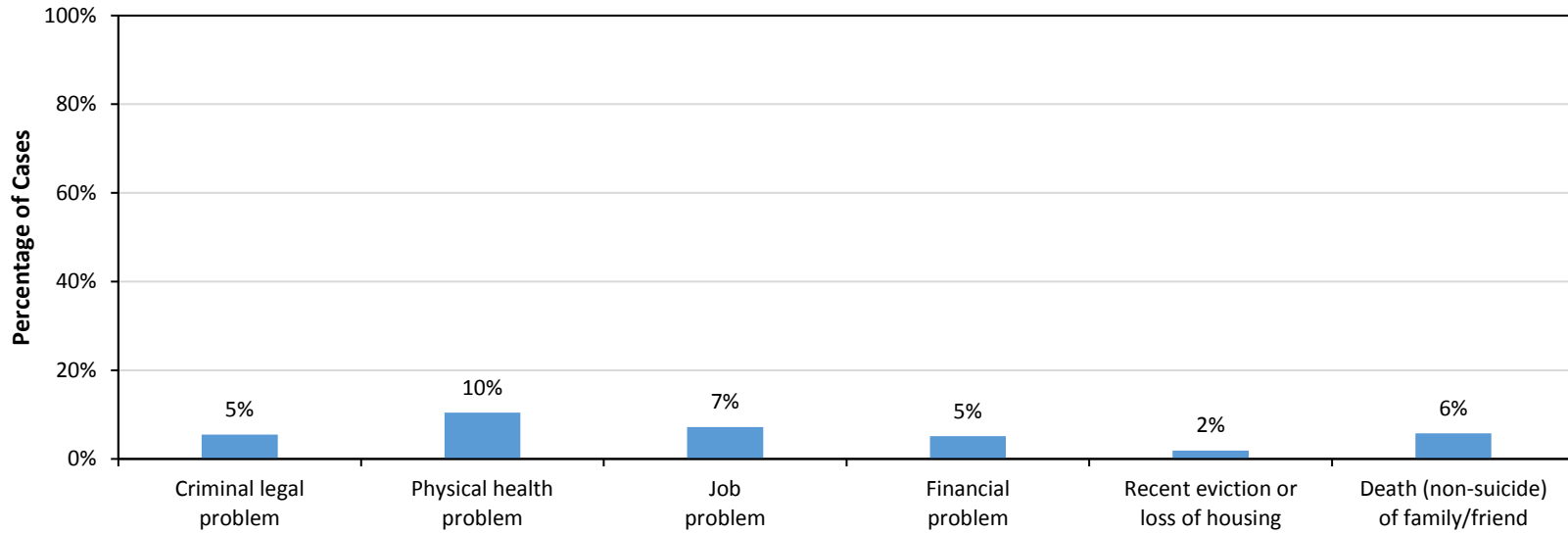
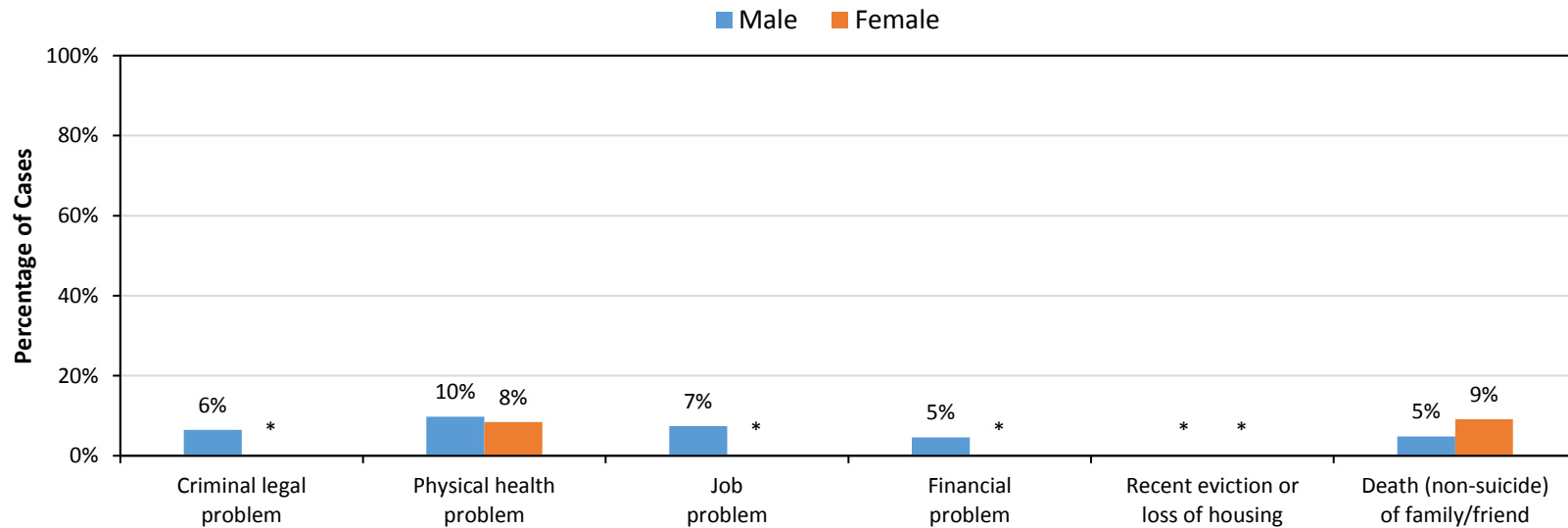


Figure 24: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Sex, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 25: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Age (years), 2017

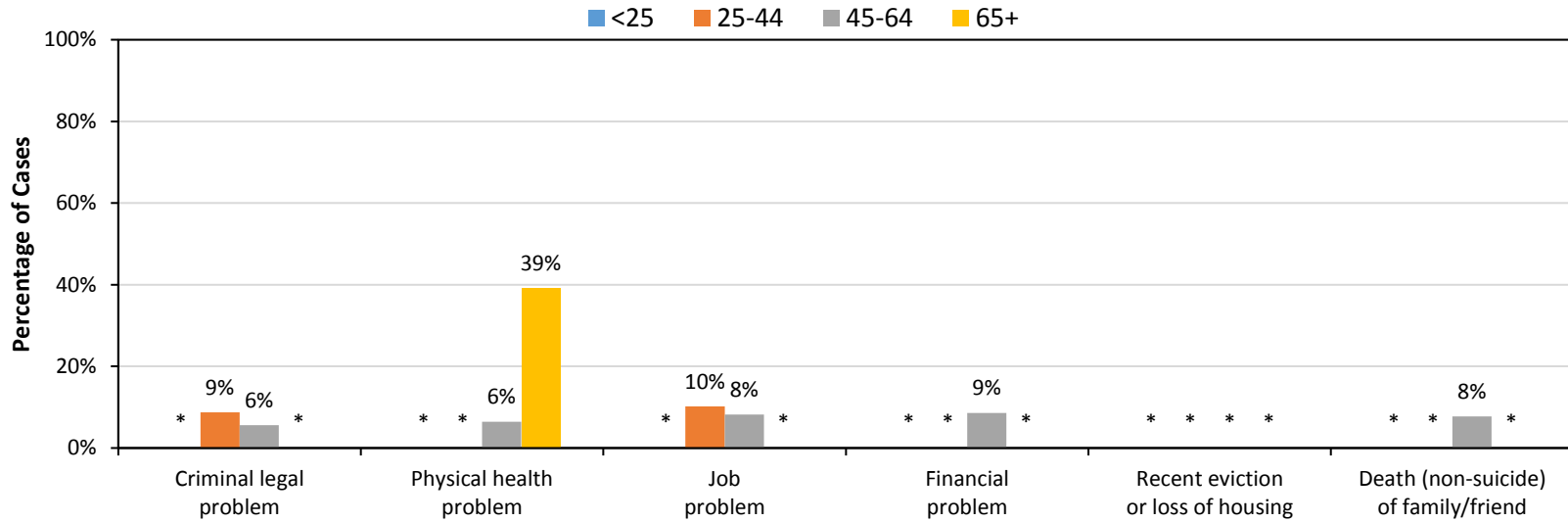
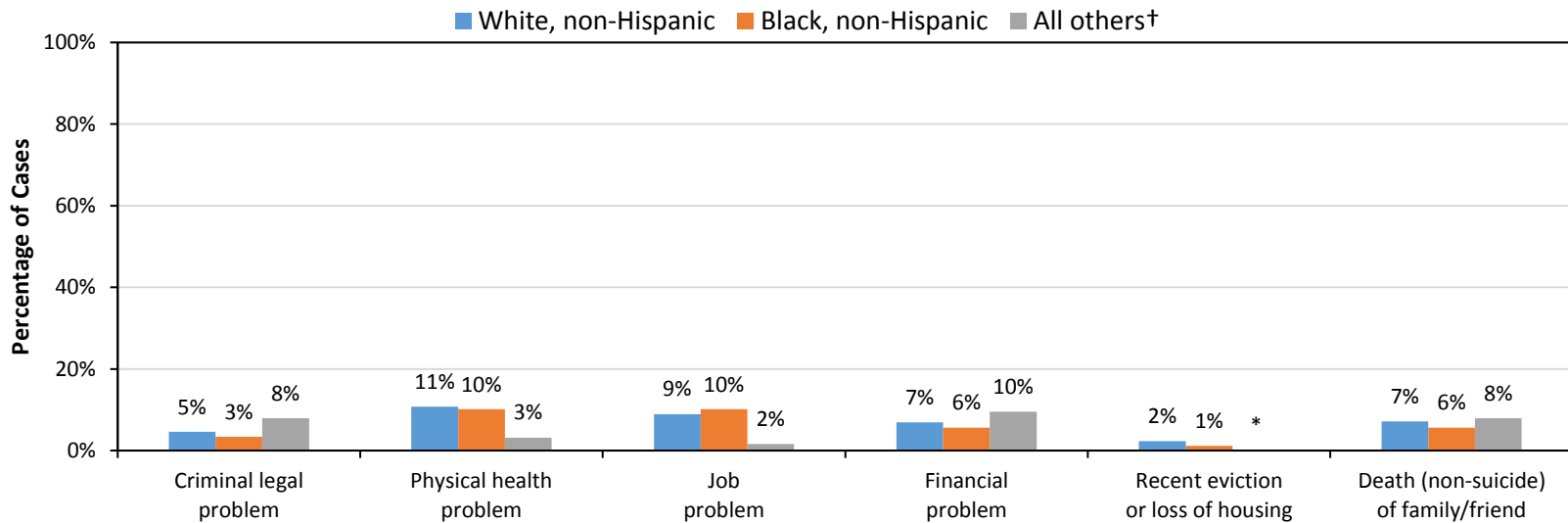


Figure 26: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



†Other includes: Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, unknown/unspecified, and two or more races

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

n = Number of cases in the defined category

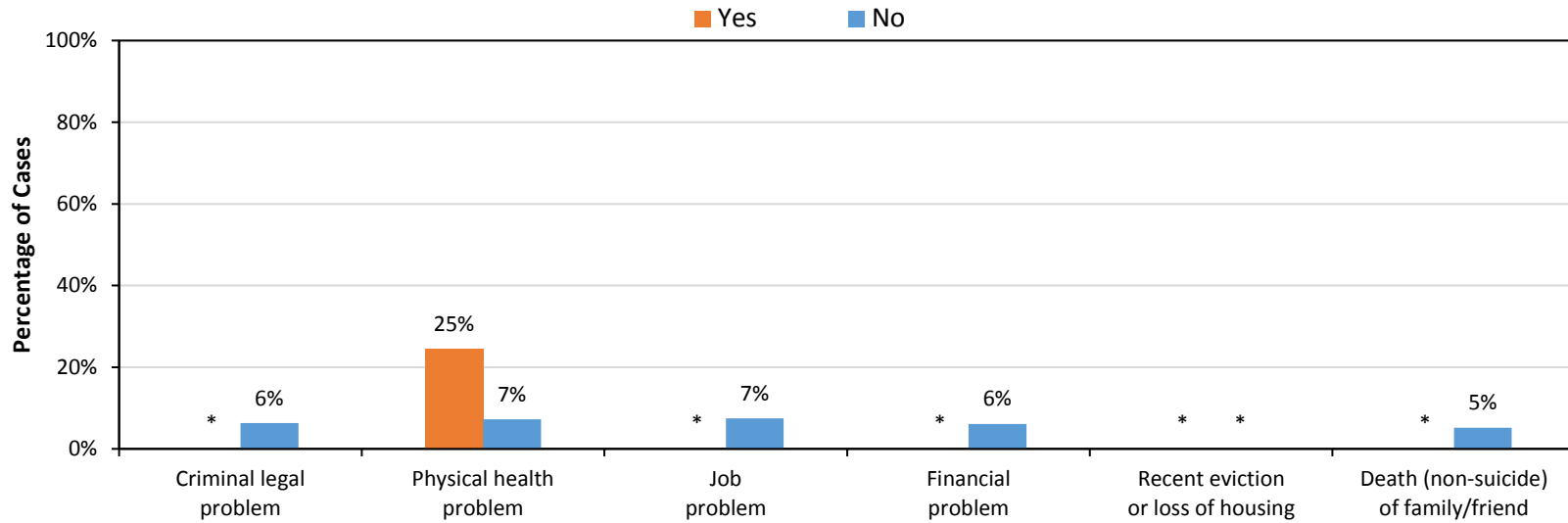
% = Percentage or proportion of cases in the defined category

* = Data suppressed due to n<11

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD

Figure 27: Circumstances: Life Stressors by Ever Served in the U.S. Armed Forces, 2017



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

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

Prepared on 01/31/2020 by GKD