



Georgia Department of Public Health

2008-2012 Violent Deaths in Georgia

Presentation to: GA-VDRS Advisory Committee

Presented by: Michael Bryan

Date: January 20, 2016



We Protect Lives.

Overview

1. Violent Deaths Overall
2. Review of Homicide Results
3. Review of Suicide Results

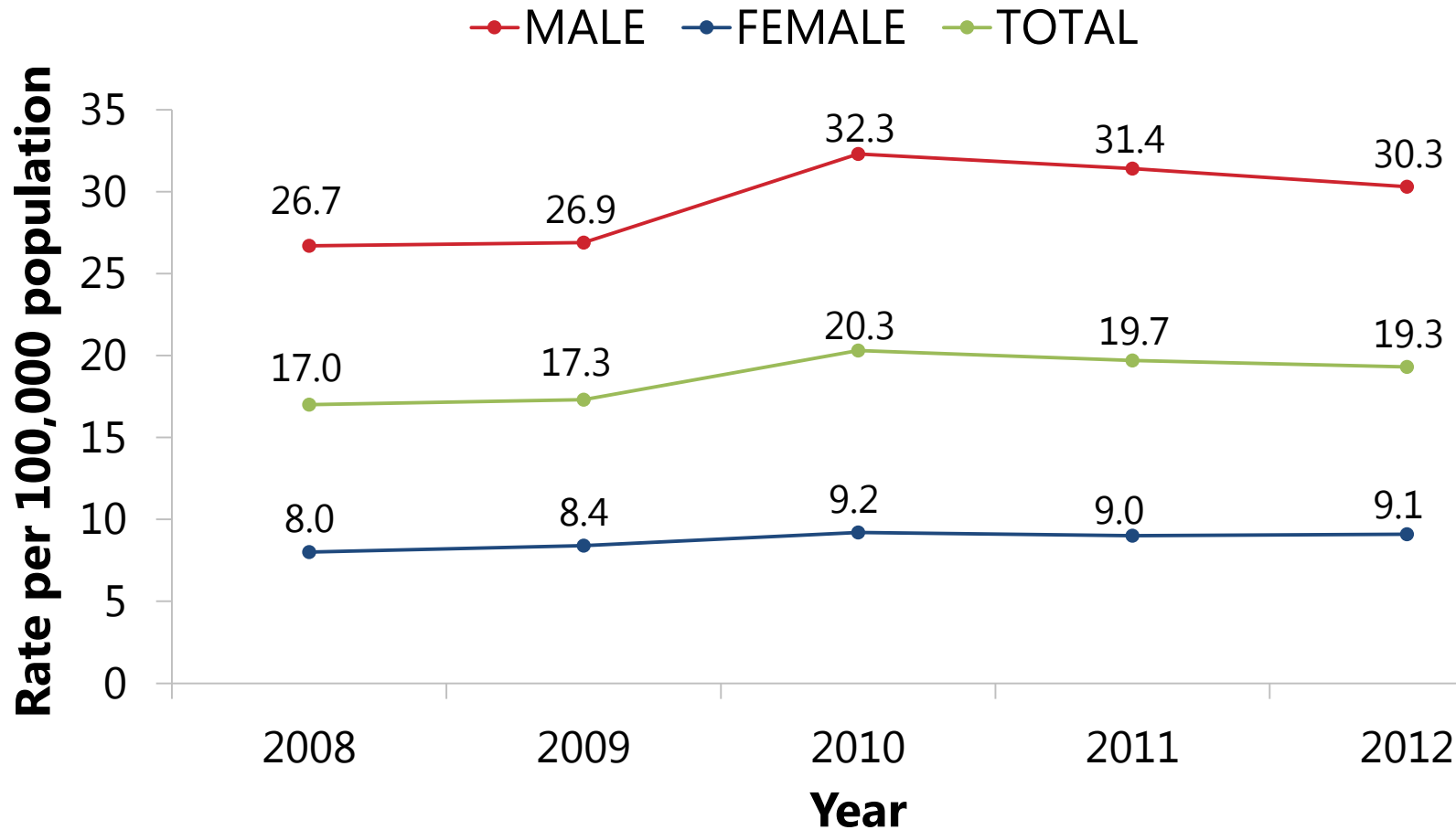
Violent Deaths by Manner of Death

Manner of Death	Number	%	Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Suicide	5,340	56.0	10.6
Homicide	3,231	34.0	6.2
Undetermined	836	8.8	1.6
Unintentional Firearm	73	0.8	*
Legal Intervention	69	0.7	*
Total	9,549	100.0	18.7

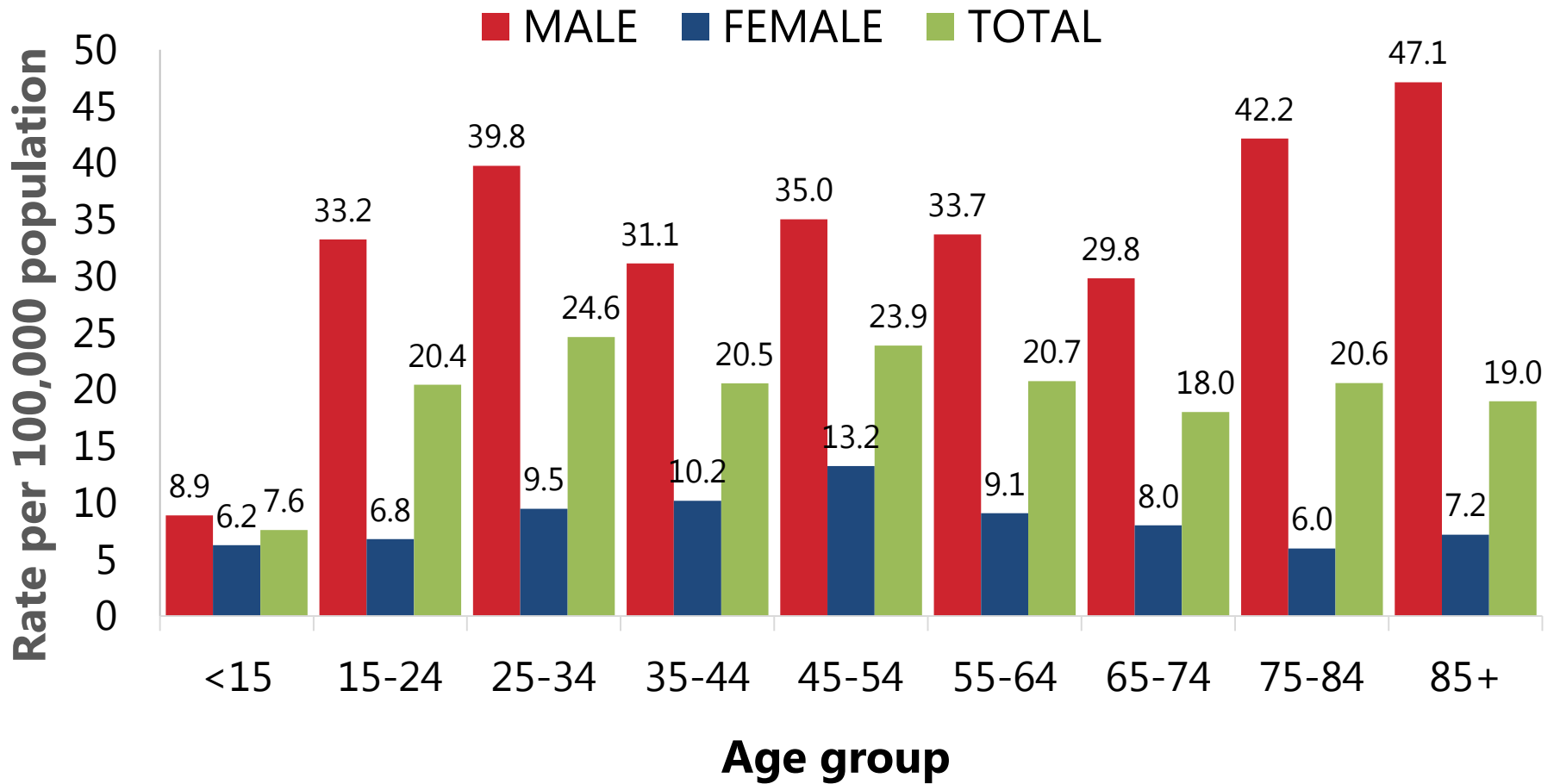
*Age-adjusted mortality rate was less than 1 per 100,000 population

- Georgia's total age-adjusted violent death rate was lower than the rate across all VDRS sites (19.6) for this same period

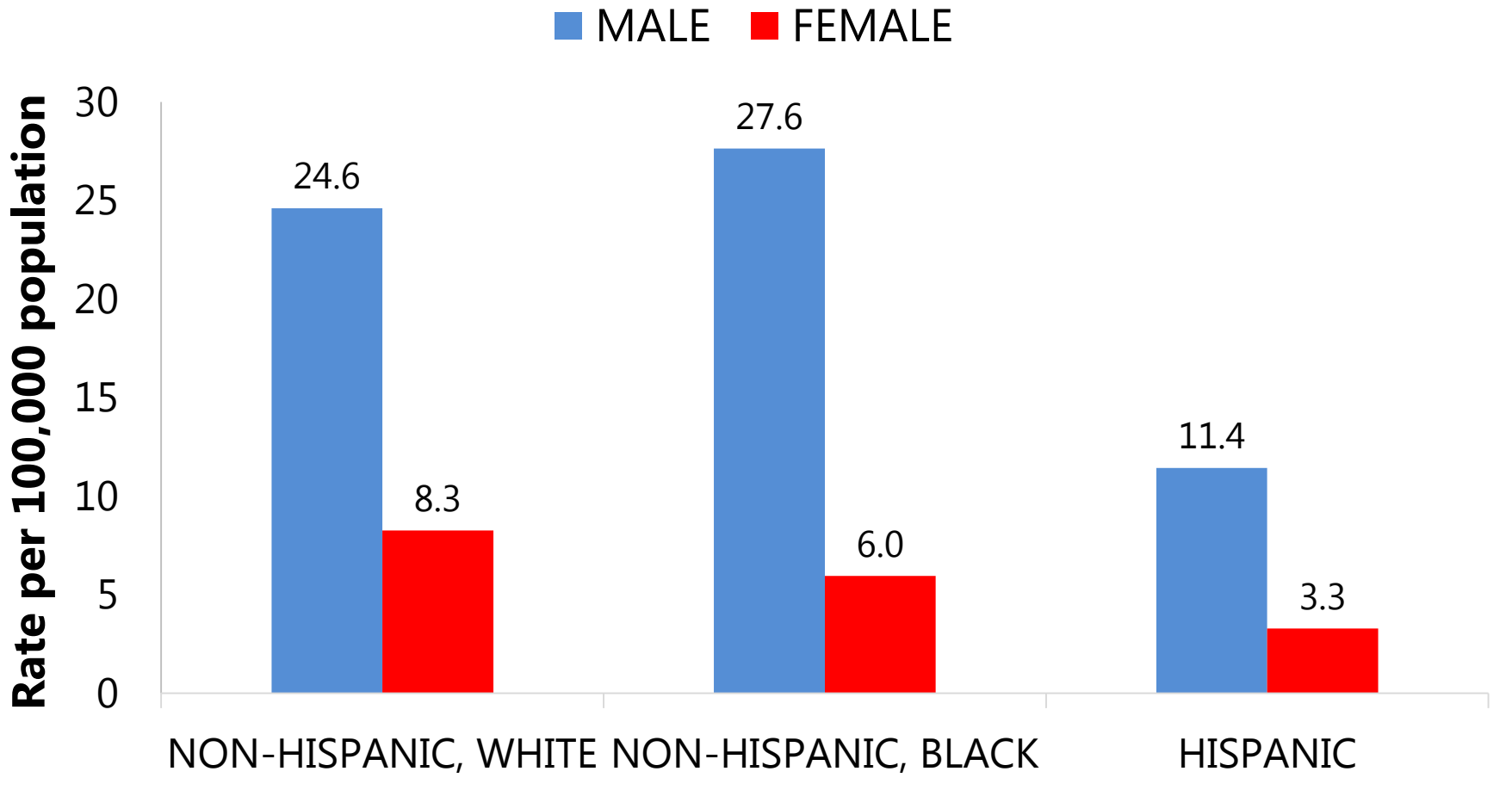
Age-Adjusted Violent Death Rates by Year and Sex



Age-Specific Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Sex



Age-Adjusted Violent Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



Number and Percent of Violent Deaths by Known Place of Injury

Place of Injury	Number	%
House, apartment, rooming house, including driveway, porch, yard, or garage	6,416	74.7
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	431	5.0
Motor vehicle	319	3.7
Natural area	247	2.9
Parking lot/public parking garage	220	2.6
Hotel/motel	211	2.5
*Other	621	7.2
Jail, prison, detention facility	126	1.5
Total	8,591	100.0

*Includes: abandoned location, medical facility, railroad tracks, supervised residential facility, synagogue/church/temple, industrial/construction areas, office building, education institution, residential school, sports/athletic area, childcare center, bank/ATM location, liquor store, public transportation or station, bar/nightclub, other commercial establishment, parking lot, farm, service station, park/playground/public use area, highway/freeway, and bridge.

- Place of Injury was known for 90% of violent deaths

Top Ten Cities of Injury

**Table 1c. Number of Violent Deaths by
Known City of Injury, Georgia, 2008-2012**

City	Number	%
Atlanta	1,044	10.9
Savannah	284	3.0
Marietta	244	2.6
Macon	216	2.3
Decatur	200	2.1
Lawrenceville	200	2.1
Augusta-Richmond	175	1.8
Columbus	152	1.6
College Park	109	1.1
Stone Mountain	104	1.1

Violent Deaths by Resident/Occurrent Status

Table 1d. Violent Deaths by Type, Georgia, 2008-2012

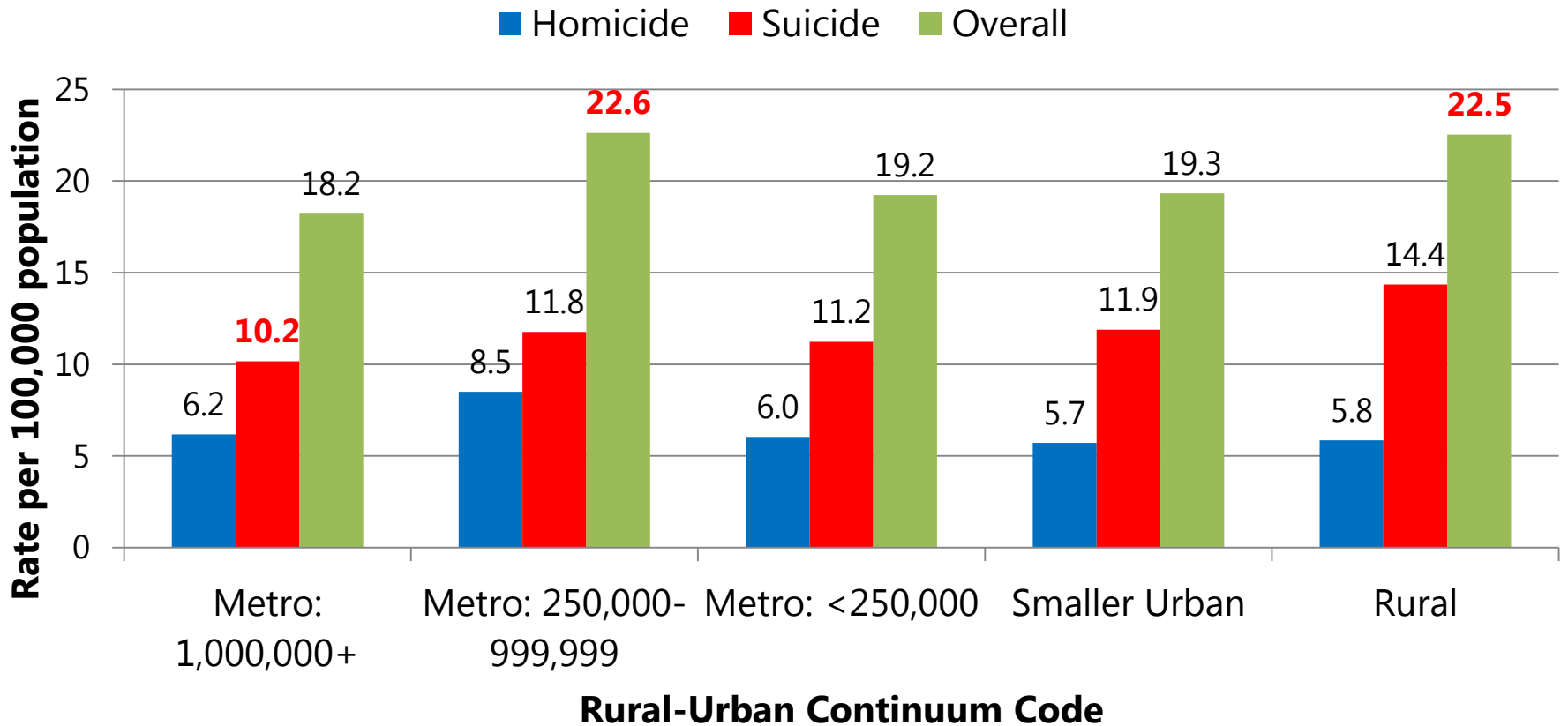
Type of Case	Number	%	Rate per 100,000
Georgia Resident	9,150	95.8	18.7
Occurrent	363	3.8	§
Unknown State of Residency	36	0.4	--
Total	9,549	100.0	18.7

§Age-adjusted violent death rate cannot be calculated for occurrent cases.

^See Appendix B for resident and occurrent cases by County.

--Age-adjusted violent death rate could not be calculated..

Age-Adjusted Violent Death Rate by Rural-Urban Continuum Code



Violent Deaths by Public Health District of Injury and Manner of Death

Public Health District of Injury	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Accidental Firearm	Legal Intervention
Fulton	496	673	113	8	14
DeKalb	289	418	66	**	**
East Metro (Lawrenceville)	481	204	63	**	7
Coastal (Brunswick)	373	247	38	7	**
LaGrange	416	166	74	6	**
Cobb-Douglas	405	125	71	**	6
Northwest (Rome)	405	90	60	**	7
East Central (Augusta)	271	233	44	7	**
North Central (Macon)	304	196	44	9	**
North (Gainesville)	346	79	37	**	**
Northeast (Athens)	309	83	34	**	**
West Central (Columbus)	213	158	40	**	**
Southwest (Albany)	201	120	19	**	**
Southeast (Waycross)	207	106	22	**	**
North Georgia (Dalton)	219	41	30	**	**
Clayton (Morrow)	92	129	25	**	**
South (Valdosta)	140	85	18	**	**
South Central (Dublin)	82	45	8	**	**
Unknown/ Missing	5	39	30	**	**

**The number of deaths was 5 or fewer and has been suppressed to retain confidentiality.

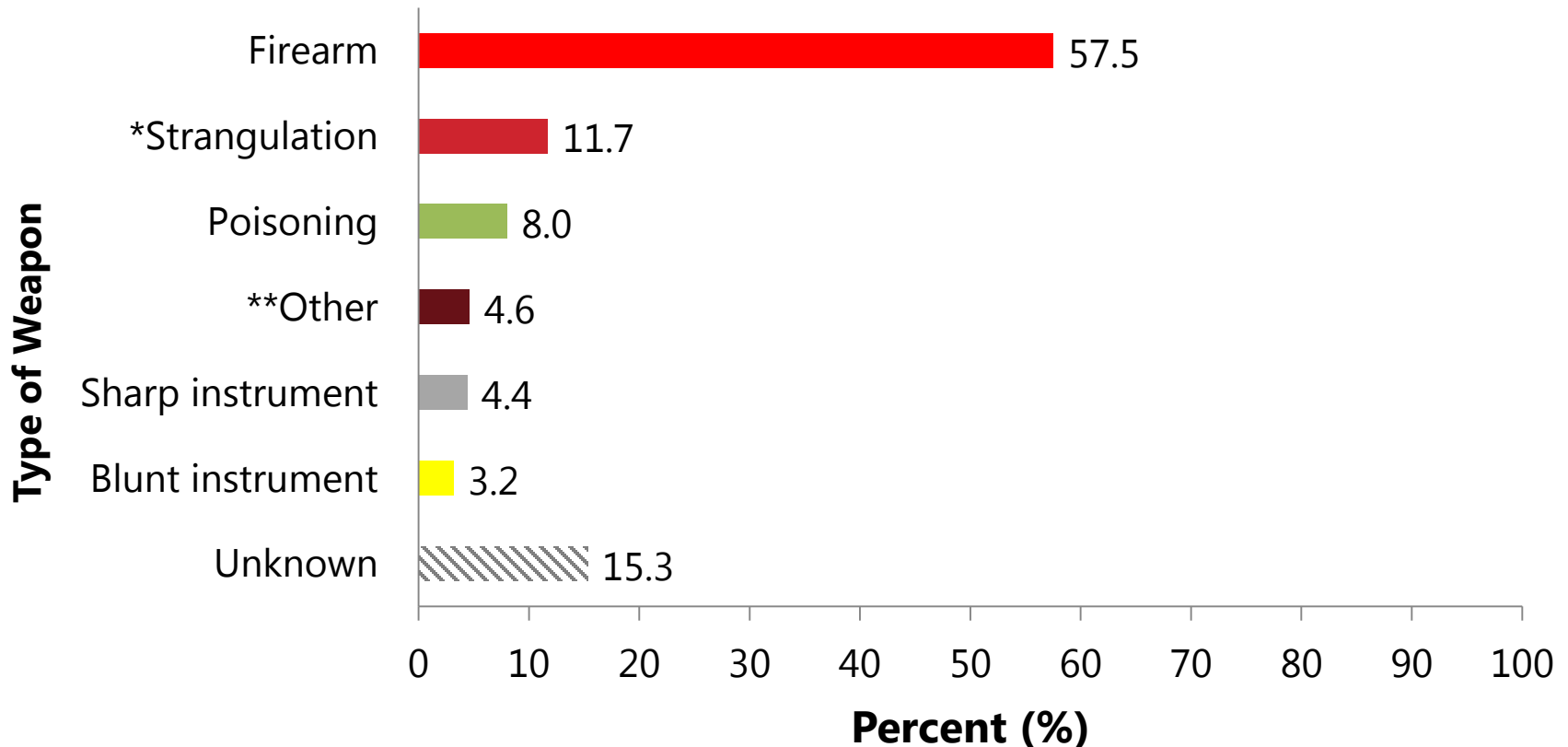
- Suicides were most frequent in Fulton and East Metro districts.
- Homicides were most frequent in Fulton and DeKalb districts.

Violent Deaths by Judicial District of Injury and Manner of Death

Judicial District of Injury	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Accidental Firearm	Legal Intervention
District 01	562	342	58	11	7
District 02	328	217	35	6	**
District 03	406	290	68	10	**
District 04	322	443	72	**	**
District 05	496	673	113	8	14
District 06	527	303	103	6	8
District 07	872	235	144	6	14
District 08	254	135	28	6	**
District 09	851	251	100	8	11
District 10	631	309	85	7	**
Unknown/ Missing	91	33	30	**	**

**The number of deaths was 5 or fewer and has been suppressed to retain confidentiality.

Percent of Violent Deaths by Type of Weapon[#] Used



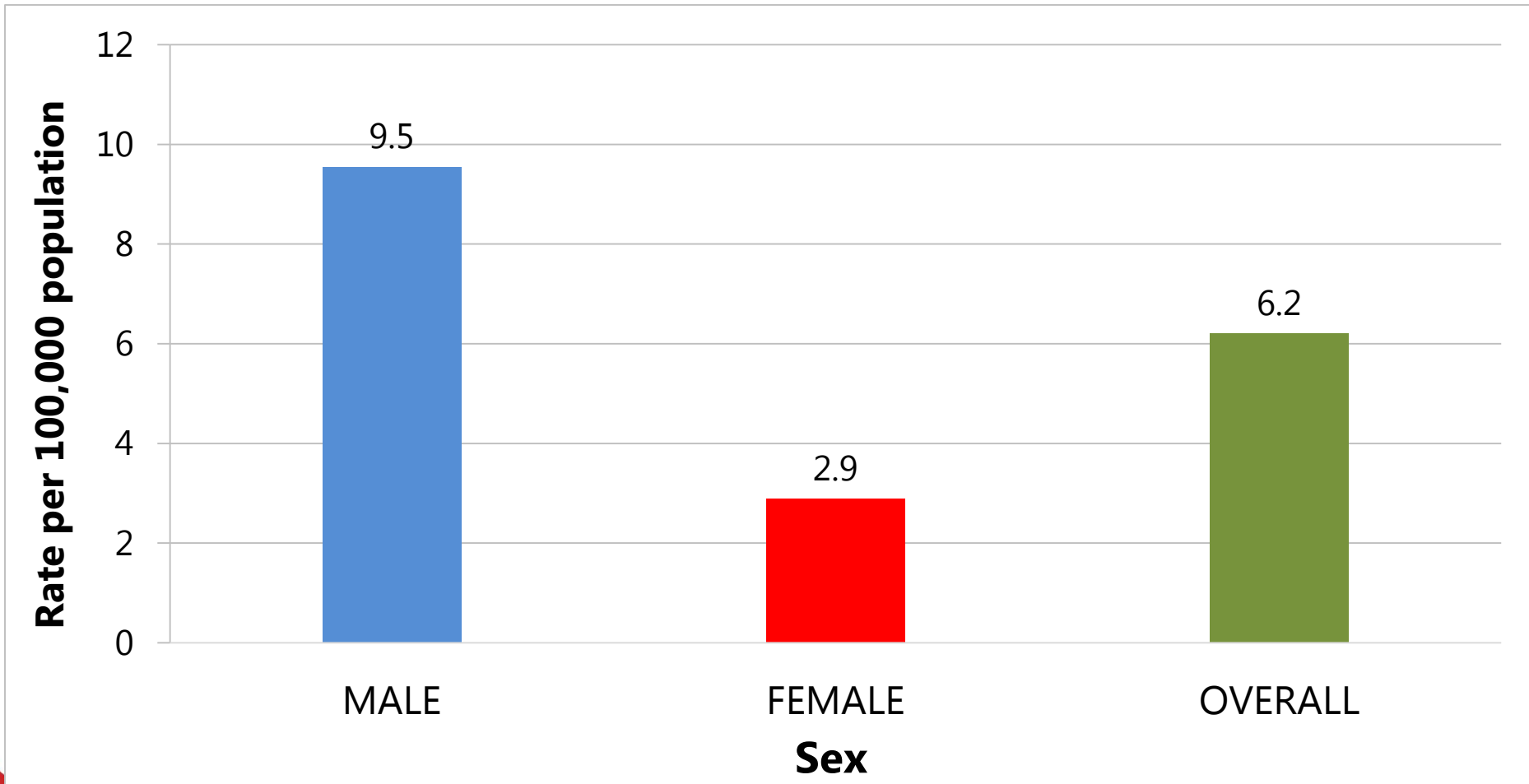
[#]Weapons are not mutually exclusive. Some incidents may include more than one weapon.

*Includes hanging and suffocation

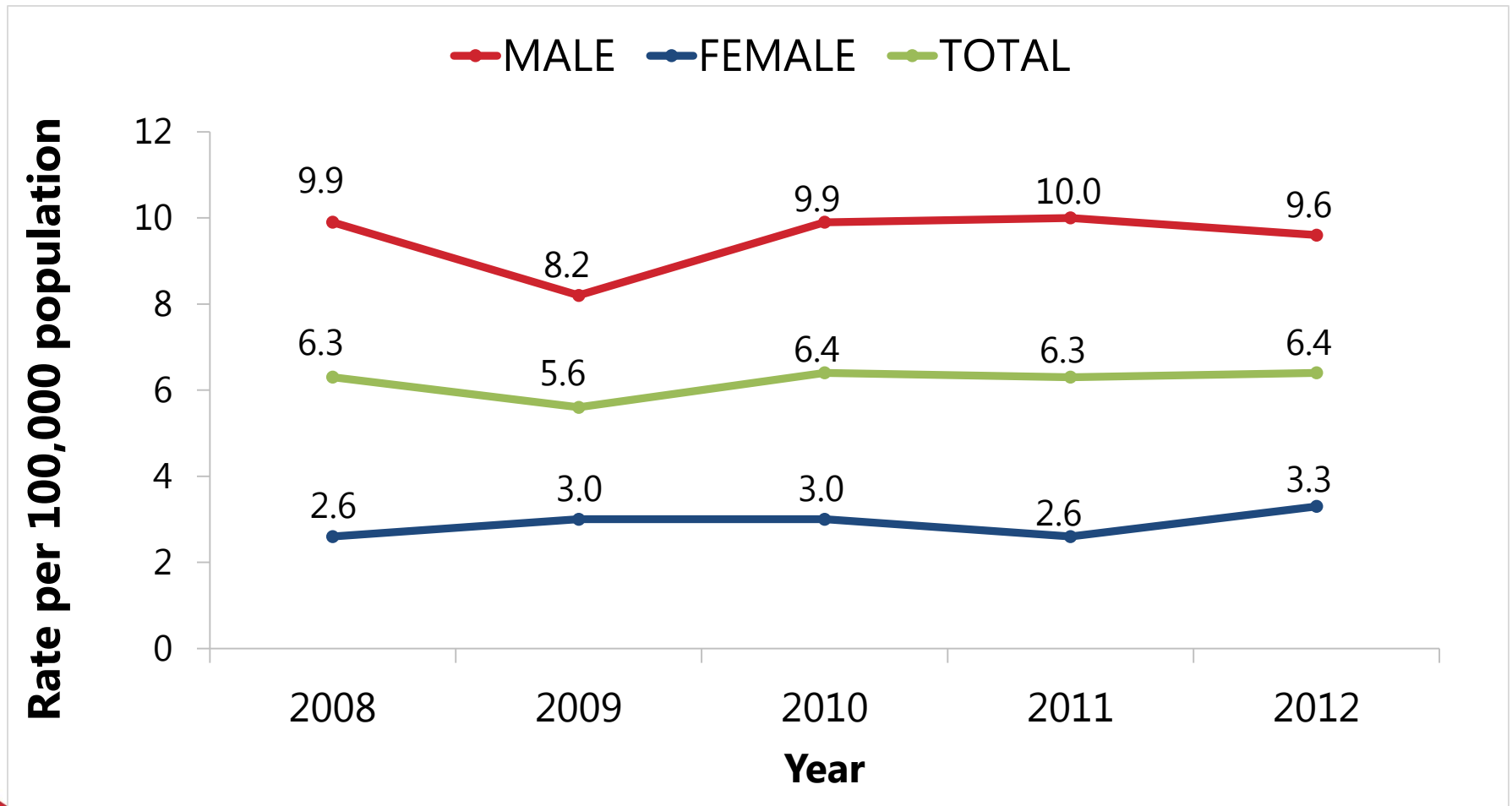
**Includes: personal weapons, falls, fire or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, intentional neglect, shaking, biological weapons, explosive, and non-powder gun.

HOMICIDES

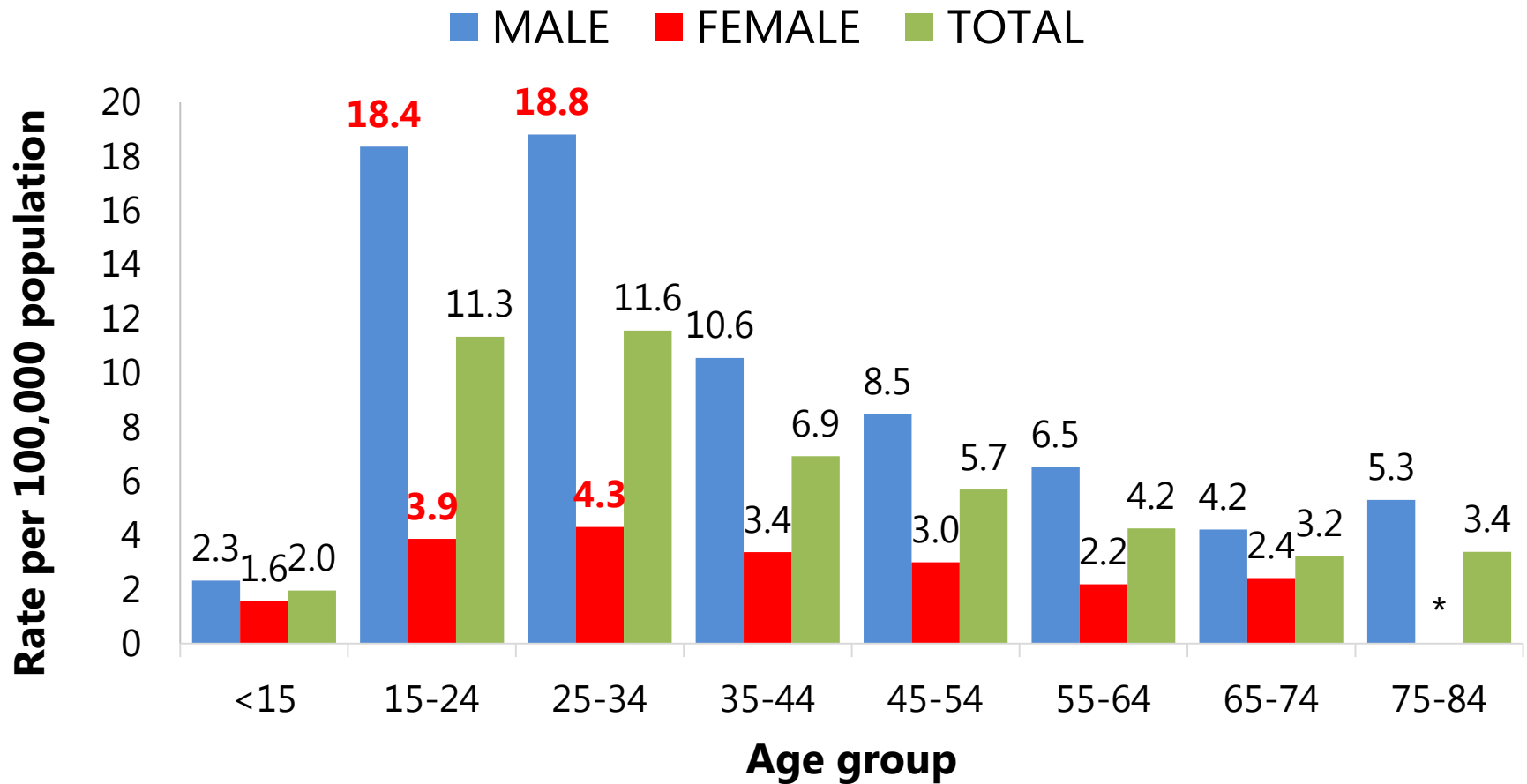
Age-Adjusted Homicide Rate by Sex



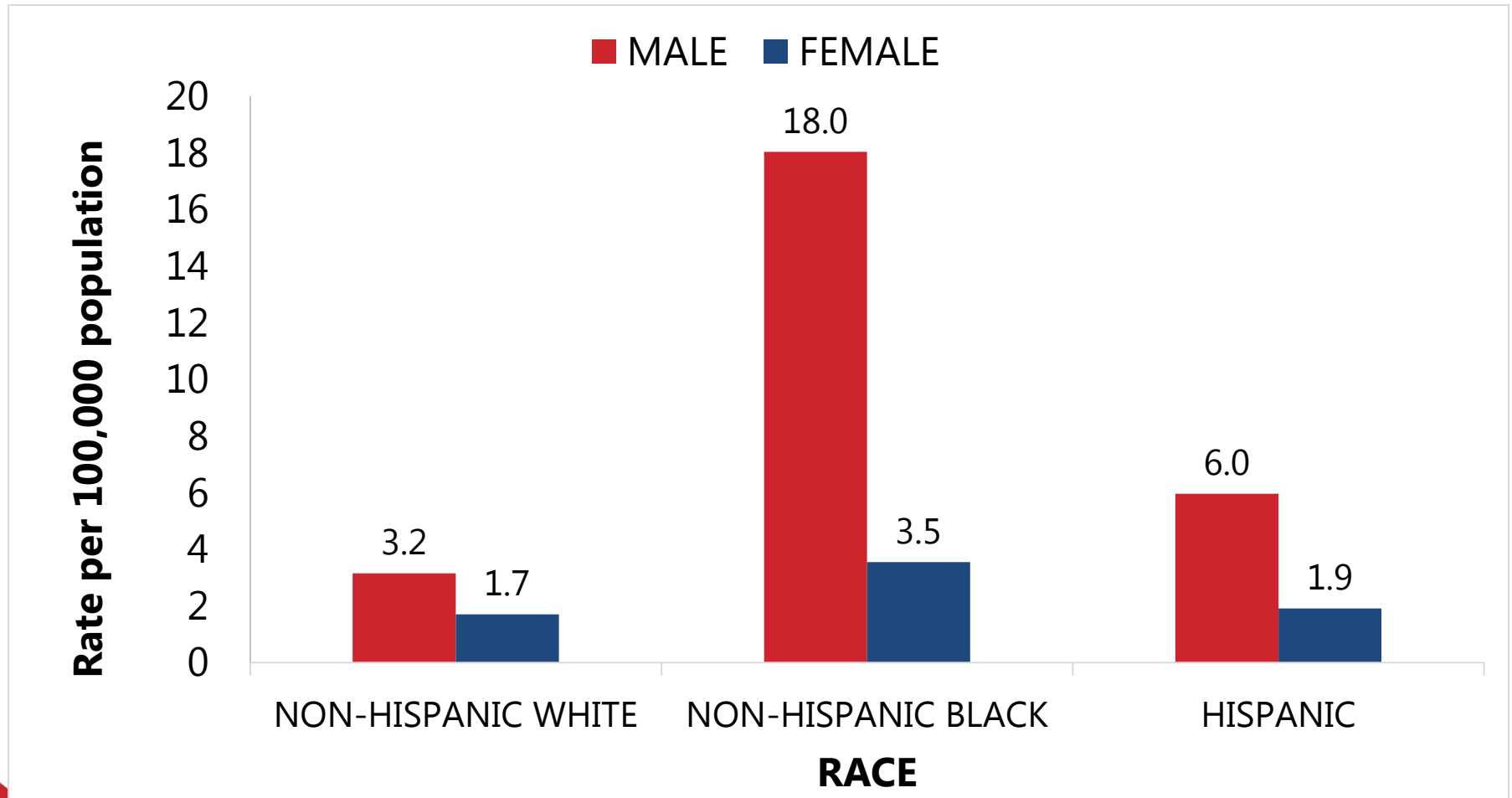
Age-adjusted Homicide Rates by Year and Sex



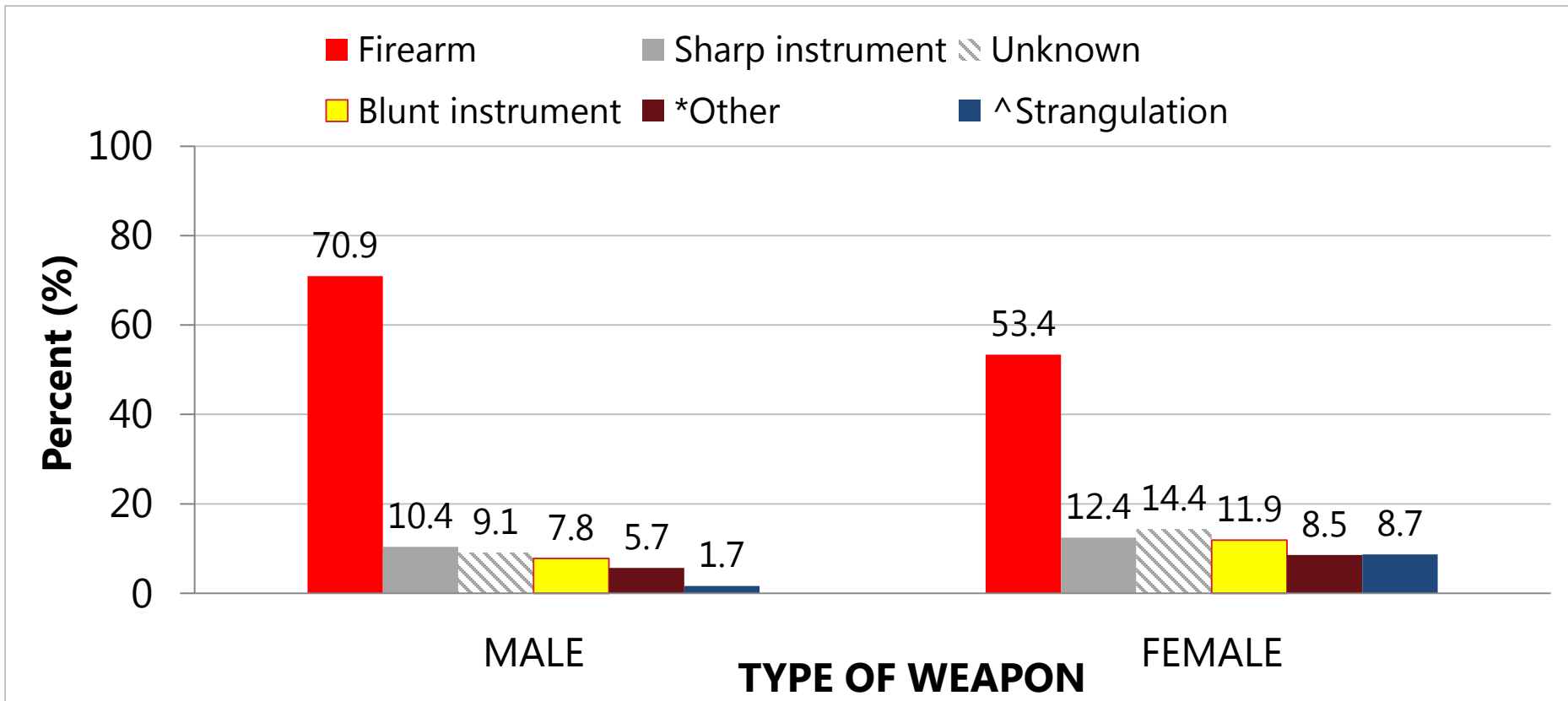
Age-Specific Homicide Rates by Age Group and Sex



Age-Adjusted Homicide Rates by Race and Sex



Percent of Homicides by Type of Weapon[#] and Sex



[#]Weapons are not mutually exclusive. Some incidents may include more than one weapon.

*Includes: poisoning, falls, fire/burns, drowning, motor vehicle, intentional neglect, shaking, personal weapons, explosive, other transportation vehicle, non-powder gun, and other.

- Overall, weapons were known for 92% of homicides

Percent of Homicides by Known Circumstances*

Circumstance	%
Precipitated by another crime	35.4
Gang-related	16.4
Argument or conflict	16.2
Intimate partner violence	12.6
Other crime in progress	12.3
Intimate partner problem	9.4
Drug involvement	9.2
Drug trade	8.1
Assault	5.3
Drive-by shooting	3.8
Family Stressors	3.6

*Circumstances were not mutually exclusive

- The most frequent circumstance was precipitated by another crime, followed by gang-related activity
- Circumstances were known for 77% of homicide incidents

Percent of Homicide Victims with Positive Toxicology Results by Drug Type

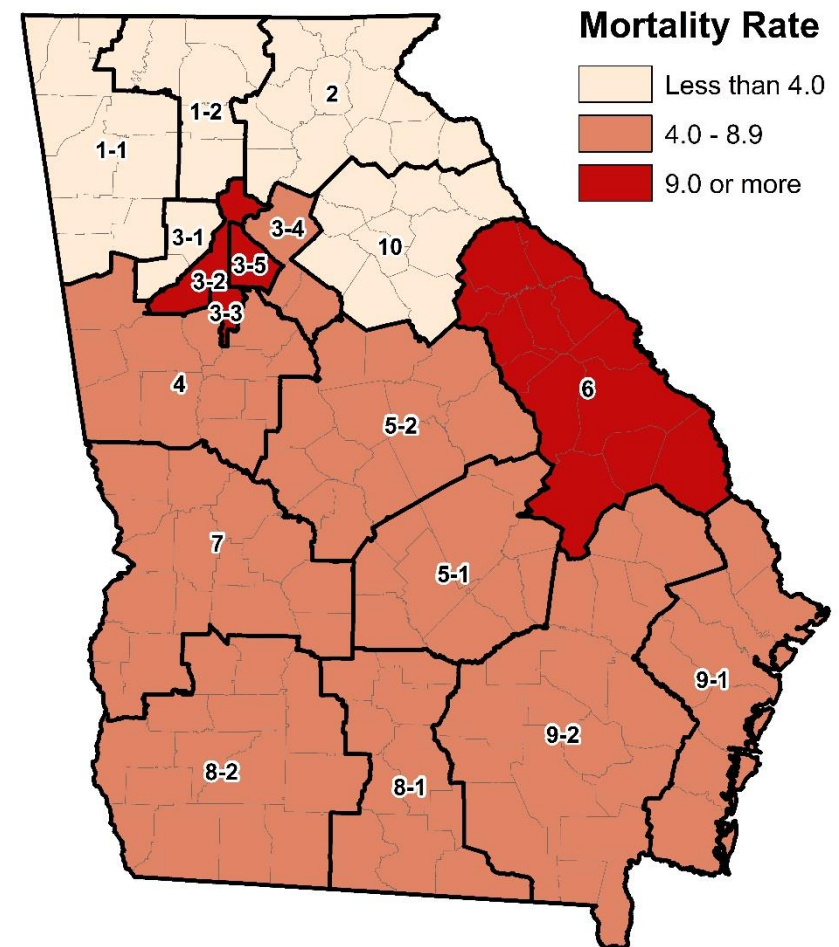
Drug Type	%
Alcohol	26.3
Marijuana	15.5
Cocaine	13.8
Benzodiazepines	10.3
Opiates	6.3
Amphetamines	4.0
Antidepressants	1.0

*Toxicology tests were not mutually exclusive

- Toxicology tests were performed on 51% (1,638) of homicide victims
- Of those tested with results available (1,291), 61% (789) did NOT test positive for any substance.
- Among those who tested positive for alcohol, 18% had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit (BAC greater than or equal to 0.08%)

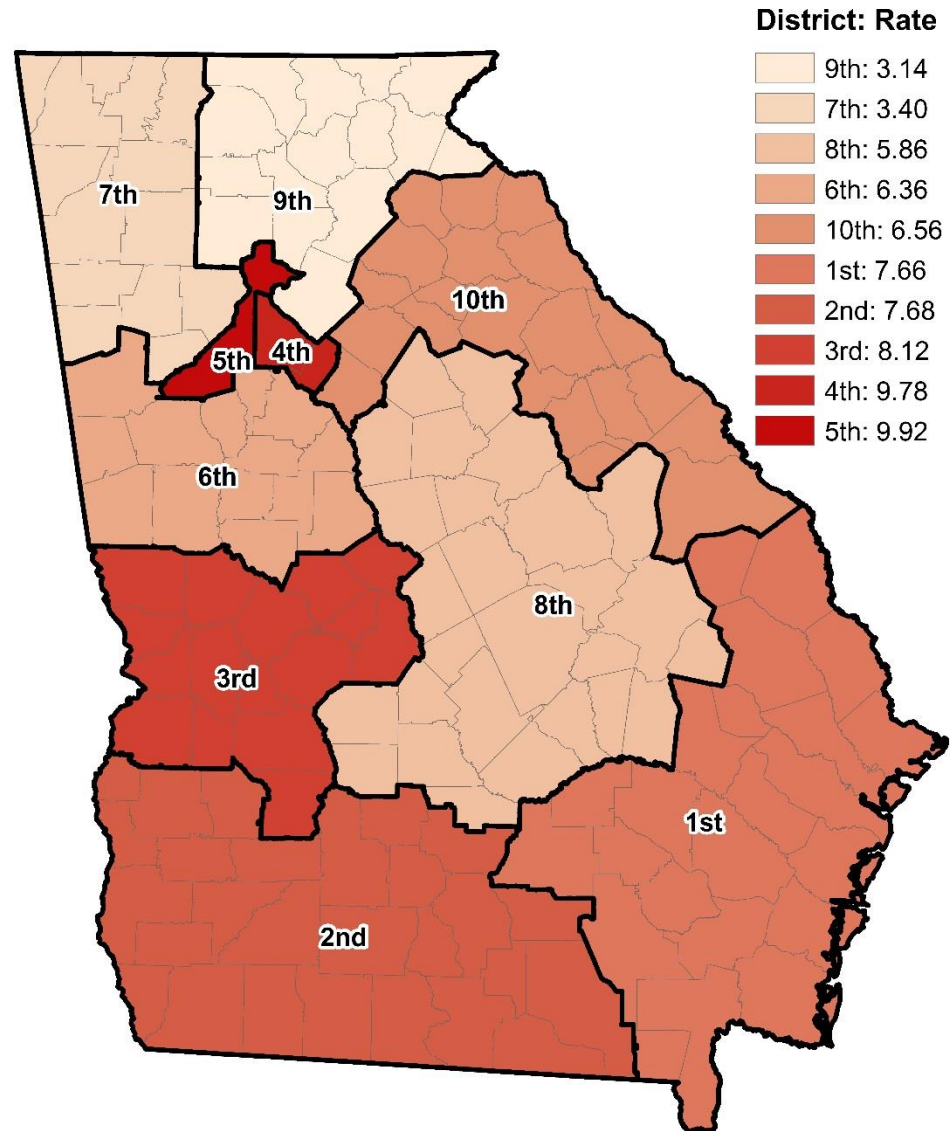
Age-Adjusted Homicide Mortality Rate by Public Health District of Residence

- The age-adjusted homicide mortality rate was greatest in the East Central (Augusta) district (District 6), followed by the DeKalb district (District 3-5), the Fulton district (District 3-2), and the Clayton district (District 3-3) (Map 2a).
- North Georgia (Dalton) district (District 1-2) had the lowest age-adjusted homicide mortality rate, followed by the North (Gainesville) district (District 2), the Northwest (Rome) district (District 1-1), the Cobb-Douglas district (District 3-1), and the Northeast (Athens) district (District 10) (Map 2a).



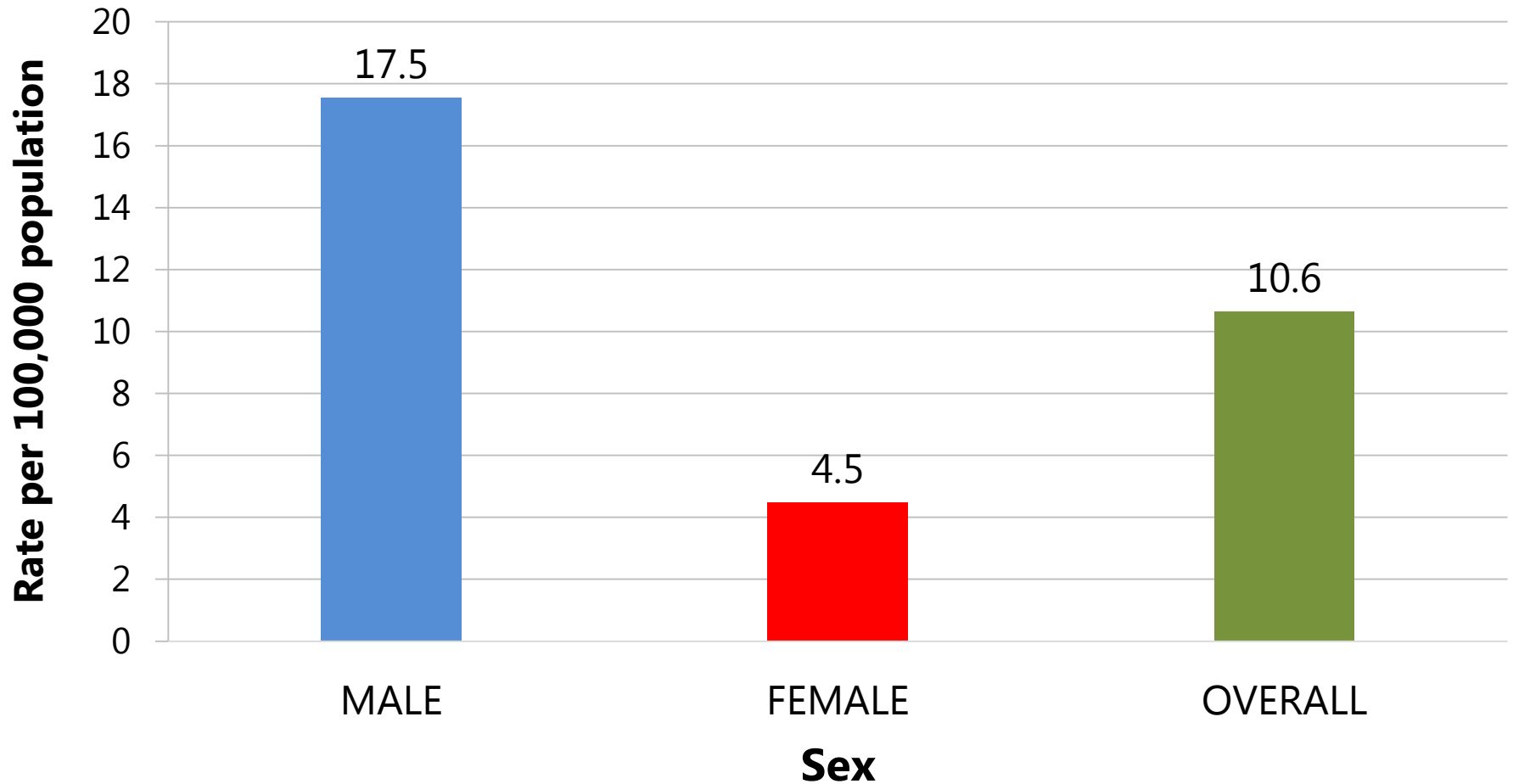
Age-Adjusted Homicide Mortality Rate by Judicial District of Residence

- The age-adjusted homicide mortality rate was greatest in the 5th Judicial District, followed by the 4th and 3rd District (Map 2b).
- The 9th Judicial District had the lowest homicide rate, followed by the 7th and 8th Judicial Districts.

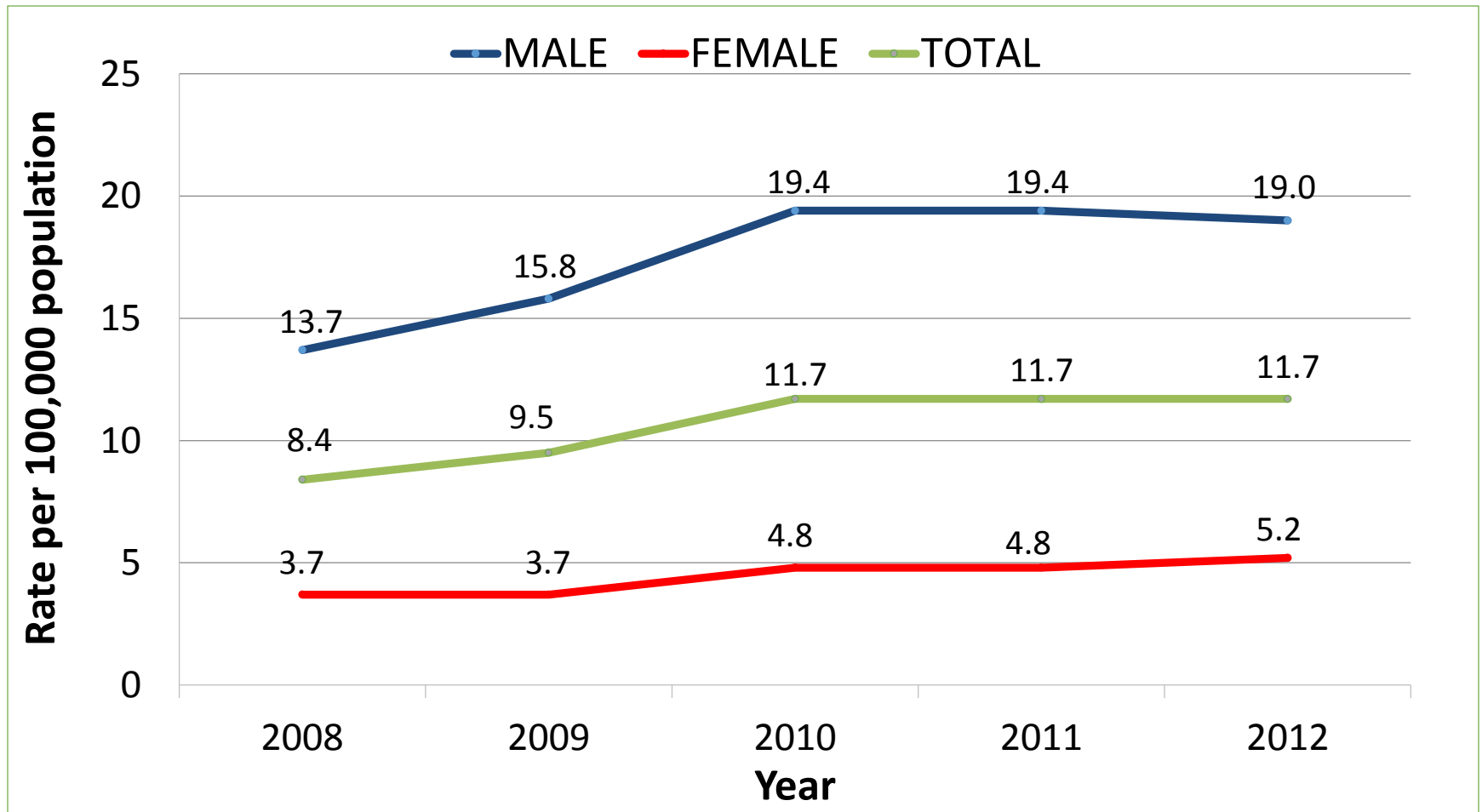


SUICIDES

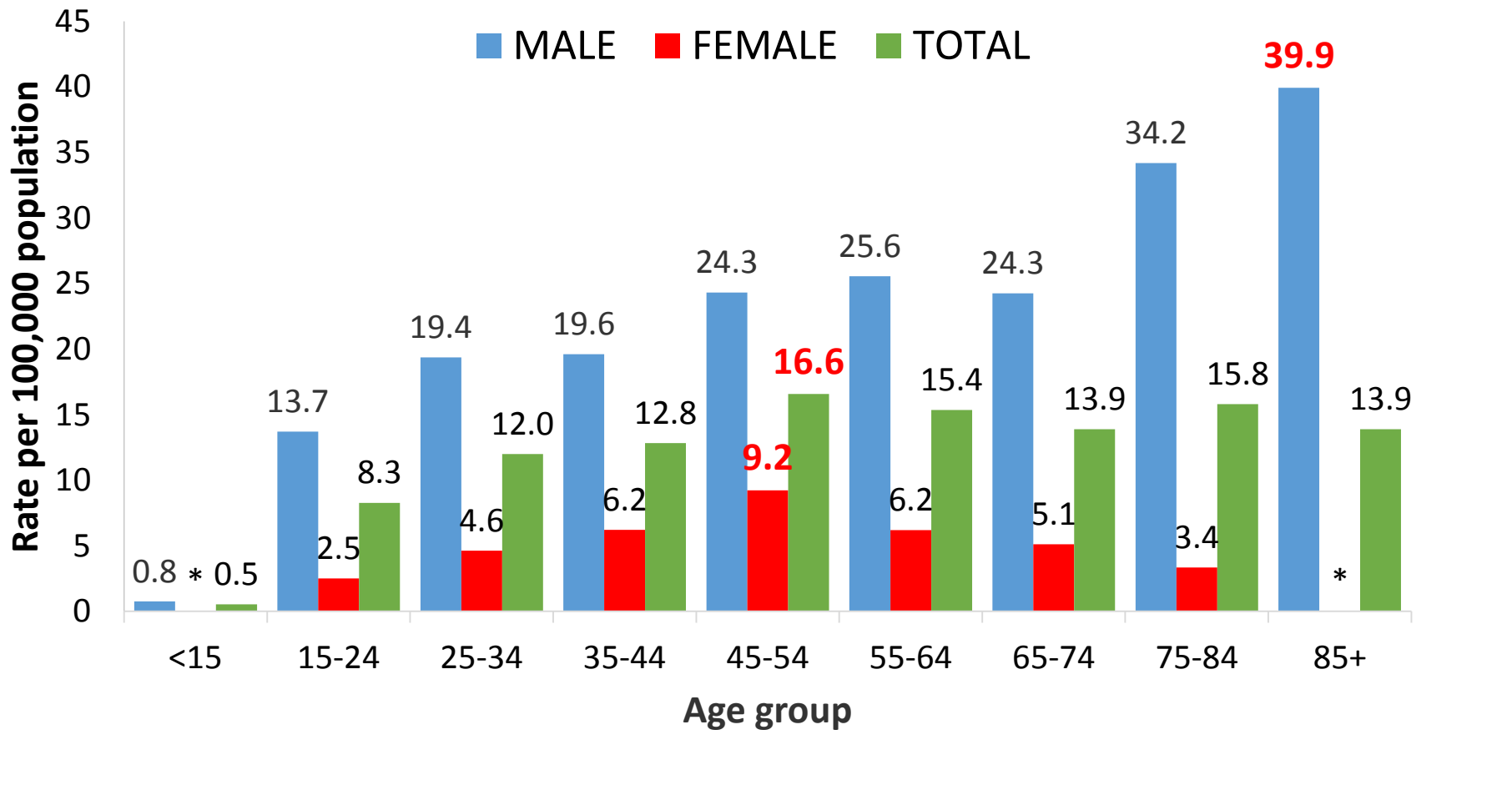
Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate by Sex



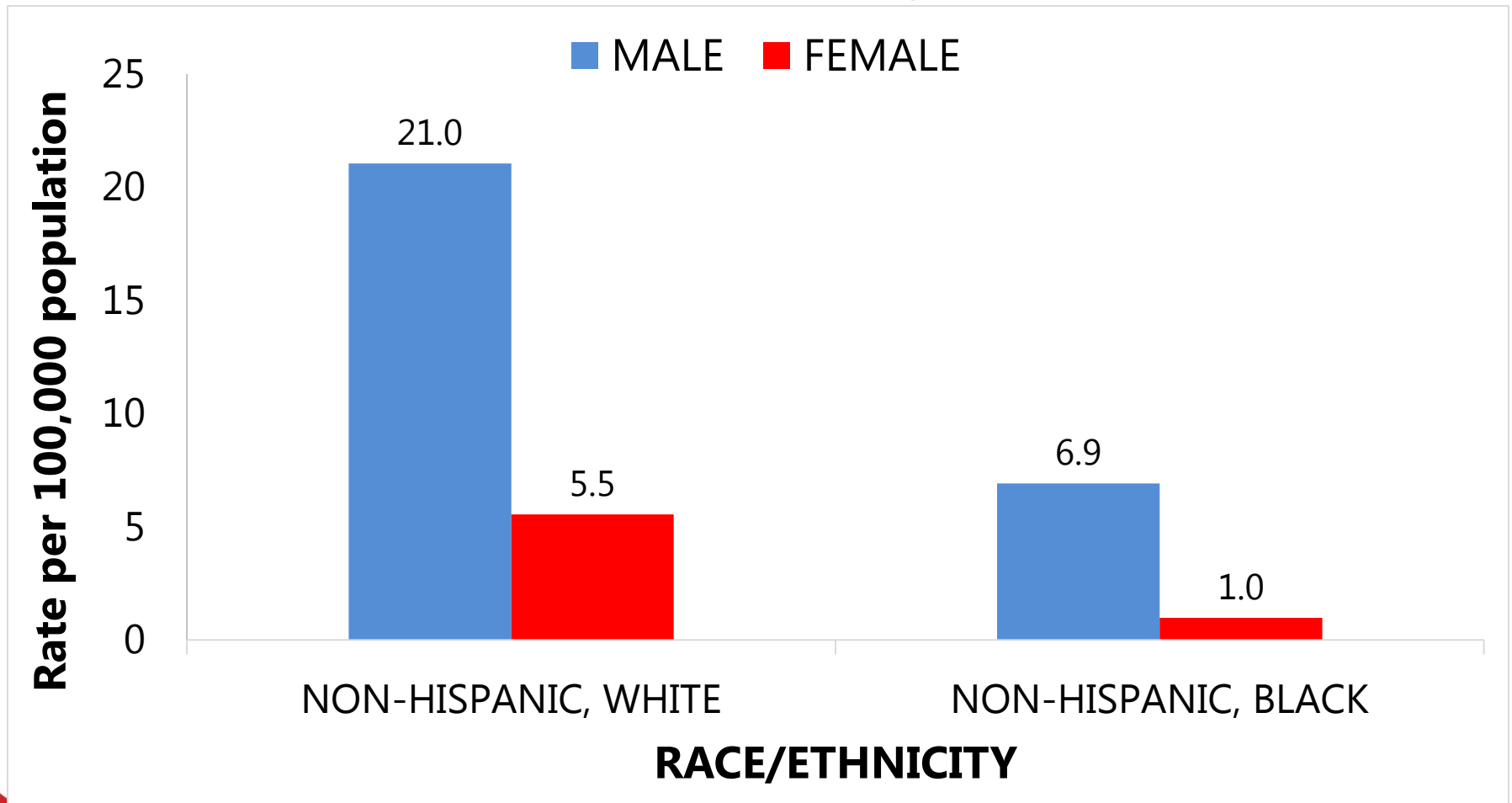
Age-adjusted Suicide Rates by Year and Sex



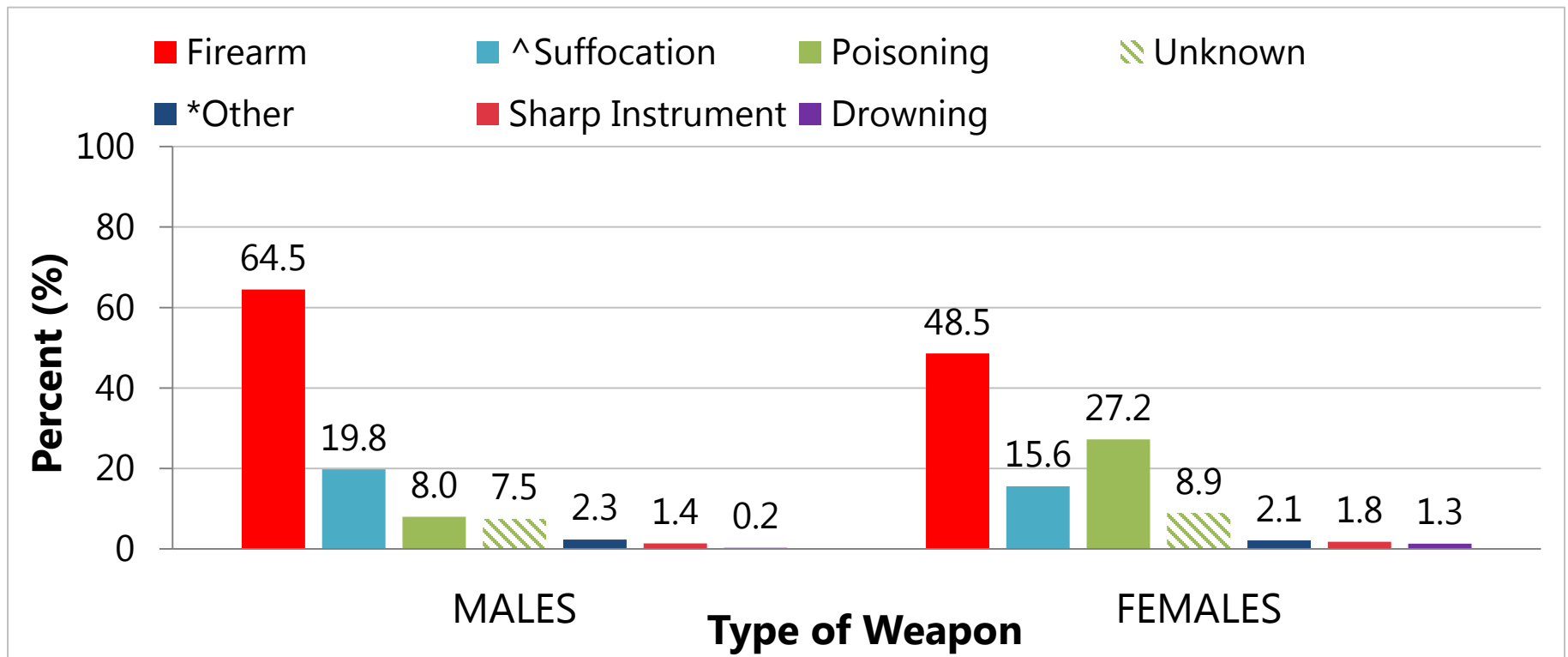
Age-Specific Suicide Rates by Age Group and Sex



Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates by Race-Ethnicity



Percent of Suicides by Type of Weapon[#] and Sex



[#]Weapons are not mutually exclusive. Some incidents may include more than one weapon.

[^]Includes hanging and strangulation

^{*}Includes: falls, fire/burns, motor vehicle, other transportation vehicle, personal weapons (males), explosives (males), biological weapons, blunt instrument, drowning (males), personal weapons (males), and other.

- Overall, weapons were known for 95% of suicides

Percent of Suicides by Known Circumstances*

Circumstance	%
Depressed mood	34.5
Mental health problem	29.0
Physical health problem	24.3
Disclosed suicidal thoughts or intent to complete suicide	22.1
History of mental health/substance abuse treatment	21.7
Intimate partner problem	25.3
Depression/dysthymia	12.2
Either job problem or job crisis	10.5
Alcohol problem	10.0
Non-alcohol related substance abuse problem	9.4
History of suicide attempts	8.5
Financial problem	8.0

- Circumstances were known for 87% of suicide cases.
- The most frequent circumstance was being in a depressed mood, followed by having mental health problems.

*Circumstances were not mutually exclusive

Percent of Suicide Victims with Positive Toxicology Results by Drug Type

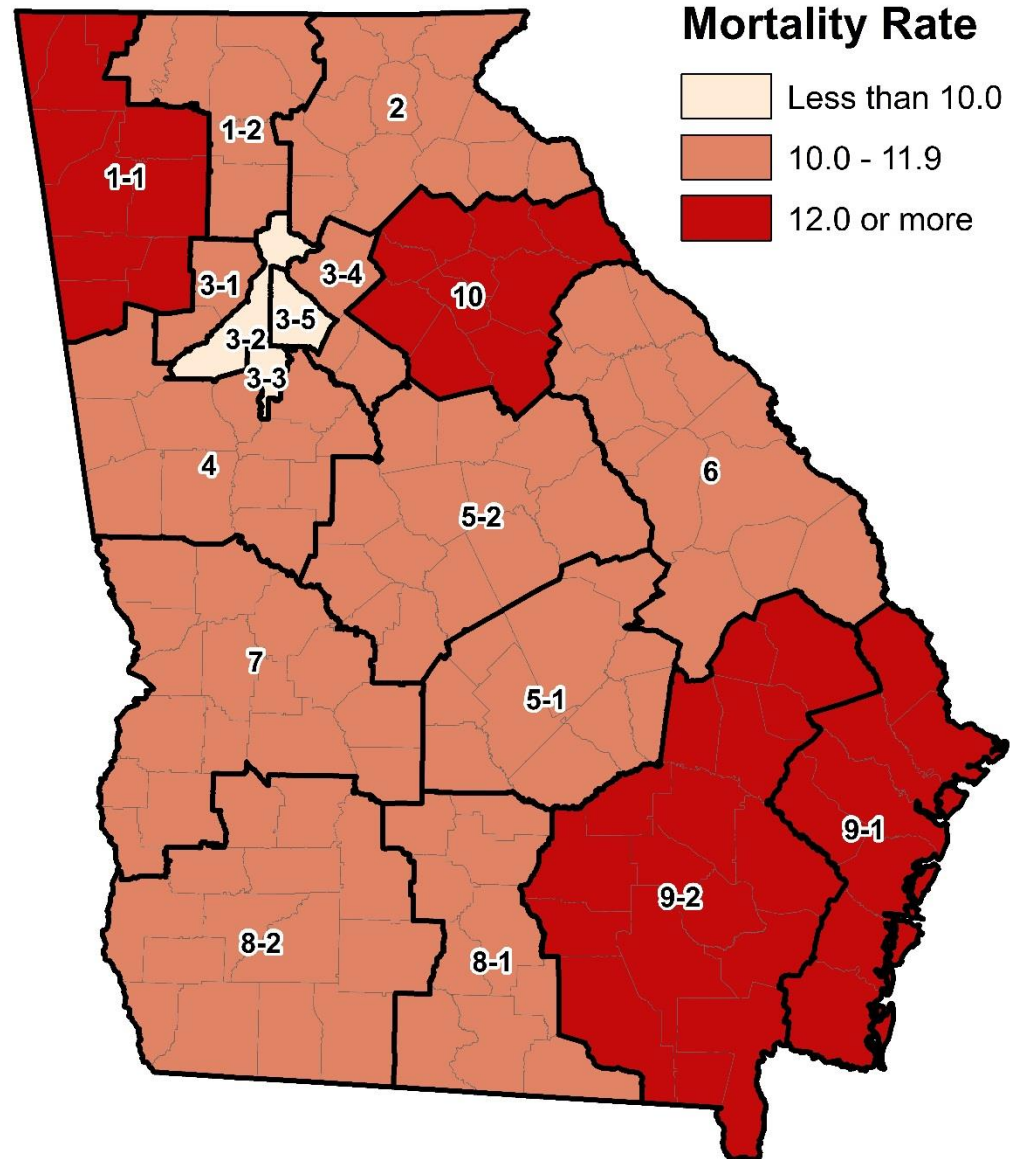
Drug Type	%
Antidepressants	42.1
Alcohol	33.2
Benzodiazepines	24.5
Opiates	13.6
Cocaine	5.0
Amphetamines	4.2
Marijuana	3.5
Barbiturates	1.3

*Toxicology tests were not mutually exclusive

- Toxicology tests were performed on 44% (2,377) of suicide victims
- Of those tested with results available (1,590), 57% (907) did NOT test positive for any substance.
- Among those who tested positive for alcohol, 24% had a blood alcohol level above the legal limit (BAC greater than or equal to 0.08%)

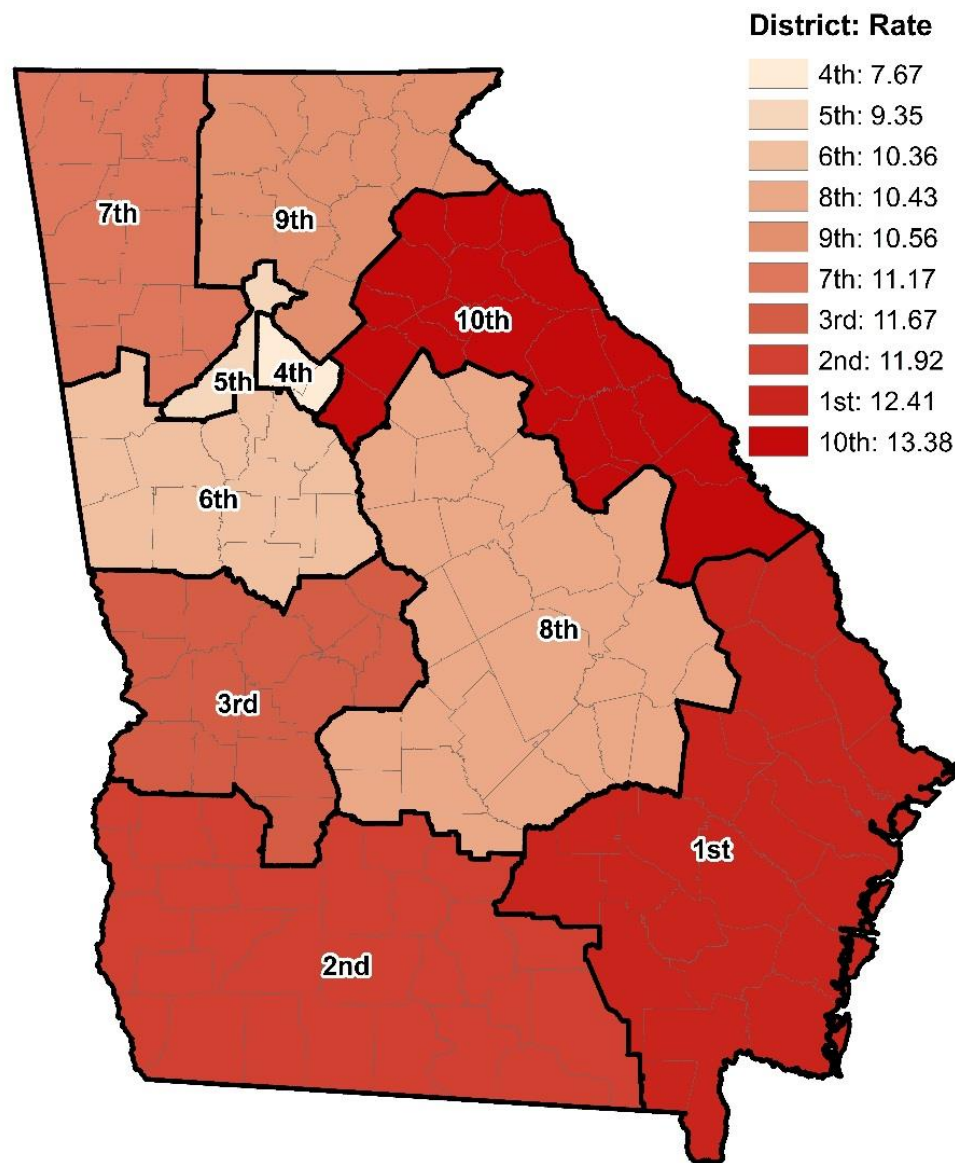
Age-Adjusted Suicide Mortality Rate by Public Health District of Residence

- The age-adjusted suicide mortality rate was greatest in District 10 Northeast (Athens), followed by District 1-1 Northwest (Rome), District 9-1 Coastal (Savannah), and District 9-2 Southeast (Waycross).
- District 3-3 Clayton (Morrow) had the lowest age-adjusted suicide mortality rate, followed by District 3-5 DeKalb and District 3-2 Fulton.



Age-Adjusted Suicide Mortality Rate by Judicial District of Residence

- The age-adjusted suicide mortality rate was greatest in the 10th Judicial District, followed by the 1st and 2nd Judicial District.
- The 4th Judicial District had the lowest age-adjusted suicide rate, followed by the 5th and 6th Judicial Districts.



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS

Circumstance Definitions

Circumstance	Definition
Precipitated by another crime	Death was precipitated by another serious crime (drug dealing, robbery)
Gang-related	Captures deaths classified as gang motivated or had suspected involvement of a gang member
Argument or Conflict	Identifies deaths where a specific argument was perceived as related to death (i.e. over money)
Intimate partner violence	Homicide & Legal Intervention specific; deaths where victim is killed by current or former intimate partner
Other crime in progress	Precipitating crime was in progress (committed or attempted) at time of incident
Intimate partner problem	Problems with current or former intimate partner appear to have contributed to death
Drug Involvement	Drug dealing, drug trade, or drug use is suspected to have played a role in precipitating the incident
Drug Trade	Incident precipitated by the buying, selling, or passing of drugs from one person to another in exchange for goods or money
Assault	Incident precipitated by an unlawful fatal or nonfatal attack by one person upon another
Drive-by shooting	Victim was killed in shooting where the suspect(s) drives near victim or target and shoots while driving or stops just long enough to use a weapon
Family Stressors	Victim had relationship problems with a family member that contributed to death
Depressed Mood	Victim perceived by others to be depressed at time of injury
Job Problem	Job problem (i.e. poor performance review) appears to contribute to the death
Financial Problem	Financial problem (i.e. bankruptcy) appears to contribute to death
Alcohol Problem	Victim perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or be addicted to, alcohol
Non-Alcohol Related Substance Abuse Problem	Victim perceived by self or others to have a problem with, or be addicted to, drugs other than alcohol
Mental Health Problem	Currently has a mental health problem; not necessary to have contributed directly to death
Physical Health Problem	Victim was experiencing physical health problem (i.e. terminal disease) that were relevant to the death