

# **Suicides Associated with Intimate Partner Problems Victim and Incident Characteristics: Maryland, 2003-2011**

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**Prevention and Health Promotion Administration**



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# Why Examine Intimate Partner Problem/ Intimate Partner Violence Suicide?

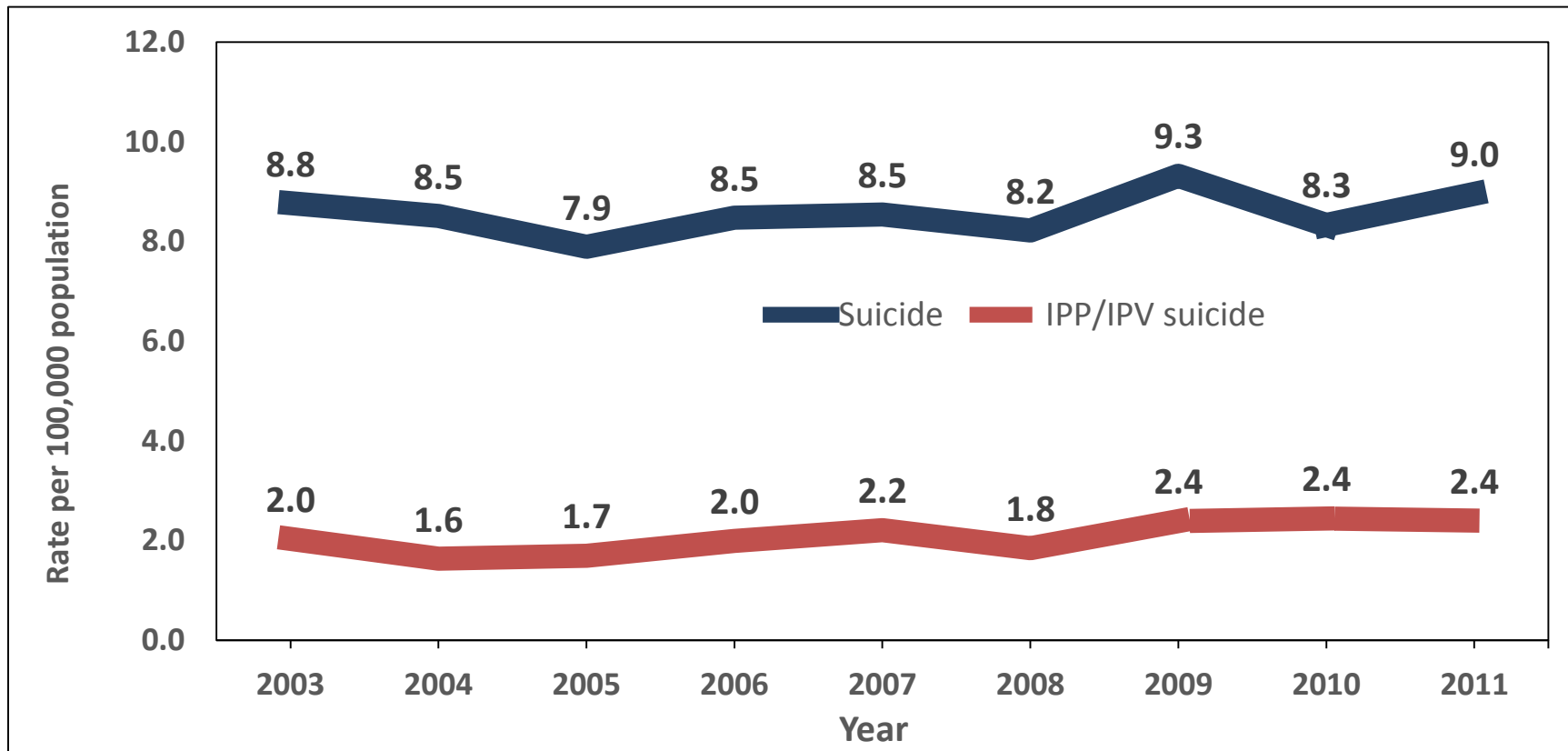
- **Suicide an increasing public health concern**
  - 561 Marylanders ended their own lives in 2013 compared to 557 in 2012 (Maryland Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2013)
- **Intimate Partner Problem (IPP)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a frequent stressor that contributes to suicide**



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# Suicide and IPP/IPV Suicide Rates All Persons: Maryland, 2003-2011



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# Objectives

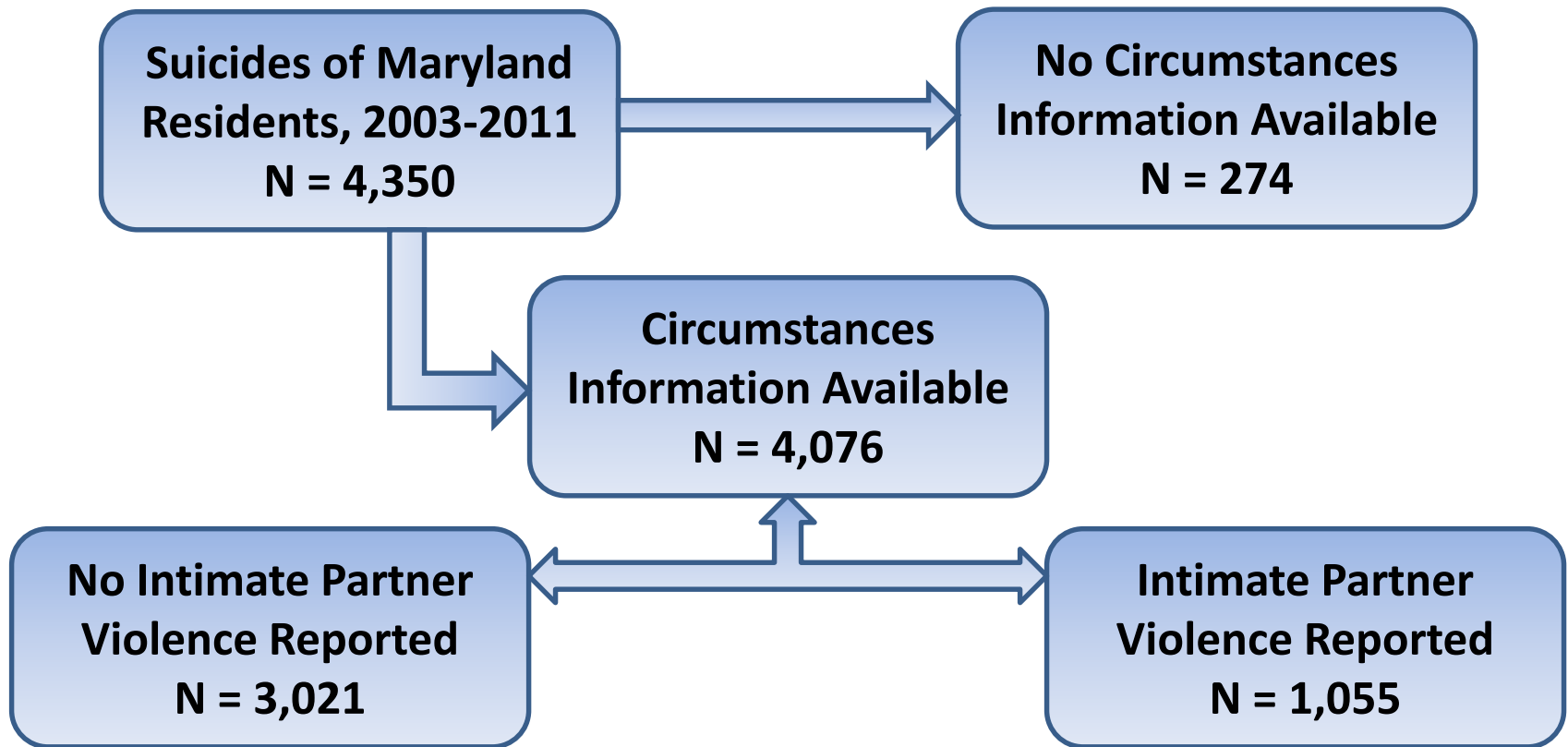
- **What is the frequency of IPP/IPV associated suicides?**
- **What is the prevalence of IPP/IPV suicides by demographic groups?**
- **What is the level of alcohol involvement in IPP/IPV suicides?**
- **What leading circumstances contribute to IPP/IPV suicides?**



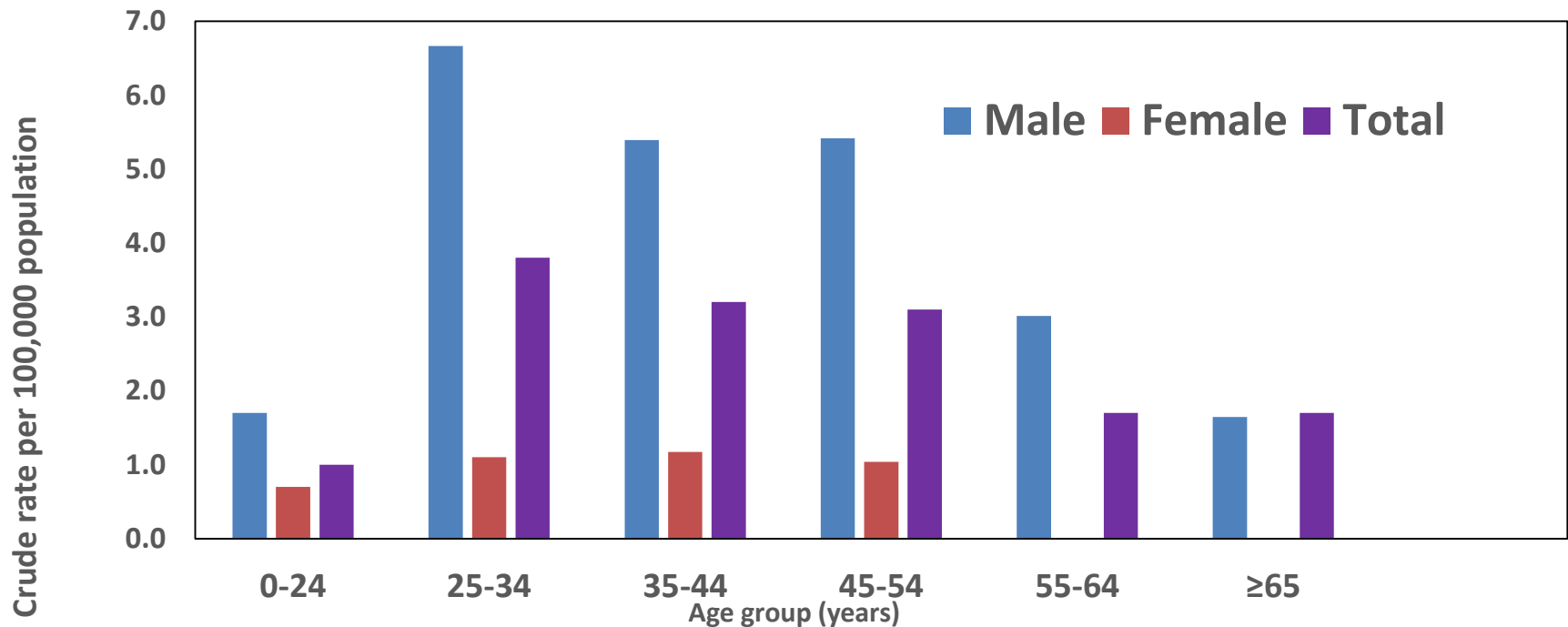
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# Case Selection



# Suicide Rates Associated with IPP/IPV by Age and Sex: Maryland, 2003-2011



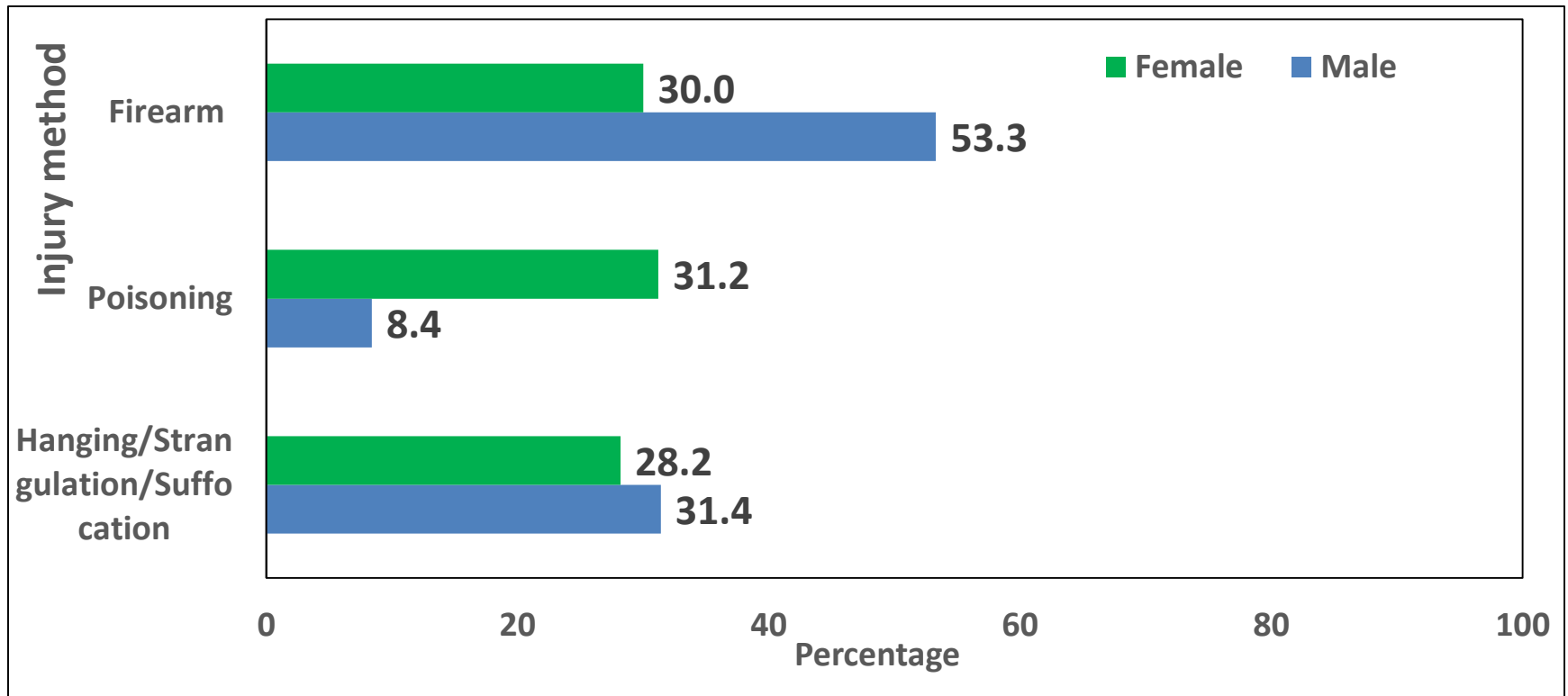
\*rates not reported for age/sex categories with < 20 deaths



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# IPP/IPV Suicide Top 3 Injury Methods by Sex: Maryland, 2003-2011



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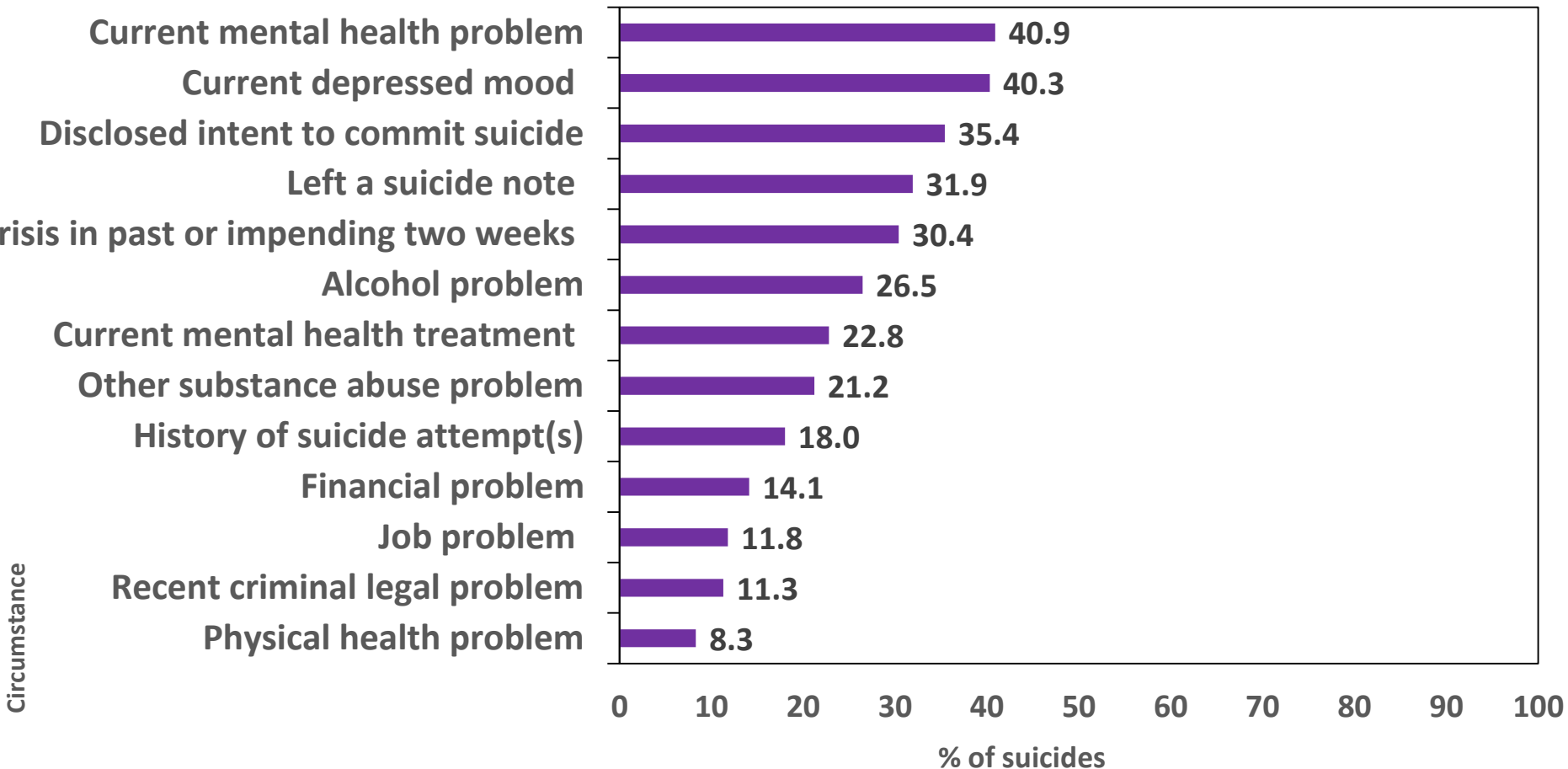


## Number\* and Percent of Suicide IPP/IPV Victims Tested for Alcohol and Drugs by Toxicology Variable: Maryland\*\*, 2003-2011

<u>Toxicology Variable</u>	<u>Tested</u>			<u>Positive</u>	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<b>Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>87.7</b>		<b>416</b>	<b>45.0</b>
<b>BAC &lt; 0.08 g/dL</b>				<b>165</b>	<b>39.7</b>
<b>BAC &gt;= 0.08 g/dL<sup>†</sup></b>				<b>250</b>	<b>60.1</b>
<b>Alcohol positive, level unknown</b>				<b>#</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Amphetamines</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>78.2</b>		<b>#</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Antidepressants</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>78.1</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>78.3</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Opiates</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>78.1</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Other drug(s)</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>78.1</b>		<b>309</b>	<b>37.5</b>



# Circumstance Information (n=1,055)



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# Discussion

- **IPP/IPV suicides prevalence, mechanisms of injury varied by age, sex and race**
- **Important contributing circumstances:**
  - **Mental health problems, particularly depressed mood**
  - **Adverse life events**
  - **Alcohol use**
- **Disclosure of intent (time lag between stated intention and death) may be an opportunity for intervention**



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# Limitations

- **Suicide counts excludes out-of-state resident deaths**
- **Circumstance information not available for 6.3% (n=274) of suicide victims**
- **Circumstance information is limited to information provided by family and friends and may be subject to bias**



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# Conclusion

- **Understanding specific circumstances that contribute to IPP/IPV suicides can help guide prevention strategies**
- **Variations in prevalence and risk factors in different demographic groups can also help target interventions**
- **State-level data from MVDRS will help focus program priorities on geographic areas of need**



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# Thank You!

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