



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Deaths by Suicide in Frederick County

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Methodology

Time Period:

January 2010 – July 2024

Source:

Maryland Vital Statistics: Death Certificates

Data Pool:

n=416 Individuals, including n=41 veterans

Factors:

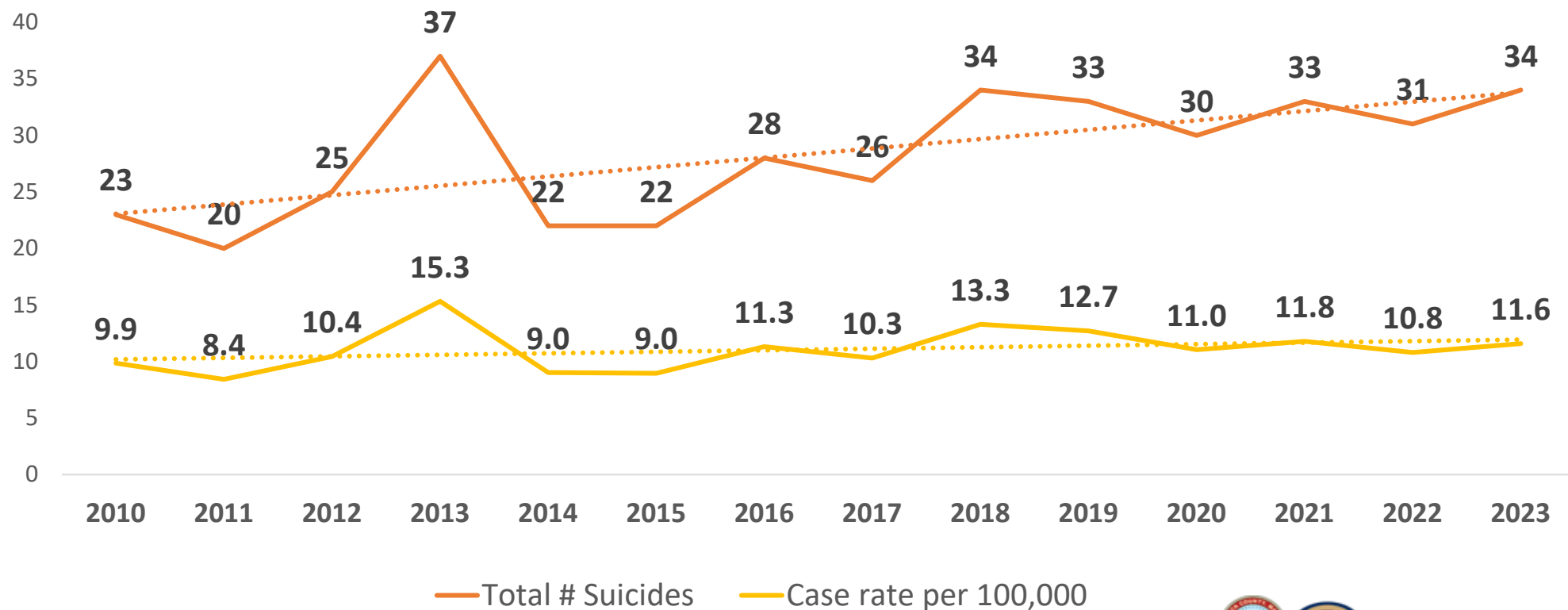
Age, Gender, Race, Marital Status, Veteran Status, Comorbidities,
Cause of Death

Note:

Trends over years not shown due to suppressed sample sizes ($n < 11$)

Total Deaths by Suicide by Year

Number of suicides has been trending upwards.
However, the **rate** has not increased for the past four years.

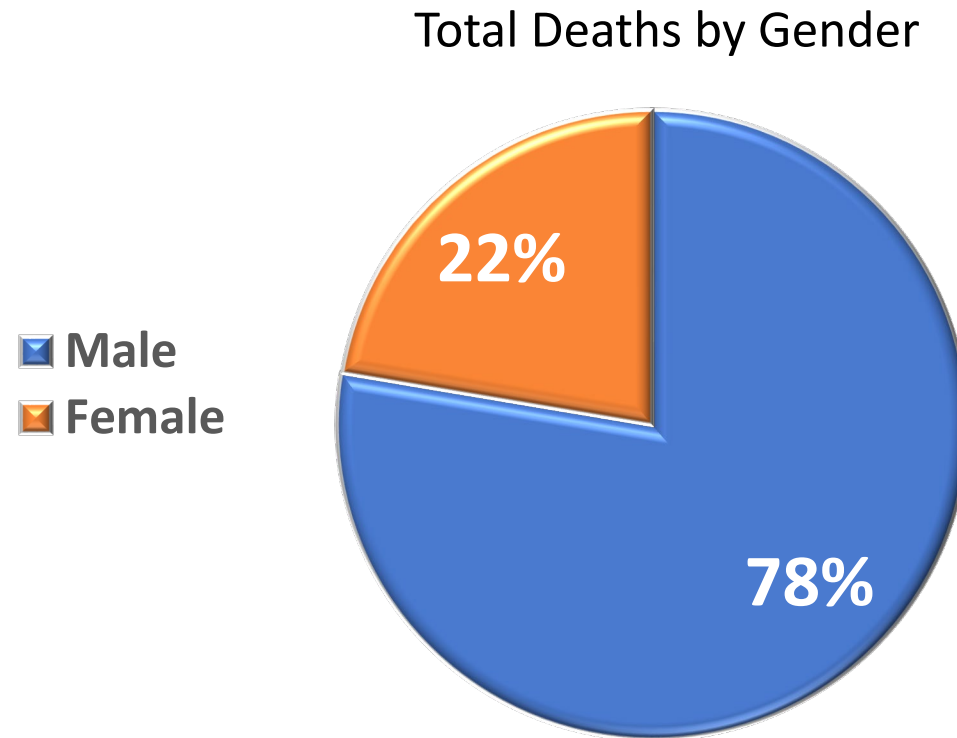


Population Factors

Demographics, Causes of Death, Comorbidities

Gender

Males are more likely to complete a suicide than females.



Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)

Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.

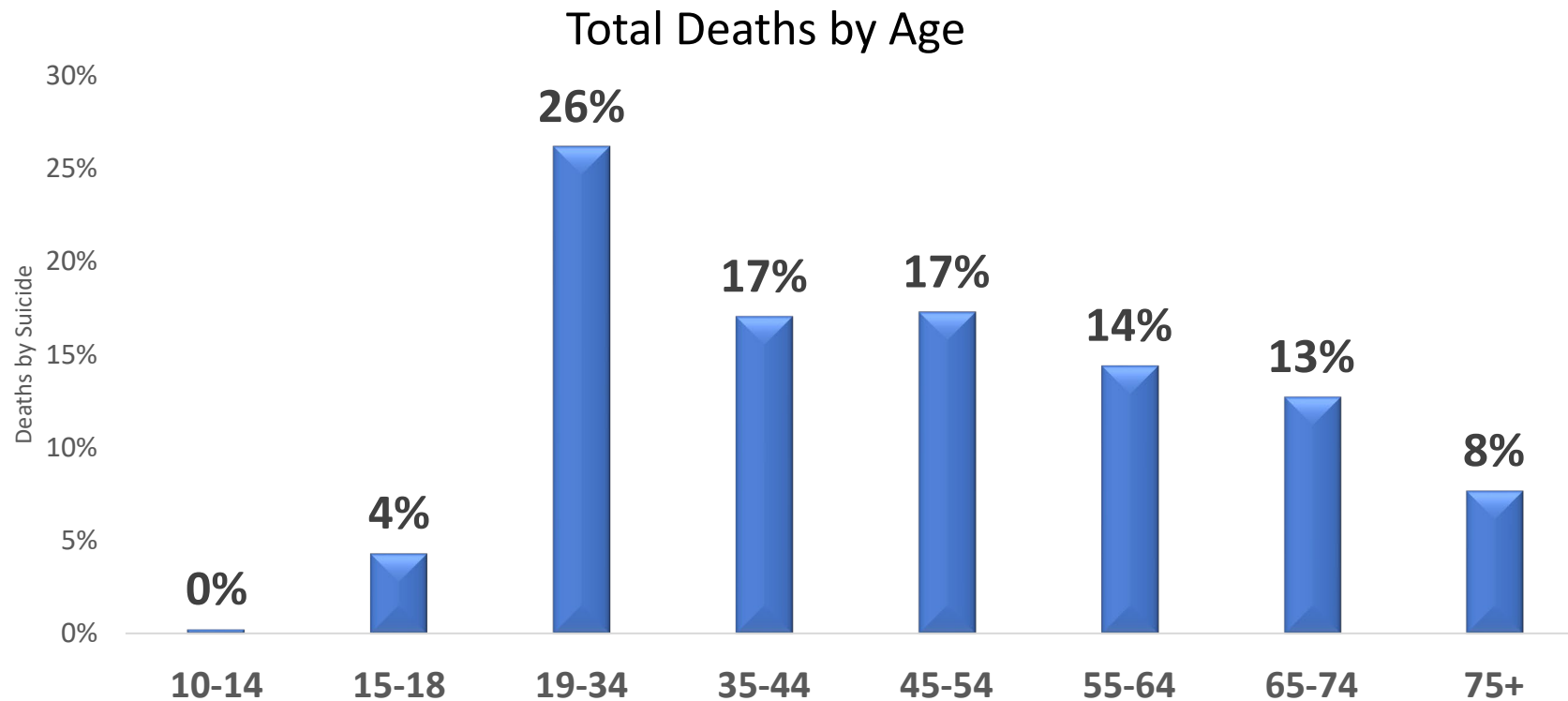
Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).



Frederick County, Maryland

Age

People 19-34 years old comprise one quarter of deaths by suicide.



Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)

Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.

Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).

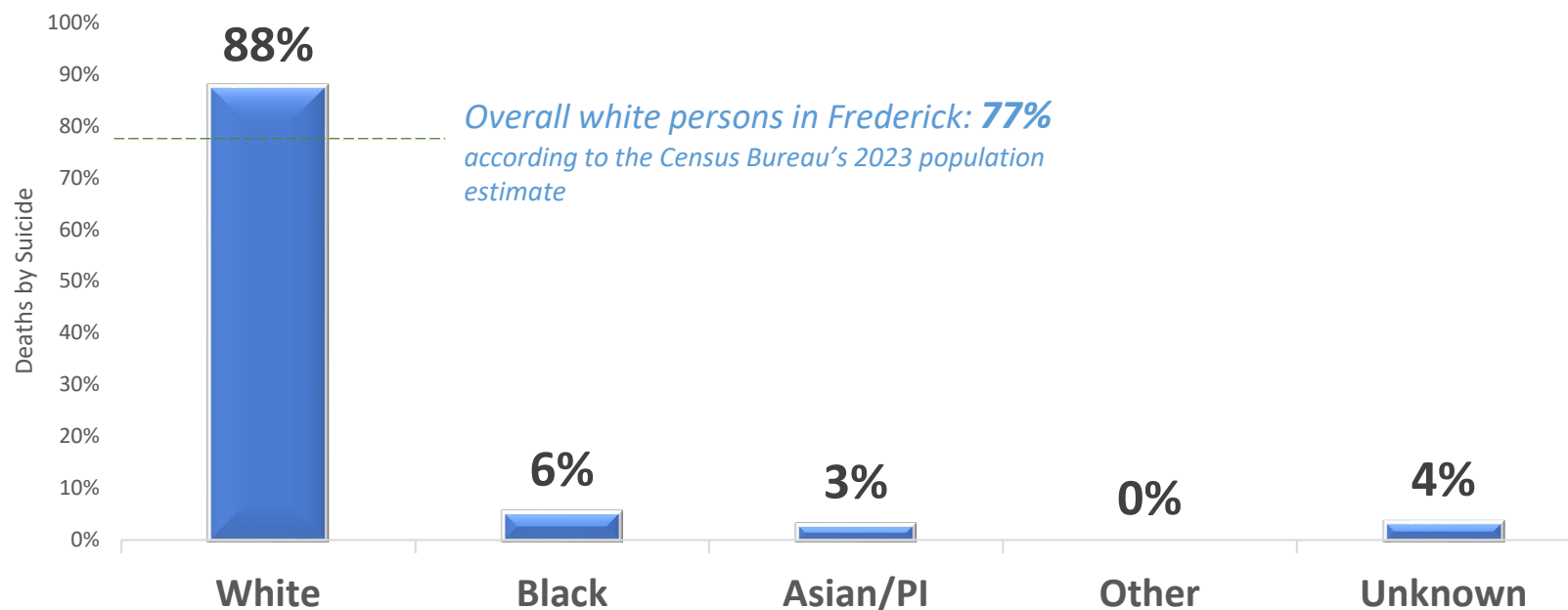


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Race

There is a higher percent of white decedents than in the total Frederick population

Total Deaths by Race



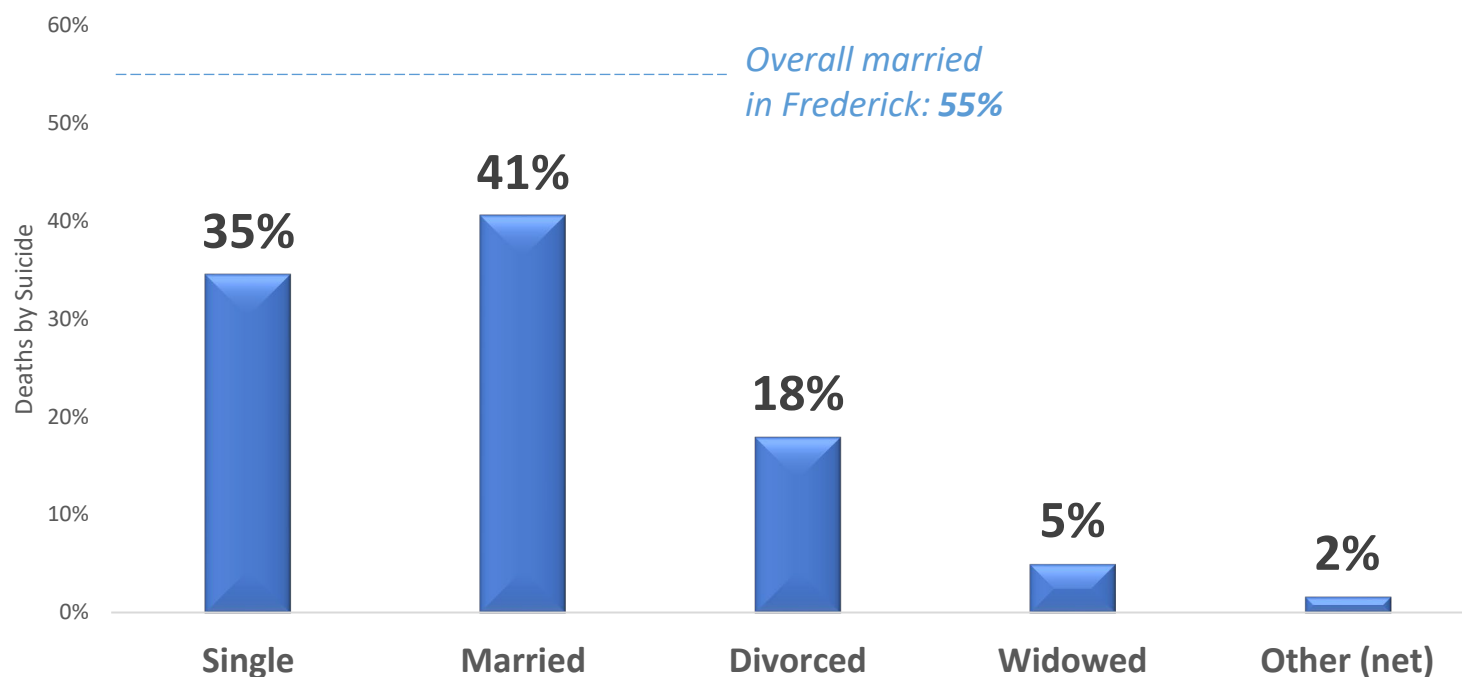
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)
Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.
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Frederick County, Maryland

Marital Status

Many decedents were married (42%), which is fewer than the general population of Frederick County (55%).



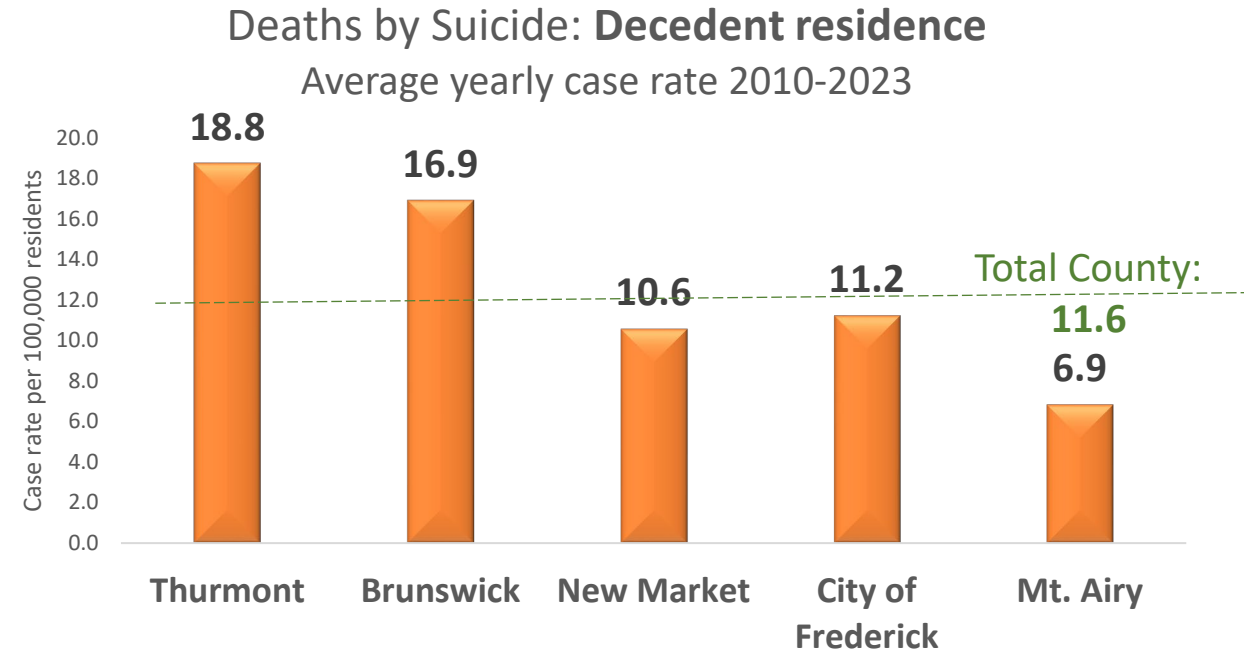
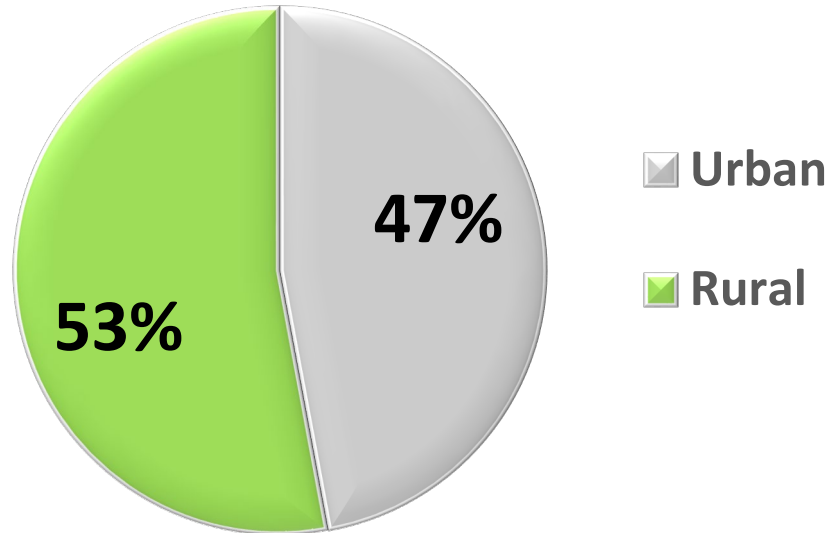
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)
Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.
Trending data not shown due to MD suppression rules (n's < 11).



Frederick County, Maryland

Residence

Slightly more than half of decedents resided in more rural areas of the county. Thurmont and Brunswick have more decedents per capita than other regions.



Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 with known zip codes (n=393)

Urban: Zip codes 21701-21704

Rural: All other zip codes

Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.

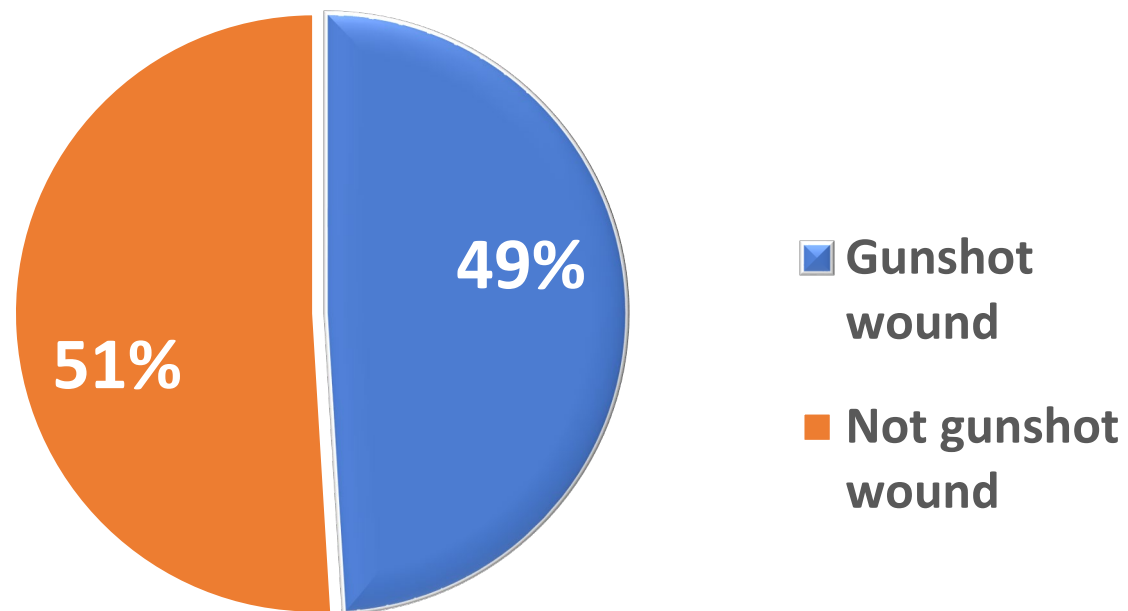
Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).



Frederick County, Maryland

Firearm Deaths

Half of all causes of death by suicide were gunshot wounds.



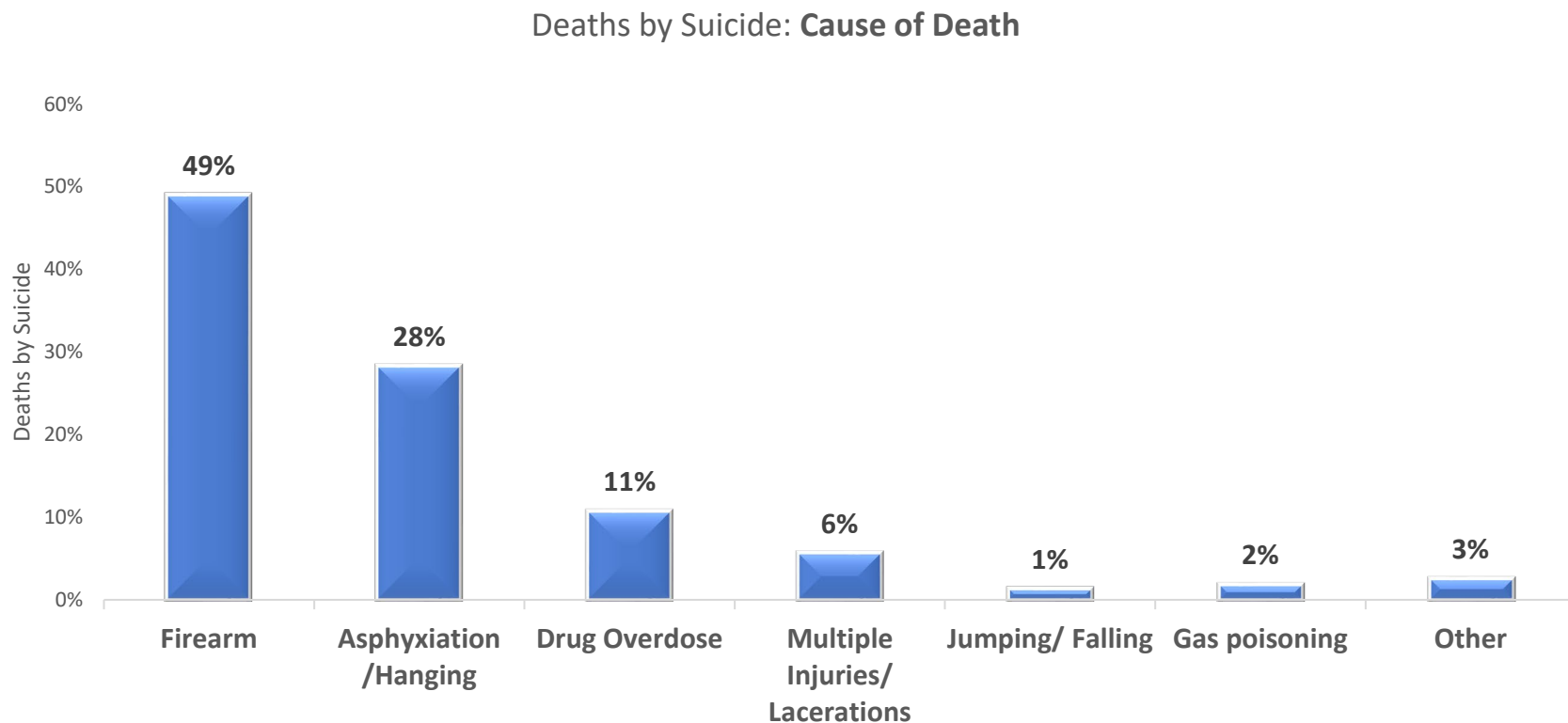
*Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)
Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.
Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).*



Frederick County, Maryland

Causes of Death

After firearms, asphyxiation/hanging and drug overdose were the most frequent causes of death.



*Other includes: drowning,
smoke/fire, misc.*

*Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2010- July 2024 (n=416)
Trending from 2010 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.
Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).*

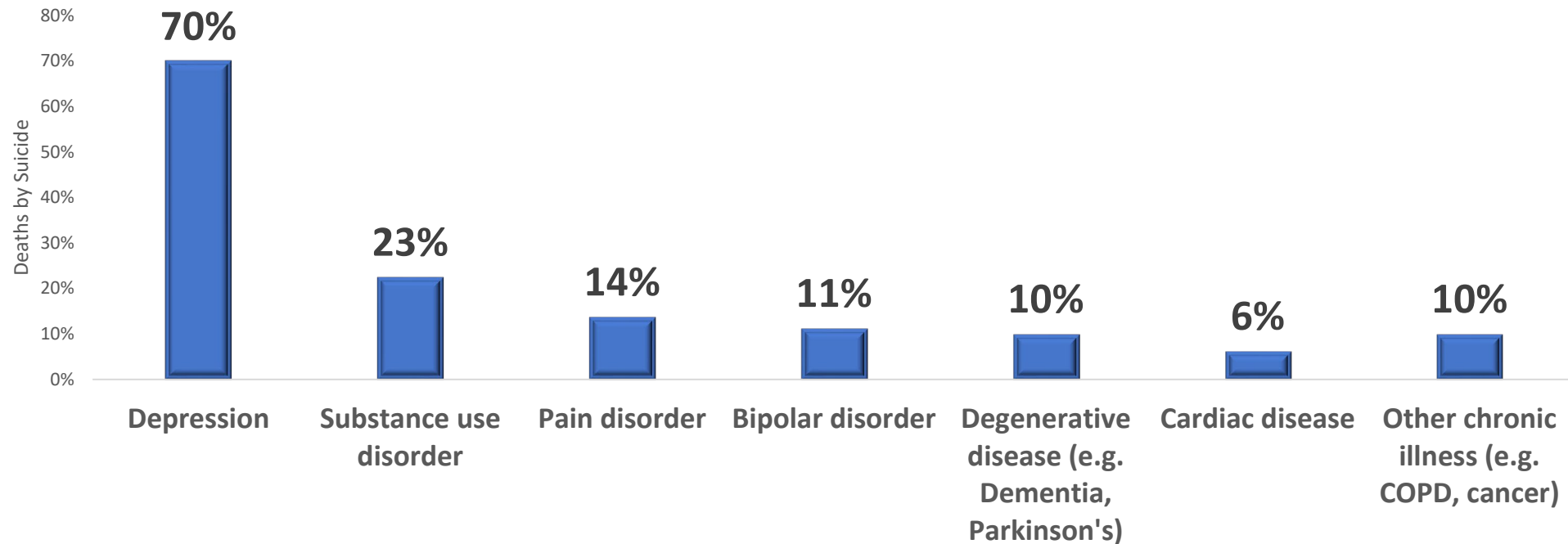


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Comorbid Conditions

For those who had a reported comorbid condition, more than two thirds had depression, and one quarter had a substance use disorder.

Note: Based out of those with reported conditions; Decedent may have >1 condition



Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides with listed comorbid conditions 2015- July 2024 (n=80)

Comorbidity data collection began in 2015. Trending from 2015 to present shows no consistent variation in proportions over time.

Trending data not shown due to MD data suppression rules (n's < 11).



Frederick County, Maryland

Relationships between Demographic Factors

Statistical analysis of population characteristics

Remember:
A relationship
doesn't equal
cause and
effect!

We analyzed different factors to see if there were any statistically significant differences between groups ($p < 0.05$), though a difference does not necessarily equal cause and effect.

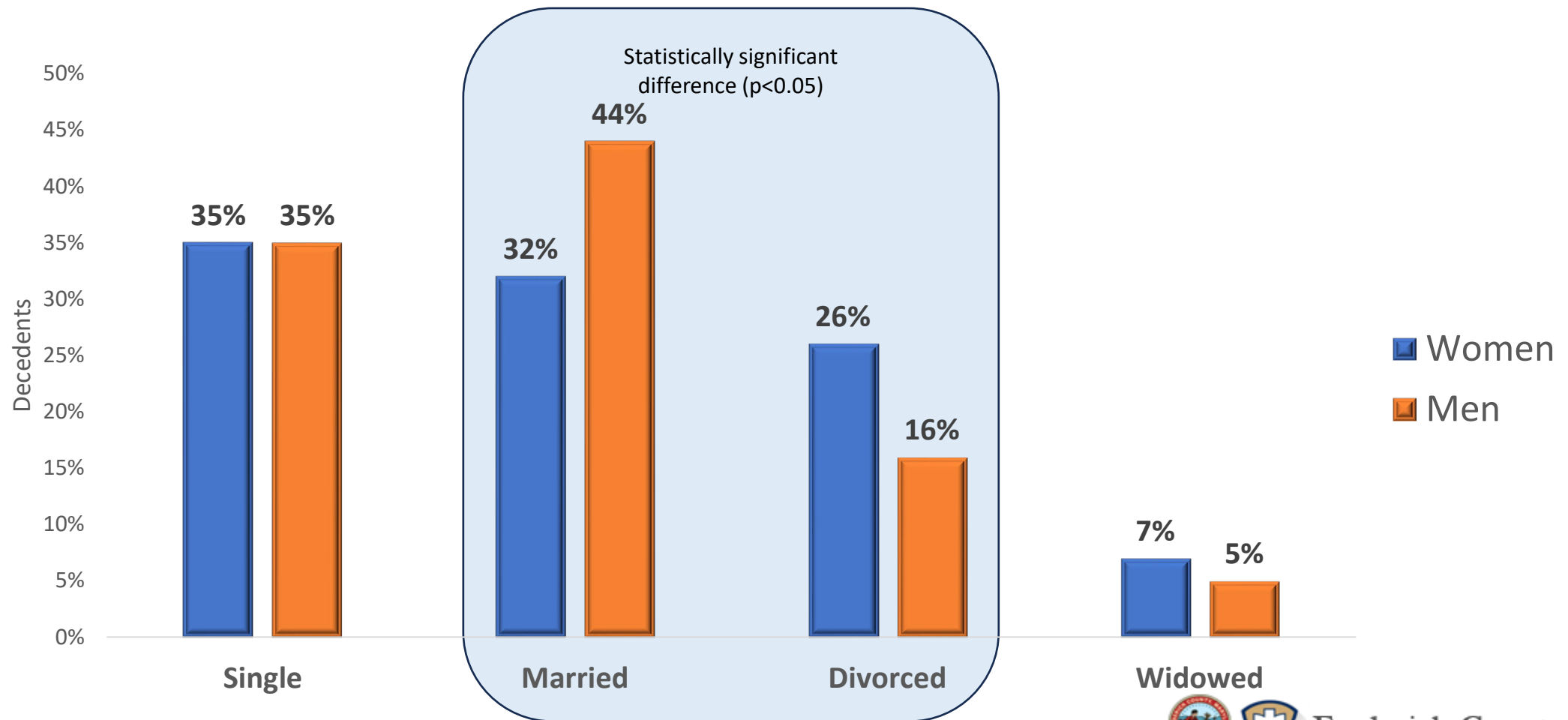
[Here is an article on how to interpret data relationships.](#)



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Marital Status and Gender

Females who died by suicide were more likely to be divorced. Males were more likely to be married.



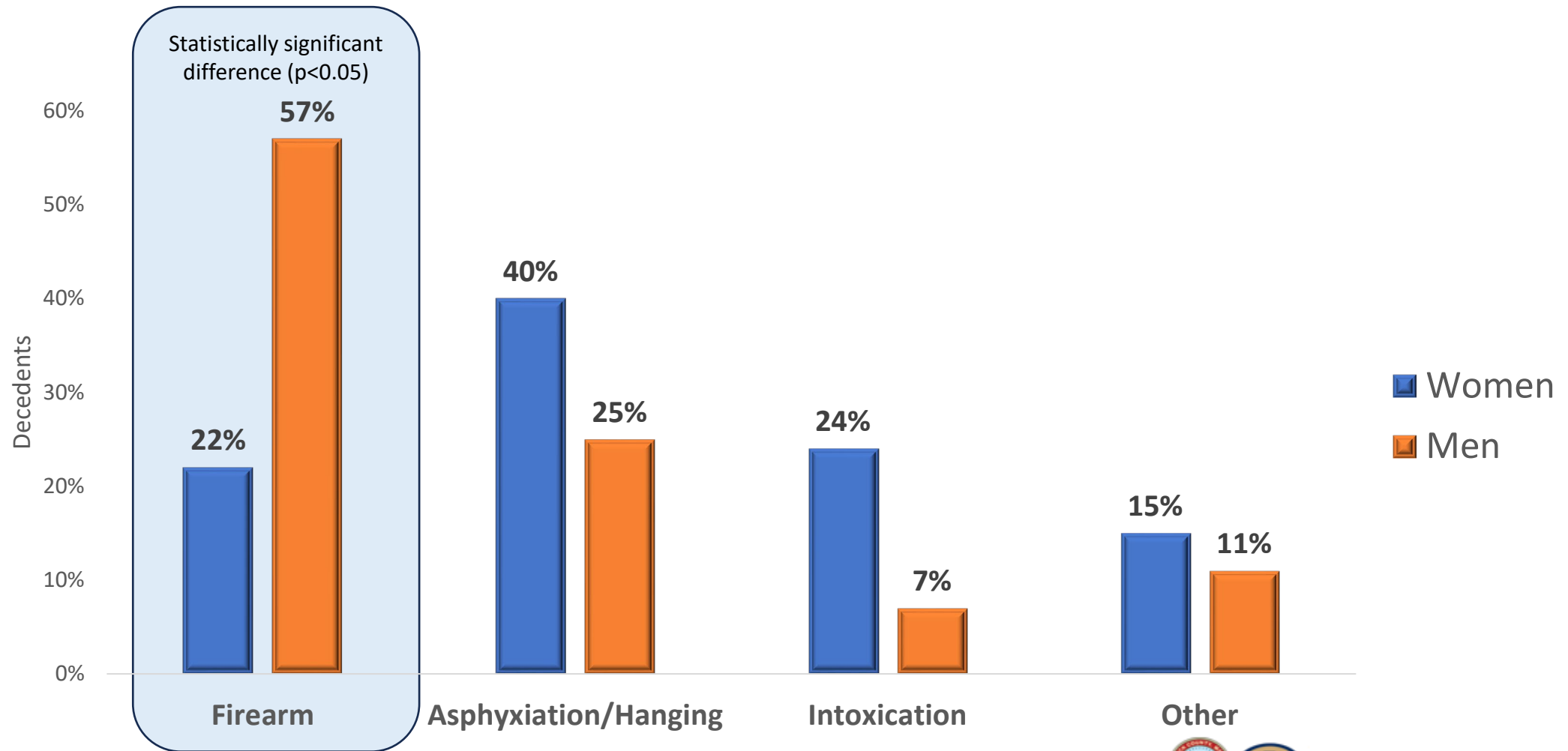
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2010 – July 2024:
Women (n=93); Men (n=323)



Frederick County, Maryland

Cause of Death and Gender

Males were significantly more likely to die by firearm than females.



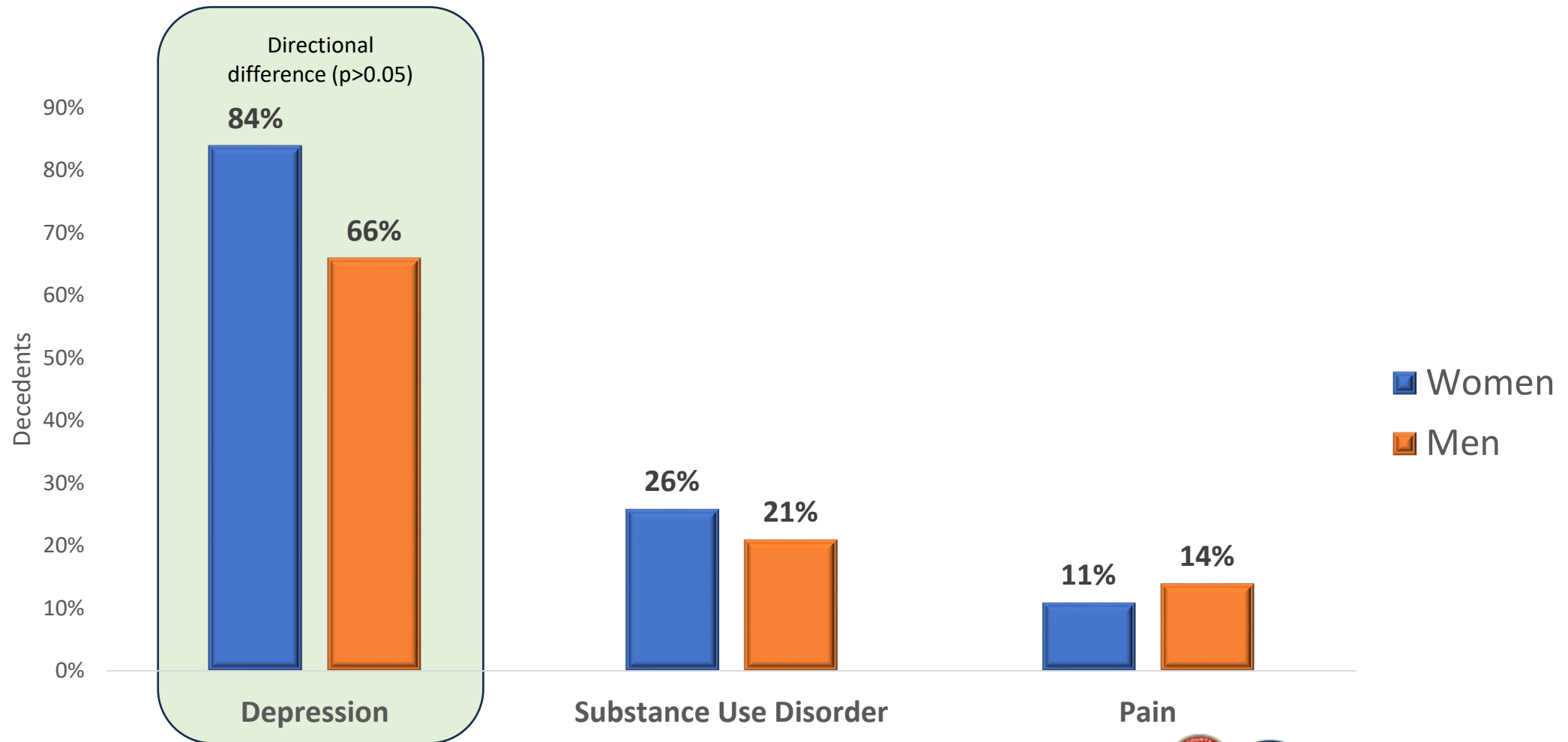
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2010 – July 2024:
Women (n=93); Men (n=323)



Frederick County, Maryland

Comorbid Depression and Gender

Females were more likely to have a documented diagnosis of depression.



Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2015 – July 2024 with documented comorbidities (n=80):
Women (n=19); Men (n=61)

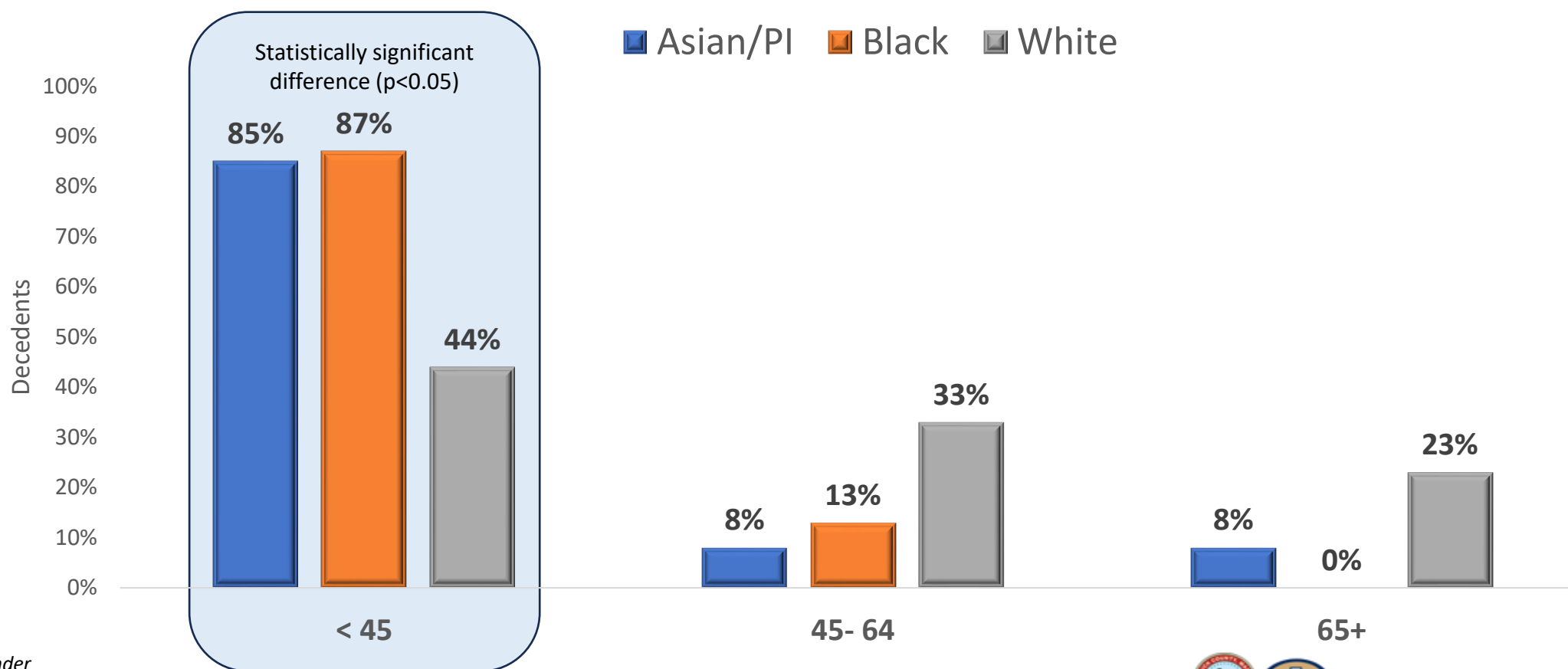


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Age and Race

Most Asian/PI and Black decedents were under the age of 45 years.

This is consistent with trends across the state and nation showing death by suicide is increasing among young persons of color.



PI=Pacific Islander

Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2010 – July 2024:

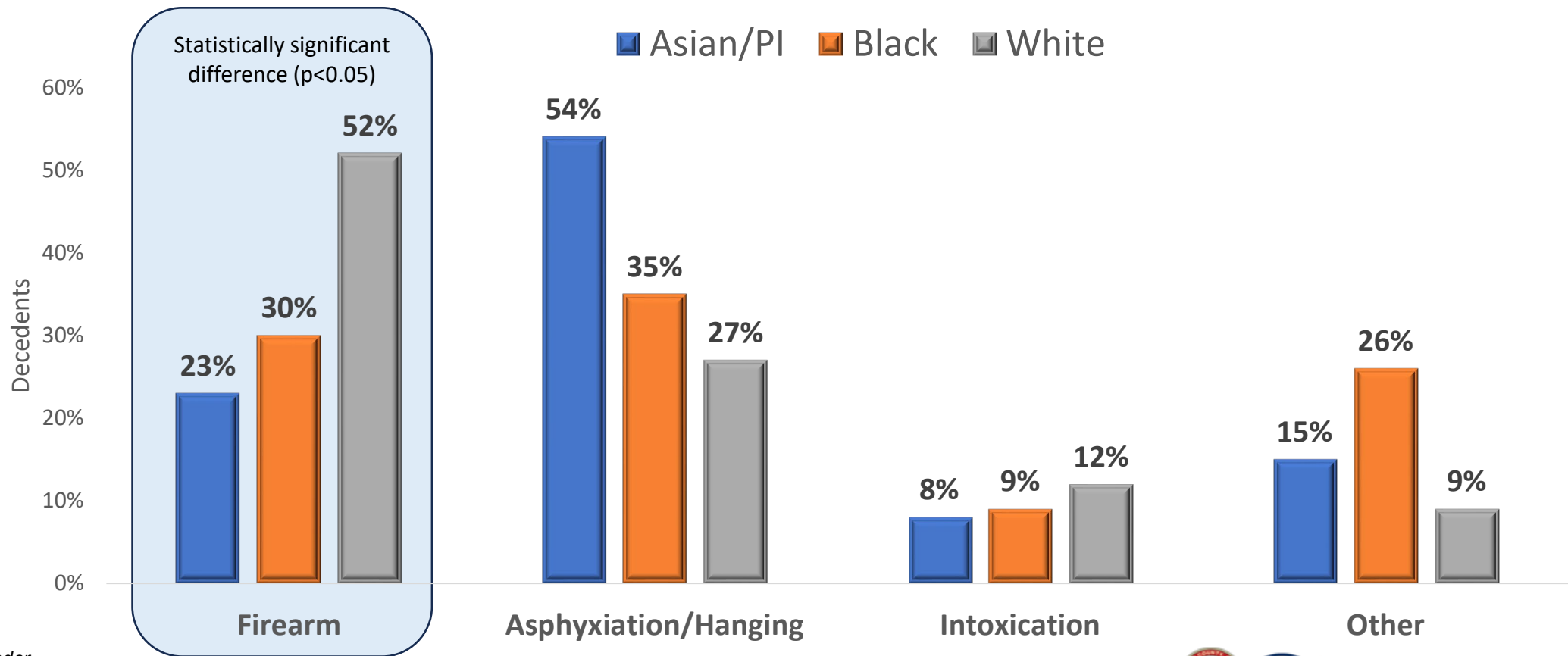
Asian/PI (n=13); Black (n=23); White (361)



Frederick County, Maryland

Cause of Death and Race

Those who are white are more likely to use firearms as a means of death than their Asian/PI and Black counterparts.



PI=Pacific Islander

Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2010 – July 2024:

Asian/PI (n=13); Black (n=23); White (361)



Frederick County, Maryland

Veteran Status

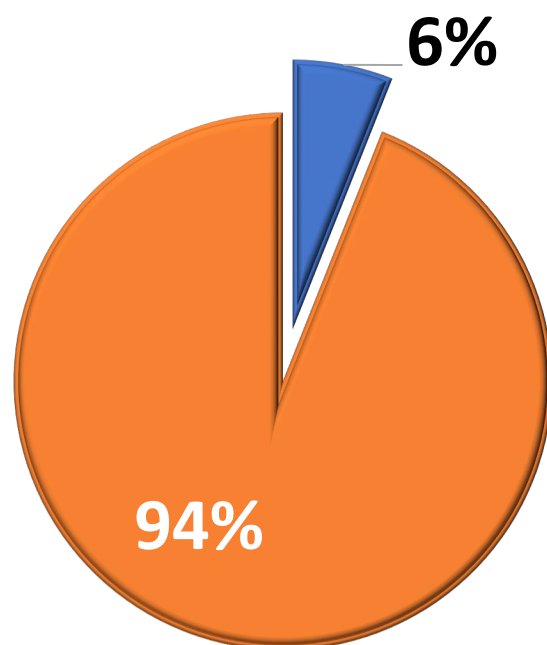


Veteran Status

Although they make up only 6% of the population, 1 in 6 decedents is a veteran.

Total # of veteran
decedents: **n=47**
(2015- July '24)

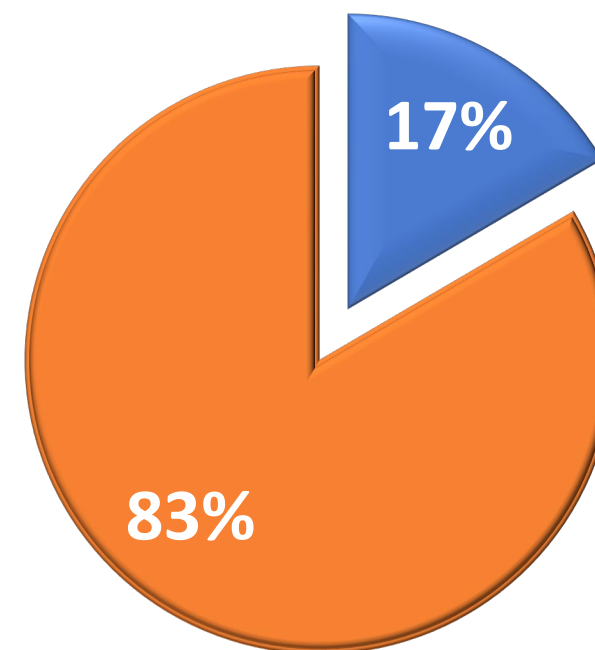
Total Veterans



■ Veteran ■ Non-veteran

Base: Frederick County Average Population 2018-2022 (n=270,765)
Data from US Census:
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/frederickcountymaryland>

Total Deaths by Veteran Status



■ Veteran ■ Non-veteran

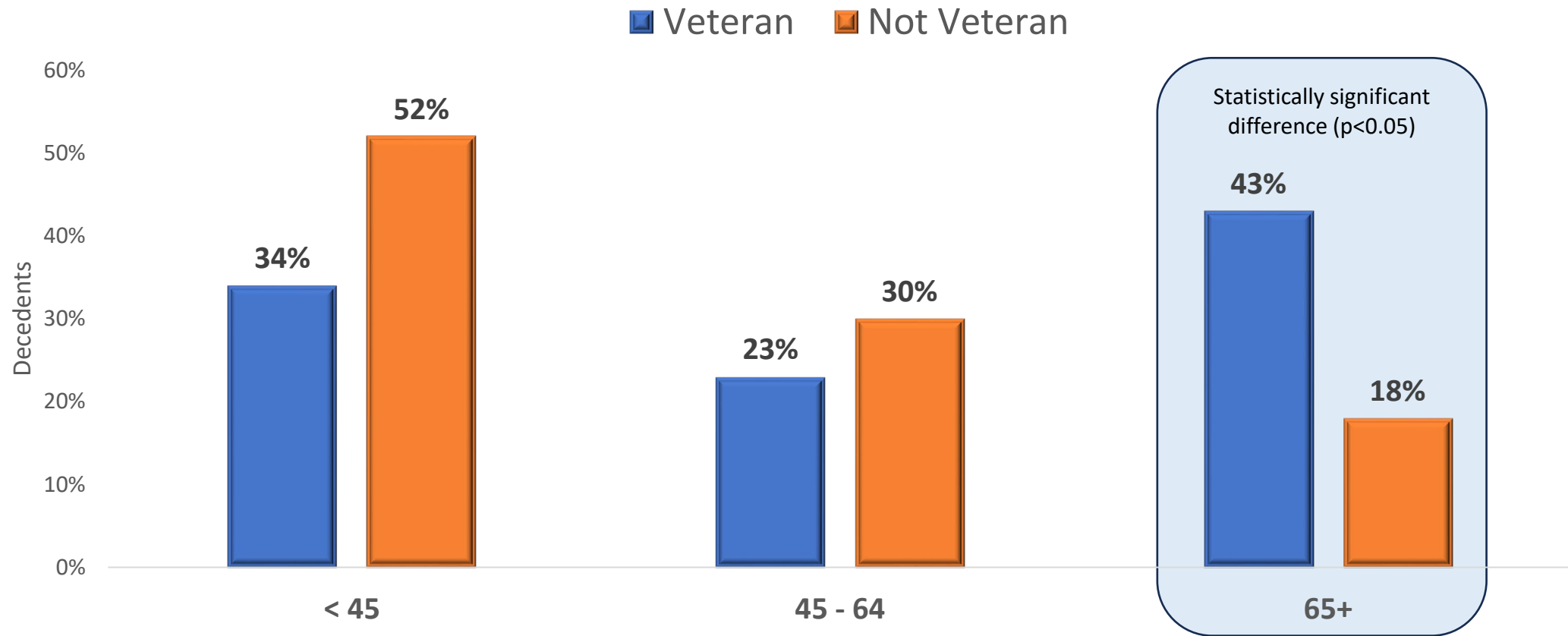
Note: Veteran status reported on Maryland death certificates beginning in 2015.
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicides 2015- July 2024 (n=284)



Frederick County, Maryland

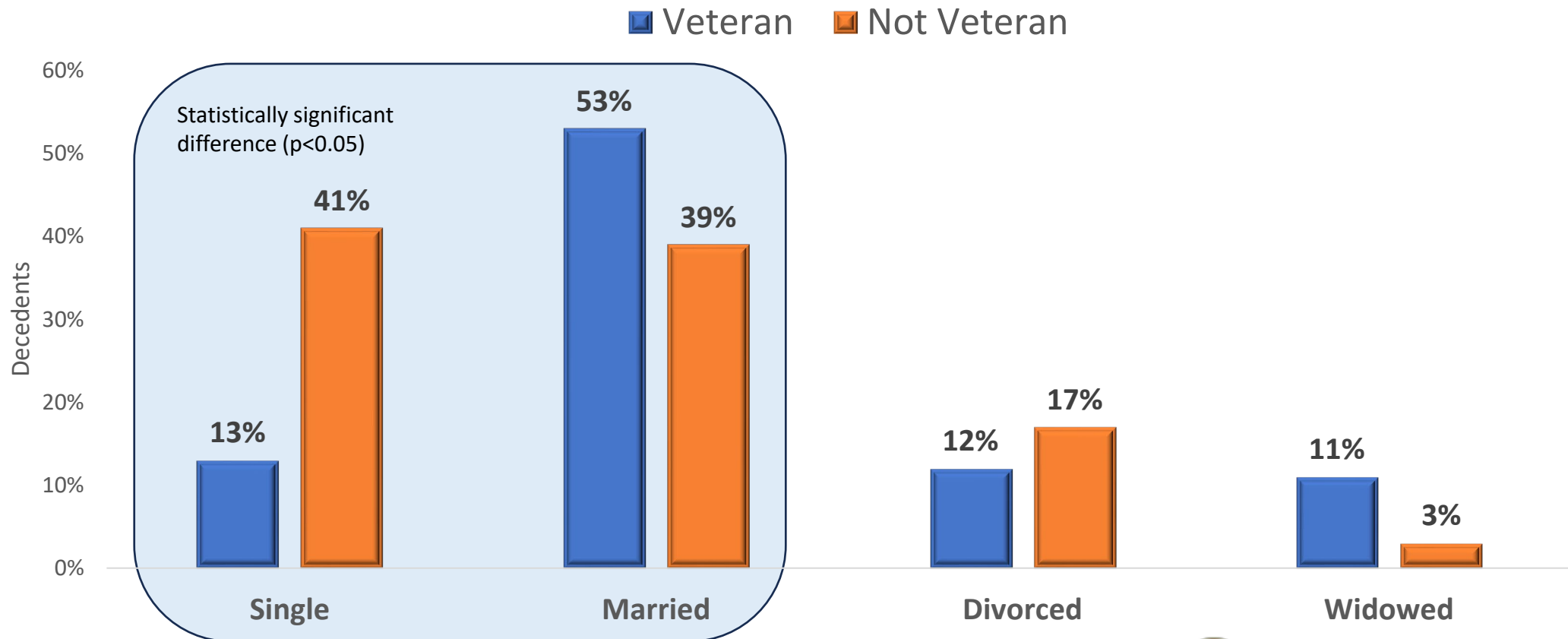
Veteran Status and Age

Veterans who died by suicide were more likely to be over the age of 65 years than non-veterans. This group includes the Vietnam era veterans.



Veteran Status and Marital Status

Veterans were more likely to be married or widowed than their non-veteran counterparts, which may be a reflection of their overall older age.



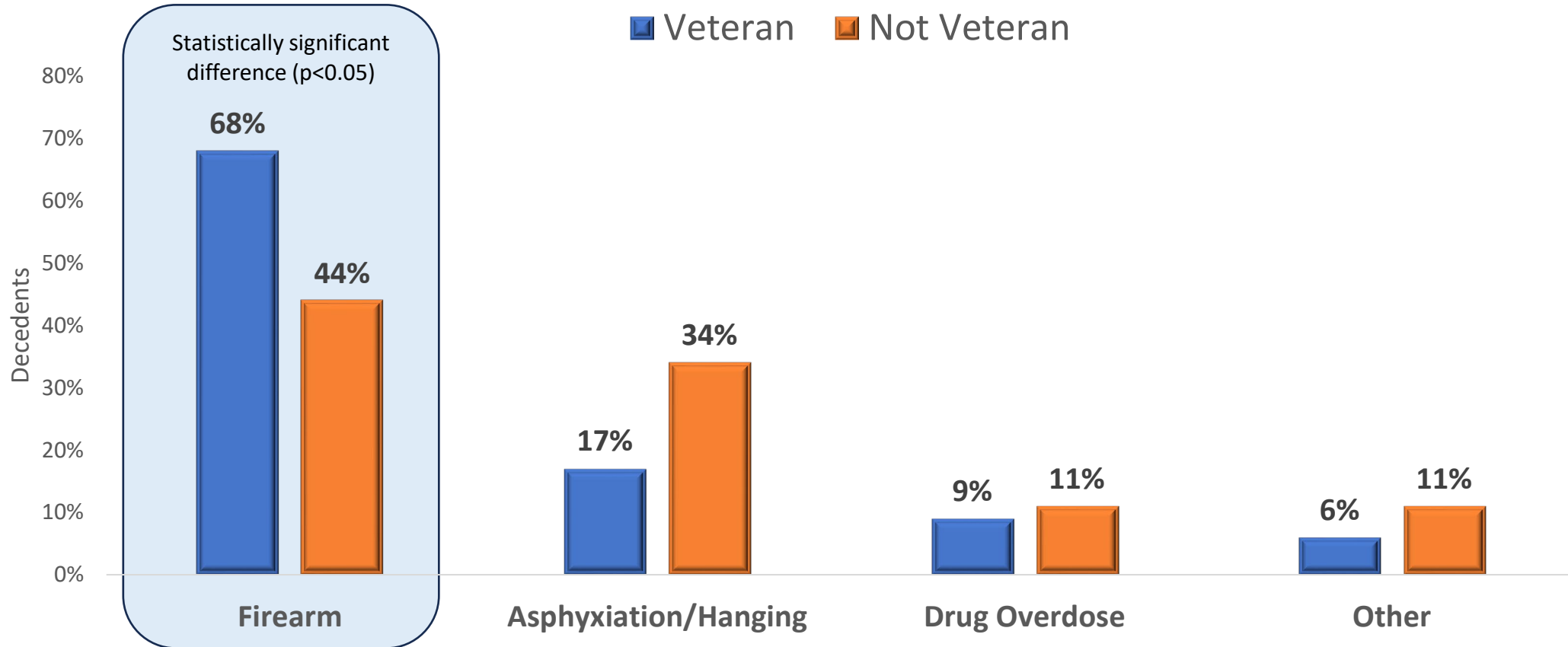
Base: Frederick County Deaths by Suicide 2015 - July 2024:
Veterans (n=47); Not Veterans (n=237)



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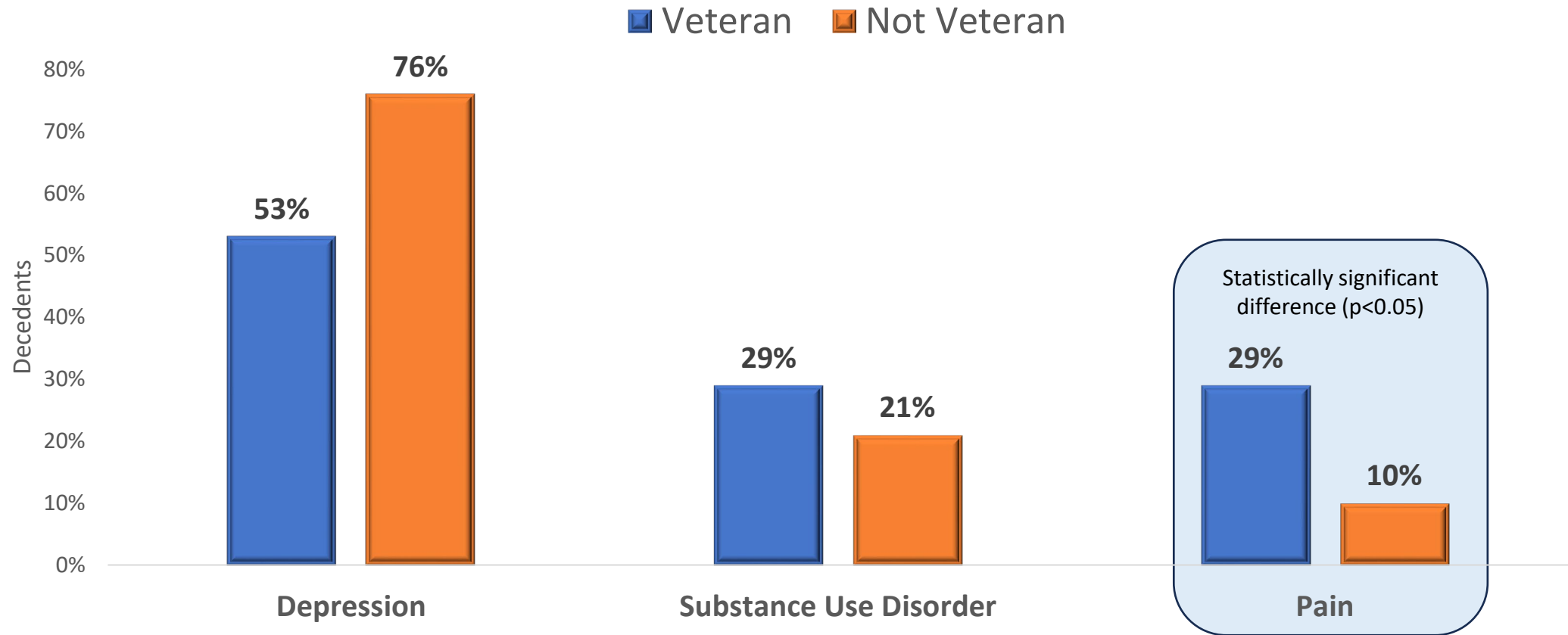
Veteran Causes of Death

Veterans were more likely to use a firearm as cause of death.



Veteran Status and Comorbidities

Veterans were more likely than non-veterans to have pain that was significant enough to be noted as a health issue by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



Behavioral Health Services

Frederick County, Maryland

Division Director

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Epidemiologist

Hillary J. Gross, MPH, MPA

For questions on this data, please contact hgross@frederickcountymd.gov

A copy of this presentation is posted on the [Suicide Prevention Coalition website](https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/702/Suicide-Prevention-Coalition)

<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/702/Suicide-Prevention-Coalition>



Frederick County, Maryland

Appendix: Other Notable Statistics



Drug overdose deaths: higher among 45-54 age group. People age 65 years and older less likely to have SUD diagnosis.



Firearm use: associated with depression diagnosis, older age groups and married persons.



Documented history of pain and bipolar disorder was evenly distributed among age groups.

