

Violent Death in New Mexico



New Mexico Violent Death
Reporting System
2006 Annual Report
April 2009



State of New Mexico
Bill Richardson, Governor

New Mexico Department of Health
Alfredo Vigil, Secretary

Epidemiology and Response Division

C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS, Director and State Epidemiologist

Michael G. Landen, MD, MPH, Deputy State Epidemiologist

New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System Team

The New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System (NM-VDRS) is a joint project of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Office of Injury Prevention, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, and the Office of the Medical Investigator in cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

NMDOH, Office of Injury Prevention	NMDOH, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics	NM Office of the Medical Investigator
Anne Styka	Kimberly Peters	Sarah Lathrop
Mianling Qiao	Larry Nielsen	David S. White
Jane Cotner	John Branch	Wendy Honeyfield
Toby Rosenblatt	Irma Montoya	Kurt Nolte
Stephanie Moraga-McHaley		

Funding for the New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System is provided through CDC Grant #U17/CCU624126. The content of this report is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source of tables and figures: NM-VDRS, New Mexico, 2006 unless otherwise noted. Suggested citation: Styka, A.N. (editor). Violent Death in New Mexico: 2006 Annual Report from the New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System. (2009). Office of Injury Prevention, New Mexico Department of Health.

For more information on the NM-VDRS please visit: <http://www.nmhealth.org/injury>

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 4

Overview of NVDRS 6

Methodology 7

Overview of New Mexico 10

Section I: Violent Death Overall 11

Section II: Suicide 21

Section III: Homicide 33

Section IV: Undetermined Intent Deaths 47

Section V: Firearm Related Deaths 57

Section VI: Child Violent Deaths 65

Glossary 69

Acknowledgements 73

Executive Summary

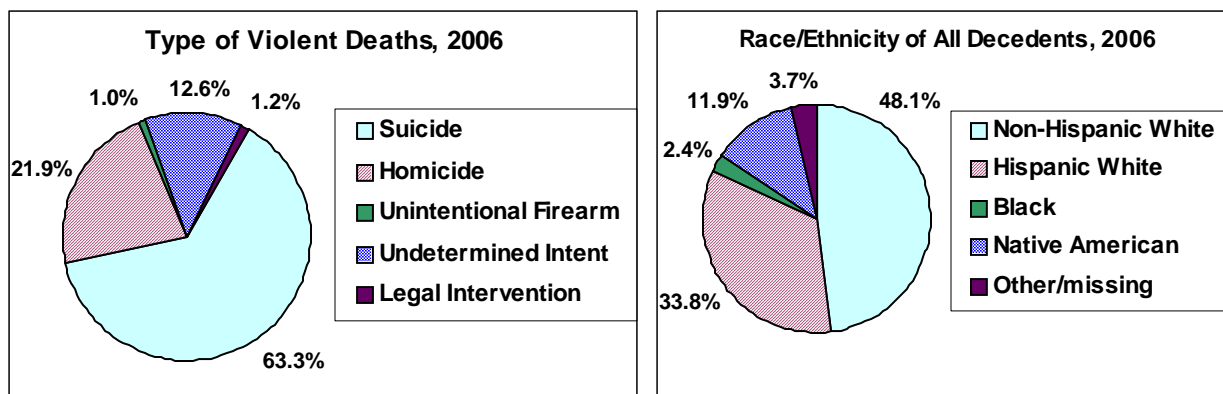
The New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System (NM-VDRS) is an incident and population-based surveillance system designed to collect accurate, in-depth, and timely information about every violent death that occurs in New Mexico. The primary purpose of this surveillance system is to increase the understanding of circumstances that contribute to violent deaths in order to encourage development and implementation of more effective evidence-based violence prevention strategies. Violent deaths include suicides, homicides, legal intervention deaths (excluding judicial executions), deaths due to undetermined intent, unintentional deaths due to firearms, and terrorism-related deaths. The NM-VDRS combines data from numerous sources including medical examiner records, police reports, death certificates, the state crime laboratory, and child fatality review records. For each violent death incident, information is abstracted on all victims, suspects, circumstances, relationships, and weapons. Collecting information from numerous sources allows for more certainty in the identification of deaths due to violence, as well as more reliability and completeness in the information collected.

Summary of Findings

In 2006, 588 violent deaths occurred in New Mexico. Six incidents involved multiple victims, either as multiple victim homicides or a homicide followed by a suicide. Of the 588 violent deaths that occurred, 63.3% were suicides, 21.9% were homicides, 12.6% were deaths of undetermined intent and there were 1% each for unintentional firearms deaths and legal intervention deaths. Of the 588 violent deaths that occurred in 2006, 551, or 93.7%, were New Mexico residents (crude rate 27.4/100,000 population).

Taking all types of violent death into account, the highest percentage of decedents was found for Non-Hispanic Whites (48.1%), followed by Hispanic Whites (33.8%) and American Indians/Alaska Natives (hereafter referred to as Native Americans) (11.9%). Race and ethnicity categories were determined by the race/ethnicity listed on the death certificate. Due to the majority of New Mexicans being one of three racial/ethnic groups, Non-Hispanic White, Hispanic White and Native American, other racial groups or persons of more than one race that do not fit into one of these three larger categories were grouped within a more general “other” category in order for these data to be presented.

Overall, the most commonly used weapon/mechanism of violent death was a firearm, which accounted for more than 53% of violent deaths. Poisoning (17%) and asphyxia (16%) were the second and third most commonly used weapons/mechanisms.



Suicide:

- 372 (63%) of all violent deaths were suicides.
- Self inflicted injuries were the second leading cause of death for persons ages 10-34 years and were the fourth leading type of death for persons 35-54 in New Mexico.
- The majority of suicide decedents were male (79%), Non-Hispanic White (59%), and aged 45-54 years (21%).
- The Northeast region had the highest rate of suicide and Torrance County had the highest county rate of suicide (22.3 and 42.8 suicides per 100,000 population, respectively).
- The most common circumstance reported for suicide decedents overall was a “current depressed mood” (50%).
- 21% of all decedents were veterans.

Homicide:

- 129 (22%) of all violent deaths were homicides.
- In New Mexico, homicide was the third leading type of death for 10-34 years and ranks in the top 10 leading types of death for persons ages 0-54 years.
- The majority of homicide decedents were male (81%), Hispanic White (46%), and aged 25-34 years (26%).
- Bernalillo County had the highest rate of homicide (7.5 homicides per 100,000 population), and the highest proportion of homicides (41%).
- The most common circumstance reported overall for homicide decedents was an argument or conflict about something other than money or property, e.g. arguing over a game (43%).

Undetermined Intent:

- 74 (13%) of all 2006 violent deaths were of undetermined intent.
- The majority of undetermined intent decedents were male (61%), Hispanic White (43%), and aged 35-54 years (51%).
- The Northwest region of the state had the highest rate of undetermined intent deaths (4.1 undetermined intent deaths per 100,000 population).
- Poisoning was the most common mechanism of death (32%).
- The most common circumstance reported for undetermined intent decedents overall was a “physical health problem” (41%).

Firearm-related deaths:

- Of the 588 violent deaths in New Mexico in 2006, 289 involved a firearm (49%).
- 70% of firearm deaths were suicides and 25% were homicides.
- The majority of firearm-related decedents were male (88%), Non-Hispanic White (54%), and aged 45-54 years (18%).
- The Southeast region had the highest rate of firearm-related deaths (16.2 deaths per 100,000 population).

Child Deaths:

- 59 violent deaths occurred in persons 0-18 in New Mexico, and 85% of these child deaths were New Mexico residents.
- The majority of decedents were male (68%), Hispanic White (48%), and aged 15-18 years (70%).
- 48% of child deaths were suicides and 38% were homicides.
- Firearms were the most common mechanism of death (53%)

Overview of NVDRS

Violent death claimed more than 51,000 lives in the United States in 2005¹, yet this preventable public health problem is commonly overlooked. For the purposes of this report, violent deaths include suicides, homicides, legal intervention deaths (excluding executions), unintentional deaths due to firearms, deaths due to undetermined intent, and terrorism-related deaths. Deaths with assigned manner of undetermined intent within certain cause classifications are included because some have documented circumstances indicative of suicide or homicide but have insufficient evidence to rule the intent (accident, intentionally self-inflicted, or assault). Prior to the establishment of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Congressional appropriations in 2001, the information available on these deaths lacked details relating to the characteristics and circumstances of such incidents. As a result, programs for violence control, injury prevention and policy development were considerably hindered. Beginning in 2002, CDC began funding state health departments to collect information on all violent deaths. NVDRS funded six states in 2002 with seven states added in 2003 and four more states, including New Mexico, funded in 2004.

New Mexico began data collection on January 1, 2005. A report using 2005 data is available online at: <http://www.nmhealth.org/EPI/pdf/NVDRSFINAL.pdf>. This report will focus on the second year of data collection, 2006. More than 85% of the violent deaths that occurred in New Mexico were suicides and homicides, and these were the second and third leading types of death, respectively, for New Mexicans aged 10-34¹. The NVDRS is an incident and population-based surveillance system that collects and links data from numerous sources including coroner or medical examiner records for forensic, pathology, and toxicology information, law enforcement reports, death certificates, state crime laboratories, child death review records, and others into a single record, or incident. For each violent death incident, information is collected on all victims, suspects, circumstances, relationships, and weapons. Combining information from numerous sources allows for a more complete understanding of circumstances surrounding violent death and a better understanding of those most at risk in order to better focus violence prevention efforts and resources.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2008 July 28]. Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars.

Methodology

The NVDRS is an incident and population-based surveillance system that collects and links data from numerous sources to form a single record, or incident, which is the unit of surveillance. This violent death surveillance system utilizes a specific software, updated annually, and in addition to the hundreds of variables collected for each incident in all participating states, allows states to add variables of interest that are also collected. Uniform definitions, coding rules and variable names, and inclusion/exclusion criteria used in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided software assures consistency between state data collection systems within the NVDRS. For each violent death incident, information is collected on all victims, suspects, circumstances, relationships, and weapons.

For an incident to meet inclusion criteria for NVDRS, the cause of death must be one of the underlying cause of death codes listed in the box on page 9. The textual cause of death assigned by the coroner or medical examiner is translated into an alphanumeric code using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, or ICD-10, by the agency that issues the death certificate. In New Mexico, this is the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (BVRHS). By using ICD-10 codes, the data can be compared among states and across countries. For this report, the manner of death is based on abstractor assigned values, which take into account evidence of all available sources and circumstances. The abstractor must designate a manner consistent with at least one of the source documents. For example, if the medical examiner report ruled the manner of death undetermined intent, but police and field investigator reports suspected suicide, the abstractor would weigh all of the evidence and assign this death as either undetermined intent or suicide. Differences in assigning manner are rare, only occurring in at most a few cases per year.

New Mexico has a centralized Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) that is responsible for investigating every reportable death (violent, unexpected, untimely, or unattended by a physician) occurring in the state with the exception of those occurring on military bases, federal and tribal lands. OMI pathologists assign each death one of five manners: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or undetermined intent. The cause of death is the mechanism (e.g. gunshot wound, hanging, etc.). Therefore, identification of violent deaths for inclusion in the New Mexico implementation of the national VDRS program (NM-VDRS) begins at the OMI. Following initial case identification at the OMI, the BVRHS also runs a query for the data year based on ICD-10 codes of NVDRS interest. Based on the results of this query, cases already identified through the OMI are compared with the death certificates fitting NM-VDRS inclusion criteria in order to capture any additional cases/incidents, such as incidents occurring on tribal lands where OMI does not have jurisdiction. Even without an OMI investigation, death certificates are issued for almost every person and are captured by the BVRHS query. Law enforcement reports are requested from the appropriate jurisdiction to complete the file. A complete list of all of the NM-VDRS partners can be found in the Acknowledgements (page 73).

Information included in this report of 2006 data is presented using four types of statistics: counts, percentages, rates, and ratios. Rates and ratios, presented per 100,000 population, such as those shown for suicide rates by race/ethnicity, were calculated using population data from the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) and

are available online at <http://www.unm.edu/~bber/>. Although rates calculated based on fewer than 20 cases in the numerator are statistically unstable, they are presented in this report, but should be interpreted with caution. For categories with fewer than five counts, rates are not presented because chance variations (adding or subtracting even one count) in these populations can cause the rate to alter greatly. Following this same reasoning, percents based on cell sizes of five or fewer observations should also be interpreted with caution. Rates were calculated by limiting the numerator to only those decedents who were New Mexico residents, whereas ratios use both residents and non-residents in the numerator, but the denominator of each of these measures was the New Mexico population for 2006. Ratios presented demonstrate the overall burden of risk, as all decedents are presented, regardless of residency. Ratios were calculated in place of rates for some graphs because nearly 6% of violent death decedents were not New Mexico residents, but died in New Mexico. Categories of age groups presented are those most commonly used in injury and mortality analyses. Due to the race/ethnicity distribution in New Mexico, the following populations were included in the calculations of violent death rates by race/ethnicity: Non-Hispanic White, Hispanic White, and American Indian/Alaska Native (Native American). Other races were either not included in calculations of race/ethnicity rates if the cell sizes for these events were fewer than five, or were grouped into a more general “other/unknown” category.

For each type of violent death incident, certain circumstances or risk factors relating to the event are collected. A circumstance is only marked as true if specifically indicated in the medical examiner field report or law enforcement report; otherwise the circumstance is grouped as no/unknown/missing. The set of 21 circumstances collected for both suicides and undetermined intent deaths is different from the set of 20 circumstances collected for homicide and legal intervention incidents. The set of circumstances collected for unintentional firearm deaths is unique from the circumstances collected for the other types of violent death. The circumstances collected were based on recall of the persons interviewed at the scene and were subjective since answers may differ based on the person providing information to the law enforcement officer or field investigator and the type of violent death that occurred. For example, the reported circumstances surrounding the event may be different depending on whether a family member, friend, neighbor, or coworker was answering. In addition, for suicides generally more information is known and more people at the scene are interviewed, whereas for homicides the perpetrator has often fled the scene and there are not many witnesses to provide information about the fatal event. This was especially seen for decedents who were not residents of New Mexico, but died here. Although all answers and interviews were compiled to give the most complete information possible concerning an incident, it is still possible that certain information is missing. For homicide incidents, the total numbers of reported circumstances may not necessarily match numbers in the total in which circumstances were known because some homicide circumstances are text answers, whereas the ones listed are yes/no responses. Therefore, in the circumstance tables, the information presented is likely underreported to some extent. Additionally, reported circumstances were not limited to a single category, multiple circumstances may have been reported for each decedent.

This report provides descriptive information based on the data collected from NM-VDRS for 2006 only. No specific hypotheses or statistical tests were performed.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

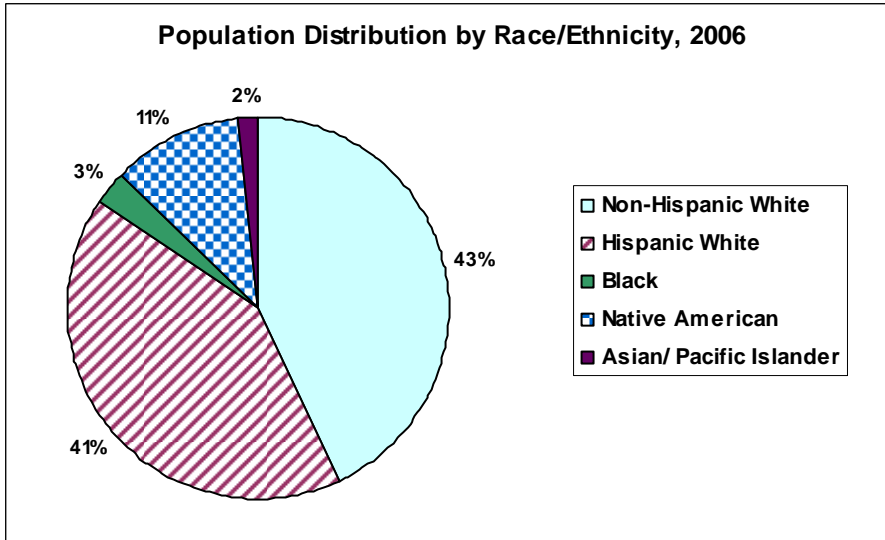
ICD-10 Codes Used to Determine Eligibility for NVDRS Cases

<u>Manner of Death</u>	<u>Death < 1 year after injury</u>	<u>Death >1 year after injury</u>
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	X60- X84	Y87.0
Assault (homicide)	X85- X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Event of undetermined intent	Y10- Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional exposure to mechanical forces (firearms)	W32- W34	Y86 determined to be attributable to firearms
Legal intervention, excluding executions	Y35.0- Y35.4, Y35.6- Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

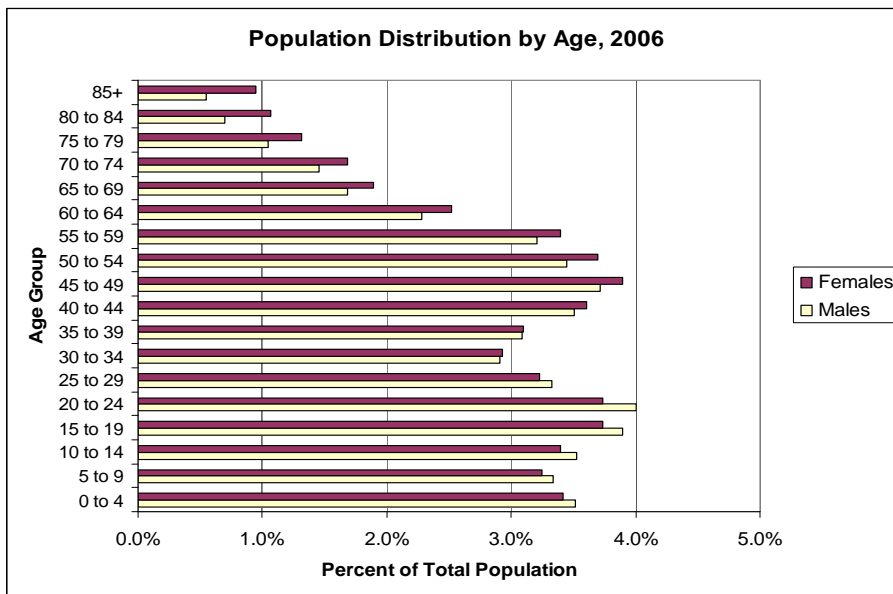
Note : A description of the ICD-10 codes can be found in the Glossary on page 70.

Overview of New Mexico

- Land area: 121,355 square miles
- 2006 Population: 2,010,787



- Population distribution by age groups and sex
- 51% Female, 49% Male

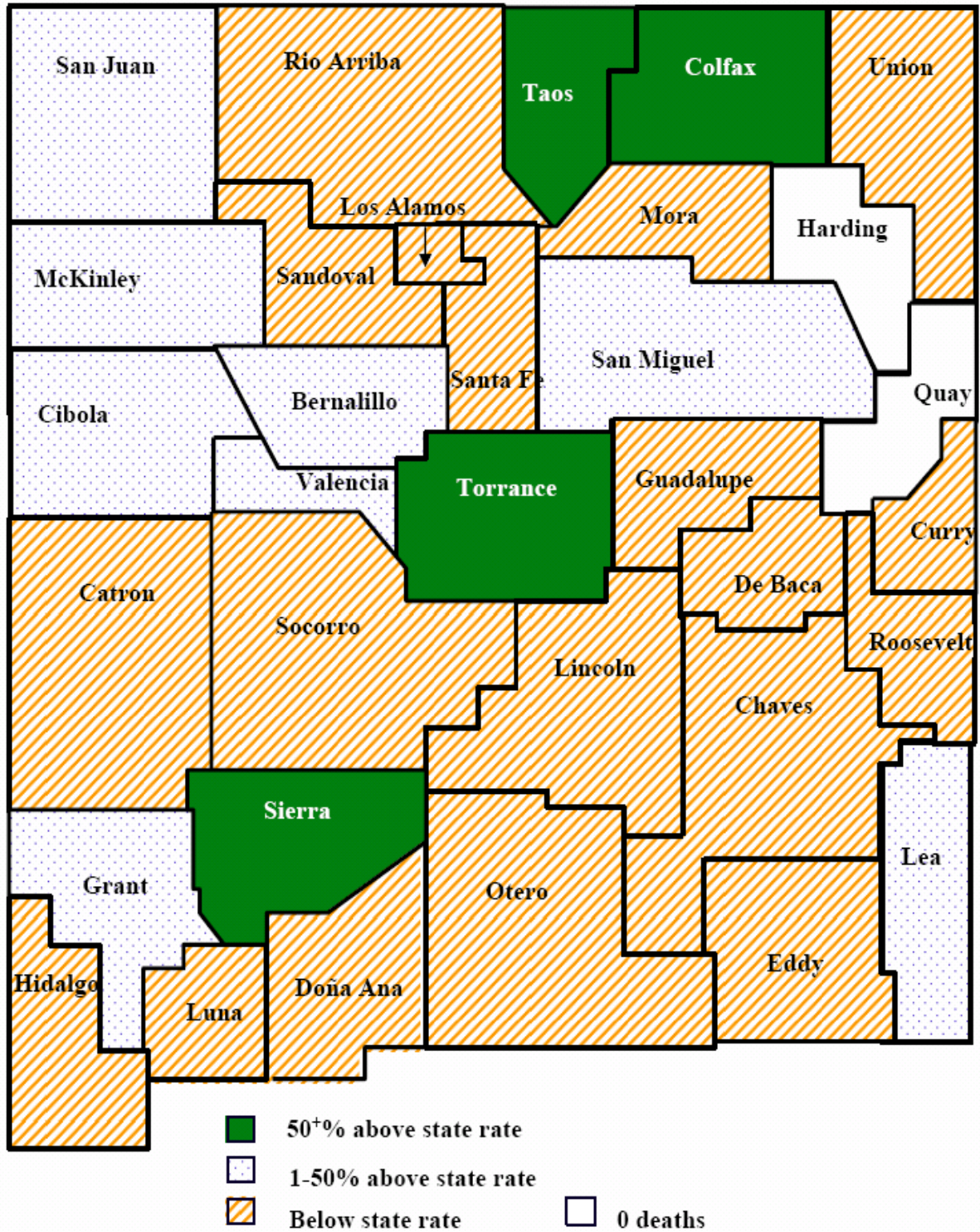


- Rural/urban distribution: 35% Rural, 65% Urban
- Ten most populous cities: Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Farmington, Alamogordo, Clovis, Hobbs, Carlsbad

Section I: Violent Death

According to the NVDRS, a violent death is one that results from the intentional use of force or power against oneself, another person, group or community regardless of whether the person(s) using the force intended to kill another person.

Violent Death Rates by County Compared to State Rate

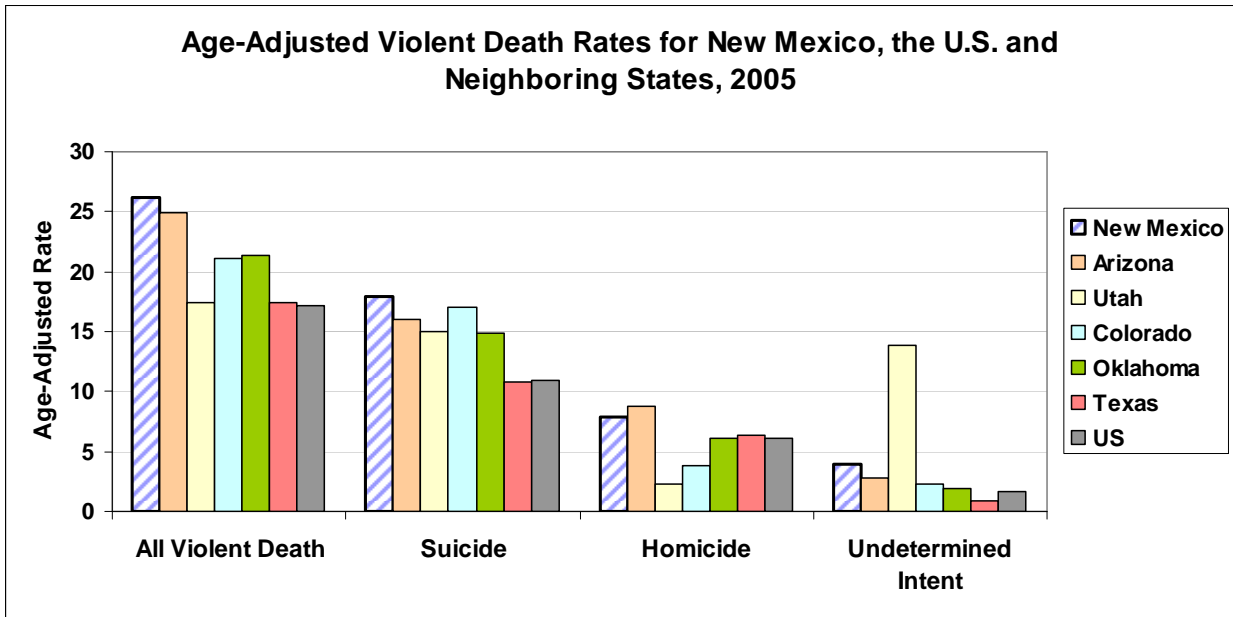


Violent Death Summary

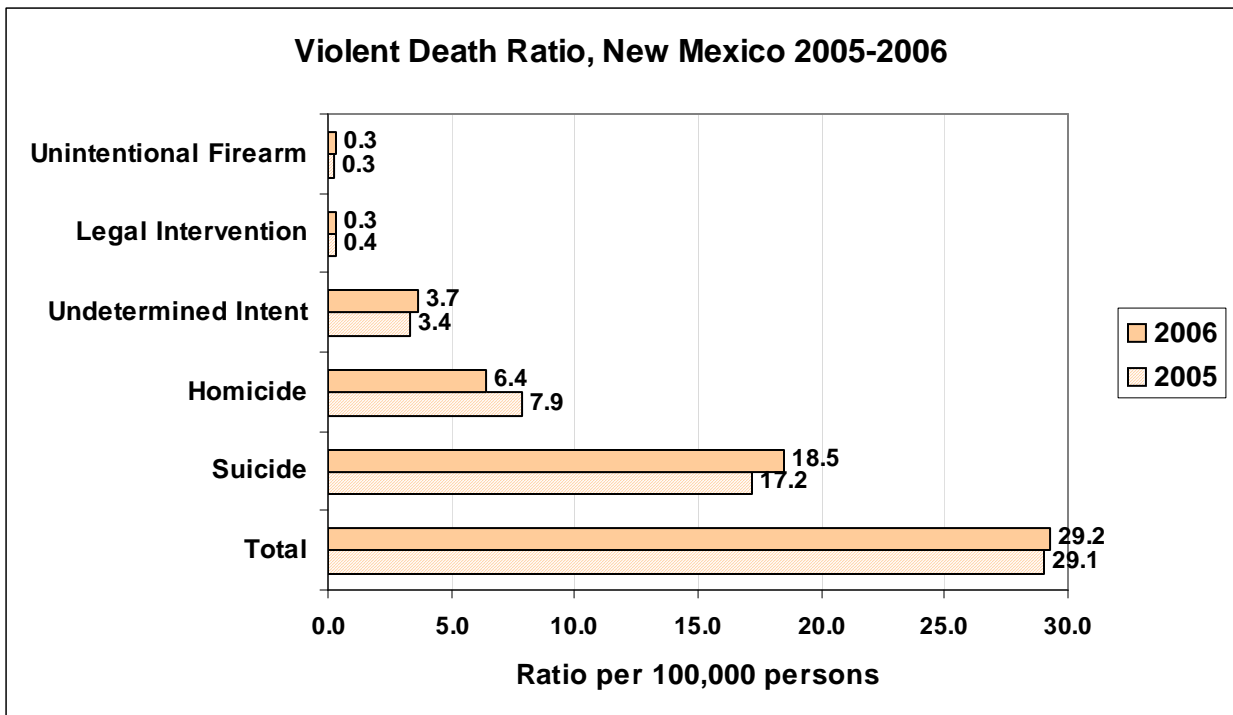
- In 2006, a total of 588 NVDRS-defined violent deaths were captured. Of these, 551 were New Mexico residents.
- The ratio of male to female decedents was 3.5:1.
- Males and Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest rates of violent death per 100,000 New Mexico population.
- The age group at highest risk for violent death was persons ages 25-34 years; 18% of all violent deaths occurred in this age group and the rate of violent death in this age group was 39.7/100,000 population.
- Suicide contributed to the majority of violent deaths (63.9%) and the risk of suicide is approximately three times the risk of homicide in New Mexico.
- Bernalillo County, which contains Albuquerque, the largest metropolitan area in New Mexico, had the highest proportion of violent deaths (34.6%) and rate (30.2/100,000) of violent death of all five regions. The second highest rate was in the Northeast region of the state (29.0/100,000).
- The most commonly used weapon in these deaths was a firearm (53% of all deaths) followed by poisoning (17%) and asphyxia (16%).
- Violent deaths occurred most often on Wednesdays (14.9%), in the summer (27.4%), and between 12:01PM and 6:00PM (23.3%).
- The location where the fatal injury occurred most often was a house, apartment or on the property of a residence (67.9%) including a driveway, porch, yard, etc.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

In 2005, New Mexico had the third highest rate of violent death in the U.S.¹ In 2006, NM-VDRS captured a total of 588 violent deaths, and 551 (93.7%) of these were New Mexico residents (crude rate 27.4 violent deaths per 100,000 population). Cases in which a person was injured in New Mexico, but died in a different state, such as Texas, were not included in this database. Only those violent deaths where the death certificate was issued in New Mexico were included in the system. A comparison of the total rates of violent death and by the leading types is shown below for New Mexico and its bordering states.



Note: Rates presented from WISQARS, 2005 data.



Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of All Decedent Characteristics, 2006		
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	458	77.9
Female	130	22.1
Violent Death Type		
Suicide	372	63.3
Homicide	129	21.9
Unintentional Firearm	6	1.0
Legal Intervention	7	1.2
Undetermined Intent	74	12.6
Weapon/Mechanism		
Firearm	289	49.1
Sharp Instrument	31	5.3
Blunt Instrument	15	2.6
Poisoning	94	16.0
Personal Weapons	9	1.5
Asphyxia	84	14.3
Other	22	3.7
Missing	44	7.5
Location type		
Residence	399	67.9
Street/Highway	39	6.6
Motor Vehicle	36	6.1
Jail or other supervised institution	16	2.7
Hotel or Motel	10	1.7
Natural or public use area	44	7.5
Parking Lot / Parking Garage	19	3.2
Commercial Establishment	8	1.4
Other	17	2.9

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2008 July 28]. Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars.

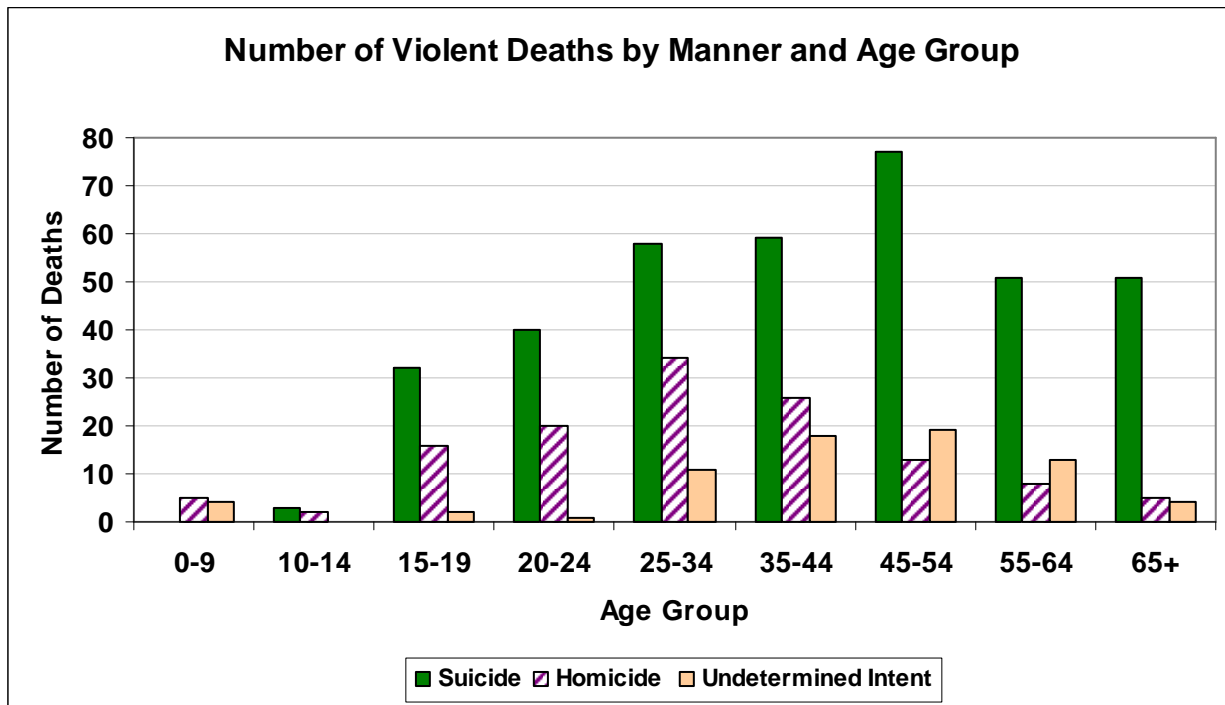
Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number, Percent and Rate of Decedent Characteristics for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	427	77.5	43.2
Female	124	22.5	12.1
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	258	49.9	29.7
Hispanic White	188	36.4	22.6
Native American	54	10.4	24.2
Other/Unknown	19	3.7	---
Age Group			
0-9	9	1.6	3.3
10-14	5	0.9	3.6
15-19	51	9.3	33.2
20-24	57	10.3	36.6
25-34	99	18.0	39.7
35-44	100	18.2	37.4
45-54	106	19.2	35.7
55-64	63	11.4	27.5
65+	59	10.7	23.8
Missing	2	0.4	---
Education Level			
8 th grade or less	41	7.4	---
9 th to 12 th grade; no diploma	137	24.9	---
High school degree or GED completed	167	30.3	---
Some college credit; no degree	107	19.4	---
Associates or Bachelors degree	59	10.7	---
Doctorate or professional degree	26	4.8	---
Missing	14	2.5	---
Marital Status			
Married	152	27.6	---
Never Married	252	45.7	---
Widowed	24	4.4	---
Divorced	113	20.5	---
Single, not otherwise specified	5	0.9	---
Missing	5	0.9	---

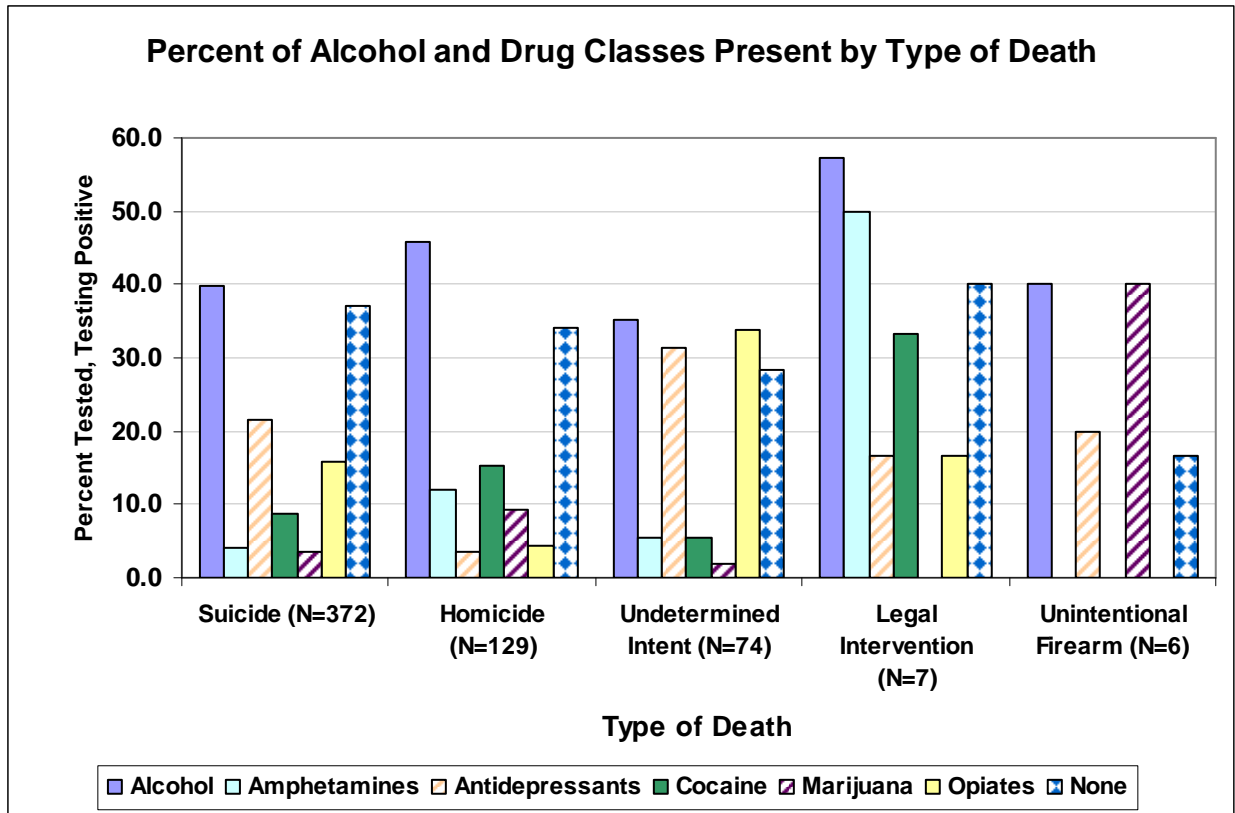
Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number, Percent and Rate of Decedent Characteristics for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
New Mexico Health Region*			
Northwest	117	21.2	27.9
Northeast	88	16.0	29.0
Bernalillo County	190	34.5	30.2
Southeast	59	10.7	23.4
Southwest	93	16.9	22.8
Injured Out of State/Missing	4	0.7	---
Violent Death Type			
Suicide	352	63.9	20.2
Homicide	120	21.8	6.0
Unintentional Firearm	5	0.9	0.2
Legal Intervention	7	1.3	0.3
Undetermined Intent	67	12.2	3.3

* A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.



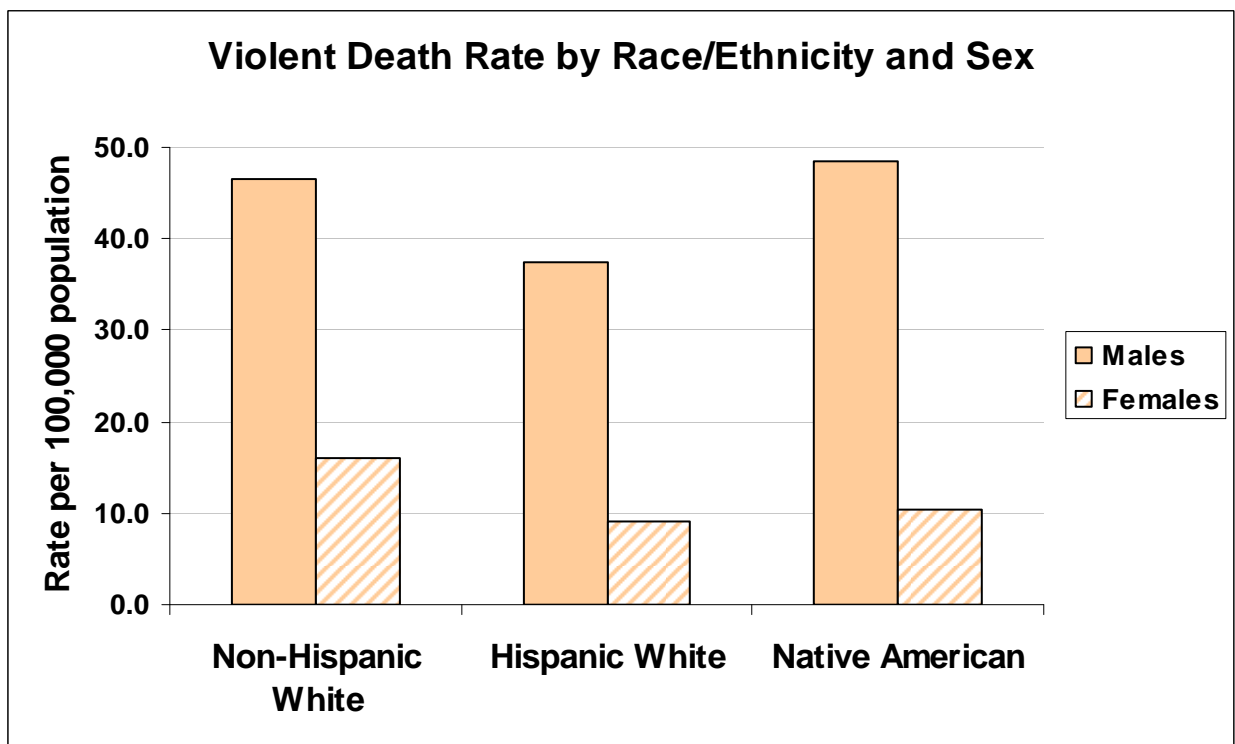
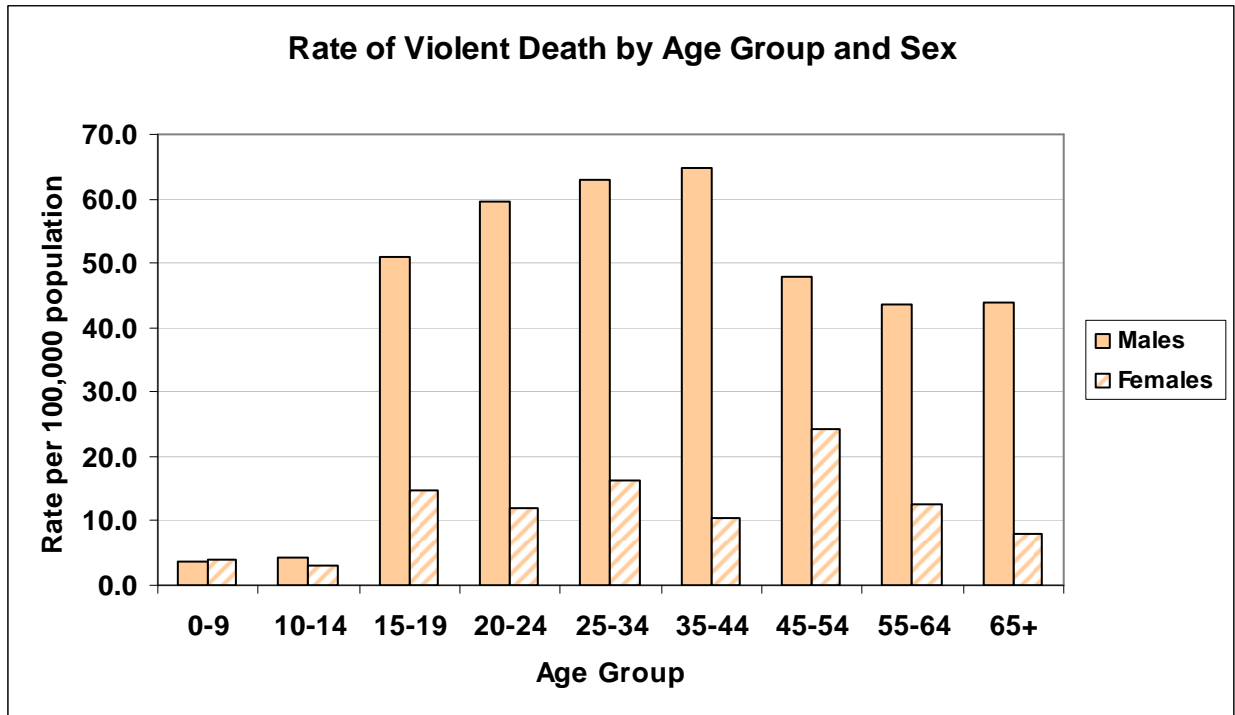
- After age 10 years, suicide is the leading manner of violent death in all age groups, with the highest proportion for persons 45-54 years.
- Number of homicide deaths peak between the ages of 25-34 year and decline thereafter.
- Undetermined intent deaths begin rising sharply at 25 years of age, peak in the 45-54 year age group and decline in older age groups.



Note: Percents were calculated based on the number of decedents tested for each substance and of those tested, the number that had a positive test result. Decedents not tested or where toxicology information was missing for a substance were not included.

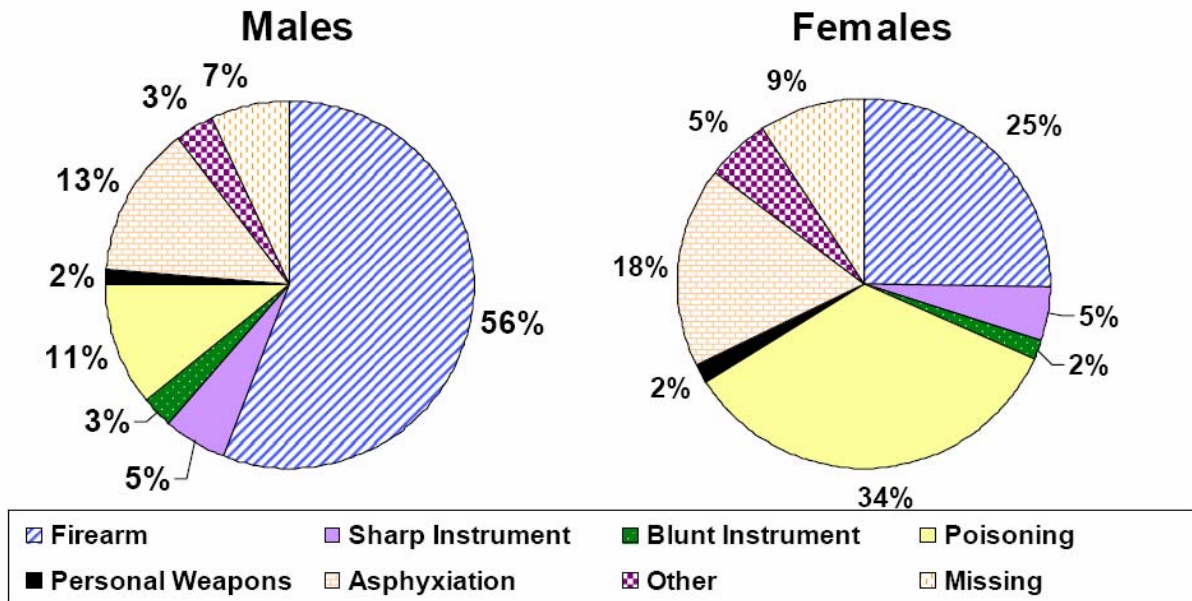
- Categories of drugs and alcohol are not mutually exclusive; a decedent may have tested positive for more than one substance and therefore will be counted in both categories.
- Alcohol was the most common intoxicant detected across all types of death.
- The second most common intoxicant differed for each type of death.
- The percent of decedents who were tested and tested negative for alcohol and all drug categories are represented under “None”.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006



Note: 26 decedents omitted due to small numbers in other racial groups

Weapon/Mechanism of Violent Death

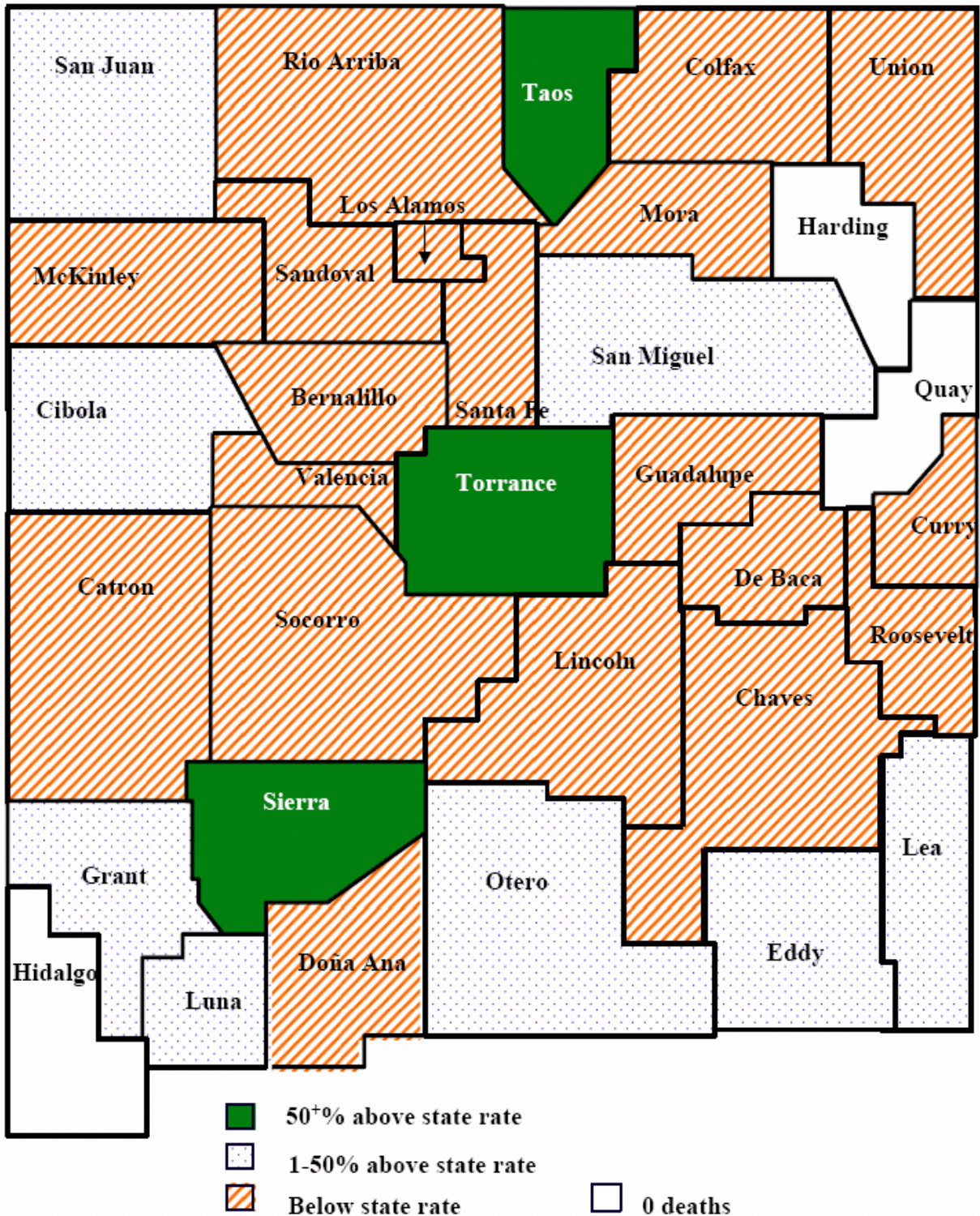


More than 670 weapons were used on the 588 decedents. For 16 decedents the mechanism of death could not be identified (e.g. skeletal or mummified remains). Multiple weapons included drug overdoses with more than one substance present and implicated in the death and multiple weapons were also seen more often in homicide incidents when more than one firearm was used or more than one mechanism employed (e.g. beaten then stabbed). The weapons/mechanisms used to complete violent deaths varied greatly between male and female decedents. Whereas in the majority of males (56%) a firearm was used, the majority of female decedents died by poisoning (34%).

Section II: Suicide

According to the NVDRS, a suicide is defined as a death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional.

Suicide Rates by County Compared to State Rate



Suicide Summary

- Of the 372 suicides that occurred in New Mexico in 2006, 352 (94.6%) were New Mexico residents.
- The ratio of male to female suicide decedents was 3.9:1.
- The highest rates of suicide occurred in males, Non-Hispanic Whites, and persons aged 45-54 years.
- Bernalillo County had the highest proportion of suicides (32.7%), yet the lowest rate (18.1 per 100,000 population), whereas the Northeast region had the second lowest proportion of suicides (17%), yet the highest rate (22.3 per 100,000 population).
- The majority of suicides (74.7%) occurred in or around a residence, or on the property of a residence, including a driveway, porch, yard, etc; natural or public use areas and motor vehicles were the next most common location of suicide (6.7% each).
- A total of 81 suicide decedents (21.8%) were listed as veterans.
- The highest rates of suicide by age group differed for males and females. Males aged 65⁺ years and females in the 45-54 year age group had the highest rates of suicide.
- Male suicide rates were at least four times higher than female suicide rates for every race/ethnicity group. For both males and females, Non-Hispanic Whites have the highest rates followed by Native Americans.
- For all resident and non-resident suicides, the mechanism used most was a firearm (54%) followed by asphyxia (21%) and poisoning (19%). Males chose firearms (62%), followed by asphyxia (20%) and poisoning (12%), whereas the majority of females chose poisoning (48%) followed by firearms (28%) and asphyxia (25%).
- Except for the 65⁺ year age group, more than 25% of suicide decedents tested, tested positive for alcohol. Decedents in the 65⁺ year age group were more likely to test positive for opiates. The patterns of intoxicants detected (following alcohol) differed by age group.
- A total of 353 decedents (94.9%) had at least one circumstance reported, and 58% had three or more circumstances reported.
- The most common circumstance identified for males and females of all race/ethnicity groups was a current depressed mood (49.5%). Males were also frequently reported to have intimate partner problems (37.2%) and disclose their intent to commit suicide (37.2%). Females were more likely to have a reported current mental health problem (64.6%) and have ever been treated for a mental health problem (58.2%).
- Following a current depressed mood, Non-Hispanic Whites were reported to have a current mental health problem (40.6%) more than the other race/ethnic groups. An intimate partner problem was the second most common reported circumstance for both Hispanic Whites (47.1%) and Native Americans (41.2%).
- A problem with alcohol was reported most often for Native American decedents (32.4%) and those ages 20-24 years (40.0%). A problem with a substance, other than alcohol, was reported much more frequently for Hispanic Whites and decedents ages 25-35 years (37.9%).
- In the youngest age groups, 10-24 years, the most common circumstance reported was an intimate partner problem, whereas for the 25-54 year age groups a current depressed mood was most frequently reported. For decedents ages 55⁺ years, a physical health problem was the most commonly identified as circumstance of suicide.
- Suicides occurred most often on Wednesdays (16.4%), in the spring (27.7%), and between 6:01AM and 12:00PM (25.5%).

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Of the 588 deaths captured by NM-VDRS in 2006, 372 were suicides and of these, 352 (94.6%) suicide decedents were New Mexico residents. Since suicide is only rarely ruled as the manner of death in persons under 10 years, the denominator of the rate included only those persons in the population 10 years and older. The state rate of suicide is 20.2 per 100,000 population, which is one of the highest rates of suicide of all U.S. states.

Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicide Decedent Characteristics for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	277	78.7	32.5
Female	75	21.3	8.4
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	207	58.8	26.3
Hispanic White	102	29.0	14.7
Native American	33	9.4	17.9
Other/Unknown	10	2.8	---
Age Group*			
10-19	32	9.1	10.9
20-24	36	10.2	23.1
25-34	56	15.9	22.5
35-44	56	15.9	20.9
45-54	75	21.3	25.3
55-64	46	13.1	20.1
65+	50	14.2	20.2
Education Level*			
8 th grade or less	15	4.3	---
9 th to 12 th grade; no diploma	71	20.2	---
High school degree or GED completed	105	29.8	---
Some college credit; no degree	85	24.2	---
Associates or Bachelors degree	46	13.1	---
Doctorate or professional degree	23	6.6	---
Marital Status*			
Married	115	32.7	---
Never Married	129	36.7	---
Widowed	18	5.1	---
Divorced	86	24.4	---
Single, not otherwise specified	3	0.9	---
* Decedent Information missing: Age- 1; Education- 7; Marital Status- 1			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicides by Health Region* for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Northwest	72	20.5	20.1
Northeast	60	17.0	22.3
Bernalillo County	113	32.1	18.7
Southeast	41	11.6	19.0
Southwest	66	18.8	18.9

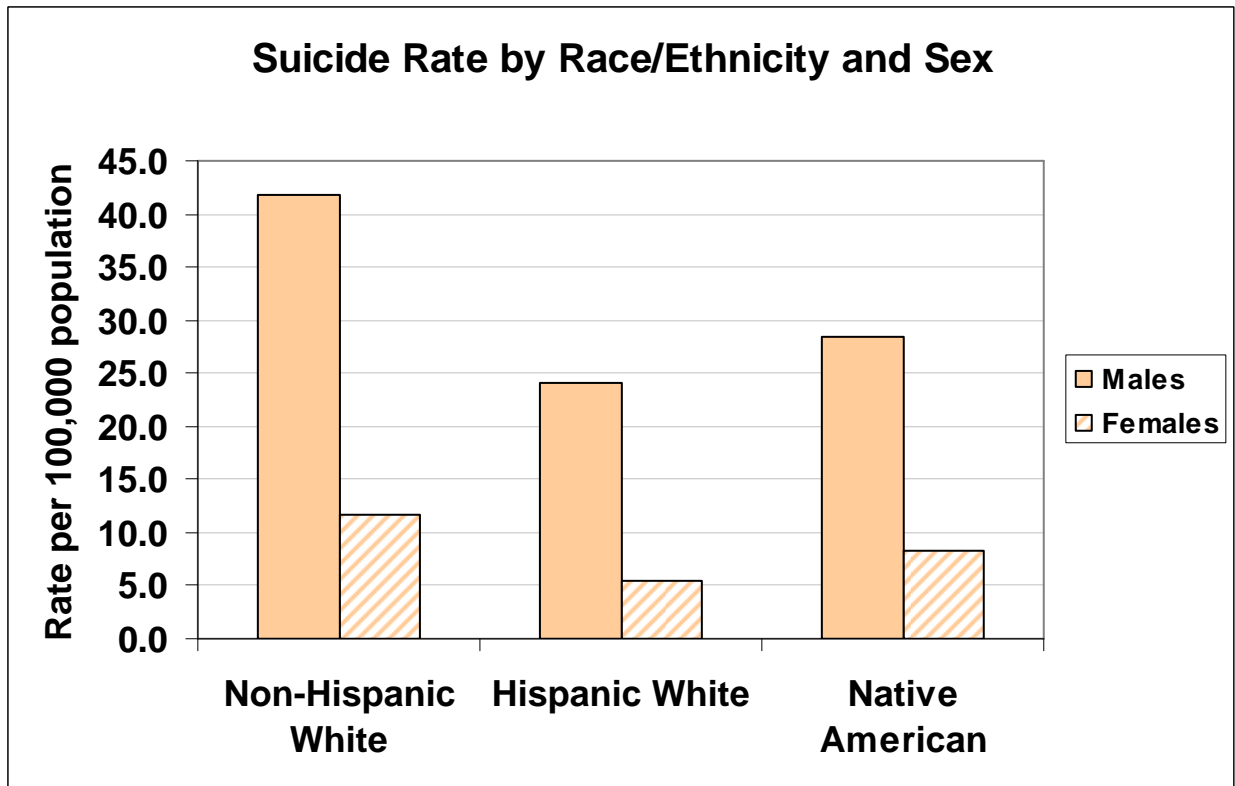
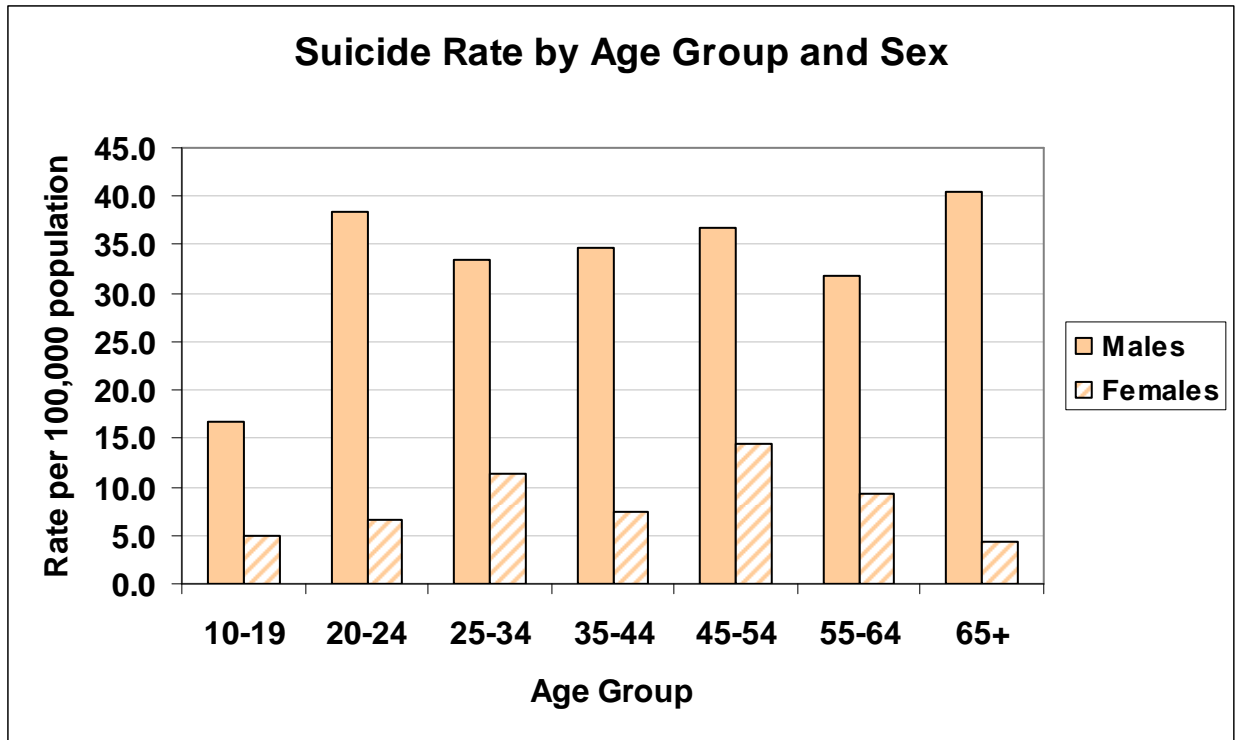
* A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.

Number and Percent of All Suicide Decedent Characteristics, 2006		
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	293	78.8
Female	79	21.2
Weapon/Mechanism		
Firearm	202	54.3
Sharp Instrument	8	2.2
Poisoning	69	18.6
Asphyxia	79	21.2
Motor/ transport vehicle	8	2.2
Other	6	1.6
Location Type		
Residence	278	74.7
Street/Highway	15	4.0
Motor Vehicle	25	6.7
Jail or other supervised institution	6	1.6
Hotel or Motel	8	2.2
Natural or public use area	25	6.7
Other	15	4.0
Veteran status		
Yes	81	21.8
No	287	77.2
Missing	4	1.1

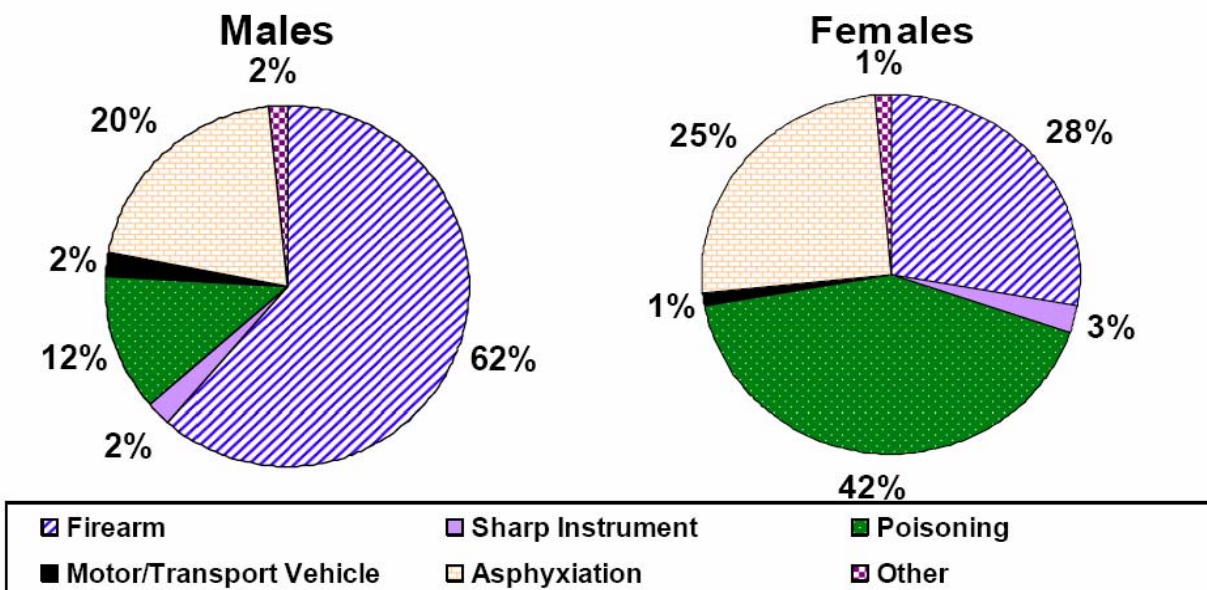
Suicides Among Veterans

Veteran status in New Mexico is determined from the death certificate. The question reads “Was decedent ever in US armed forces?” and is followed by “yes” and “no” checkboxes. This does not indicate that the person actually served in combat.

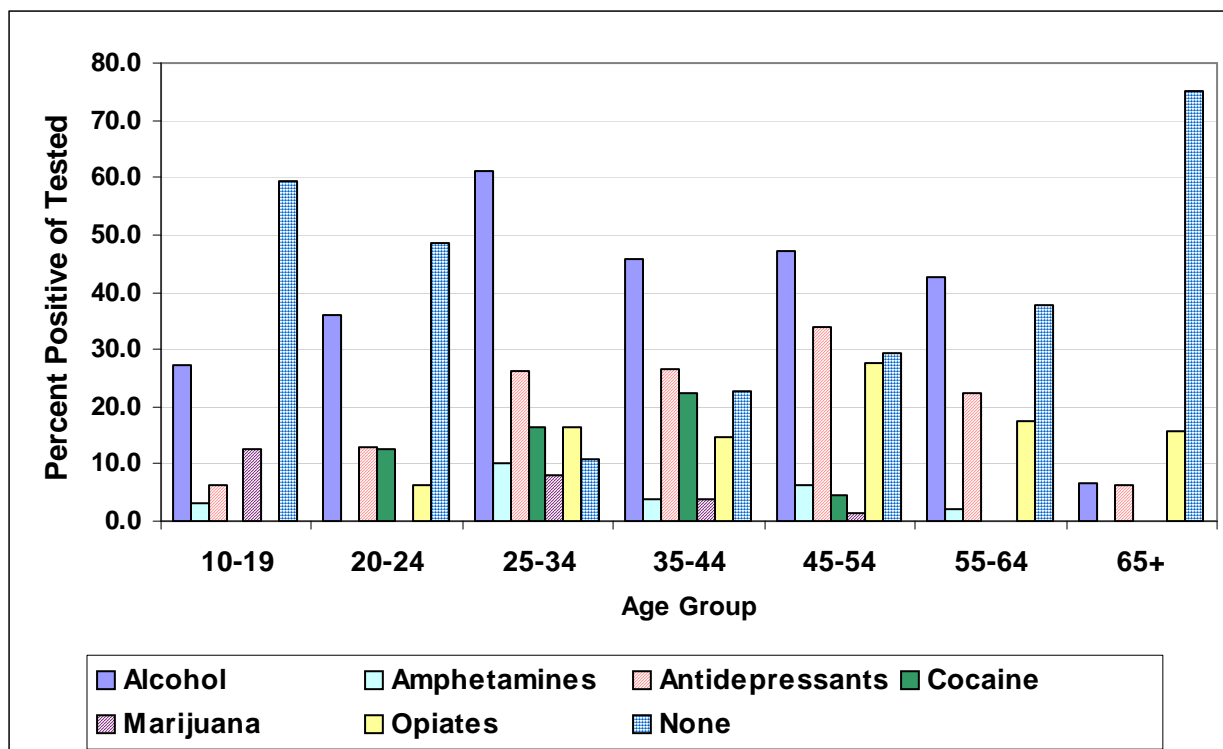
- 81 (21.8%) of the 372 suicide decedents in 2006 were classified as veterans.
- 75 of the 81 veterans were New Mexico residents (crude rate 4.3 per 100,000 population).
- In 2005, 79 (23.4%) suicide decedents were veterans and 74 were New Mexico residents
- The 2005 crude rate of veteran suicides was 3.8 per 100,000 population.
- The 2006 crude rate of veterans suicide decedents is 12.6% higher than the rate for 2005.



Weapon/Mechanism of Suicide



Percent of Suicide Decedents Tested that Tested Positive for Alcohol and Drugs by Age Group



Notes: All resident and non-resident suicides presented. Categories are not mutually exclusive, a person may have tested positive for more than one substance. Percents are calculated based on the number with a positive test result out of all decedents tested for each substance. For example, out of the 35 suicide decedents aged 10-19 years, 33 were tested for the presence of alcohol and of those 33, 9 had positive test results. The “none” category is calculated from all decedents tested for all substances and had negative results for every substance.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

For 353 (94.9%) of the 372 total suicide decedents, at least one circumstance was known. An average of four circumstances was recorded for each decedent, with zero being the minimum and 12 the maximum number reported. Nearly two-thirds of decedents were reported to have between two and six circumstances.

Number and Percent of Reported Suicide Circumstances by Sex, 2006			
Circumstance	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Total (N,%)
Any circumstance known	276 (94.2)	77 (97.5)	353 (94.9)
Current depressed mood	134 (45.7)	50 (63.3)	184 (49.5)
Current mental health problem	81 (27.7)	51 (64.6)	132 (35.5)
Ever treated for mental illness	73 (24.9)	46 (58.2)	119 (32.0)
Alcohol problem	79 (27.0)	22 (27.9)	101 (27.2)
Other substance problem	67 (22.9)	21 (26.6)	88 (23.7)
Person left a suicide note	66 (22.5)	30 (38.0)	96 (25.8)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	109 (37.2)	33 (41.8)	142 (38.2)
History of suicide attempts	54 (18.4)	34 (43.0)	88 (23.7)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	59 (20.1)	23 (29.1)	82 (22.0)
Physical health problem	88 (30.0)	26 (32.9)	114 (30.7)
Intimate partner problem	109 (37.2)	26 (32.9)	135 (36.3)
Other relationship problem	37 (12.6)	16 (20.3)	53 (14.3)
Job problem	34 (11.6)	7 (8.9)	41 (11.0)
School problem	2 (0.7)	2 (2.5)	4 (1.1)
Financial problem	41 (14.0)	7 (8.9)	48 (12.9)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	11 (3.8)	2 (2.5)	13 (3.5)
Other death of friend or family	31 (10.6)	12 (15.2)	43 (11.6)
Recent criminal legal problem	30 (10.2)	4 (5.1)	34 (9.1)
Other legal problems	13 (4.4)	3 (3.8)	16 (4.3)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	30 (10.2)	1 (1.3)	31 (8.3)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.3)
Note: 372 total suicides, 293 male and 79 female decedents			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Suicide Circumstances by Race/Ethnicity, 2006			
Circumstance	White Non-Hispanic (N, %)	White Hispanic (N, %)	Native American (N, %)
Any circumstance known	209 (95.4)	101 (97.1)	30 (88.2)
Current depressed mood	110 (50.2)	53 (51.0)	14 (41.2)
Current mental health problem	89 (40.6)	32 (30.8)	8 (23.5)
Ever treated for mental illness	82 (37.4)	27 (26.0)	7 (20.6)
Alcohol problem	55 (25.1)	34 (32.7)	11 (32.4)
Other substance problem	44 (20.1)	34 (32.7)	6 (17.7)
Person left a suicide note	70 (32.0)	17 (16.4)	7 (20.6)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	77 (35.2)	52 (50.0)	10 (29.4)
History of suicide attempts	44 (20.1)	32 (30.8)	10 (29.4)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	48 (21.9)	23 (22.1)	7 (20.6)
Physical health problem	88 (40.2)	19 (18.3)	5 (14.7)
Intimate partner problem	65 (29.7)	49 (47.1)	14 (41.2)
Other relationship problem	25 (11.4)	18 (17.3)	7 (20.6)
Job problem	27 (12.3)	11 (10.6)	2 (5.9)
School problem	2 (0.9)	2 (1.9)	0 (0.0)
Financial problem	31 (14.2)	13 (12.5)	0 (0.0)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	9 (4.1)	1 (1.0)	3 (8.8)
Other death of friend or family	18 (8.2)	22 (21.2)	3 (8.8)
Recent criminal legal problem	20 (9.1)	8 (7.7)	4 (11.8)
Other legal problems	7 (3.2)	6 (5.8)	2 (5.9)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	13 (5.9)	11 (10.6)	3 (8.8)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: 219 Non-Hispanic whites; 104 Hispanic whites; 34 Native Americans			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Suicide Circumstances by Age Group 10-44 years				
Circumstance	10-19 (N, %)	20-24 (N, %)	25-34 (N, %)	35-44 (N, %)
Any circumstance known	31 (88.6)	38 (95.0)	54 (93.1)	56 (94.9)
Current depressed mood	13 (37.1)	20 (50.0)	30 (51.7)	30 (50.9)
Current mental health problem	8 (22.9)	14 (35.0)	20 (34.5)	21 (35.6)
Ever treated for mental illness	7 (20.0)	11 (27.5)	17 (29.3)	18 (30.5)
Alcohol problem	2 (5.7)	16 (40.0)	21 (36.2)	20 (33.9)
Other substance problem	10 (28.6)	11 (27.5)	22 (37.9)	16 (27.1)
Person left a suicide note	10 (28.6)	6 (15.0)	11 (19.0)	8 (13.6)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	13 (37.1)	16 (40.0)	29 (50.0)	25 (42.4)
History of suicide attempts	9 (25.7)	13 (32.5)	19 (32.8)	11 (18.6)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	9 (25.7)	12 (30.0)	15 (25.9)	11 (18.6)
Physical health problem	2 (5.7)	2 (5.0)	4 (6.9)	11 (18.6)
Intimate partner problem	16 (45.7)	21 (52.5)	29 (50.0)	26 (44.1)
Other relationship problem	6 (17.1)	10 (25.0)	12 (20.7)	5 (8.5)
Job problem	0 (0.0)	2 (5.0)	9 (15.5)	12 (20.3)
School problem	4 (11.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Financial problem	1 (2.9)	3 (7.5)	9 (15.5)	9 (15.3)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	4 (11.4)	3 (7.5)	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)
Other death of friend or family	4 (11.4)	6 (15.0)	10 (17.2)	6 (10.2)
Recent criminal legal problem	3 (8.6)	4 (10.0)	7 (12.1)	8 (13.6)
Other legal problems	0 (0.0)	2 (5.0)	6 (10.3)	2 (3.4)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	3 (7.5)	7 (12.1)	6 (10.2)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.7)	0 (0.0)
Note: Total numbers of decedents by age group: 10-19 N=35; 20-24 N=40; 25-34 N=58; 35-44 N=59				

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Suicide Circumstances by Age Group 45-65⁺ years			
Circumstance	45-54 (N, %)	55-64 (N, %)	65 ⁺ (N, %)
Any circumstance known	77 (97.4)	48 (94.1)	50 (98.0)
Current depressed mood	33 (42.9)	25 (49.0)	32 (62.8)
Current mental health problem	34 (44.2)	23 (45.1)	12 (23.5)
Ever treated for mental illness	31 (40.3)	22 (43.1)	13 (25.5)
Alcohol problem	27 (35.1)	13 (25.5)	2 (3.9)
Other substance problem	25 (32.5)	2 (3.9)	2 (3.9)
Person left a suicide note	22 (28.6)	16 (31.4)	22 (43.1)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	26 (33.8)	16 (31.4)	17 (33.3)
History of suicide attempts	25 (32.5)	7 (13.7)	4 (7.8)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	21 (27.3)	10 (19.6)	4 (7.8)
Physical health problem	23 (29.9)	29 (56.9)	42 (82.4)
Intimate partner problem	31 (40.3)	10 (19.6)	2 (3.9)
Other relationship problem	12 (15.6)	5 (9.8)	3 (5.9)
Job problem	17 (22.1)	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)
School problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Financial problem	14 (18.2)	10 (19.6)	2 (3.9)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	1 (1.3)	1 (2.0)	2 (3.9)
Other death of friend or family	7 (9.1)	3 (5.9)	6 (11.8)
Recent criminal legal problem	9 (11.7)	3 (5.9)	0 (0.0)
Other legal problems	5 (6.5)	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	11 (14.3)	3 (5.9)	1 (2.0)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: Total numbers of decedents by age group: 45-54 N=72; 55-64 N=51; 65 ⁺ N=51			

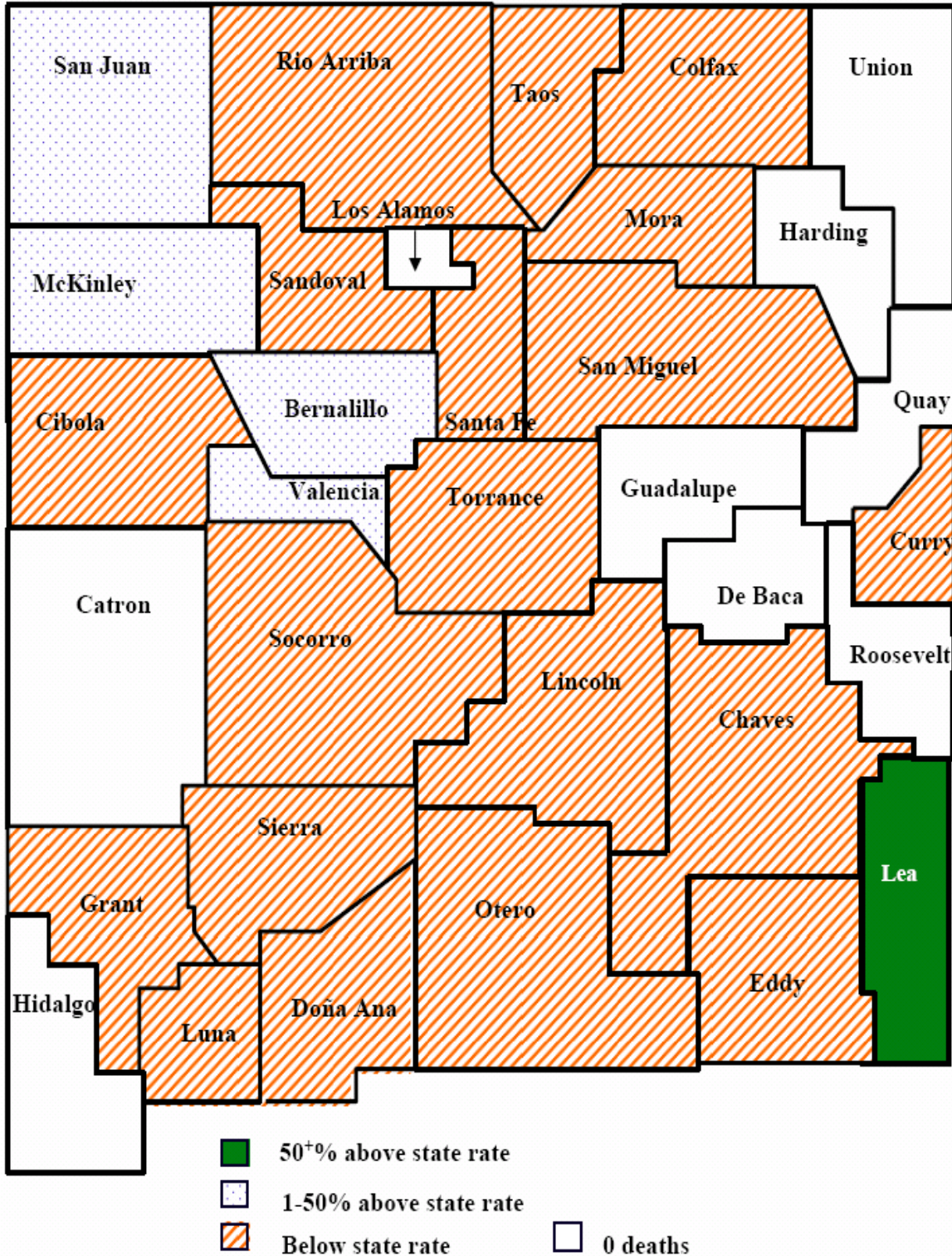
Suicide Programs/interventions and resources currently available

- National Suicide Prevention Life line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Agora Crisis Line (New Mexico) 505-277-3013
- Santa Fe Crisis Response 505-820-6333
- New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition 505-401-9382
 - o <http://www.nmsuicideprevention.org>
- Department of Health, Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator Norma Rey Vasquez de Houdek 505-222-8678
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <http://www.afsp.org>
- Suicide Prevention Action Network USA: www.spanusa.org
- Program Activities Guide to Preventing Suicide:
www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/PreventingSuicide.htm
- National Strategy for Suicide Prevention
www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/
- American Association of Suicidology: www.suicidology.org/
- Native American Community Initiative
1-800-SUICIDE/ 1-800-784-2433
- Survivors of Suicide
<http://www.sosabq.org/>

Section III: Homicide

According to the NVDRS, a homicide is defined as a death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person or a group or community. A preponderance of evidence is required. Two other situations are also classified as a homicide: (1) arson with no intent against a person and (2) stabbing with intent unspecified.

Homicide Death Rates by County Compared to State Rate



Homicide Summary

- A total of 129 homicides occurred in New Mexico in 2006; of these, 120 (93.0%) decedents were New Mexico residents.
- The ratio of male to female homicide decedents was 4.2:1.
- Males, Blacks, and persons ages 25-34 years have the highest rates of homicide in New Mexico.
- Bernalillo County had the highest proportion (40.8%) and rate of homicide (7.5 per 100,000). The Southwest region had the lowest rate of homicide (3.4 per 100,000), but the Southeast region had the lowest proportion of homicides (10.8%).
- The majority of homicides (55.0%) occurred in or around a residence or on the property of a residence, including a driveway, porch, yard, etc; a street, highway or roadway was the next most common location of homicide (15.5%).
- Male homicide rates were higher than the female homicide rates for every race/ethnic group. The risk of homicide differs greatly among the four racial/ethnic groups shown: Black males had the highest rates, and Hispanic White females had the lowest rates followed by Non-Hispanic White females.
- 58% of male decedents were killed by a firearm, 18% by sharp instruments and 11% by blunt instruments. The mechanisms of female homicides were firearms (44%), followed by sharp instruments (16%), asphyxiation and other methods (12% each).
- The most common intoxicant present for decedents aged 20 years and older was alcohol (64.5% of those in the 25-34 year age group tested, tested positive for alcohol). For those decedents 19 years and under, marijuana was the most common intoxicant.
- 105 decedents (81.4%) had at least one circumstance reported, and one-third had two or more circumstances reported.
- The most common circumstance identified for both males and females was an argument about something other than money or property, such as an argument over a parking spot that escalated, (44.2% and 36.0%, respectively). In addition to arguments, male homicides were frequently reported to involve drugs (16.4%) or to have been precipitated by another crime (15.4%).
- The second most common event of female homicides was intimate partner violence (32.0%).
- For all race/ethnic groups, an argument that was not about money or property was reported most often. For Whites (Hispanic and Non-Hispanic) gang involvement and the homicide precipitated by another crime were the second and third most commonly reported circumstances of homicide. Following arguments, Native American homicides were commonly reported to be precipitated by another crime.
- Arguments in general, whether about money, property or anything else, were by far the most commonly reported circumstance leading to the homicide. The next most commonly reported circumstance differed by age group.
- When information about the relationship between the decedent and primary suspect is known, suspects of male decedents were most likely to be an acquaintance or person known to the decedent (18.3%). Perpetrators of female homicide decedents were most likely a current or former intimate partner (36.0%).
- Homicides occurred most often on Sundays (18.6%), in the winter (30.2%), and between 6:01PM and 12:00AM (31.8%).

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

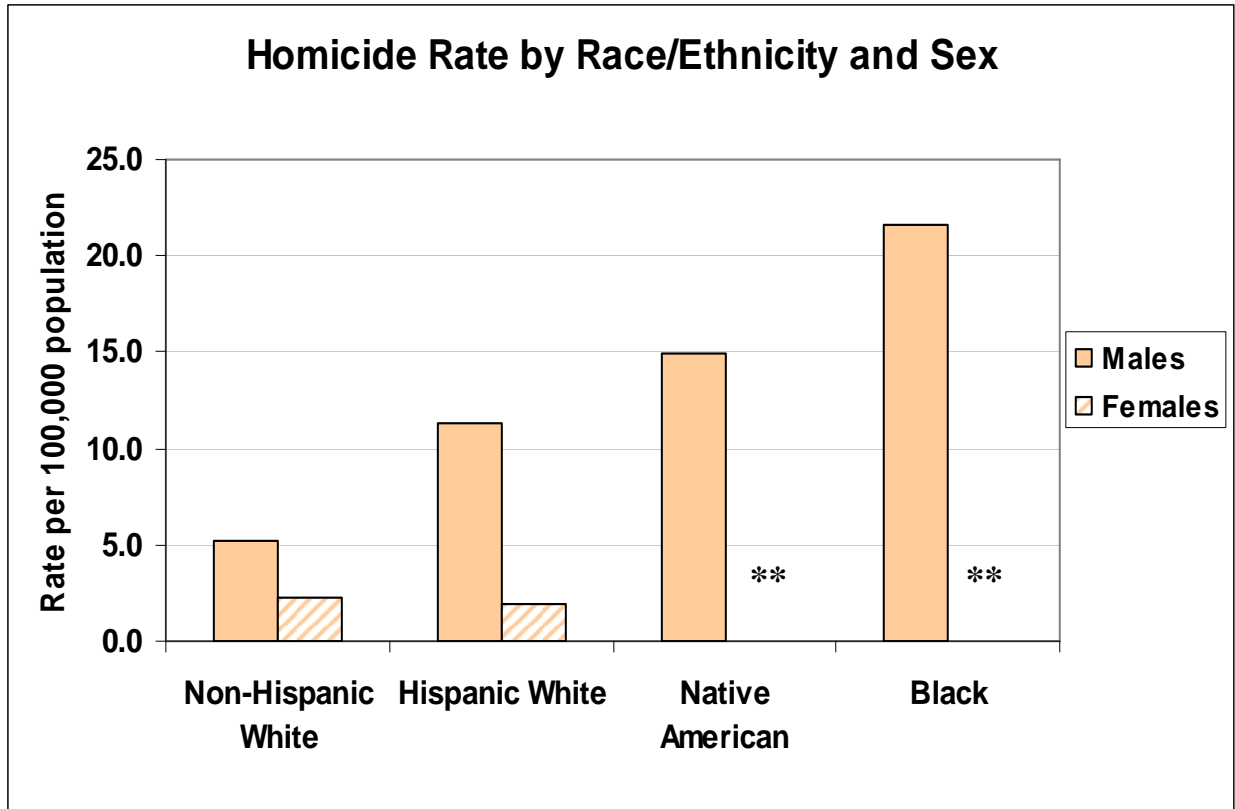
Of the 588 deaths captured by NM-VDRS in 2006, 129 were homicides and of these 120 (93.0%) of homicide victims were New Mexico residents. The state rate of homicide is 6.0 per 100,000 population, giving New Mexico one of the highest rates of homicide in the nation.

Number, Percent, and Rate of Homicide Decedent Characteristics for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	97	80.8	9.8
Female	23	19.2	2.3
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	32	26.7	3.7
Hispanic White	55	45.8	6.6
Native American	19	14.2	8.5
Black	7	5.8	13.1
Other/Unknown	7	2.5	---
Age Group			
0-14	7	5.8	1.7
15-19	16	13.3	10.4
20-24	17	14.2	10.9
25-34	31	25.8	12.4
35-44	24	20.0	9.0
45-54	13	10.8	4.4
55-64	7	5.8	3.1
65+	5	4.2	2.0
Education Level			
8 th grade or less	15	12.5	---
9 th to 12 th grade; no diploma	41	34.2	---
High school graduate or GED completed	39	32.5	---
Some college credit; no degree	12	10.0	---
College or professional degree	10	8.2	---
Missing	3	2.5	---
Marital Status			
Married	23	19.2	---
Never Married	79	65.8	---
Widowed	4	3.3	---
Divorced	13	10.8	---
Missing	1	0.8	---

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

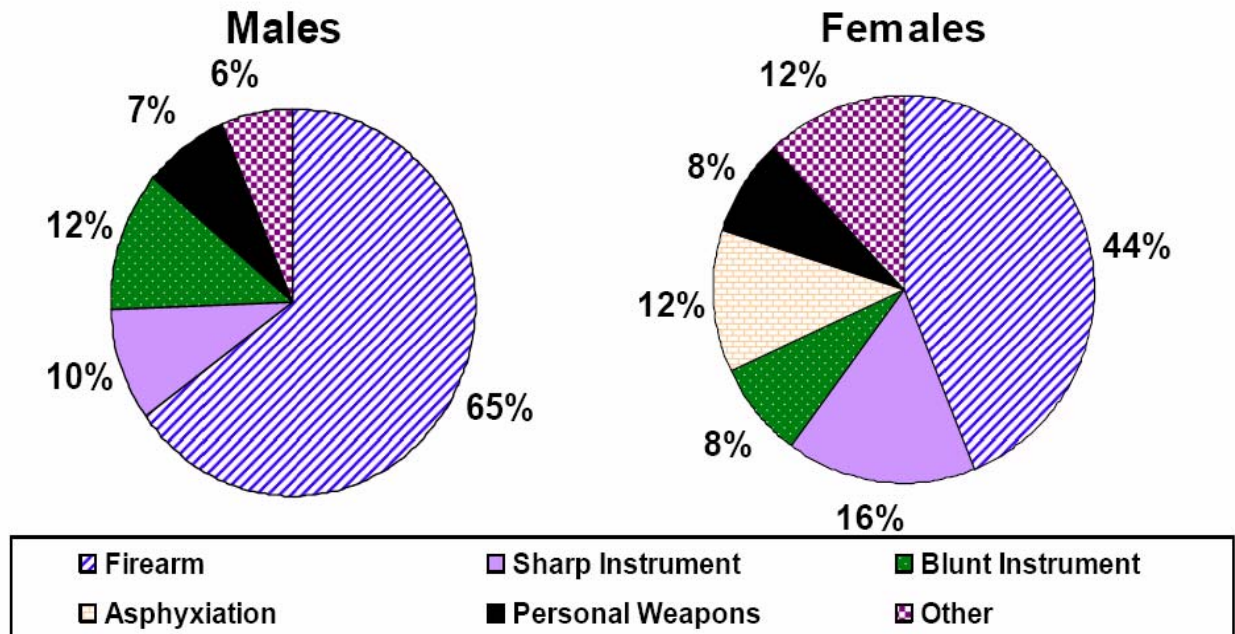
Number, Percent, and Rate of Suicides by Health Region* for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Northwest	27	22.5	6.4
Northeast	17	14.2	5.6
Bernalillo County	47	40.8	7.5
Southeast	13	10.8	5.1
Southwest	14	11.7	3.4
* A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.			

Number and Percent of All Homicide Decedent Characteristics, 2006		
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	104	80.6
Female	25	19.4
Weapon/Mechanism		
Firearm	72	55.8
Sharp Instrument	23	17.8
Blunt Instrument	13	10.1
Personal Weapons	9	7.0
Other	8	6.2
Missing	4	3.1
Location of Injury		
Residence	71	55.0
Street/Highway	20	15.5
Motor Vehicle	9	7.0
Natural or public use area	6	4.7
Parking lot or parking garage	11	8.5
Other	12	9.3

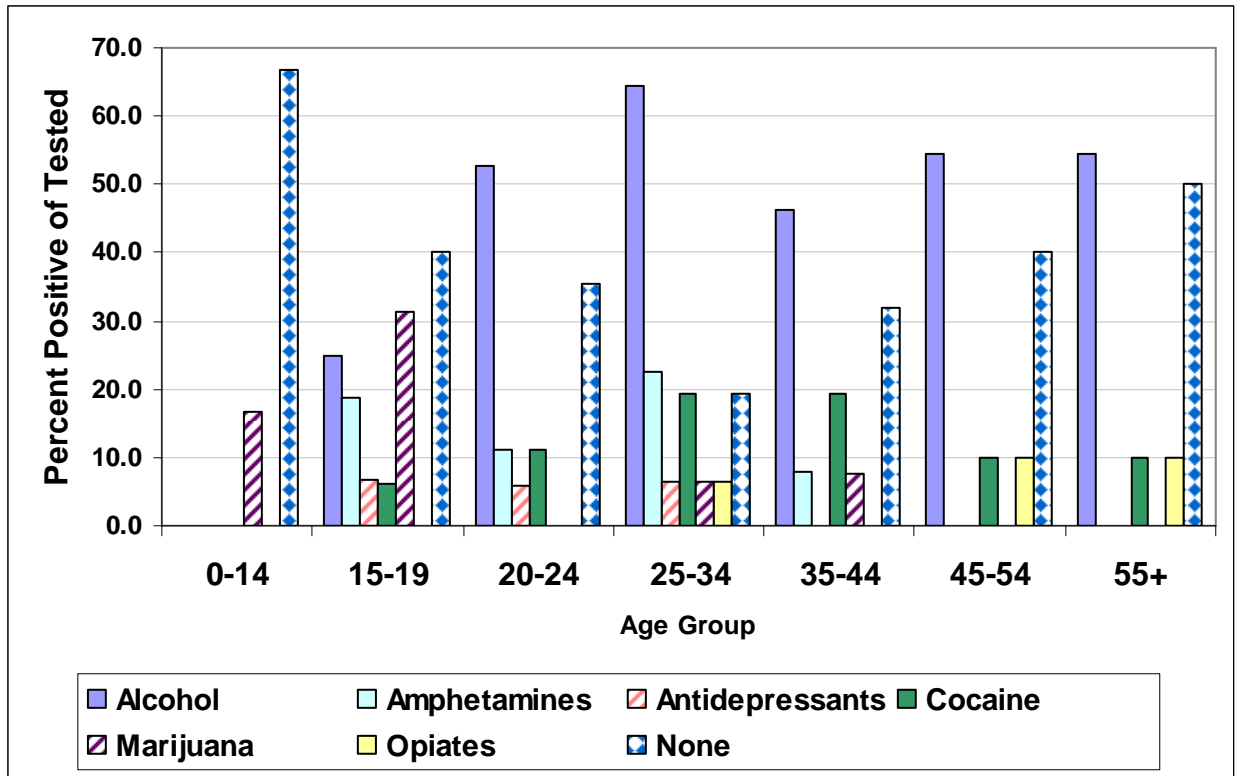


Note: Rates not presented for Native American and Black females due to fewer than 5 observations for each of these categories.

Weapon/Mechanism of Homicide



Percent of Homicide Decedents Tested that Tested Positive for Alcohol and Drugs by Age Group



Notes: All resident and non-resident homicides presented. Categories are not mutually exclusive, a person may have tested positive for more than one substance. Percents are calculated based on the number with a positive test result out of all decedents tested for each substance. For example, out of the 20 homicide decedents aged 20-24 years, 19 were tested for the presence of alcohol and of those 19, 10 (52.6%) had positive test results. The “none” category is calculated from all decedents tested for all substances and had negative results for every substance.

Suspect Information

Relationship* Between Homicide Decedent and Suspect by Sex			
<u>Victim to Suspect Relationship</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current or former intimate partner	3 (2.9)	9 (36.0)	12 (9.3)
Caregiver or family member	10 (9.6)	2 (8.0)	12 (9.3)
Acquaintance/person known to decedent	19 (18.3)	1 (4.0)	20 (15.5)
Friend	5 (4.8)	0 (0.0)	5 (3.9)
Stranger	9 (8.7)	4 (16.0)	13 (10.1)
Rival gang member	2 (1.9)	1 (4.0)	3 (2.3)
Law enforcement involvement	2 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.6)
Other relationship	3 (2.9)	1 (4.0)	4 (3.1)
Missing/Unknown	51 (49.0)	7 (28.0)	58 (45.0)
*Read as "The decedent is the _____ of the suspect"			

In 2006, for the 129 victims of homicide, there were 163 suspects. According to the NVDRS manual, a suspect is defined as a person suspected of having killed another person in an incident, whether intentionally or (in the case of firearm injuries) unintentionally. When two or more people attack a victim in an incident, all of the attackers (if known) are recorded as suspects, regardless of who actually dealt the fatal blow. For those incidents in which details about the suspect(s) are known, 121 (74.2%) were male and 12 (7.4%) were female. No information is known about 30 (18.4%) of suspects.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

For 105 (81.4%) of the 129 total homicide decedents, at least one circumstance was known. For nearly one fifth of homicides, no circumstance or risk factor information was known. The average number of circumstances recorded for each decedent was one, with zero being the minimum and five the maximum number reported. Nearly one-third of decedents were reported to have two or more circumstances.

Number and Percent of Reported Homicide Circumstances by Sex			
Circumstance	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Total (N, %)
Any circumstance known	85 (81.7)	20 (80.0)	105 (81.4)
Precipitated by another crime	16 (15.4)	4 (16.0)	20 (15.5)
First other crime in progress	6 (5.8)	0 (0.0)	6 (4.7)
Argument over money or property	12 (11.5)	1 (4.0)	13 (10.1)
Jealousy (lovers' triangle)	2 (1.9)	2 (8.0)	4 (3.1)
Intimate partner violence related	6 (5.8)	8 (32.0)	14 (10.9)
Other argument, abuse, conflict	46 (44.2)	9 (36.0)	55 (42.6)
Drug involvement	17 (16.4)	1 (4.0)	18 (14.0)
Gang related	9 (8.7)	0 (0.0)	9 (7.0)
Hate crime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Brawl	4 (3.9)	1 (4.0)	5 (3.9)
Victim was a bystander	4 (3.9)	2 (8.0)	6 (4.7)
Victim was a police officer on duty	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)
Justifiable self defense/ law enforcement	4 (3.9)	0 (0.0)	4 (3.1)
Victim used a weapon	6 (5.8)	0 (0.0)	6 (4.7)
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim	2 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.6)
Mercy killing	0 (0.0)	1 (4.0)	1 (0.8)
Note: Total 129 decedents, 104 males and 25 females			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Homicide Circumstances by Age Group 0-34 years				
Circumstance	0-14 (N, %)	15-19 (N, %)	20-24 (N, %)	25-34 (N, %)
Any circumstance known	6 (85.7)	14 (87.5)	15 (75.0)	30 (88.2)
Precipitated by another crime	0 (0.0)	4 (25.0)	3 (15.0)	7 (20.6)
First other crime in progress	0 (0.0)	1 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	3 (8.8)
Argument over money or property	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.0)	3 (8.8)
Jealousy (lovers' triangle)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.3)	1 (5.0)	0 (0.0)
Intimate partner violence related	0 (0.0)	1 (6.3)	1 (5.0)	4 (11.8)
Other argument, abuse, conflict	2 (28.6)	8 (50.0)	6 (30.0)	20 (58.8)
Drug involvement	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (25.0)	9 (26.5)
Gang related	0 (0.0)	3 (18.8)	2 (10.0)	4 (11.8)
Hate crime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Brawl	0 (0.0)	2 (12.5)	1 (5.0)	1 (2.9)
Victim was a bystander	2 (28.6)	1 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (5.9)
Victim was a police officer on duty	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Justifiable self defense/ law enforcement	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim used a weapon	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.0)	2 (5.9)
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.9)
Mercy killing	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Notes: Total numbers of decedents by age group: 0-14 N=7; 15-19 N=16; 20-24 N=20; 25-34 N=34				

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Homicide Circumstances by Age Group 35-55+ years			
Circumstance	35-44 (N, %)	45-54 (N, %)	55+ (N, %)
Any circumstance known	20 (76.9)	11 (84.6)	9 (69.2)
Precipitated by another crime	5 (19.2)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)
First other crime in progress	2 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Argument over money or property	7 (26.9)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)
Jealousy (lovers' triangle)	0 (0.0)	2 (15.4)	0 (0.0)
Intimate partner violence related	4 (15.4)	3 (23.1)	1 (7.7)
Other argument, abuse, conflict	6 (23.1)	8 (61.5)	5 (38.5)
Drug involvement	3 (11.5)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)
Gang related	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hate crime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Brawl	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)
Victim was a bystander	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)
Victim was a police officer on duty	1 (3.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Justifiable self defense/ law enforcement	2 (7.7)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)
Victim used a weapon	2 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)
Mercy killing	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)
Notes: Total numbers of decedents by age group: 35-44 N=26; 45-54 N=13; 55+ N=13.			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Homicide Circumstances by Race/Ethnicity				
Circumstance	White Non-Hispanic (N, %)	White Hispanic (N, %)	Native American (N, %)	Black (N, %)
Any circumstance known	28 (84.9)	45 (79.0)	18 (85.7)	5 (71.4)
Precipitated by another crime	5 (15.2)	8 (14.0)	4 (19.1)	0 (0.0)
First other crime in progress	0 (0.0)	4 (7.0)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
Argument over money or property	3 (9.1)	5 (8.8)	2 (9.5)	1 (14.3)
Jealousy (lovers' triangle)	3 (9.1)	1 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Intimate partner violence related	3 (9.1)	5 (8.8)	3 (14.3)	0 (0.0)
Other argument, abuse, conflict	13 (39.4)	22 (38.6)	13 (61.9)	3 (42.9)
Drug involvement	5 (15.2)	8 (14.0)	3 (14.3)	1 (14.3)
Gang related	1 (3.0)	6 (10.5)	1 (4.8)	1 (14.3)
Hate crime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Brawl	1 (3.0)	3 (5.3)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
Victim was a bystander	0 (0.0)	5 (8.8)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
Victim was a police officer on duty	1 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Justifiable self defense/ law enforcement	2 (6.1)	1 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim used a weapon	0 (0.0)	2 (3.5)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim	1 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)
Mercy killing	1 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: 33 Non-Hispanic Whites; 57 Hispanic Whites; 21 Native Americans; 7 Blacks				

Programs/interventions and resources currently available

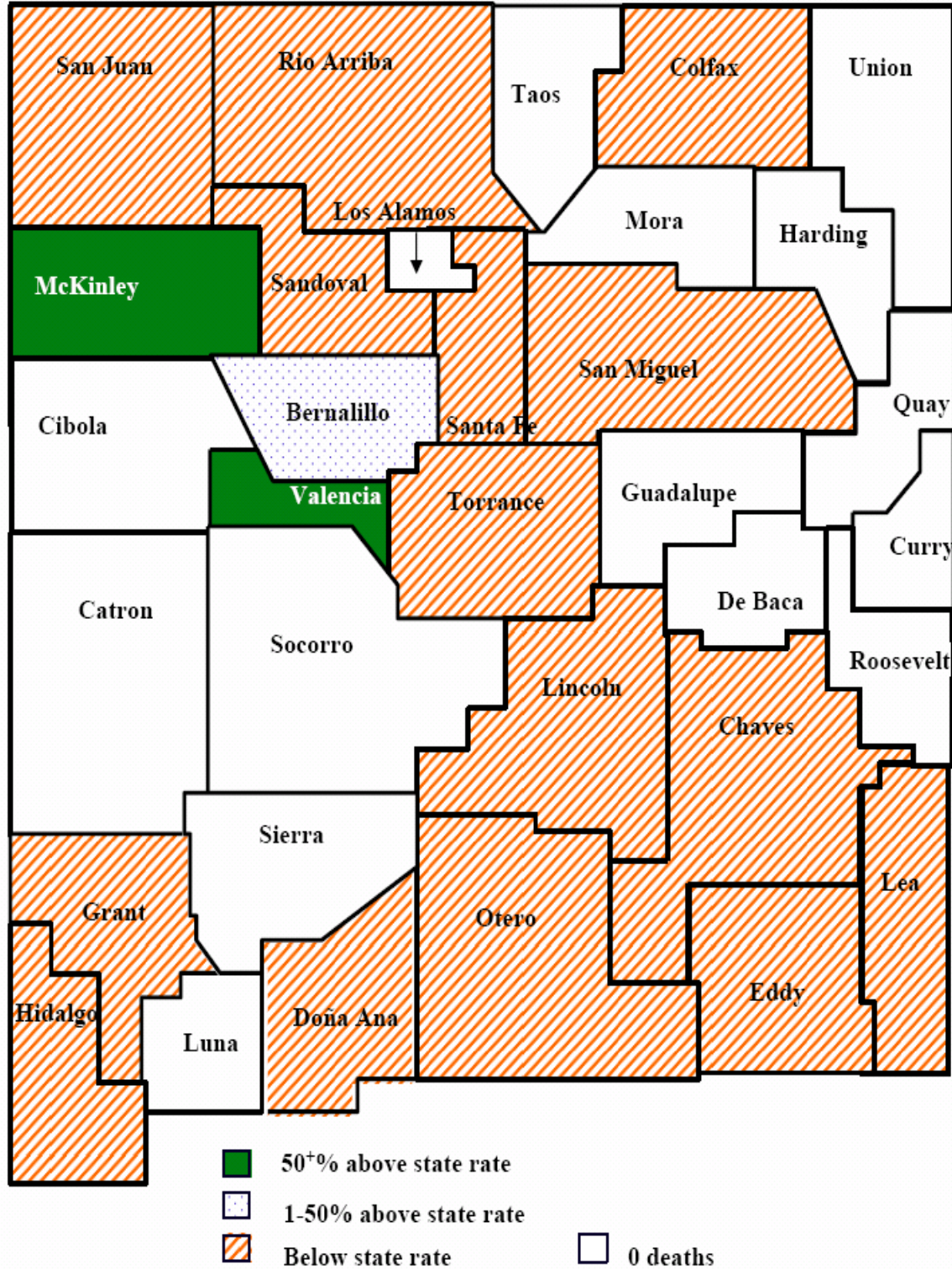
- New Mexico Domestic Violence Homicide Review Team: all deaths attributable to domestic violence are reviewed by a team from multiple agencies in order to attempt to determine factors associated with increased risk of lethality. Reports on the team's findings from 1993-2002 entitled "Getting Away with Murder" are available online at: <http://hsc.unm.edu/emersed/Cipre/Projects.shtml>
- New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Association
General services: 505-841-9432
Victims assistance: 800-306-6262
- New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 505-246-9240
- Peacekeepers Domestic Violence Program: Eight Northern Pueblos Council
505-753-4790
Toll free 800-400-8694
- New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator Grief Services Program
505-925-9501
Toll free: 800-432-5239
- National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
<http://safeyouth.org/scripts/index.asp>
- New Mexico Survivors of Homicide
505-232-4099
877-700-8500
- Child Abuse Reporting
800-797-3260
- Indian Health Service– Family Violence Prevention Team
505-837-4245

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Section IV: Undetermined Intent

According to the NVDRS, a death of undetermined intent is defined as a death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death.

Undetermined Intent Death Rates by County Compared to State Rate



Summary of Undetermined Intent Deaths

- 74 deaths of undetermined intent occurred in New Mexico in 2006; of these, 67 (90.5%) were New Mexico residents.
- The ratio of male to female decedents of undetermined intent was 1.8:1.
- The highest rates of undetermined intent occurred in males, Native Americans, and persons ages 35-44 years.
- Bernalillo County had the highest proportion of deaths of undetermined intent (34.3%), yet the highest rate was seen in the Northwest region (4.1 per 100,000 population). The lowest proportion (6.0%) of undetermined intent deaths were seen in the Southwest region of the state.
- 59.5% deaths of undetermined intent occurred in or around a residence, or on the property of a residence, including a driveway, porch, yard, etc (52.1% of males and 73.1% of females); natural or public use areas were the next most common location of undetermined intent deaths (17.6% overall, 22.9% of males and 7.7% of females).
- A total of 8 decedents of undetermined intent (10.8%) were listed as veterans.
- Non-Hispanic White female rates were slightly higher than the rate for males of this same group. There were no deaths of undetermined intent for Native American females, yet the rates of their male counterparts were the highest of all racial groups and double the rate of Hispanic White males, whom had the second highest rate.
- The mechanism used most in deaths of undetermined intent, where the mechanism was known, was poisoning (25% of males and 46% of females).
- Except for the 25-34 and 45-54 year age groups, the most common intoxicant found in decedents of undetermined intent was alcohol. In the 25-34 year age group, 57.1% of decedents tested, tested positive for antidepressants. For decedents aged 45-54 years the most common substance present was opiates (60.0%).
- Of those males tested for alcohol and other intoxicants, alcohol was the most common intoxicant (43.8%) followed by antidepressants (28.1%). Female decedents were more likely to test positive for opiates (43.5%) followed by antidepressants (36.4%).
- A total of 57 decedents (77.0%) had at least one circumstance reported, and 55% had between one and three circumstances reported.
- Males were most likely to have a reported alcohol problem (41.7%) followed by a physical health problem (33.3%). The most common reported circumstance for females was a physical health problem (53.9%) followed by a current mental health problem (38.5%).
- Physical health problems were commonly reported for all racial/ethnic groups (57.1% for Non-Hispanic Whites, 32.3% for Hispanic Whites, and 33.3% for Native Americans). Whites of both ethnicities reported a current mental health problem as the second most common circumstance (35.7% for Non-Hispanics and 32.3% for Hispanics).
- An alcohol problem was reported most frequently for Native American decedents (58.3%).
- For the 0-24 year age group, no one circumstance was reported more often than another. A substance problem, other than alcohol, was reported most for decedents ages 25-34 years (54.6%) and alcohol problems were reported most for decedents aged 35-44 years (44.4%).
- For the oldest age groups 45+ years, physical health problems were the most reported circumstance followed by a current mental health problem.
- Deaths of undetermined intent occurred most often on Sundays (16.2%), in the summer (27.0%), and between 12:01PM and 6:00PM (21.6%).

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Of the 588 deaths captured by NM-VDRS in 2006, 74 were deaths of undetermined intent, and of these 67 (90.5%) of decedents were New Mexico residents. Of the 67 New Mexico resident deaths of undetermined intent, 61.2% occurred among males and 38.8% occurred among females. The state rate for undetermined intent deaths is 3.3 per 100,000 population.

Number, Percent, and Rate for Undetermined Intent Decedent Characteristics for New Mexico residents, 2006			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	41	61.2	4.1
Female	26	38.8	2.5
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	26	38.8	3.0
Hispanic White	29	43.3	3.5
Native American	10	14.9	4.5
Other/Unknown	2	3.0	---
Age Group*			
0-24	7	10.5	1.0
25-34	11	16.4	4.4
35-44	17	25.4	6.6
45-54	17	25.4	5.7
55+	14	20.9	2.9
Education Level*			
8 th grade or less	11	16.4	---
9 th to 12 th grade; no diploma	19	28.4	---
High school graduate or GED completed	19	28.4	---
Some college credit; no degree	9	13.4	---
Associates, Bachelors, or Masters degree	6	9.0	---
Marital Status*			
Married	13	19.4	---
Never Married	34	50.8	---
Widowed	2	3.0	---
Divorced	13	19.4	---
Single, not otherwise specified	2	3.0	---
* Decedent Information missing: Age- 1; Education- 3; Marital Status- 3			

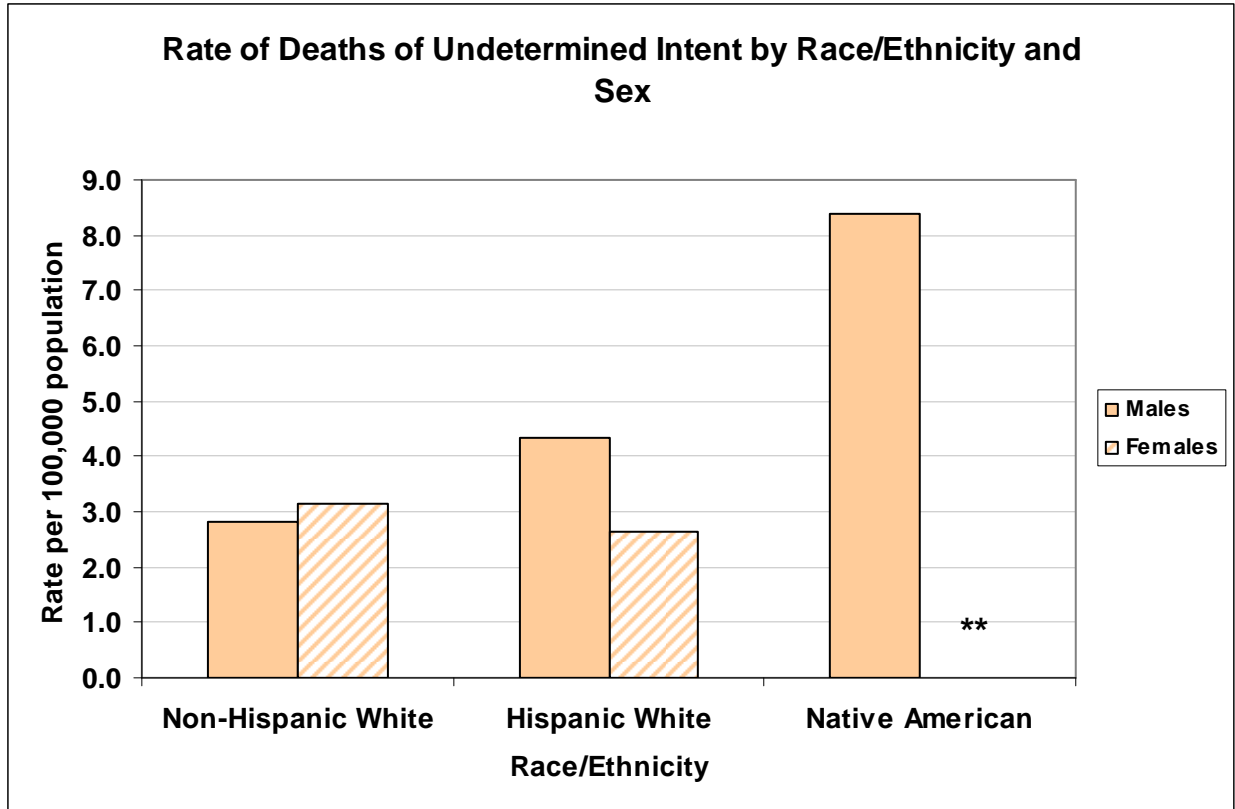
Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number, Percent, and Rate of Undetermined Intent Deaths by Health Region* for New Mexico residents, 2006			
New Mexico Health Region	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Northwest	17	25.4	4.1
Northeast	10	14.9	3.3
Bernalillo County	23	34.3	3.7
Southeast	4	6.0	---
Southwest	11	16.4	2.7

* A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.

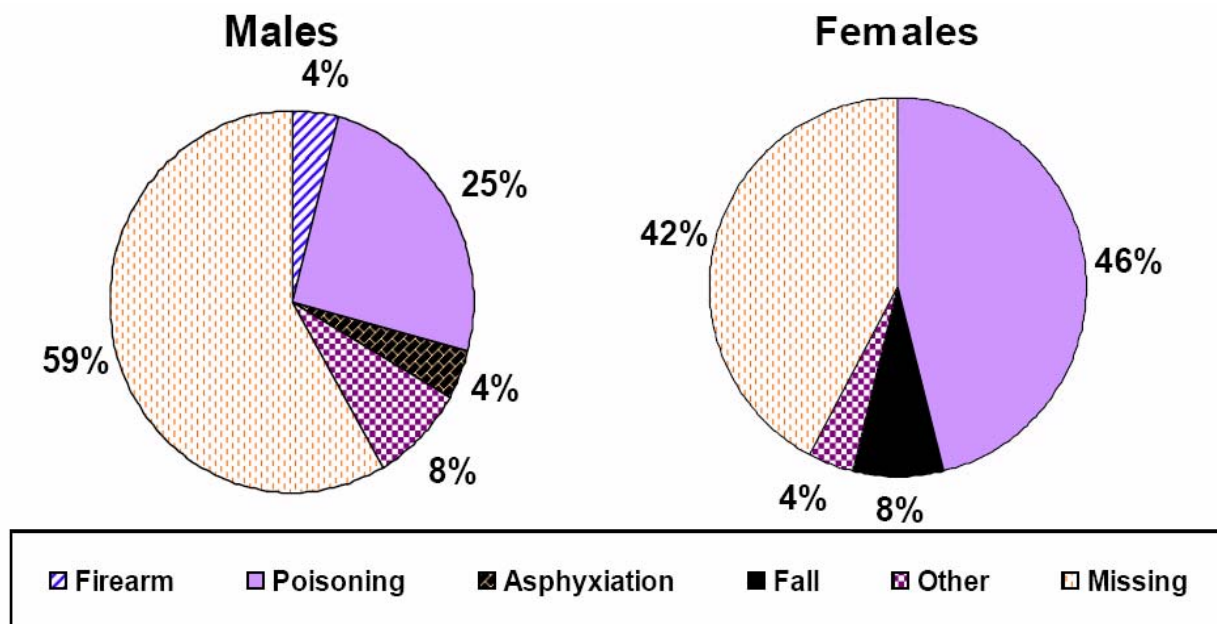
Number and Percent of All Undetermined Intent Decedent Characteristics, 2006		
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	48	64.9
Female	26	35.1
Weapon/Mechanism		
Blunt Instrument	2	2.7
Poisoning	24	32.4
Asphyxia	2	2.7
Fall	3	4.1
Other	4	5.4
Missing	39	52.7
Location Type		
Residence	44	59.5
Street/Highway	3	4.1
Motor Vehicle or parking lot	5	6.8
Jail or other supervised institution	4	4.5
Natural or public use area	13	17.6
Other	5	6.8
Veteran status*		
Yes	8	10.8
No	65	87.8
Missing	1	1.4

* Veteran status in New Mexico was determined from the death certificate in which the question reads "Was decedent ever in U.S. armed forces?" followed by yes and no checkboxes. This does not indicate that the person actually served in combat.

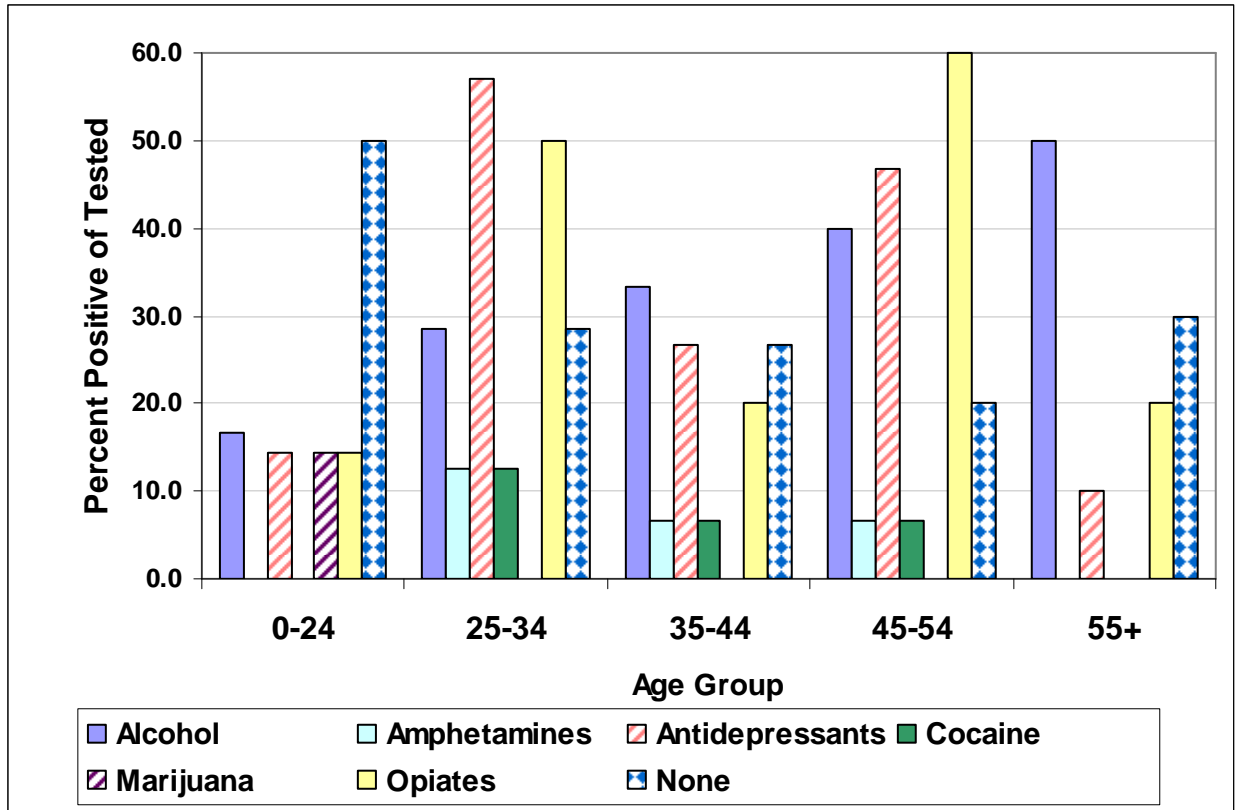


Note: Rate not presented for Native American females due to fewer than 5 observations for this category.

Weapon/Mechanism of Undetermined Intent Deaths



Percent of Undetermined Intent Decedents Tested that Tested Positive for Alcohol and Drugs by Age Group



Notes: All resident and non-resident deaths of undetermined intent. Categories are not mutually exclusive; a person may have tested positive for more than one substance. Percents are calculated based on the number with a positive test result out of all decedents tested for each substance. Due to few counts of decedents, some of the age groups were combined. The “none” category is calculated from all decedents tested for all substances and had negative results for every substance.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

For 57 (77.0%) of the 74 total undetermined intent decedents, at least one circumstance was known. An average of two circumstances was recorded for each decedent, with zero being the minimum and 10 the maximum number reported. One to three circumstances were reported for 55% of the decedents.

Number and Percent of Reported Undetermined Intent Circumstances by Sex			
Circumstance	Male (N, %)	Female (N, %)	Total (N, %)
Any circumstance known	35 (72.9)	22 (84.6)	57 (77.0)
Current depressed mood	5 (10.4)	3 (11.5)	8 (10.8)
Current mental health problem	11 (22.9)	10 (38.5)	21 (28.4)
Ever treated for mental illness	10 (20.8)	9 (34.6)	19 (25.7)
Alcohol problem	20 (41.7)	4 (15.4)	24 (32.4)
Other substance problem	12 (25.0)	5 (19.2)	17 (23.0)
Person left a suicide note	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	4 (8.3)	1 (3.9)	5 (6.8)
History of suicide attempts	2 (4.2)	2 (7.7)	4 (5.4)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	2 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.7)
Physical health problem	16 (33.3)	14 (53.9)	30 (40.5)
Intimate partner problem	8 (16.7)	4 (15.4)	12 (16.2)
Other relationship problem	1 (2.1)	1 (3.9)	2 (2.7)
Job problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
School problem	1 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.4)
Financial problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other death of friend or family	2 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.7)
Recent criminal legal problem	2 (4.2)	1 (3.9)	3 (4.1)
Other legal problems	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: Total 74 decedents, 48 males and 26 females			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Undetermined Intent Circumstances by Race/ Ethnicity			
Circumstance	White Non-Hispanic (N, %)	White Hispanic (N, %)	Native American (N, %)
Any circumstance known	25 (89.3)	24 (77.4)	8 (66.7)
Current depressed mood	5 (17.9)	3 (9.7)	0 (0.0)
Current mental health problem	10 (35.7)	10 (32.3)	1 (8.3)
Ever treated for mental illness	9 (32.1)	9 (29.0)	1 (8.3)
Alcohol problem	8 (28.6)	9 (29.0)	7 (58.3)
Other substance problem	6 (21.4)	10 (32.3)	1 (8.3)
Person left a suicide note	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	3 (10.7)	1 (3.2)	1 (8.3)
History of suicide attempts	3 (10.7)	1 (3.2)	0 (0.0)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	1 (3.6)	1 (3.2)	0 (0.0)
Physical health problem	16 (57.1)	10 (32.3)	4 (33.3)
Intimate partner problem	7 (25.0)	5 (16.1)	0 (0.0)
Other relationship problem	1 (3.6)	1 (3.2)	0 (0.0)
Job problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
School problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (8.3)
Financial problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other death of friend or family	1 (3.6)	1 (3.2)	0 (0.0)
Recent criminal legal problem	1 (3.6)	2 (6.5)	0 (0.0)
Other legal problems	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: 28 Non-Hispanic whites; 31 Hispanic whites; 8 Native Americans			

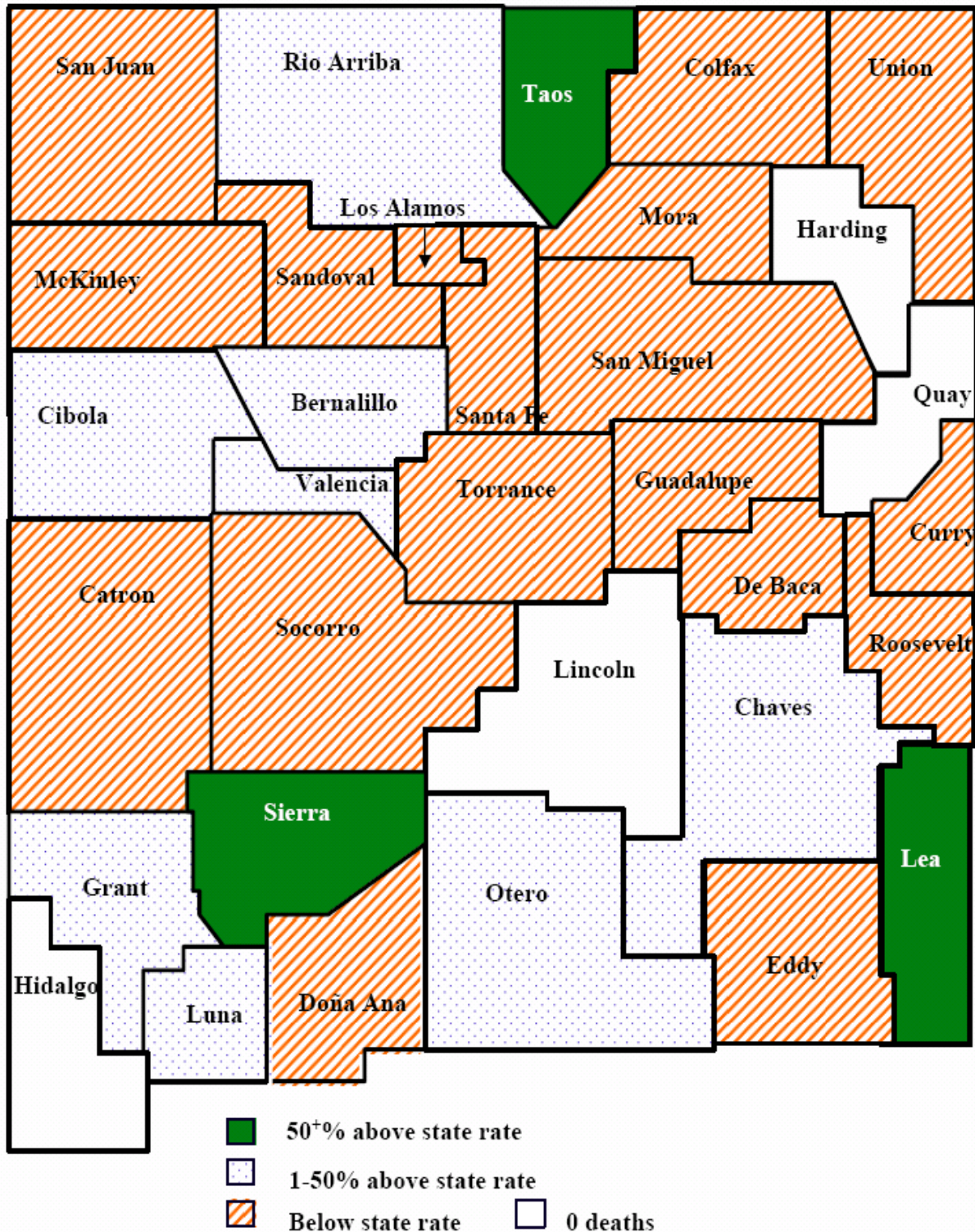
Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number and Percent of Reported Undetermined Intent Circumstances by Age Group					
Circumstance	0-24 (N, %)	25-34 (N, %)	35-44 (N, %)	45-54 (N, %)	55 ⁺ (N, %)
Any circumstance known	5 (71.4)	8 (72.7)	15 (83.3)	15 (79.0)	14 (82.4)
Current depressed mood	0 (0.0)	4 (36.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.5)	2 (11.8)
Current mental health problem	0 (0.0)	5 (45.5)	3 (16.7)	8 (42.1)	5 (29.4)
Ever treated for mental illness	0 (0.0)	4 (36.4)	3 (16.7)	7 (36.8)	5 (29.4)
Alcohol problem	1 (14.3)	4 (36.4)	8 (44.4)	6 (31.6)	5 (29.4)
Other substance problem	1 (14.3)	6 (54.6)	4 (22.2)	6 (31.6)	0 (0.0)
Person left a suicide note	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)	2 (10.5)	2 (11.8)
History of suicide attempts	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)	2 (10.5)	1 (5.9)
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (11.8)
Physical health problem	1 (14.3)	4 (36.4)	6 (33.3)	11 (57.9)	8 (47.1)
Intimate partner problem	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	4 (22.2)	4 (21.1)	3 (17.7)
Other relationship problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)	1 (5.3)	0 (0.0)
Job problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
School problem	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Financial problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other death of friend or family	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)	1 (5.3)	0 (0.0)
Recent criminal legal problem	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)	1 (5.3)	1 (5.9)
Other legal problems	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Note: Total numbers of decedents by age group: 0-24 N=7; 25-34 N=11; 35-44 N=18; 45-54 N=19; 55 ⁺ N=17					

Section V: Firearm-Related Deaths

A firearm-related death is a death resulting from a fatal injury caused by a firearm against oneself or another person.

Firearm-Related Death Rates by County Compared to State Rate



Summary of Firearm-Related Deaths

- A total of 289 deaths involving a firearm occurred in New Mexico in 2006; of these, 273 (94.5%) were New Mexico residents.
- The ratio of male to female firearm-related decedents (all decedents) was 7.8:1.
- The highest rates of firearm related deaths occurred in males (24.4 per 100,000), Non-Hispanic Whites (16.9 per 100,000), and persons aged 20-24 years (21.2 per 100,000).
- Bernalillo County had the highest proportion of firearm-related deaths (34.8%), yet the highest rate, but lowest proportion was seen in the Southeast region of the state (16.2 per 100,000 population). The lowest rate of firearm-related deaths (10.5 per 100,000 population) is found in the Northwest region of the state.
- Suicides accounted for the majority of firearm deaths (70.0%), followed by homicides (25.3%).
- Most deaths due to firearms (72.9%) occurred in or around a residence, such as a house, apartment or on the property of a residence, including a driveway, porch, yard, etc (68.8% of males and 81.8% of females). The second most common place of occurrence for firearm-related deaths was in a motor vehicle or parking lot for males (14.8%) and a street, road or highway for females (9.1%).
- When considering firearm death rates by race/ethnicity and sex, rates could not be computed for non-White females. Non-Hispanic white male rates were highest, followed by Black males. The firearm-related death rate for Non-Hispanic White females was higher than the rate for Hispanic White females.
- Except for the 0-14 and 15-19 year age groups, the most common intoxicant found in decedents of firearms was alcohol. In the two youngest age groups, marijuana was the most common intoxicant detected. The second most common intoxicant detected in those decedents tested, varied by age group.
- Of the 204 total suicide decedents that used a firearm, 193 (96.4%) had at least one circumstance reported, and 69% had between one and five circumstances reported. The most common circumstance identified was a current depressed mood (52.0%) followed by intimate partner problems (38.7%) and disclosing the intent to commit suicide (38.2%).
- For the 79 total firearm-related homicide and legal intervention deaths, between two and four circumstances were known for 69.6% of the decedents. An argument pertaining to something other than money, property or intimate partner violence was the most commonly reported circumstance (38.0%). The homicide was precipitated by another serious crime (felony) in 22.8% of these deaths. Victims were known to have used a weapon during the incident in 15.2% of firearm-related deaths.
- Unintentional firearm deaths are far less common than suicides and homicides. For the six that occurred in New Mexico in 2006, the most common circumstance surrounding these incidents was playing or “fooling around” with the firearm when it discharged (66.7%). Other circumstances reported included loading or unloading the firearm, showing the firearm to another person, dropping the firearm and thinking the firearm was unloaded.
- Firearm-related deaths of all types occurred most often on Wednesdays (18.3%), in the summer (28.4%), and between 6:01PM and 12:00AM (24.6%).

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Of the 588 deaths captured by NM-VDRS in 2006, 289 involved a firearm, and of these 273 (94.5%) of decedents were New Mexico residents. The state rate of firearm-related death was 13.6 firearm deaths (all types) per 100,000 population, which ranks in the highest 25% of all state firearm-related death rates.

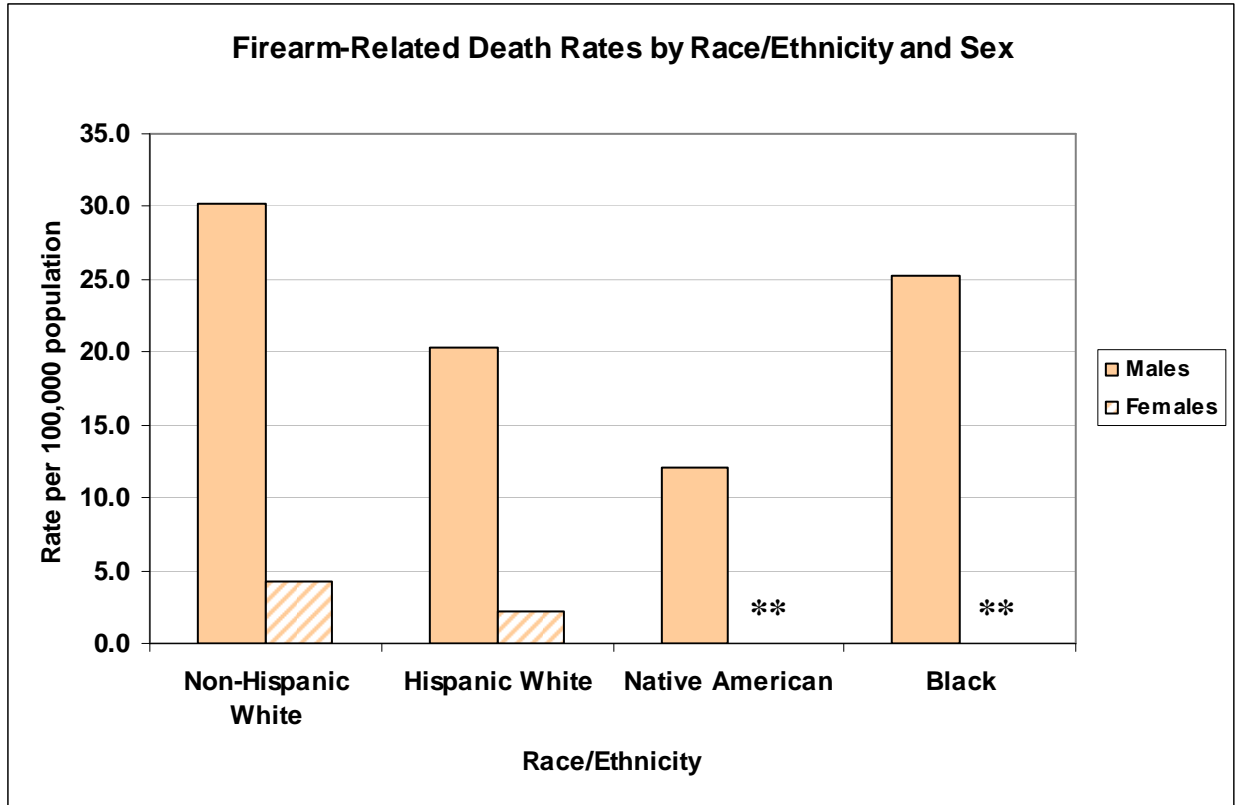
Number, Percent, and Rate of Firearm Related Deaths for New Mexico residents			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	241	88.3	24.4
Female	32	11.7	3.1
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	147	53.9	16.9
Hispanic	93	34.1	11.2
Native American	15	5.5	6.7
Black	8	2.9	14.9
Other/Unknown	10	3.7	---
Age Group			
0-14	4 [#]	1.5	---
15-19	28	10.3	18.2
20-24	33	12.1	21.2
25-34	40	14.7	16.1
35-44	47	17.2	17.6
45-54	49	18.0	16.5
55-64	27	9.9	11.8
65 ⁺	45	16.5	18.2
Education Level			
8 th grade or less	14	5.1	---
9 th to 12 th grade; no diploma	59	21.6	---
High school degree or GED completed	94	34.4	---
Some college credit; no degree	54	19.8	---
Associates degree	11	4.0	---
Bachelors degree	16	5.9	---
Doctorate or professional degree	16	5.8	---
Missing	9	3.3	---
Marital Status			
Married	92	33.7	---
Never Married	112	41.0	---
Widowed	12	4.4	---
Divorced	52	19.1	---
Single, not otherwise specified	3	1.1	---
Missing	2	0.7	---
[#] Rates not computed for categories with fewer than 5 counts			

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Number, Percent, and Rate of Firearm Related Deaths for New Mexico residents			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
New Mexico Health Region*			
Northwest	44	16.1	10.5
Northeast	44	16.1	14.5
Bernalillo County	95	34.8	15.1
Southeast	41	15.0	16.2
Southwest	48	17.6	11.8
Missing	1	0.4	---
Violent Death Type			
Suicide	191	70.0	11.0
Homicide	69	25.3	3.43
Unintentional Firearm	5	1.8	0.2
Legal Intervention	7	2.6	0.3
Undetermined Intent	1 [#]	0.4	---
[#] Rates not computed for categories with fewer than 5 counts			
*A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.			

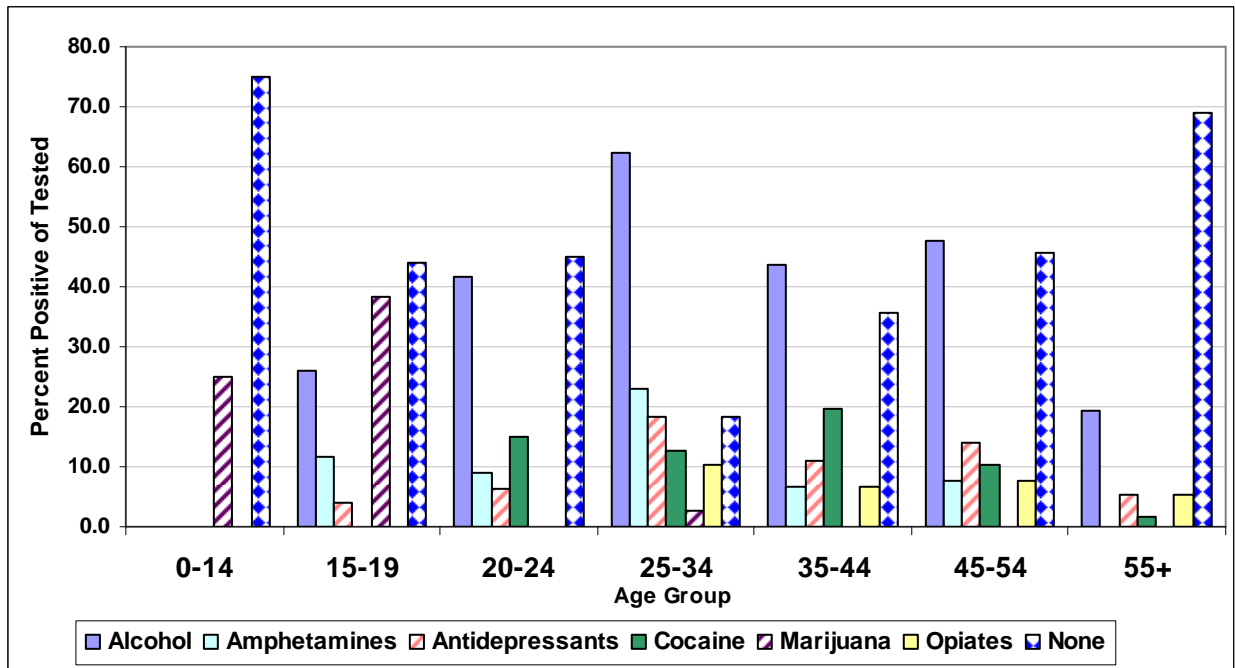
Number and Percent for All Firearm-Related Decedent Characteristics, 2006		
	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	256	88.6
Female	33	11.4
Violent Death Type		
Suicide	202	69.9
Homicide	72	24.9
Unintentional Firearm	6	2.1
Legal Intervention	7	2.4
Undetermined Intent	2	0.7
Location Type		
Residence	199	72.9
Street/Highway	19	7.0
Motor Vehicle or parking lot	33	12.1
Natural or public use area	14	5.1
Other	8	2.9

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006



Note: Rates not presented for Native American and Black females due to fewer than 5 observations for each of these categories.

Percent of Firearm-Related Death Decedents Tested that Tested Positive for Alcohol and Drugs by Age Group



Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Of the 289 involving a firearm, 204 of these deaths were classified as suicide or undetermined intent and 69% of these types of deaths had between one and five circumstances reported. The most circumstances reported for a single decedent was 12.

Number and Percent of Reported Circumstances for Firearm-Related Suicides and Deaths of Undetermined Intent		
Circumstance	Number	Percent
Any circumstance known	193	94.6
Current depressed mood	106	52.0
Current mental health problem	62	30.4
Ever treated for mental illness	55	27.0
Alcohol problem	49	24.0
Other substance problem	37	18.1
Person left a suicide note	53	26.0
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	78	38.2
History of suicide attempts	36	17.7
Crisis in the past 2 weeks	44	21.6
Physical health problem	70	34.3
Intimate partner problem	79	38.7
Other relationship problem	19	9.3
Job problem	25	12.3
School problem	1	0.5
Financial problem	22	10.8
Suicide of friend of family in past 5 years	8	3.9
Other death of friend or family	25	12.3
Recent criminal legal problem	19	9.3
Other legal problems	8	3.9
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in the past month	21	10.3
Victim of interpersonal violence in the past month	0	0.0

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

In 2006, 79 firearm related homicides and legal intervention deaths occurred. No circumstances about the event were known for 11 (13.9%) of these. For those events where circumstances were known, 69.6% reported between two and four circumstances .

Number and Percent of Reported Circumstances of Firearm-Related Homicide and Legal Intervention Deaths		
Circumstance	Number	Percent
Any circumstance known	68	86.1
Precipitated by another crime	18	22.8
First other crime in progress	11	13.9
Argument over money or property	6	7.6
Jealousy (lovers' triangle)	1	1.3
Intimate partner violence related	10	12.7
Other argument, abuse, conflict	30	38.0
Drug involvement	9	11.4
Gang related	8	10.1
Hate crime	0	0.0
Brawl	3	3.8
Victim was a bystander	6	7.6
Victim was a police officer on duty	1	1.3
Justifiable self defense/ law enforcement	11	13.9
Victim used a weapon	12	15.2
Victim was intervener assisting crime victim	1	1.3
Mercy killing	1	1.3

For all six unintentional firearms deaths, circumstances are known. Only those circumstances reported are shown. The number of circumstances that can be reported is not limited and categories are not mutually exclusive. The full list of the circumstances collected for unintentional firearm deaths is available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/Fullmanual.pdf>.

Number and Percent of Reported Circumstances for the 6 Unintentional Firearm Deaths		
Circumstance	Number	Percent
Loading or unloading a firearm	1	16.7
Showing a firearm to others	1	16.7
Playing or "fooling around" with a firearm	4	66.7
Other context of injury	2	33.3
Thought firearm was unloaded: magazine disengaged	1	16.7
Thought firearm was unloaded: reason unknown	2	33.3
Firearm discharged when dropped	1	16.7

Section VI: Child Violent Death

A child's death is a heart-breaking tragedy, for both the family and the community. A review of the circumstances of a child's death by a panel of experts, including pediatricians, pathologists, psychiatrists, and epidemiologists, allows valuable public health lessons to be learned, in order to prevent future tragedies. The New Mexico Child Fatality Review (NMCFR) has been reviewing cases and collecting relevant data on child (0-18 years) fatalities since 1998. Four separate panels review the deaths of children occurring in the state of New Mexico to better understand possible prevention measures. The four active NMCFR panels include Suicide, Child Abuse and Neglect, Transportation Deaths, and Broader Spectrum and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Deaths. Each panel is chaired by an expert in the field, and the monthly meetings are attended by researchers, doctors, juvenile justice experts, school health administrators, and a wide variety of interested participants. Cases are identified by a review of annual data from the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI), and additional information is collected as needed from schools, hospitals, and mental health facilities. Individual cases are reviewed and discussed with the perspective of prevention and possible changes to public health policy. Selected data are entered into a national electronic database, where they are merged with other state-level data in order to track national trends and monitor the impact of policy changes.

In New Mexico, CFR data will be added to the NM-VDRS when the CFR Coordinator and staff have been able to enter all data into the electronic database, an ongoing process started with the 2005 CFR cases. The CFR data abstraction form contains all elements required by the NVDRS software. However, the CFR-specific module in the NVDRS database is not required to be populated. The specific manner of linking CFR data to OMI and NVDRS has yet to be determined, and is being studied by a data linkage expert at the New Mexico Department of Health. The CFR Coordinator is working with the OMI and NM-VDRS epidemiologists to determine how CFR-specific data can best be abstracted from the CFR database and linked to the NM-VDRS system. The table presented below is based on data from the NM-VDRS database, limited to decedents aged 0-18 years. Although the broader spectrum panel, which includes overdoses, unintentional firearm deaths, accidents, undetermined intent deaths and some natural cases (e.g. SIDS), reviews cases of persons aged to 24 years, for consistency, only violent deaths occurring in persons 0-18 years that are classified as violent are included in the table below. This excludes a total of four persons from broader spectrum.

In 2006 there were a total of 195 deaths reviewed by the CFR from all causes for persons aged 0-18 (and 0-24 for broader spectrum) in New Mexico. Of these, 59 were classified as violent deaths by the NVDRS. Out of the 59 violent child and youth deaths in New Mexico, 50 (84.7%) were New Mexico residents aged 0-18 years.

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Characteristics and demographics of New Mexico resident decedents 0-18 years			
	Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000
Sex			
Male	34	68.0	12.5
Female	16	32.0	6.1
Race/Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	11	22.0	6.5
Hispanic White	24	48.0	9.2
Native American	14	28.0	17.6
Other/Unknown	1	2.0	---
Age Group			
<1	7	14.0	24.0
1-9	3 [#]	6.0	---
10-14	5	10.0	3.6
15-18	35	70.0	28.1
New Mexico Health Region*			
Northwest	19	38.0	15.2
Northeast	4 [#]	8.0	---
Bernalillo County	19	38.0	12.0
Southeast	3 [#]	6.0	---
Southwest	5	10.0	4.6
Violent Death Type			
Suicide	24	48.0	9.1
Homicide	15	30.0	2.8
Unintentional Firearm	4 [#]	8.0	---
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	---
Undetermined Intent	7	14.0	1.3
Mechanism of Fatal Injury			
Firearm	71	52.6	---
Sharp Instrument	5	3.7	---
Poisoning	11	8.2	---
Asphyxia	26	19.3	---
Personal weapons or blunt instrument	6	4.4	---
Fall	3	2.2	---
Motor Vehicle	3	2.2	---
Other	3	2.2	---
Missing	7	5.2	---
Location			
Residence	35	70.0	---
Street/Highway, motor vehicle or parking lot	8	16.0	---
Natural or public use area	4	8.0	---
Other	3	6.0	---
[#] Rates not computed for categories with fewer than 5 counts			
* A map of counties in each health region is on the back cover.			

Glossary

The following definitions refer to terms identified in this report and are adapted from the NVDRS coding manual. The complete NVDRS coding manual is accessible on line at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/nvdrs-coding/default.htm

Acquaintance: Someone with or about whom the victim had prior interaction or knowledge.

Alcohol problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim is perceived by self or others as having a problem with or being addicted to alcohol. A victim who is participating in an alcohol rehabilitation program or treatment, including self-help groups and 12-step programs, and has been clean and sober for less than five years is also considered as having this circumstance.

Argument/Abuse: An interpersonal conflict, such as an insult, grudge, or personal revenge, including conflicts over money or property, child abuse, elder abuse or abuse by a caretaker. This homicide circumstance does not include intimate partner violence or jealousy.

Asphyxia: A lack of oxygen or excess of carbon dioxide in the body that results in unconsciousness or death, usually caused by interruption of breathing or inadequate oxygen supply such as seen in hanging, strangulation, and suffocation.

Blunt instrument: Clubs, bats, boards, or other objects that can be used to inflict an injury.

Brawl: A homicide circumstance in which persons were involved in a mutual physical fight, which may or may not escalate to involve the use of weapons.

Circumstances known: Indicates that information about the events or predisposing factors associated with the incident was available from either medical examiner records or law enforcement reports.

Crime: A homicide circumstance in which the incident occurred as the result of another serious offense such as drug trafficking, robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, and witness intimidation/elimination. A serious offense is one that carries a sentence of one or more years in prison.

Criminal legal problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was facing a recent or impending arrest, police pursuit, or an impending criminal court date, and the consequence was relevant to the suicide event.

Crisis: A suicide circumstance in which an acute precipitating event appears to have contributed to the suicide (e.g., the victim was just arrested; divorce papers were served that day; the victim was about to be laid off; the person had a major argument with a spouse the night before).

Depressed mood: A suicide circumstance in which the person was noted by others to be sad, despondent, down, blue, unhappy, etc. This circumstance can apply whether or not the person has a diagnosed mental health problem.

Drug involvement: A homicide circumstance in which drug dealing, illegally trafficking a controlled substance, or illegal drug use is suspected to have played a role.

Drug problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim is perceived by self or others as having a problem with or being addicted to medications or other drugs, whether prescribed or illegally obtained. See Substance Abuse.

Financial problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was experiencing monetary issues such as bankruptcy, overwhelming debts, a gambling problem, or foreclosure of a home or business.

Firearm: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive (e.g., gun powder).

Gang-related: A homicide circumstance in which the victim or suspect is a member of an association or organization that has the commission of crime as one of its reasons for existence, and the homicide resulted from gang rivalry or gang activity.

Gun: A broader category than firearms, that includes any weapon that shoots something under pressure (not necessarily via an explosive as used in a firearm). Includes firearms, BB guns, air guns, etc.

Homicide: A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.

ICD-10: The International Classification of Diseases- 10th revision is maintained by the World Health Organization and the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. It is used to classify the external cause of death on death certificates.

Incident: All victims and suspects associated with a given incident are in one record. A violent death incident can be made up of any of the following: a) One isolated violent death; b) Two or more homicides, including legal interventions, when the deaths involve at least one person who is a suspect or victim in the first death and a suspect or victim in the second death; c) Two or more suicides or undetermined manner deaths, when there is some evidence that the second or subsequent death was planned to coincide with or follow the preceding death; d) One or more homicides or unintentional firearm deaths combined with one or more suicides, when the suspect in the first death is the person who commits suicide; and e) Two or more unintentional firearm deaths when the same firearm inflicts two or more fatal injuries and the fatal injuries are inflicted by one shot or burst of shots. For categories (b), (c) and (d), the fatal injuries must occur within 24 hours of each other.

Intent to commit suicide: The victim had previously expressed suicidal feelings to another person, whether explicitly (e.g., "I'm considering killing myself") or indirectly (e.g., "I know how to put a permanent end to this pain").

Intimate partner: A current or former girlfriend, boyfriend, date or spouse. The definition of intimate partner includes first dates.

Intimate partner problem/violence: A suicide or homicide circumstance in which the victim was experiencing problems with a current or former intimate partner, such as a divorce, break-up, argument, jealousy, conflict, or discord.

Jealousy: A homicide circumstance in which the incident involved sexual rivals.

Job problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was either experiencing a problem at work (such as tension with a co-worker, poor performance reviews, increased pressure, feared layoff) or was having a problem with joblessness (e.g., recently laid off, having difficulty finding a job).

Justifiable self-defense: A homicide circumstance in which a civilian (someone who is not a law enforcement officer) acts to protect him/herself by killing another who by violence or surprise is at-

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

tempting to commit a forcible felony. Essential elements are the civilian does not provoke difficulty and there must be impending peril without a convenient or reasonable mode of escape.

Legal intervention death: A death in which the decedent was killed by a police officer or other peace officer (persons with specified legal authority to use deadly force), including military police, acting in the line of duty.

Mental health problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was identified as having a mental health illness, such as depression, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc. The mental health problem must have been diagnosed by someone who is professionally trained.

Mental health treatment: A suicide circumstance in which the victim had a current prescription for a psychiatric medication or saw a mental health professional within the two months prior to death. Treatment includes seeing a psychiatrist, psychologist, medical doctor, therapist or other counselor for a mental health or substance abuse problem; receiving a prescription for an antidepressant or other psychiatric medication; or residing in an inpatient or halfway house facility for mental health problems.

Occurrent death: Those deaths in which the decedent was injured in the reporting state, whether or not the decedent was a resident of the reporting state.

Other relationship problem: A suicide circumstance in which the person was experiencing problems or conflict with a family member, friend or associate (other than an intimate partner) that appeared to have contributed to the suicide.

Personal weapon: Injury inflicted on another person using fists, feet, hands, or other body parts.

Physical health problem: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was experiencing terminal disease, debilitating condition, or chronic pain, that was relevant to the suicide event.

Poisoning: A state of illness caused by the presence of any harmful or toxic substance that has been ingested, inhaled, applied to the skin or resulted from any other form of contact; includes drug overdoses.

Resident: The decedent was an official inhabitant of the state (or territory) including those portions of a Native American reservation within the state at the time of injury, according to the death certificate.

Sharp instruments: Objects that can be used to inflict a penetrating injury, such as knives, razors, machetes or pointed instruments such as a chisel or broken glass.

Stranger: Someone with whom the victim has had no prior interaction before the event that culminated in the violent injury.

Substance abuse: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was noted as using illegal drugs (such as heroin or cocaine), abusing prescription medications (such as pain relievers or Valium), or regularly using inhalants (e.g., sniffing gas) even if the addiction or abuse is not specifically mentioned. The exception to this is marijuana use. For marijuana, the use must be noted as chronic, abusive, or problematic (e.g., "victim smoked marijuana regularly," "victim's family indicated he had been stoned much of the past months").

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Suicide: A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional.

Suicide attempt history: A suicide circumstance in which the victim was known to have previously tried to end his/her own life, regardless of the severity of the injury inflicted.

Suicide note: A suicide circumstance in which the victim left a message, e-mail, video, or other communication that he or she intended to end his/her own life. A will or folder of financial papers near the victim does not constitute a suicide note.

Suspect: Person or persons suspected of having killed another person in an incident, whether intentionally (any method/weapon) or unintentionally (firearm only) or assisted in the homicide.

Undetermined death: A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death.

Unintentional firearm death: A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile when there was a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentionally directed at the victim.

Victim: Person or persons who died in a suicide, violence-related homicide, legal intervention, as the result of a firearm injury, or from an undetermined manner.

Weapon/Method/Mechanism: The primary instrument used by a victim or suspect that contributed to someone's death.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and agencies for their support and participation in the NM-VDRS project:

Deputy Medical Investigators:

Tycee Abeita	Keith Henderson	Rebekah Tafoya
Melissa Arzaga	Johannes Heynekamp	Carol Tapia
Keith Bailey	Kathryn Howard	Michelle Taylor
Michael Barragree	Nancy Huff	Darwin Vandenberg
Valerie Bell	Tricia Hutson	Gail Varner
Lisa Benavidez	Phillip Jackson	Sullie Varner
Karl Bennett	James Juliano	Denise Verdugo
Sharon Berry	Jack Lasher	David A. Vermilion
Lany Berger	Geraldine Lawson	Gloria Vigil
Janice Blevins	Tori Lente	Jack Warner
Cheryl Bunker	Melissa Linton	Dan Wasko
Jesse Carey	Patricia Lopez	Dana Weaver
Gloria Casale	Jessica Machuca	Rick Wiedenmann
John Catlett	Robin Mains	Jim Williams
Susan Catlett	Sena Malett	Lauramea Williams
Juan Chavez	Richard Malone	Amy Woods
Mary Lou Chernik	Brenda Martinez-Sanchez	Amy Wyman
Terry Coker	April Karen McClellan	Deborah Zuniga
Howard Cothem	James McCollum	Richard Zuniga
Jennifer Davies	Joyce D. Meserye	
Phil Dees	Paul Montano	
Eliud DeLeon	David Mottle	
Amanda Derizotis-Slaugh	Rhonda Moya	
Therresa Desen	Larry Muro	
Roger Dial	Joel Brad Nance	
Kim DiLeo	Matthew Propp	
Theresa Diaz	Leonard Romero	
David Dryden	Fred L. Rossiter	
Billy Emanuel	Annette Sandlin	
Lloyd Ellis	Kathy Sando	
Ian Fletcher	Margaret Schumaker	
Melanie Fordham	Don Scott	
Robert Gallegos	Billy Selders	
Sharon Gerena	Ty Sharpe	
Ray E. Goetz	Carole Shirreffs	
Carlos Gonzales	Cris Silva	
Elizabeth Gonzales	JoaQuin G. Silva	
Wayne Granger	Danny Sisson	
Michell Gray	Pam Smith	
Chris Griego	Amy Smythe	
Marie Gutierrez	Joleene Starr	
George Hanna	Tanya Steele	
Connie Harris	Tamara Stephenson	
Michael D. Haas	Candis Stoddard	
Mark Hawkinson	Paul G. Stone	
Robert Hays	Sandra Swartz	

Law Enforcement Agencies:

Alamogordo Department of Public Safety
Albuquerque Police Department
Ameritox Ltd.
Artesia Police Department
Aztec Police Department
Bayard Police Department
Belen Police Department
Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office
Bloomfield Police Department
Bosque Farms Police Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque
Capitan Police Department
Carlsbad Police Department
Catron County Sheriff's Office
Chaves County Sheriff's Office
Cibola County Sheriff's Office
Clayton Police Department
Clovis Police Department
Colfax County Sheriff's Department
Corrales Police Department
Crownpoint Police Department
Curry County Sheriff's Office
Deming Police Department
Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office
Eddy County Sheriff's Office
Española Police Department
Estancia Police Department
Eunice Police Department
Farmington Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Fort Sumner Police Department
Gallup Police Department
Grant County Sheriff's Office
Grants Police Department
Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office
Hagerman Police Department
Hatch Police Department
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
Hobbs Police Department
HQ/Air Force Office of Special
Investigations, Waldorf, MD
Isleta Tribal Police Department
Lake Arthur Police Department

Las Cruces Police Department
Las Vegas Police Department
Lea County Sheriff's Office
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
Lordsburg Police Department
Los Alamos County Sheriff's Office
Los Alamos Police Department
Los Lunas Police Department
Lovington Police Department
Luna County Sheriff's Office
McKinley County Sheriff's Office
Mesilla Marshall's Office
Mescalero Police Department
New Mexico State Police
 Albuquerque
 Alamogordo
 Artesia
 Belen
 Carlsbad
 Chama
 Clovis
 Cuba
 Deming
 Edgewood
 Española
 Farmington
 Gallup
 Grants
 Hobbs
 Las Cruces
 Las Vegas
 Lordsburg
 Los Lunas
 Moriarty
 Quemado
 Raton
 Rio Arriba
 Roswell
 Ruidoso
 Santa Fe- Law Enforcement Records
 Bureau
 Santa Rosa
 Silver City
 Socorro

Violent Death in New Mexico, 2006

Truth or Consequences	Santa Fe City Police
Taos	Santa Rosa Police Department
Tucumcari	Scientific Laboratory Division - UNM
Navajo Police Department	Sierra County Sheriff's Office
Crownpoint	Silver City Police Department
Otero County Sheriff's Office	Socorro County Sheriff's Office
Portales Police Department	Socorro Police Department
Quay County Sheriff's Office	Sunland Park Police Department
Questa Police Department	Truth or Consequences Police Department
Raton Police Department	Taos County Sheriff's Office
Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Office	Taos Police Department
Rio Rancho Department of Public Safety	Texico Police Department
Roosevelt County Sheriff's Office	Torrance County Sheriff's Office
Roswell Police Department	TriCore Reference Laboratories
Ruidoso Downs Police Department	Tucumcari Police Department
Ruidoso Police Department	Tularosa Police Department
San Juan County Sheriff's Office	UNM Main Campus Police Department
San Miguel County Sheriff's Office	U.S. Marshall's Office- Albuquerque
Sandoval County Sheriff's Office	Valencia County Sheriff's Office
Santa Clara Police Department	Zuni Police Department
Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office	

New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System Advisory Board:

Michelle Barry, Office of the Medical Investigator
Pam Brown, New Mexico Corrections Department
Susan Casias, Suicide Prevention Coalition
Elena Giacci, Sacred Circle
Marti Madrid, New Mexico Department of Health Division of Health Improvement
David C. Martinez, New Mexico State Police
Vicki Nakagawa, New Mexico Department of Health Office of Injury Prevention
Mary Overpeck, National Center for Child Death Review
J. Grace Park, Department of Emergency Medicine
Ross Reichard, Office of the Medical Investigator
Francine Romero, Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center
Robert Shilling, New Mexico State Police
Coleen Widell, Help End Abuse for Life

Special thank you to Bonnie Taylor, Ph.D., our previous DOH Violence Epidemiologist who is currently with Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

NEW MEXICO HEALTH REGIONS

