

2005
Annual Report

Office of the
Chief Medical Examiner

State of Maryland

STATE OF MARYLAND
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July 1, 2006

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.
Governor
State House
1 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

On behalf of the Post Mortem Examiners' Commission and the staff of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) of the State of Maryland, I am pleased to present for your information the 67th Annual Report analyzing the death investigations carried out by this Office in 2005.

In carrying out its duties under Health-General §5-309, the OCME investigated 8782 cases. 6119 of these cases were determined to be within the jurisdiction of the OCME. There were 4056 autopsies performed to allow an accurate cause of death to be determined.

Homicides in Maryland increased to 595 in 2005 compared to 545 in 2004. Firearm homicides increased from 404 deaths in 2004 to 443 in 2005. Suicides decreased to 487 in 2005 from 506 in 2004.

In this report we included information regarding the involvement of alcohol and drugs in homicides, suicides, transportation accidents, and drownings as well as data regarding illicit drugs used in fatal drug intoxications.

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.
July 1, 2006
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The information developed in this report is being shared with various programs at the local, state and federal levels. This office provides assistance not only on a short or occasional basis, but also participates in ongoing projects as well. A few of the many requests for data and statistics were received from: Health Care for the Homeless, Inc., Carroll County Drug Task Force, The Maryland State Medical Society Maternal and Child Health Committee, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Environmental and Occupational Health Division, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health – Department of Epidemiology and School of Nursing, Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), Child Fatality Review Board, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Capital Gazette, Homeland News, The Baltimore Sun for Anne Arundel County, Office of Public Health Anne Arundel County, Harford County Department of Community Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Health Quest, Harborview Medical Center, Worcester County Health Department, The Carroll County Public School System, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, National Drug Intelligence Center, Washington Post Newspaper, Baltimore Sun Newspaper, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore Examiner Newspaper, Department of Justice, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the University of Maryland National Study Center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Fowler', is centered below the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

David R. Fowler, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

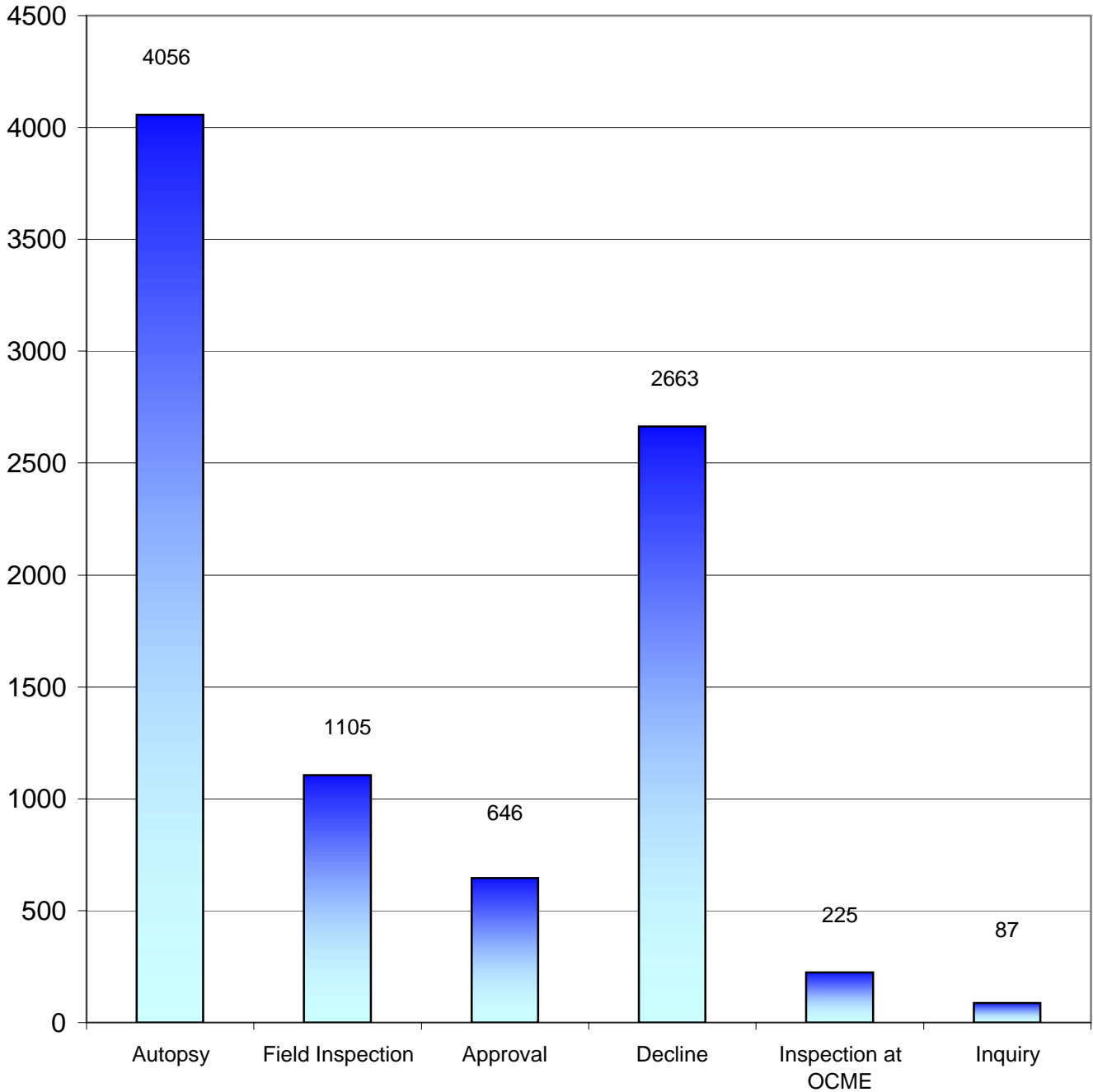
DRF/skw

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Cases Reported to OCME - 2005

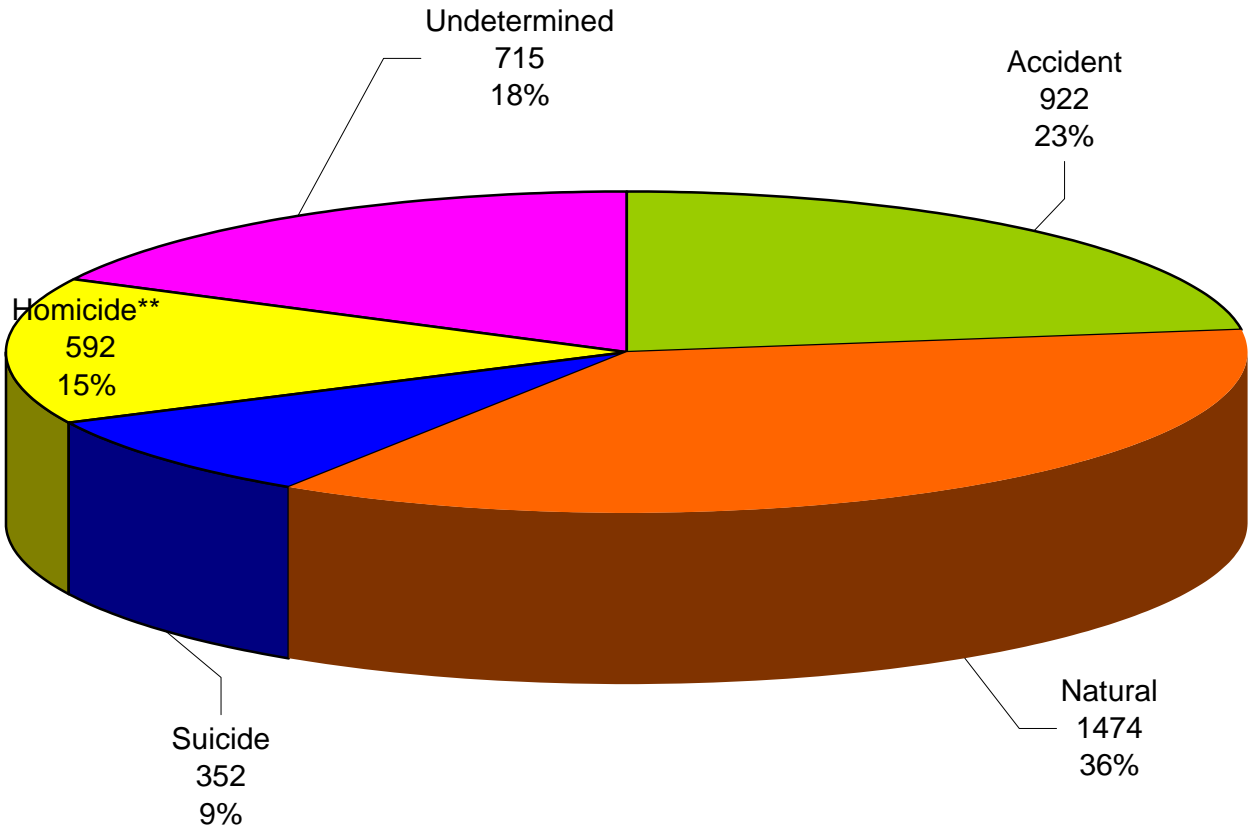
Action Taken



8782 Total Cases

2005 Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied*

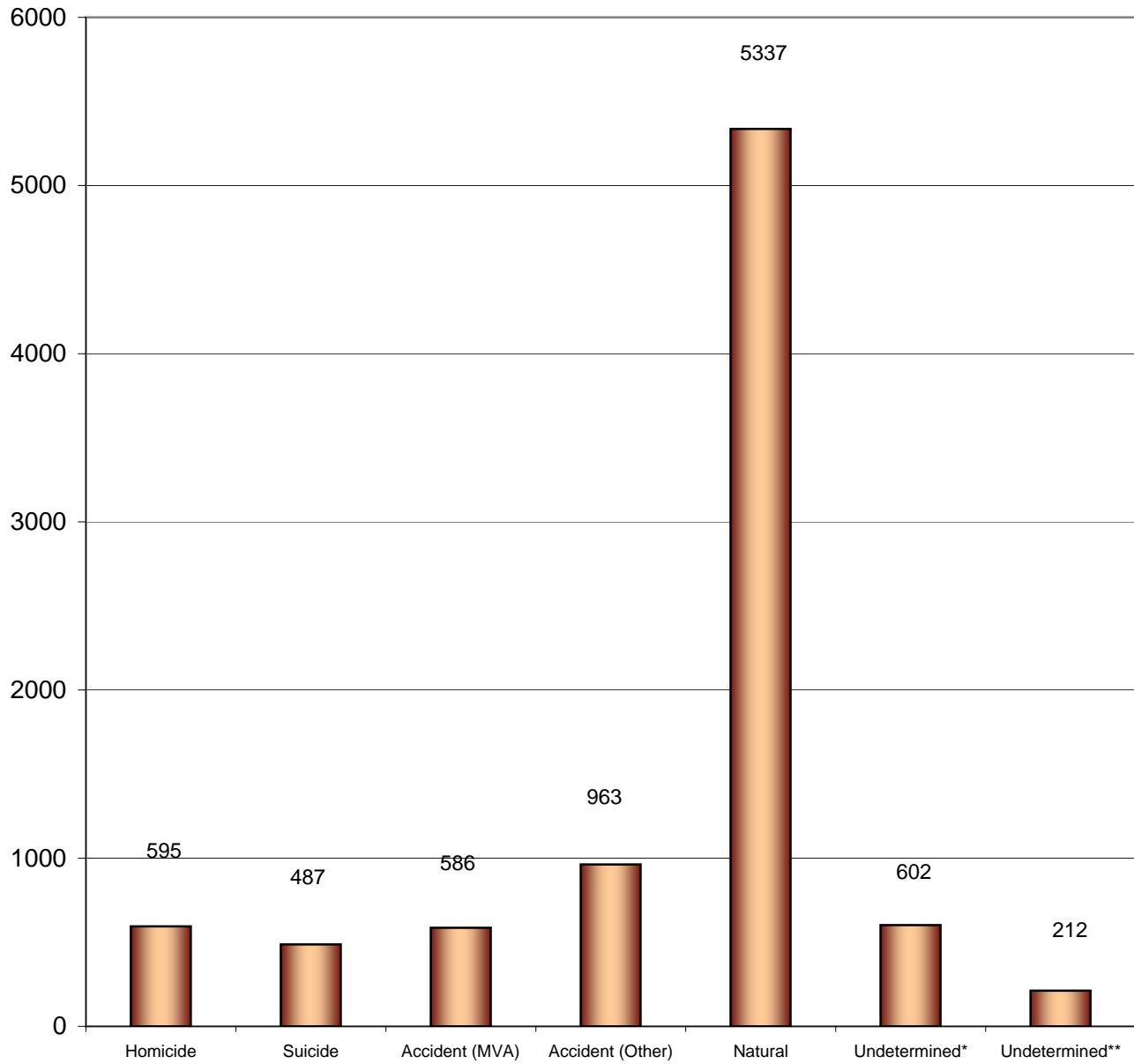
*One case was classified as "not applicable"



** Three homicides were not autopsied due to final disposition prior to Medical Examiner notification.

Total Cases Autopsied - 4056

2005 Cases Reported to OCME Manner of Death



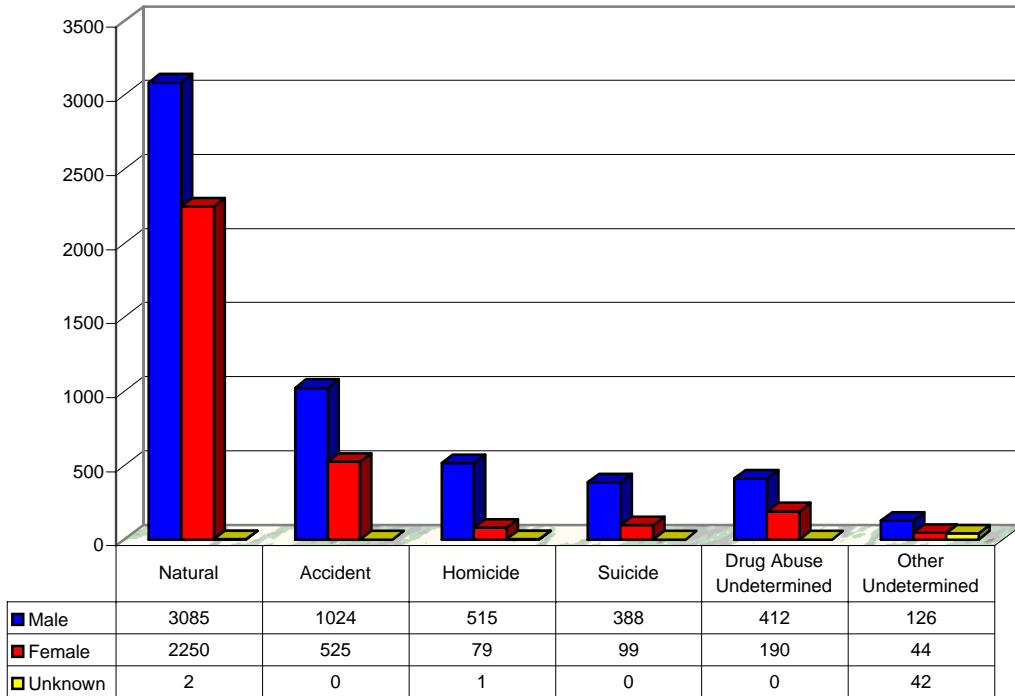
Total Cases - 8782

*Undetermined Manner: Drugs/Narcotics

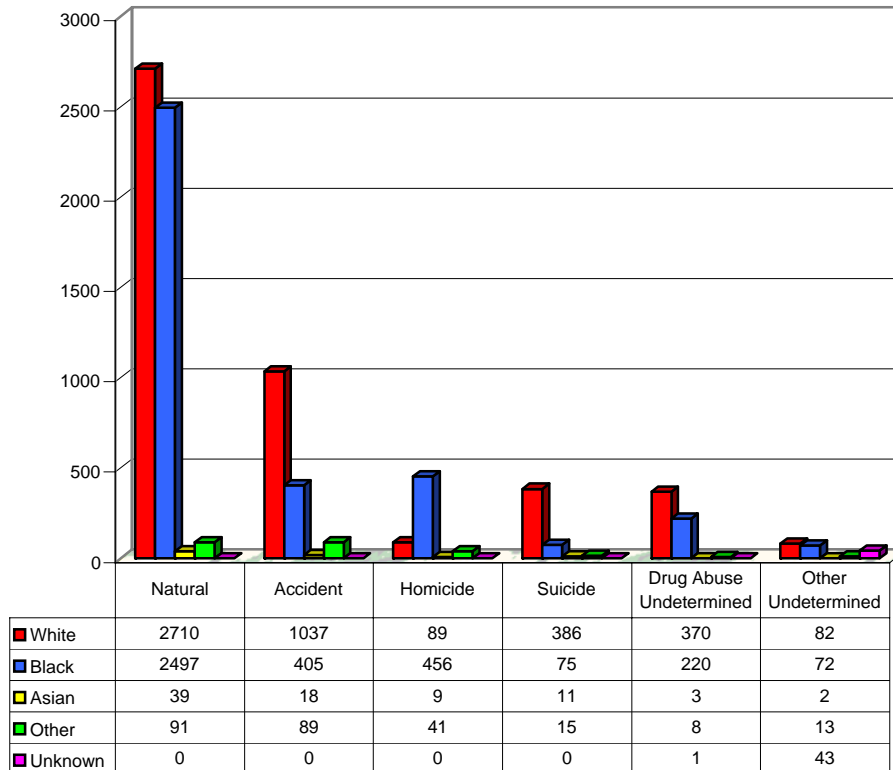
**Undetermined Manner: Other

Manner of Death - 2005

Classified by Sex



Classified by Race



Medical Examiner Cases – 2005 Cause and Manner of Death

Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total
	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Undetermined	
<i>Infectious disease</i>						
AIDS	40	-	-	-	-	40
Other	64	-	-	-	-	64
<i>Malignant neoplasms (Cancer)</i>	325	-	-	-	-	325
<i>Endocrine and metabolic disease</i>						
Diabetes	63	-	-	-	-	63
Other	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Mental Disorders</i>						
Alcohol abuse	62	-	-	-	-	62
Other	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Nervous system disease</i>						
Meningitis	9	-	-	-	-	9
Seizure disorder	27	-	-	-	4	31
Other	47	-	-	-	-	47
<i>Circulatory system disease</i>						
Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	416	-	-	-	-	416
Arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease	3378	-	-	-	-	3378
Cardiac arrhythmia	100	-	-	-	-	100
Cardiomyopathy	46	-	-	-	-	46
Pulmonary embolism	77	-	-	16	-	93
Cerebrovascular disease	16	-	-	-	-	16
Aneurysm	35	-	-	-	-	35
Hemorrhage	101	-	-	-	-	101
Other	57	-	-	-	-	57
<i>Respiratory system diseases</i>						
Respiratory distress syndrome	10	-	-	-	-	10
Pneumonia	108	-	-	-	-	108
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	5	-	-	-	-	5
Asthma	26	-	-	-	-	26
Other	86	-	-	-	-	86
<i>Digestive system disease</i>						
Fatty liver	4	-	-	-	-	4
Cirrhosis	56	-	-	-	-	56
Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	31	-	-	-	-	31
Other	30	-	-	-	-	30
<i>Congenital anomalies</i>	6	-	-	-	-	6
<i>Perinatal conditions</i>	13	-	-	-	-	13
<i>Ill-defined conditions</i>						
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	15	-	-	-	-	15
Other	11	-	-	-	46	57

Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total
	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Undetermined	
<i>Traumatic injury</i>						
Head/Chest injuries	-	10	-	323	-	333
Multiple injuries	-	5	27	639	12	683
Blunt force	-	33	-	3	-	36
Gunshot wound	-	443	216	1	5	665
Sharp force/cutting	-	74	13	-	-	87
Fracture	-	-	-	70	-	70
Other trauma	-	-	-	1	-	1
<i>Poisoning</i>						
Alcohol intoxication	-	-	2	2	9	13
Drug intoxication/abuse	-	-	45	2	81	128
Alcohol and drug intoxication	-	-	5	-	12	17
Carbon monoxide	-	-	7	9	-	16
Cocaine intoxication	-	-	-	1	60	61
Cocaine and alcohol intoxication	-	-	-	-	5	5
Cocaine and narcotic intoxication	-	-	-	-	97	97
Narcotic intoxication	7	-	12	1	309	329
Narcotic and alcohol intoxication	-	-	2	1	40	43
Inhalant intoxication	-	-	4	-	1	5
<i>Asphyxiation</i>						
Airway obstruction/Aspirated stomach content	-	-	-	24	-	24
Hanging	-	-	115	4	-	119
Smoke inhalation	-	1	-	53	-	54
Strangulation/Asphyxiation	-	25	22	46	9	102
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drowning	-	-	5	64	9	78
Unspecified type of asphyxia	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hypothermia</i>	-	-	-	46	-	46
<i>Hyperthermia</i>	-	-	-	43	1	44
<i>Thermal injury (Burns)</i>	-	1	3	6	1	11
<i>Electrocution</i>	-	-	1	6	-	7
<i>Other non-natural cause</i>	-	3	8	188	73	272
<i>Other natural cause</i>	60	-	-	-	-	60
<i>Unknown cause</i>	-	-	-	-	5	5
<i>Non-human remains</i>	-	-	-	-	35	35
<i>Accident during surgery</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5337	595	487	1549	814	8782

Manner of Death - 3 Year Comparison

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2005

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5337	60.8
Homicide	595	6.8
Suicide	487	5.5
Accident.....	1549	17.6
Undetermined	814	9.3
Total.....	8782	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2004

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5107	60.6
Homicide	545	6.5
Suicide	506	6.0
Accident.....	1464	17.4
Undetermined	807	9.6
Total.....	8429	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2003

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	4954	59.1
Homicide	556	6.6
Suicide	491	5.9
Accident.....	1494	17.8
Undetermined	892	10.6
Total.....	8387	100.0*

*Because of rounding, percentages do not necessarily total 100.

Medical Examiner Cases - 2005

Manner and Jurisdiction

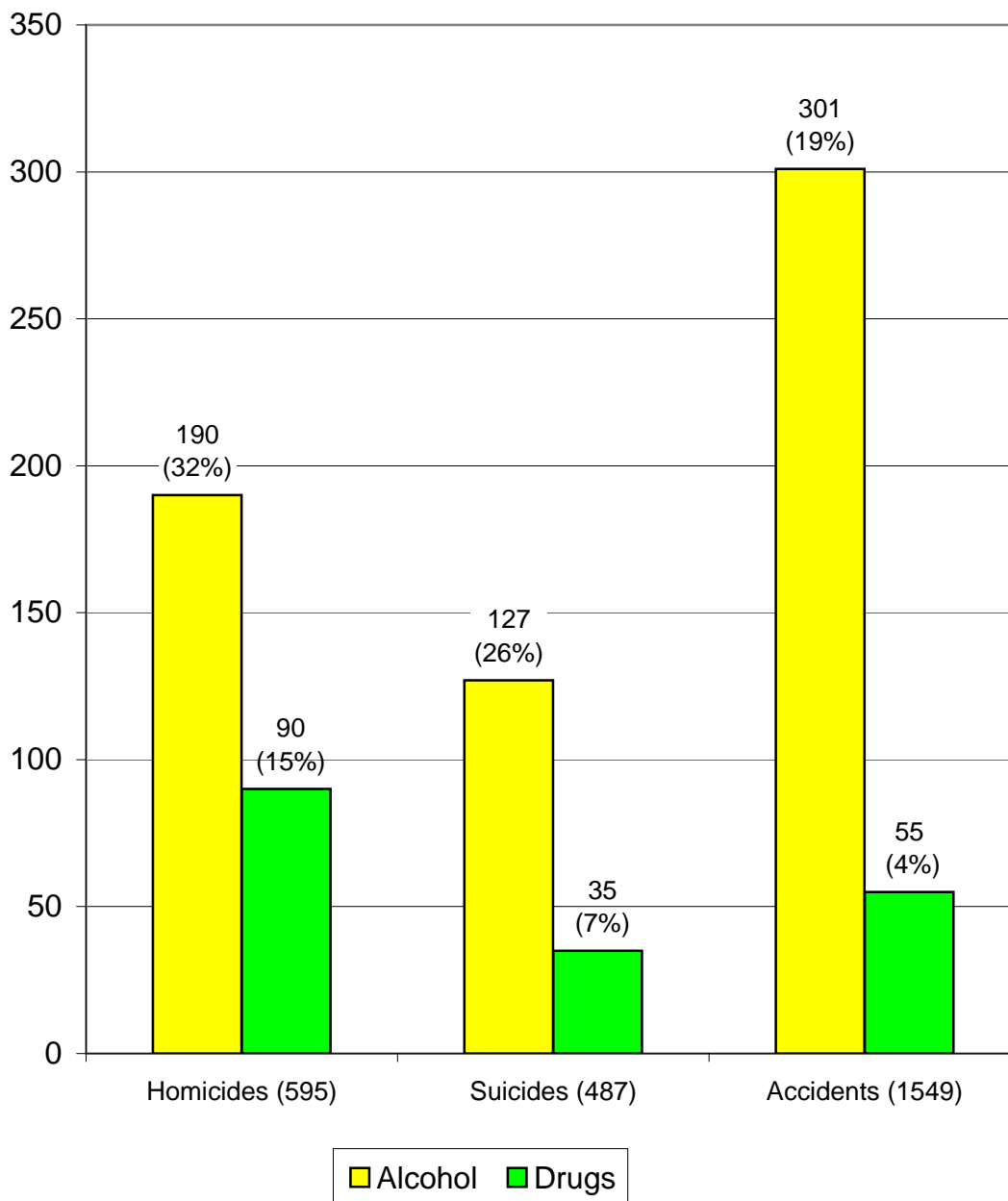
<u>County</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Allegany	107	46	1	13	11	178
Anne Arundel	234	79	13	49	62	437
Baltimore County	415	164	28	71	111	789
Calvert	73	15	2	5	5	100
Caroline	11	10	0	2	2	25
Carroll	86	38	2	19	11	156
Cecil	43	28	8	13	14	106
Charles	37	41	4	15	4	101
Dorchester	17	15	2	2	4	40
Frederick	83	55	3	23	18	182
Garrett	25	11	0	4	1	41
Harford	175	48	3	21	30	277
Howard	72	25	5	16	13	131
Kent	17	6	1	3	1	28
Montgomery	204	111	18	56	51	440
Prince George's	1204	235	171	49	75	1734
Queen Anne's	13	8	2	7	3	33
St. Mary's	48	17	2	13	17	97
Somerset	10	5	1	2	5	23
Talbot	30	13	2	4	5	54
Washington	96	55	4	19	19	193
Wicomico	113	47	5	11	12	188
Worcester	41	14	0	5	7	67
Baltimore City	2183	463	318	65	333	3362
TOTAL	5337	1549	595	487	814	8782

Type and Jurisdiction

<u>County</u>	<u>OCME</u>		<u>Field</u>	<u>Inquiry</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Decline</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Autopsy</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Inspections</u>				
Allegany	74	5	49	2	26	22	178
Anne Arundel	264	5	84	1	28	55	437
Baltimore County	427	30	140	10	70	112	789
Calvert	43	0	18	1	6	32	100
Caroline	11	1	10	0	2	1	25
Carroll	87	2	38	3	12	14	156
Cecil	73	1	18	1	6	7	106
Charles	68	3	23	0	5	2	101
Dorchester	27	1	2	0	4	6	40
Frederick	98	6	38	2	30	8	182
Garrett	20	1	9	0	4	7	41
Harford	131	7	76	1	11	51	277
Howard	80	3	27	1	6	14	131
Kent	12	0	8	0	4	4	28
Montgomery	275	4	60	14	48	39	440
Prince George's	721	19	171	7	52	764	1734

2005 Toxicology Testing

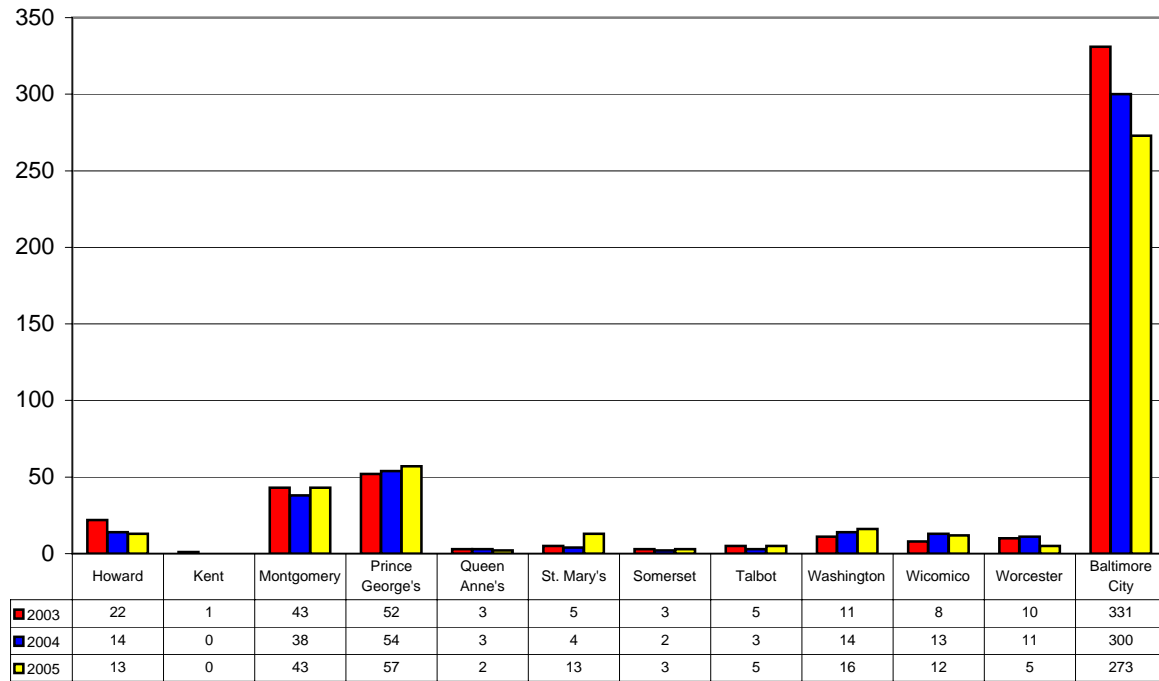
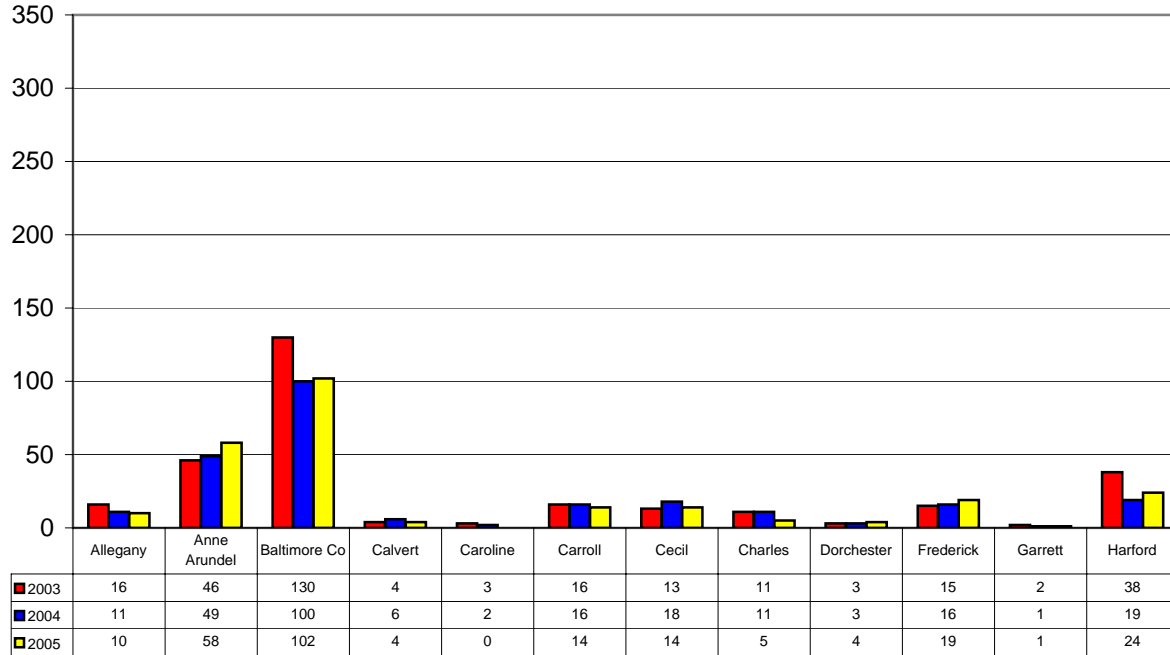
of Cases Positive for Alcohol and/or Drugs (Percentage of the Manner of Death)



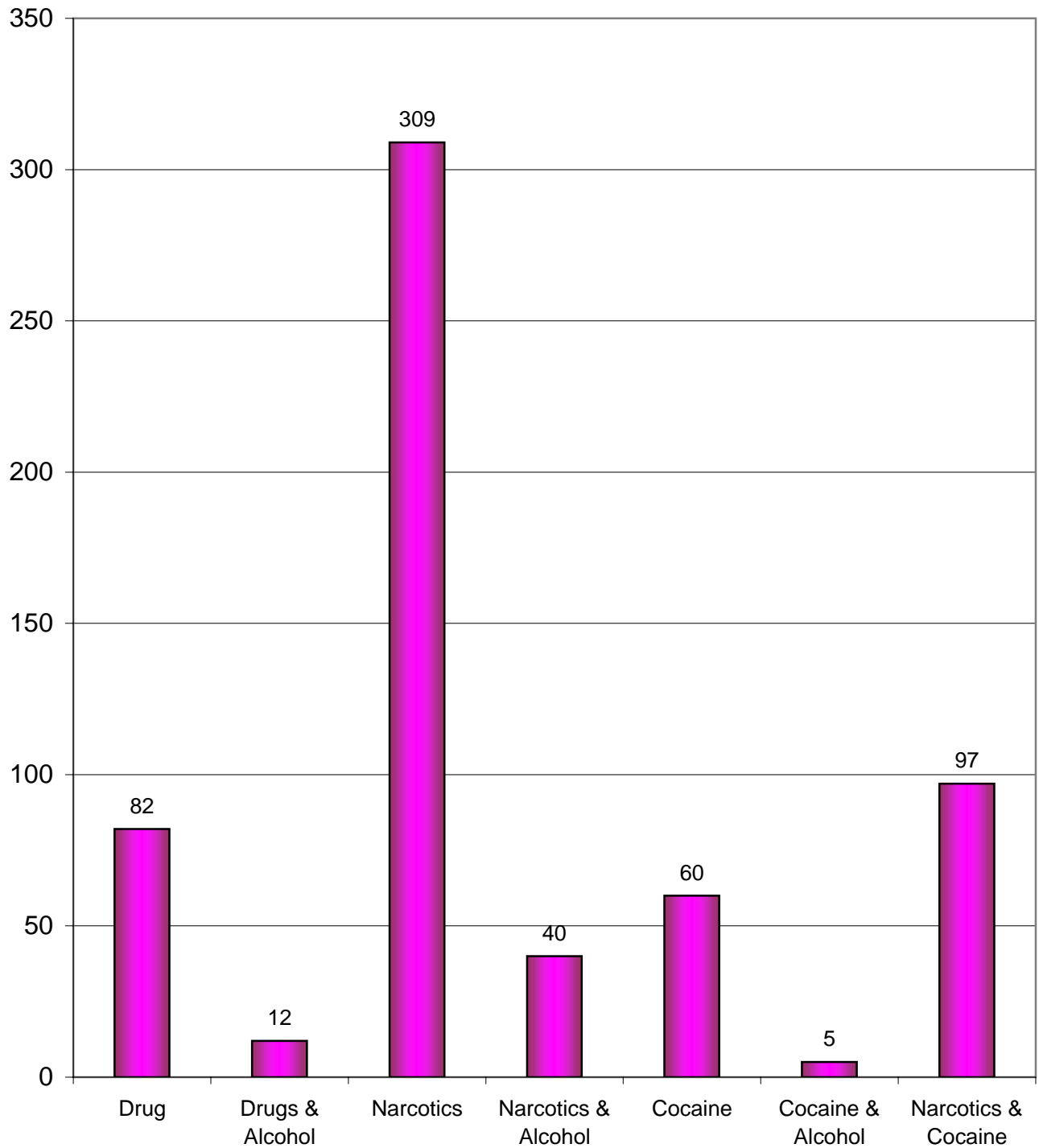
Manner of Death

Drug Abuse Deaths

3 Year Comparison by Jurisdiction



2005 Drug Abuse Deaths Undetermined Manner

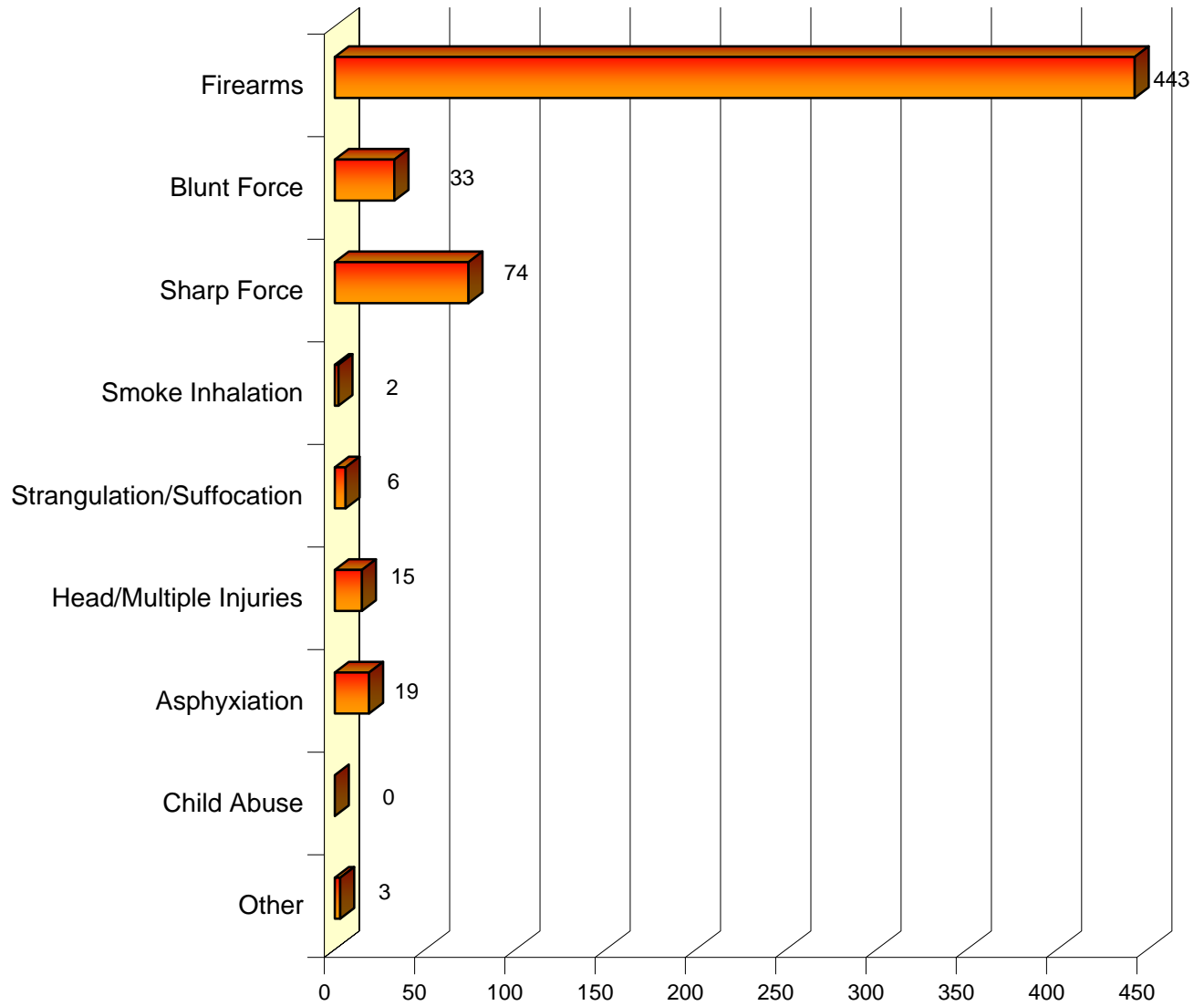


Narcotics include Heroin, Morphine, Methadone, Phencyclidine

Drugs include Prescription Medications

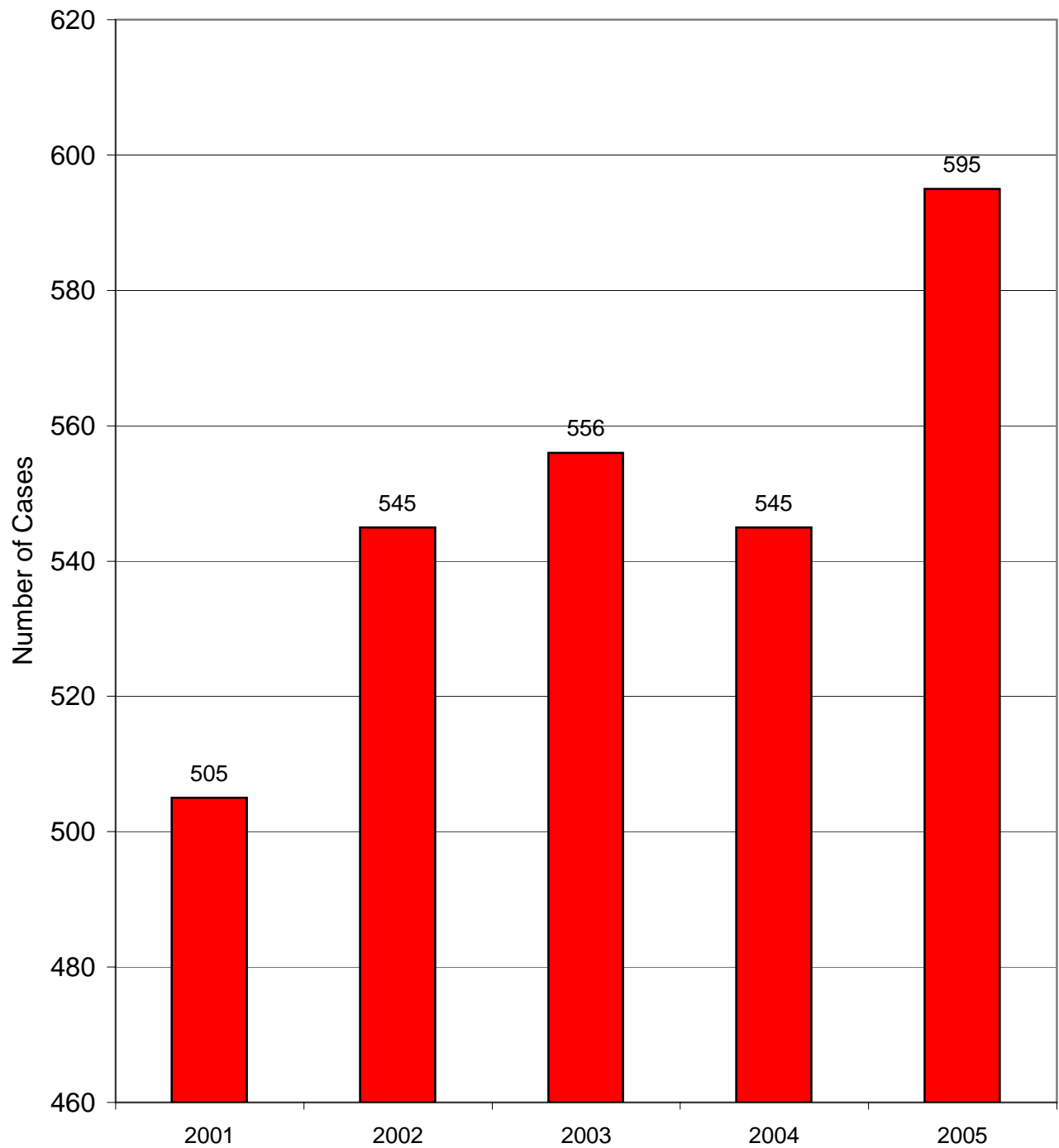
Total Cases - 605

2005 Homicide Deaths Cause of Death

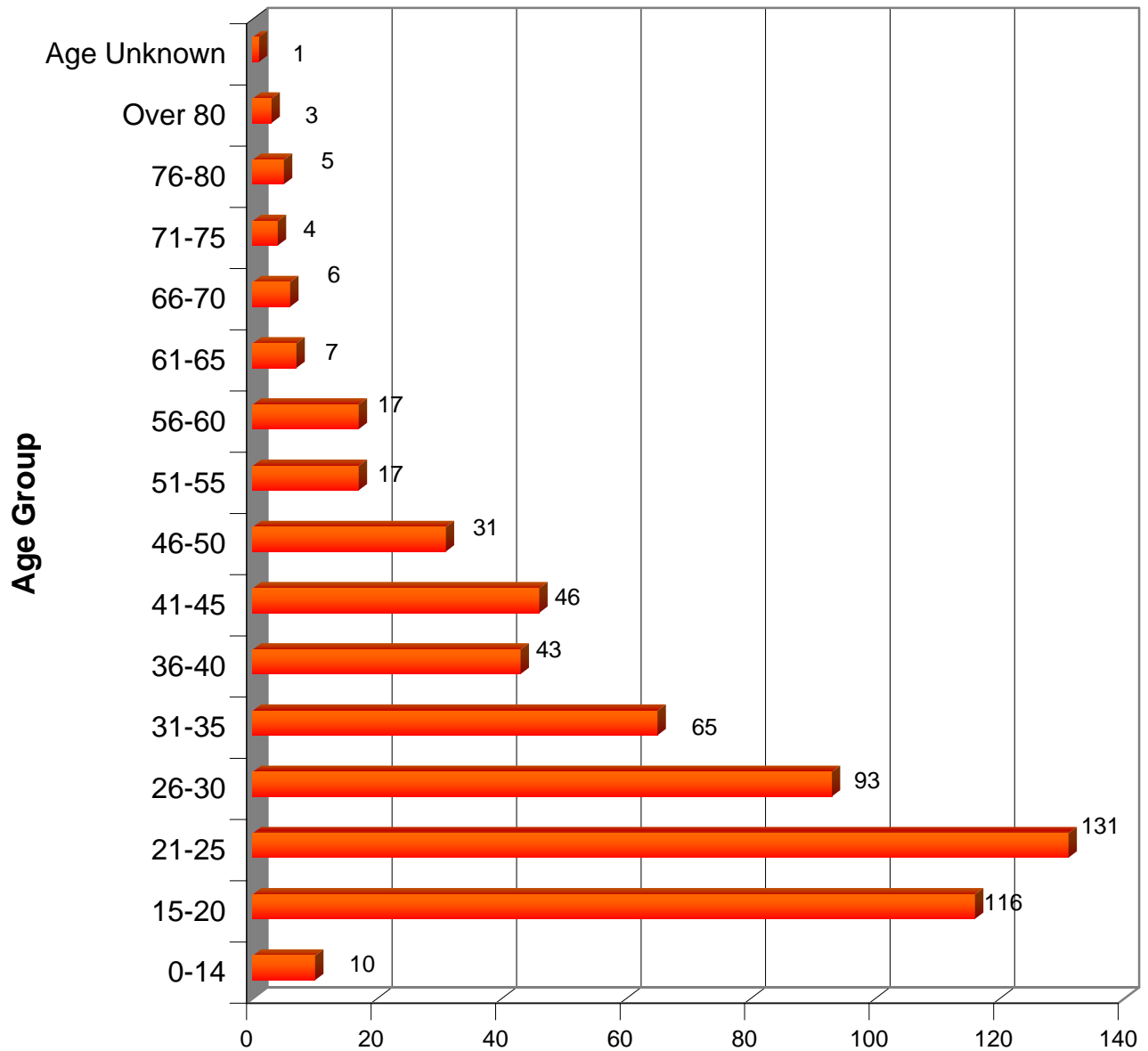


Total Deaths - 595

Homicides 5 Year Comparison 2001 - 2005

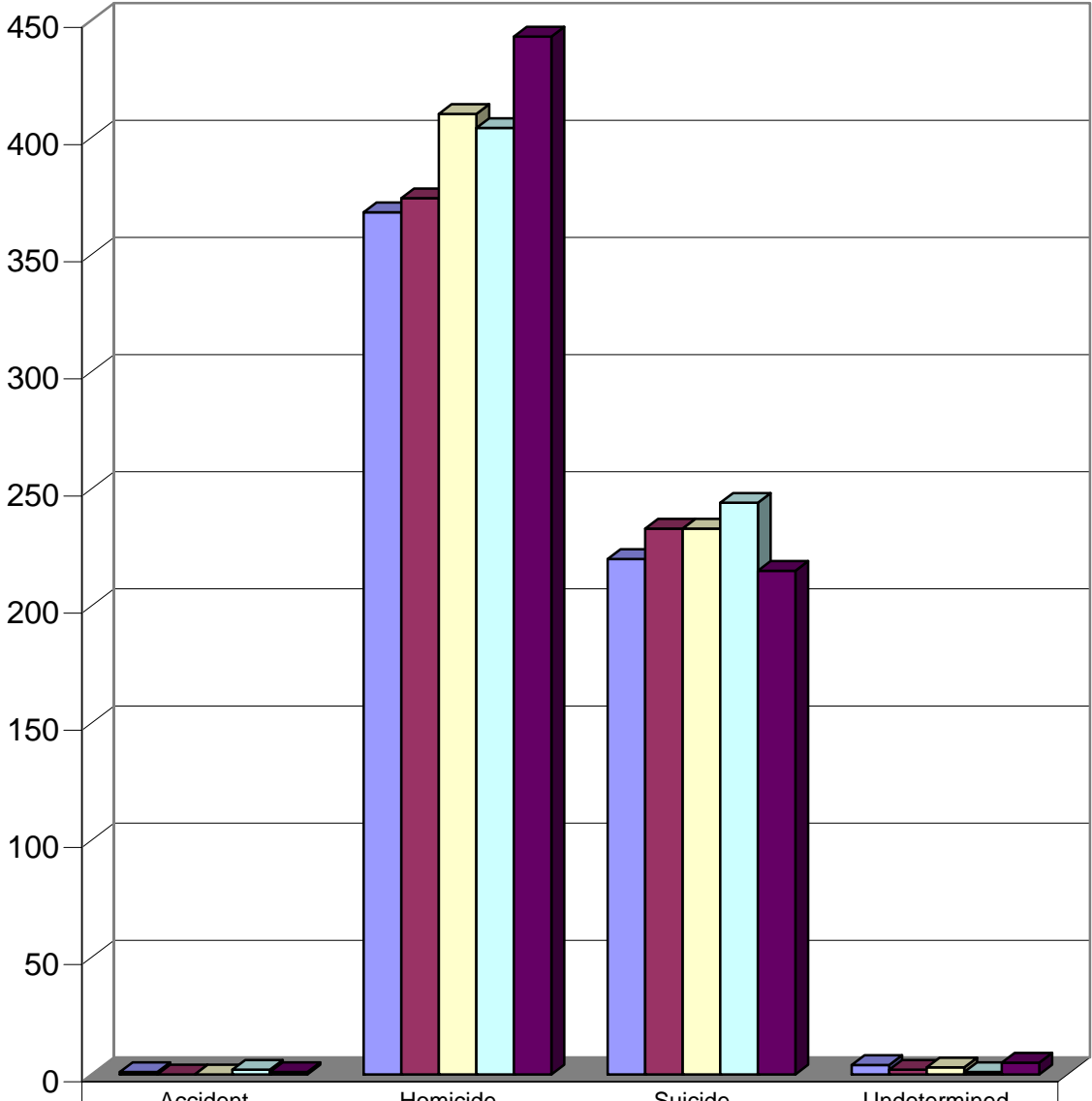


2005 Homicides Deaths by Age



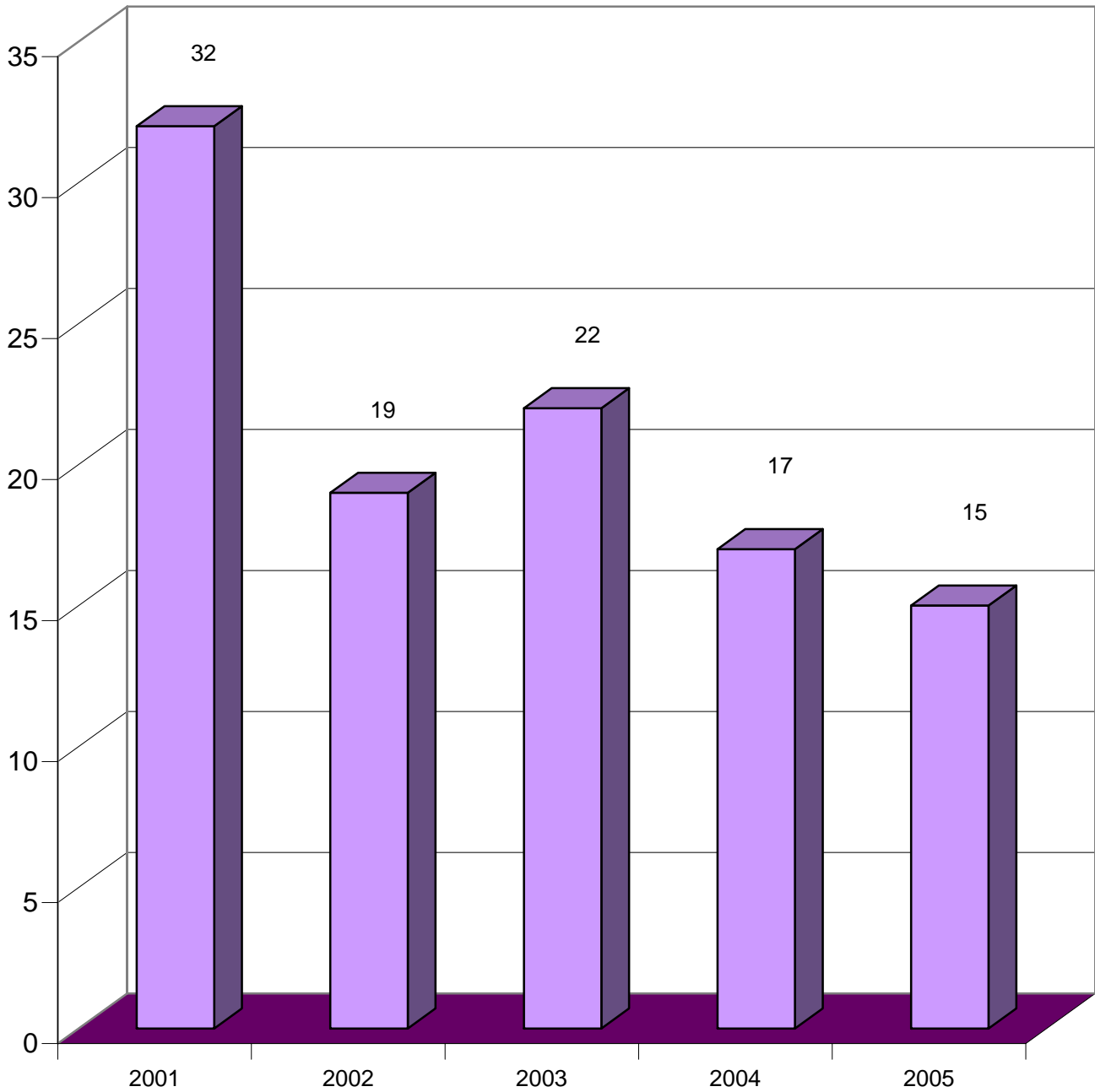
Total Deaths - 595

Firearm Deaths 2001 - 2005

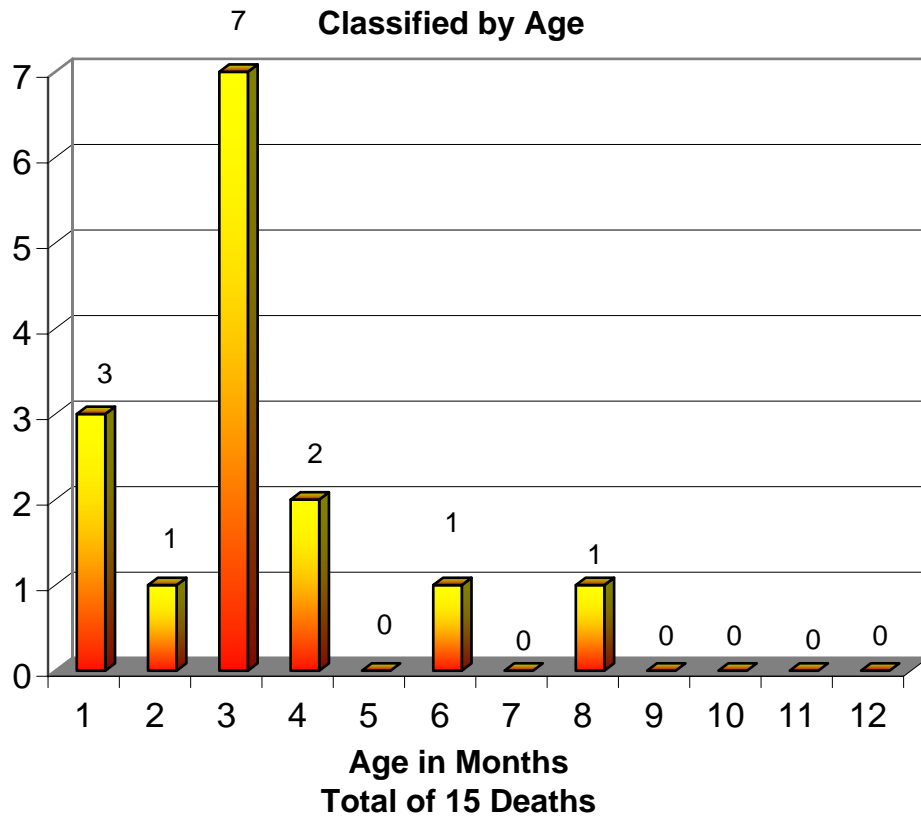


	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Undetermined
2001	1	368	220	4
2002	0	374	233	2
2003	0	410	233	3
2004	2	404	244	1
2005	1	443	215	5

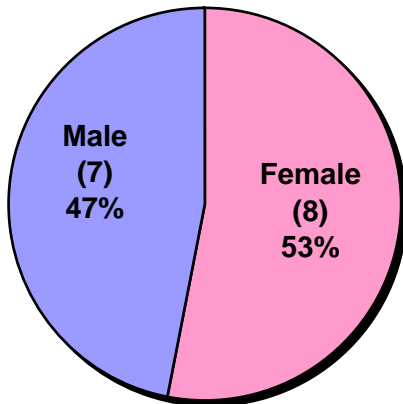
SIDS Deaths 2001 - 2005 Comparison



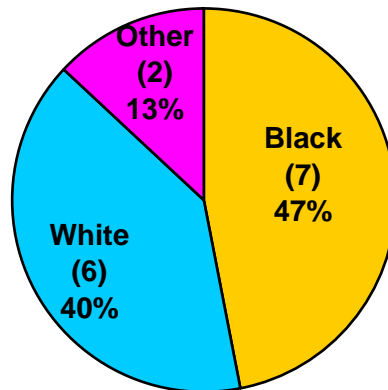
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome 2005



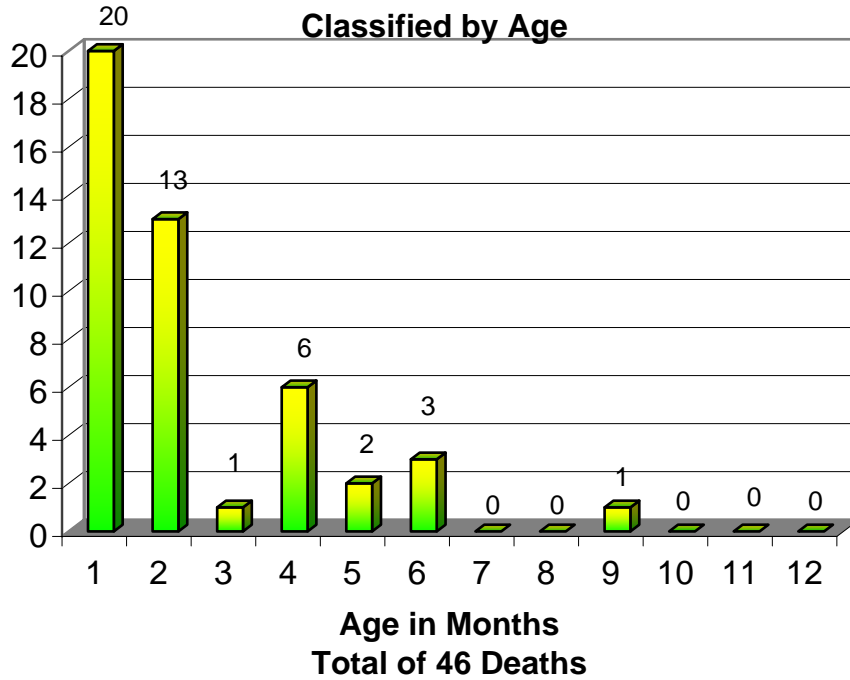
Classified by Sex



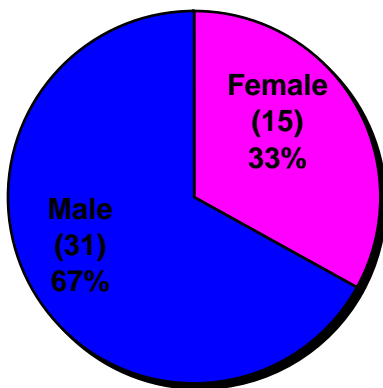
Classified by Race



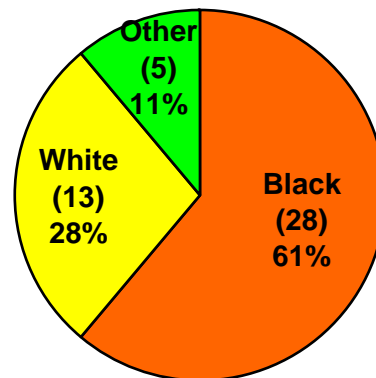
Sudden Unexplained Death In Infancy 2005



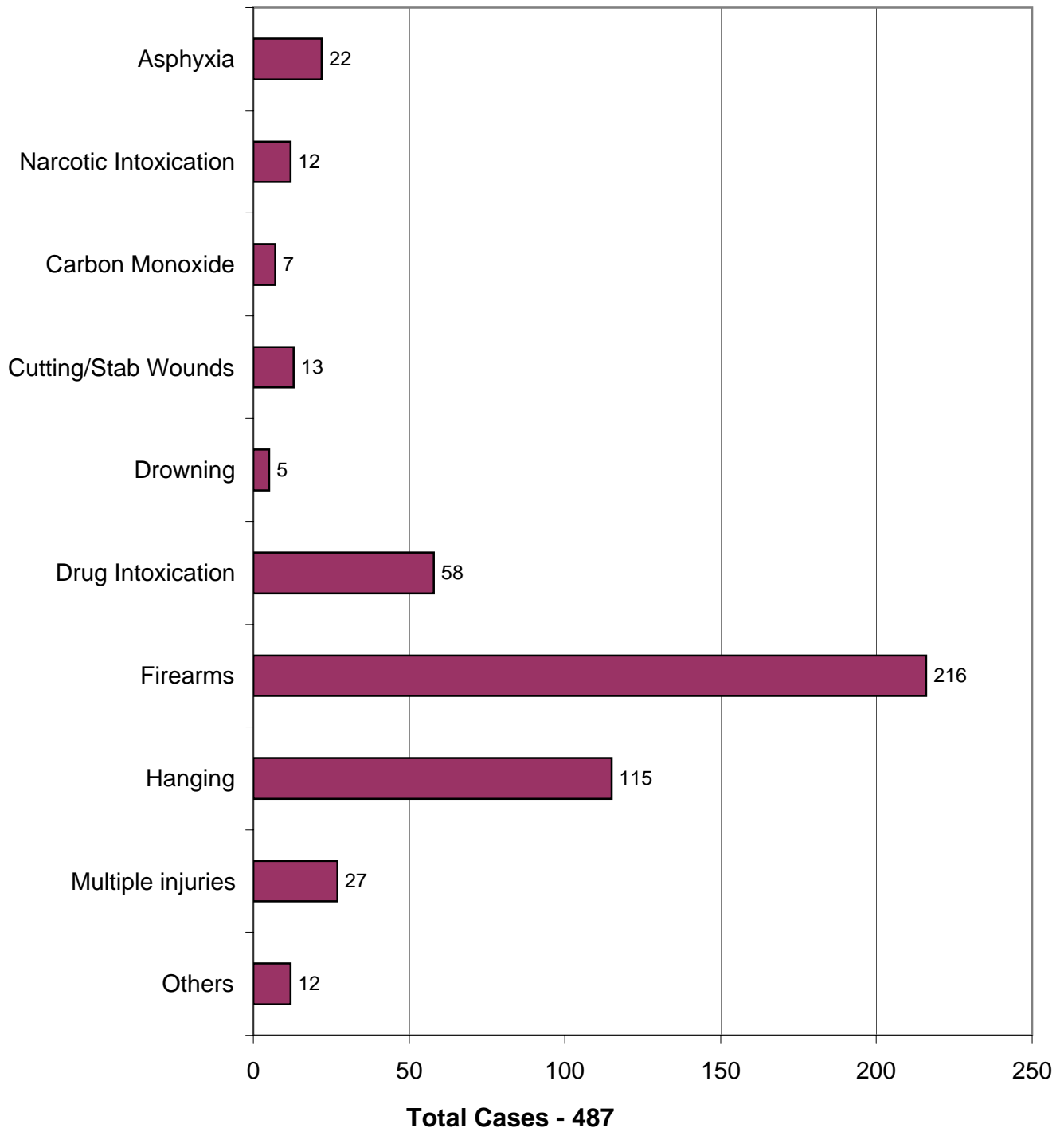
Classified by Sex



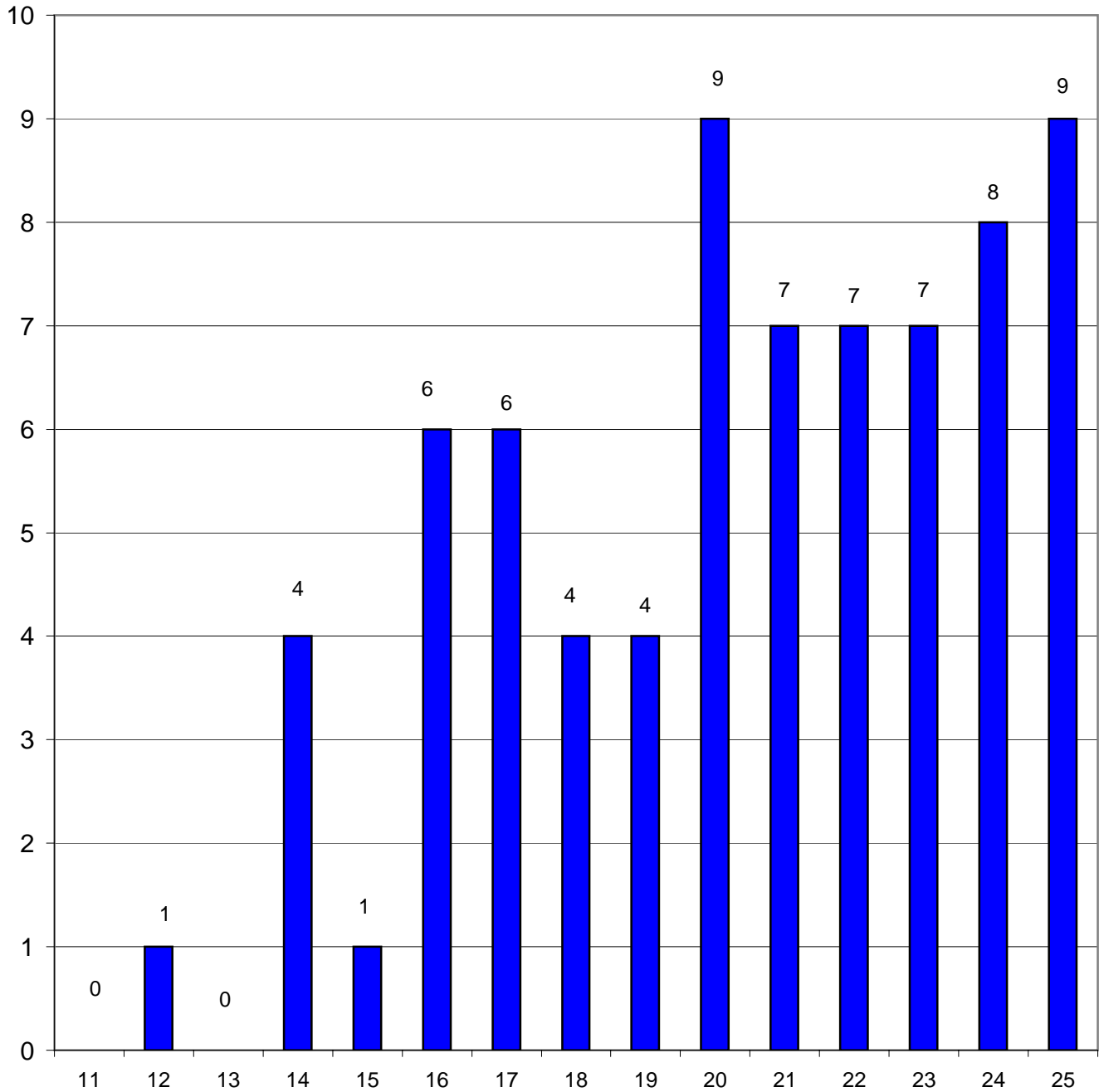
Classified by Race



2005 Suicide Deaths Classified by Cause of Death

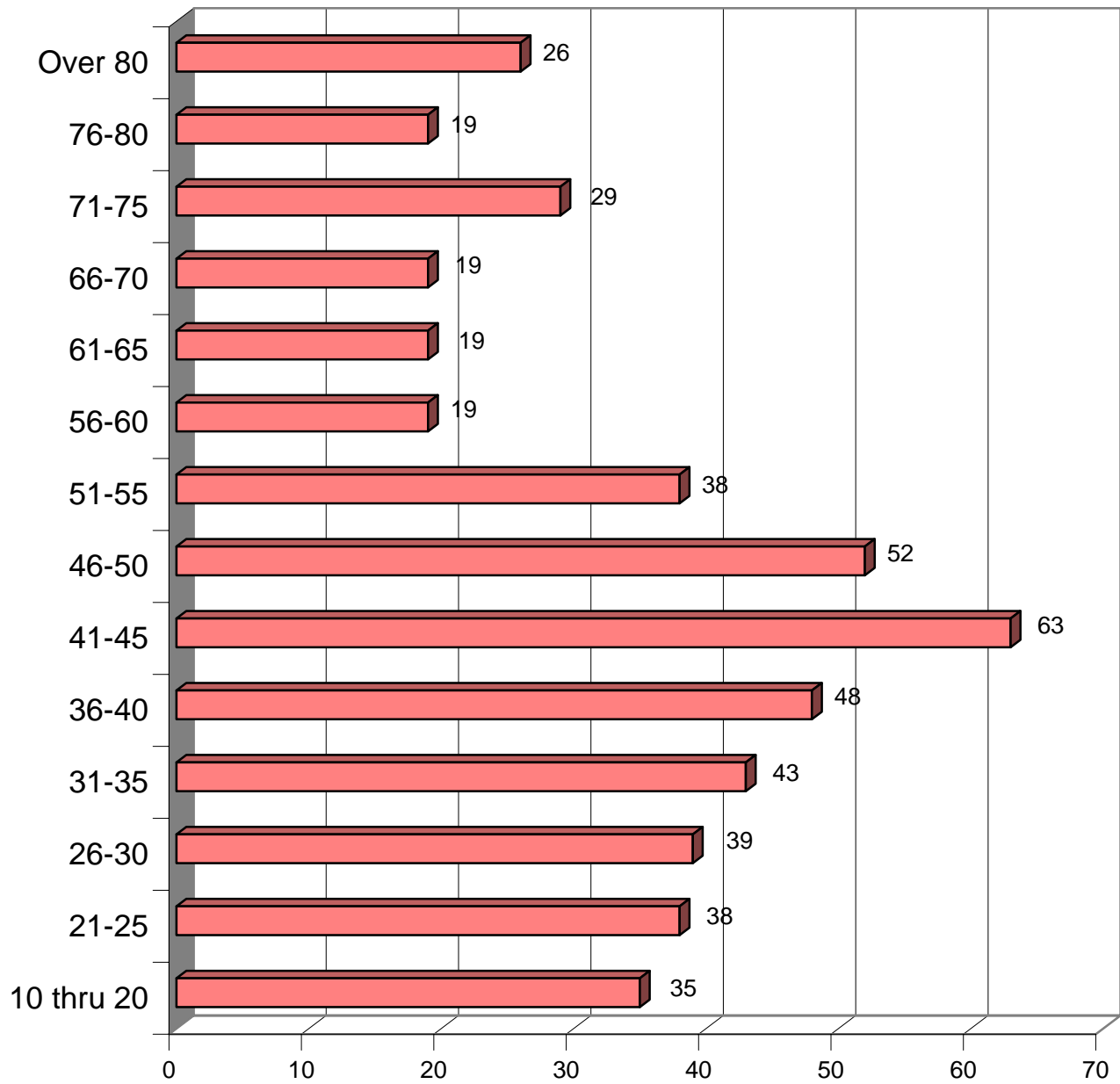


2005 Youth Suicides 25 Years of Age and Under



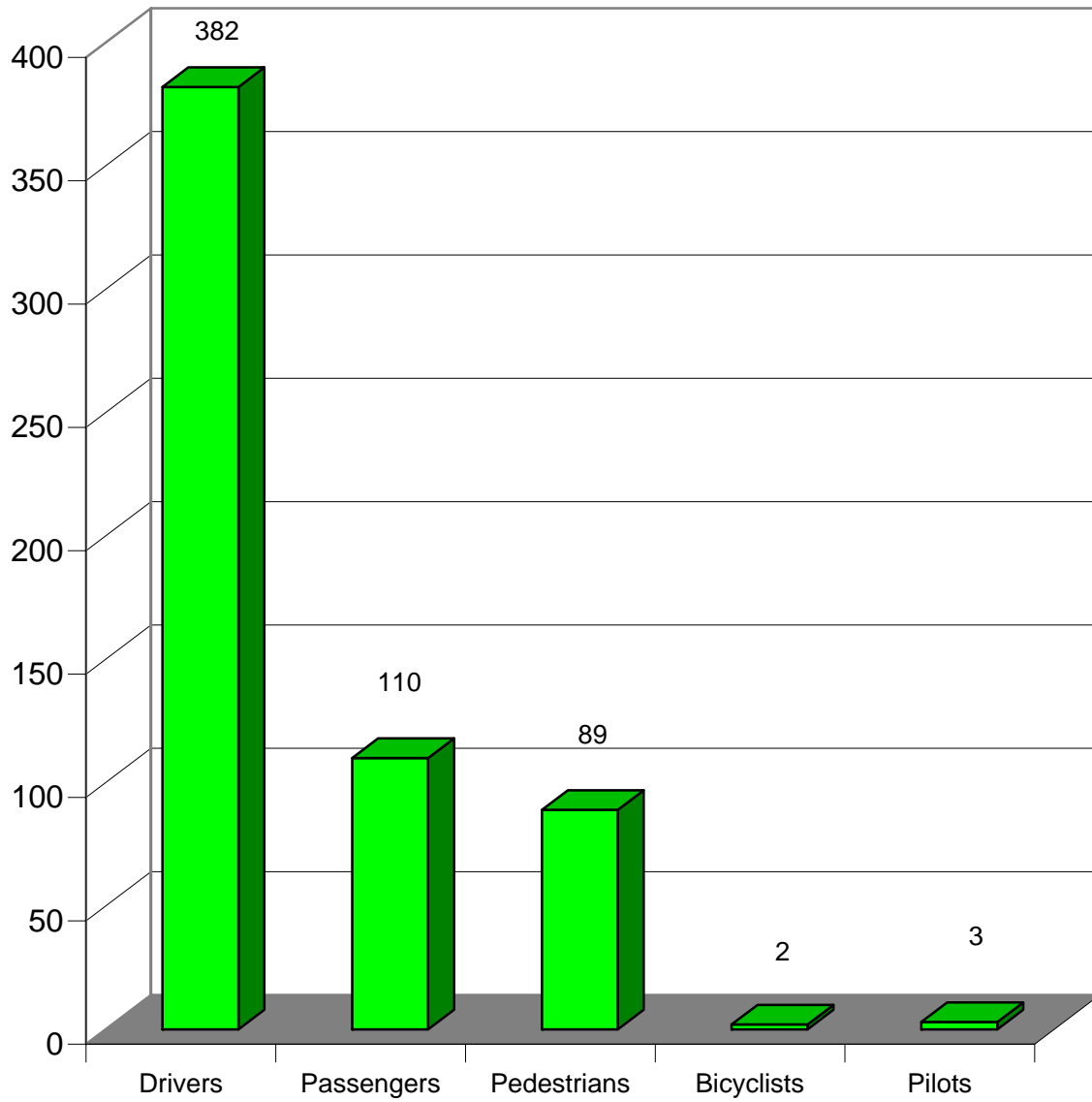
Age
Total Cases - 73

2005 Suicide Deaths by Age



Total Deaths - 487

2005 Transportation Accidents* Classified by Activity

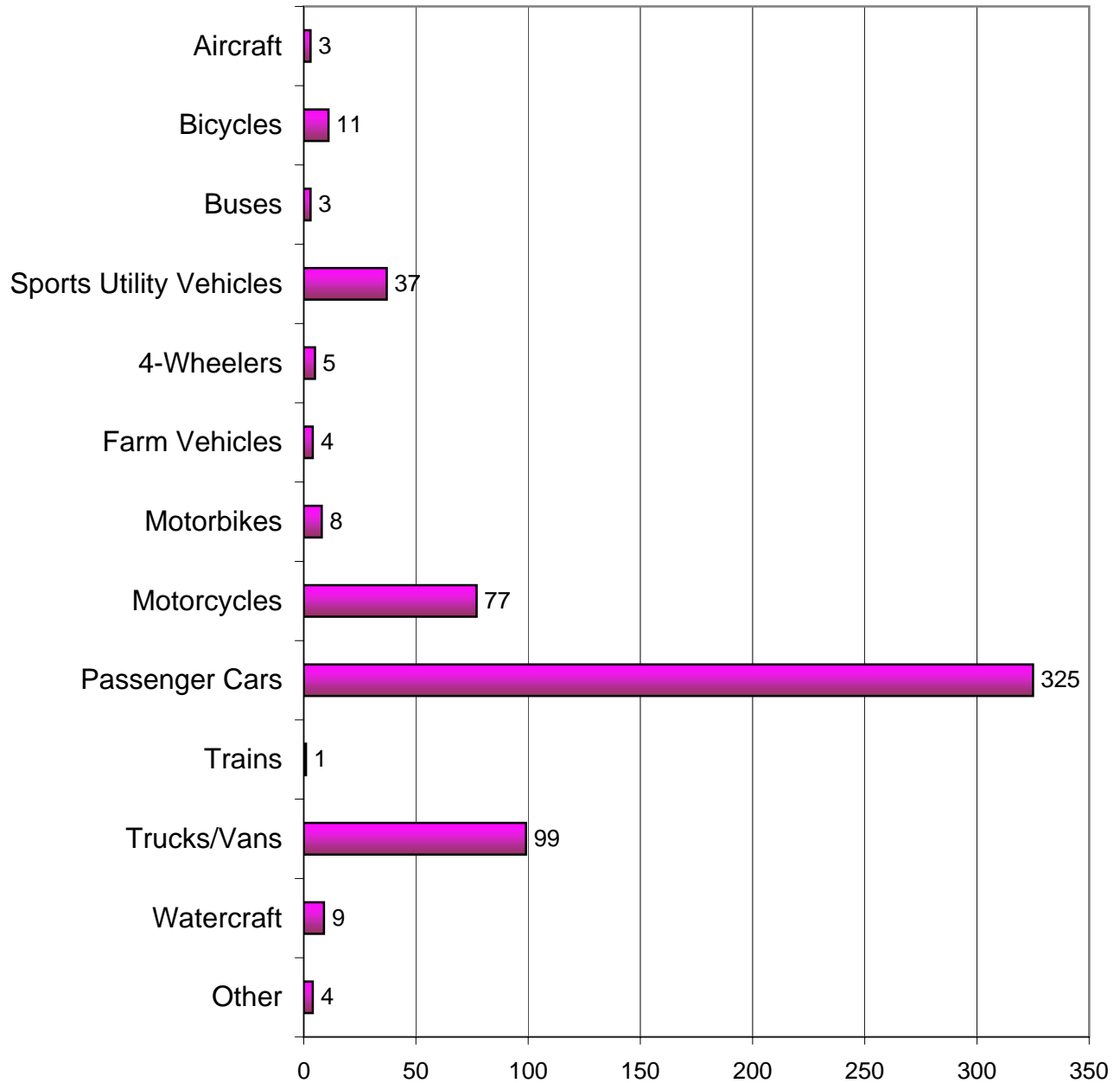


*Includes motor vehicles, boats, planes, bicycles, and trains

Total Cases - 586

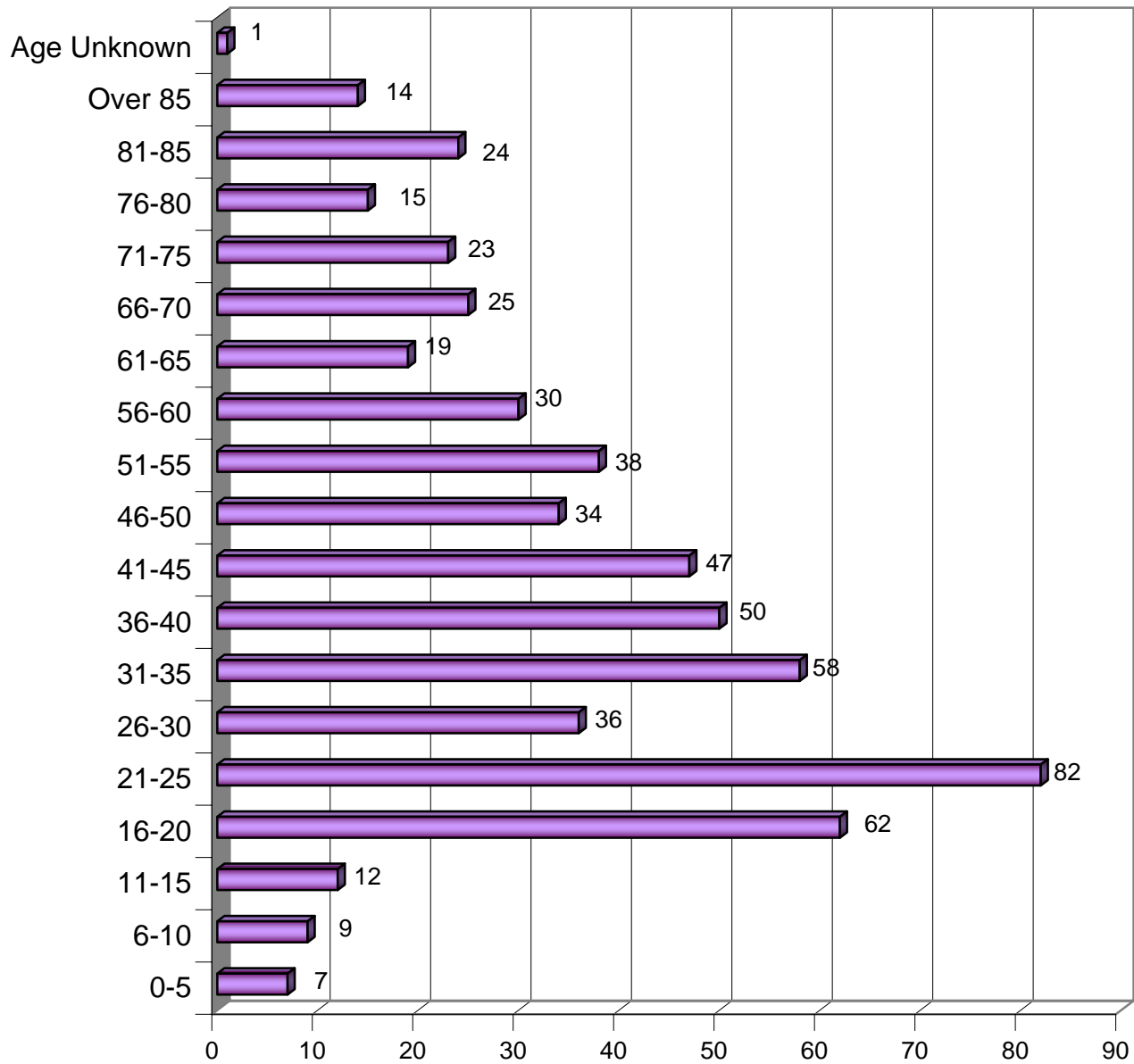
2005 Transportation Deaths

Type of Vehicle



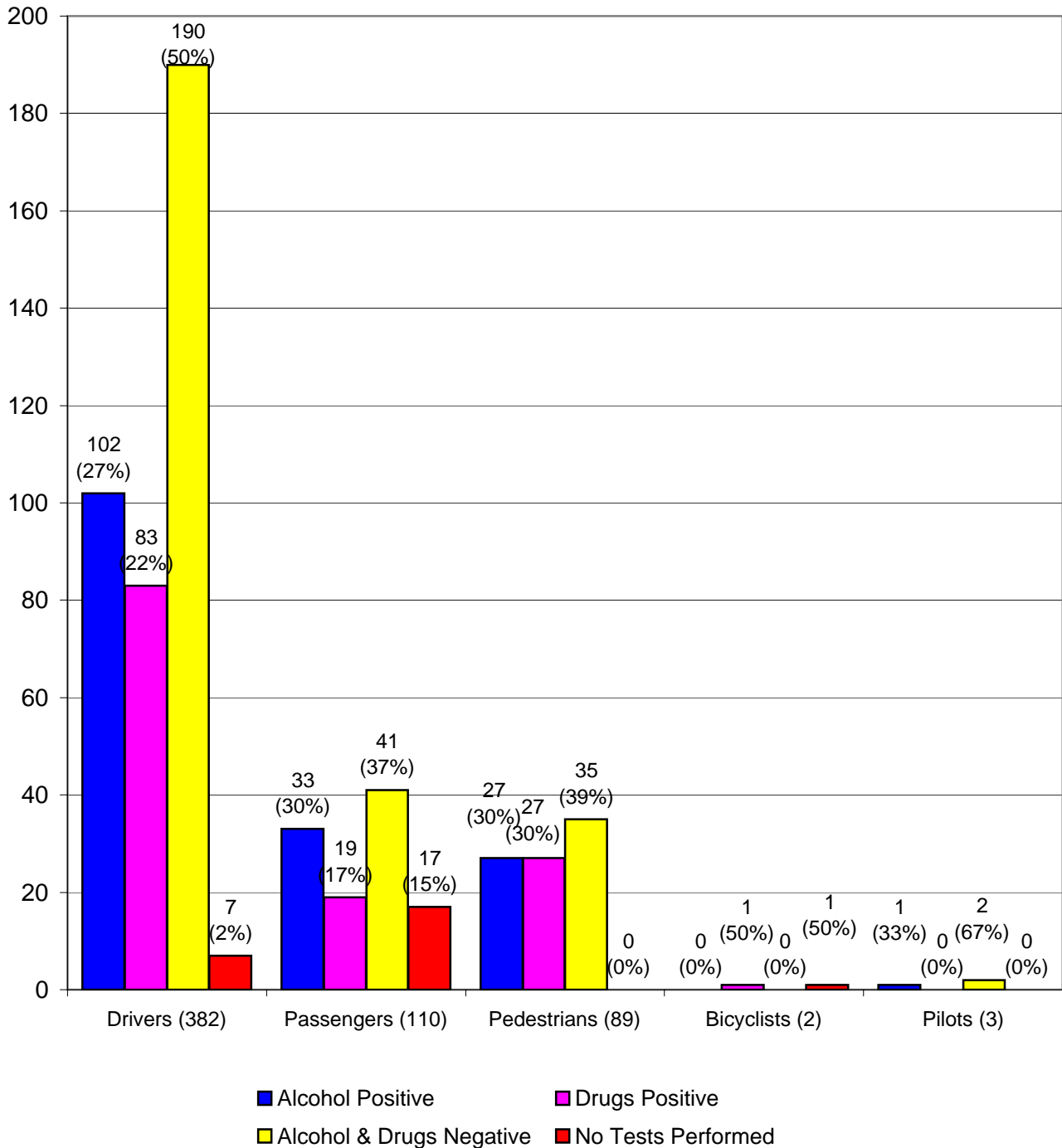
Total Cases - 586

2005 Transportation Deaths By Age



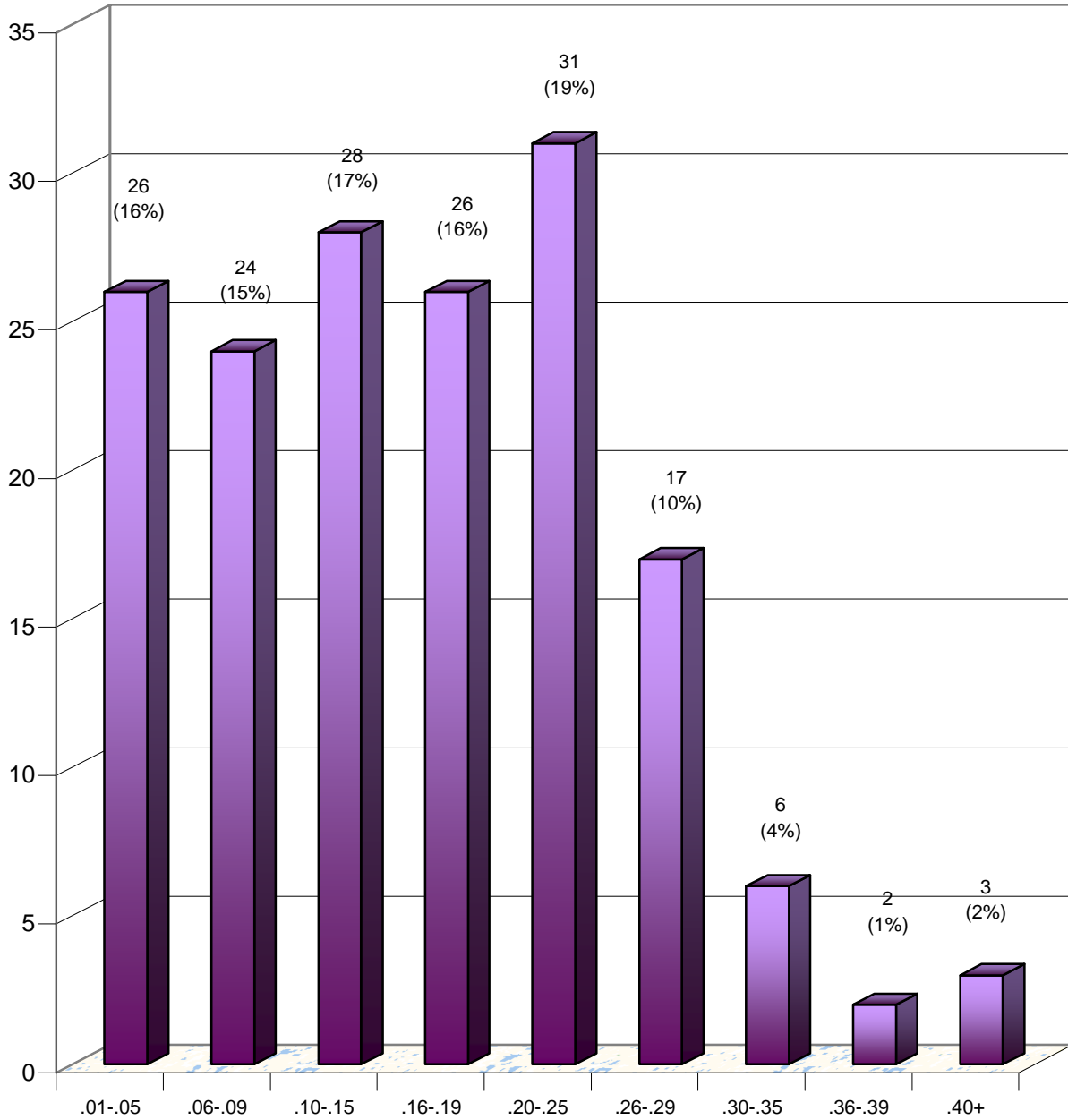
Total Cases - 586

2005 Transportation Accidents Alcohol/Drug Results



586 Transportation Deaths

2005 Transportation Deaths Blood Alcohol Concentration in 163 Cases 33%* Tested Positive



**586 Transportation Deaths
338 Negative for Alcohol
85 No Testing Performed**

*Percent based on total cases tested for alcohol