

# SUICIDE AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN GEORGIA

2011-2017

The Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) is a state-wide surveillance system that collects information on violent deaths (homicides, suicides, deaths of undetermined intent, deaths resulting from legal intervention, and deaths resulting from unintentional firearm injuries.) GA-VDRS provides evidence-based information to assist programs, policies, and strategies to prevent violent deaths in Georgia. This document focuses on suicides reported in older adults (those aged 55 years and older) from years 2011 to 2017.

## 2,964 suicides

were reported among Georgians 55 years and older from 2011 to 2017

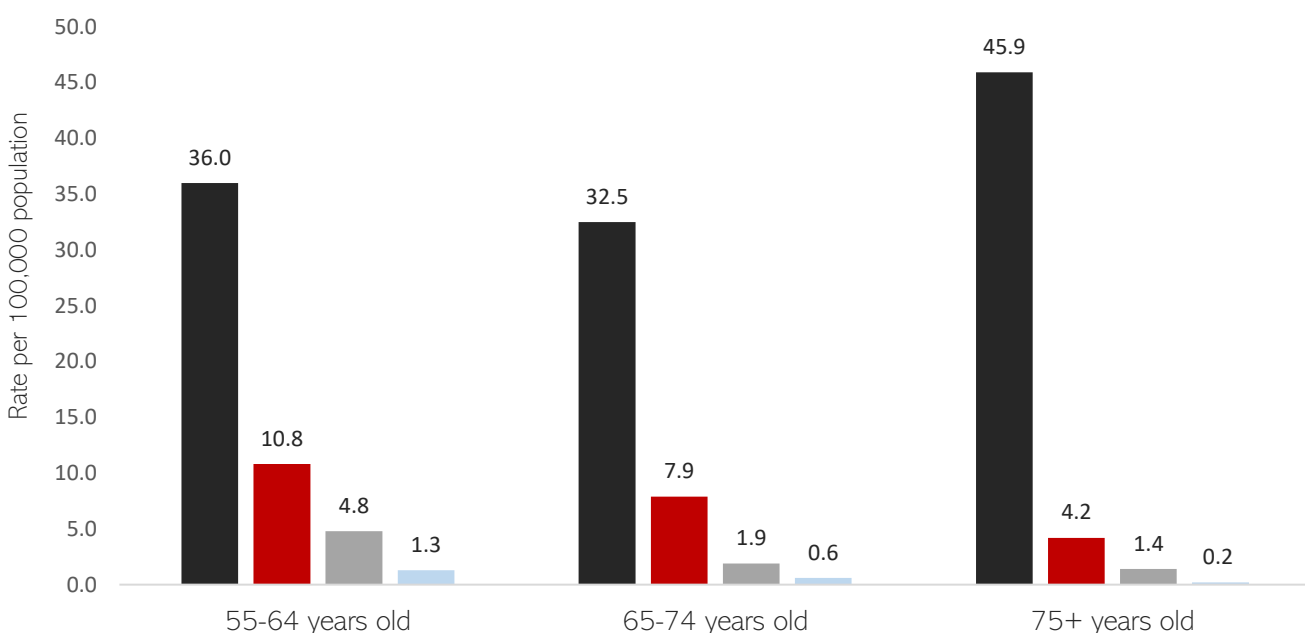


Over **3 out of 4** suicides were males.

- Sixty-five percent (65%) of suicides in Georgians aged 55 years and older occurred at home, and 73% of suicides involved a firearm.
- Nearly 3 out of 4 (75%) suicides were among Non-Hispanic white males aged 55 years and older.
- Eighteen percent (18%) of suicides aged 55 years and older were Non-Hispanic white females, followed by Non-Hispanic black males (5%) and Non-Hispanic black females (1%).
- Non-Hispanic white males aged 75+ years old had the highest rate of suicide.

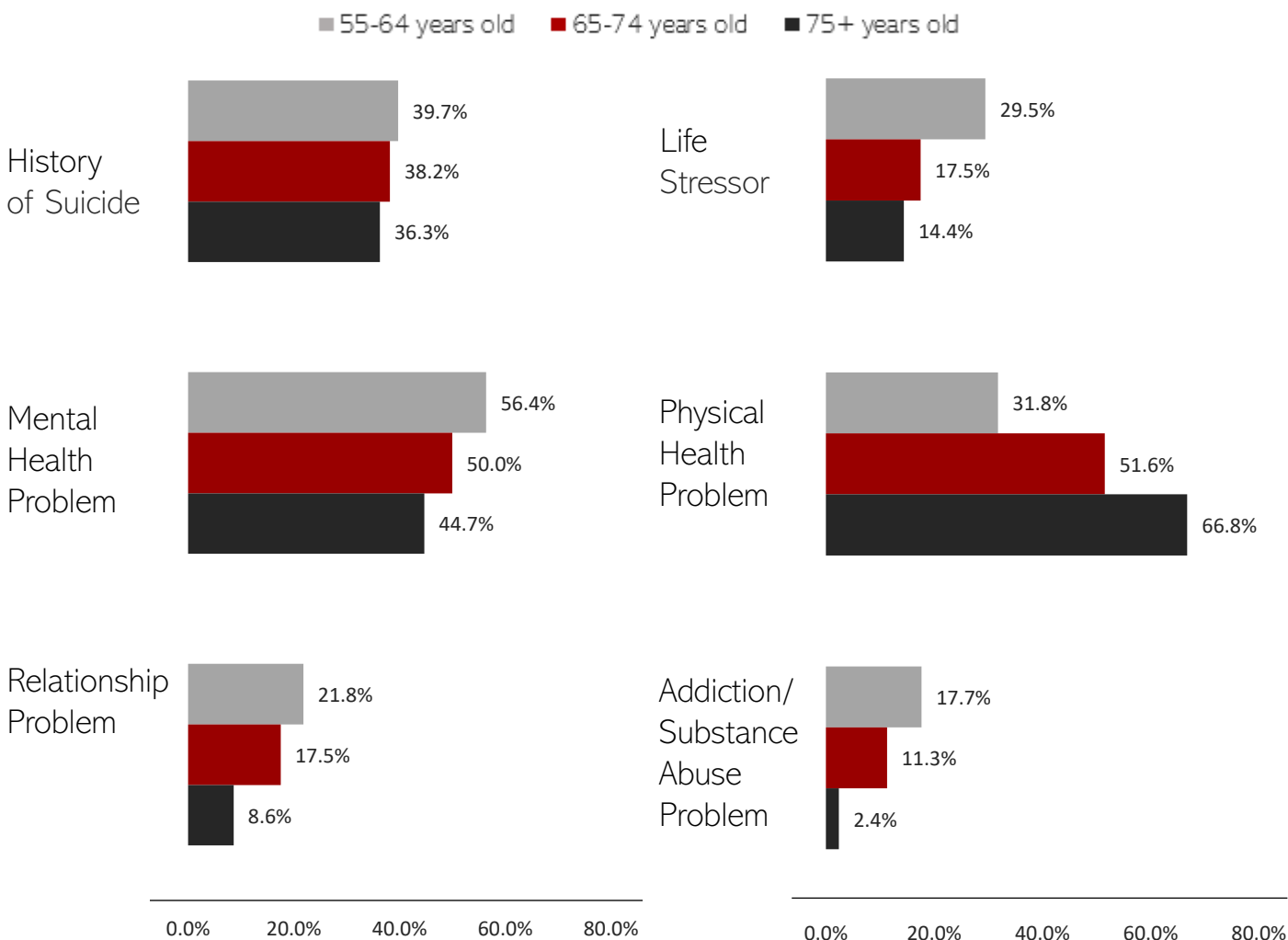
### Age-Specific Suicide Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity: GA-VDRS, 2011-2017

■ Non-Hispanic White Males ■ Non-Hispanic White Females ■ Non-Hispanic Black Males ■ Non-Hispanic Black Females



GA-VDRS collects information about **circumstances** associated with violent death cases. Examples of this circumstantial information could be job loss, financial difficulties, history of suicide attempt(s), mental health issues, substance abuse problems, etc. This section focuses on circumstances surrounding violent deaths among **Georgia adults 55 years and older** from 2011 to 2017.

Suicide Circumstances\* by Age Group:  
GA-VDRS, 2011-2017



\*Circumstances are not mutually exclusive, Circumstances were available for 77.7% of suicides.

- **Georgians 75 years and older** were more likely to have reported a physical health problem (66.8%) compared to adults 55-64 and 65-74 years of age (31.8% and 51.6%, respectively).
- **Over half** (52%) of Georgians 55 years of age and older reported circumstances related to mental health, such as:
  - (1) Currently diagnosed with a mental health problem
  - (2) Perceived as depressed at the time of death
  - (3) Current or history of mental health treatment
- **One out of nine** (11%) Georgians 55 years of age and older reported a previous suicide attempt.