

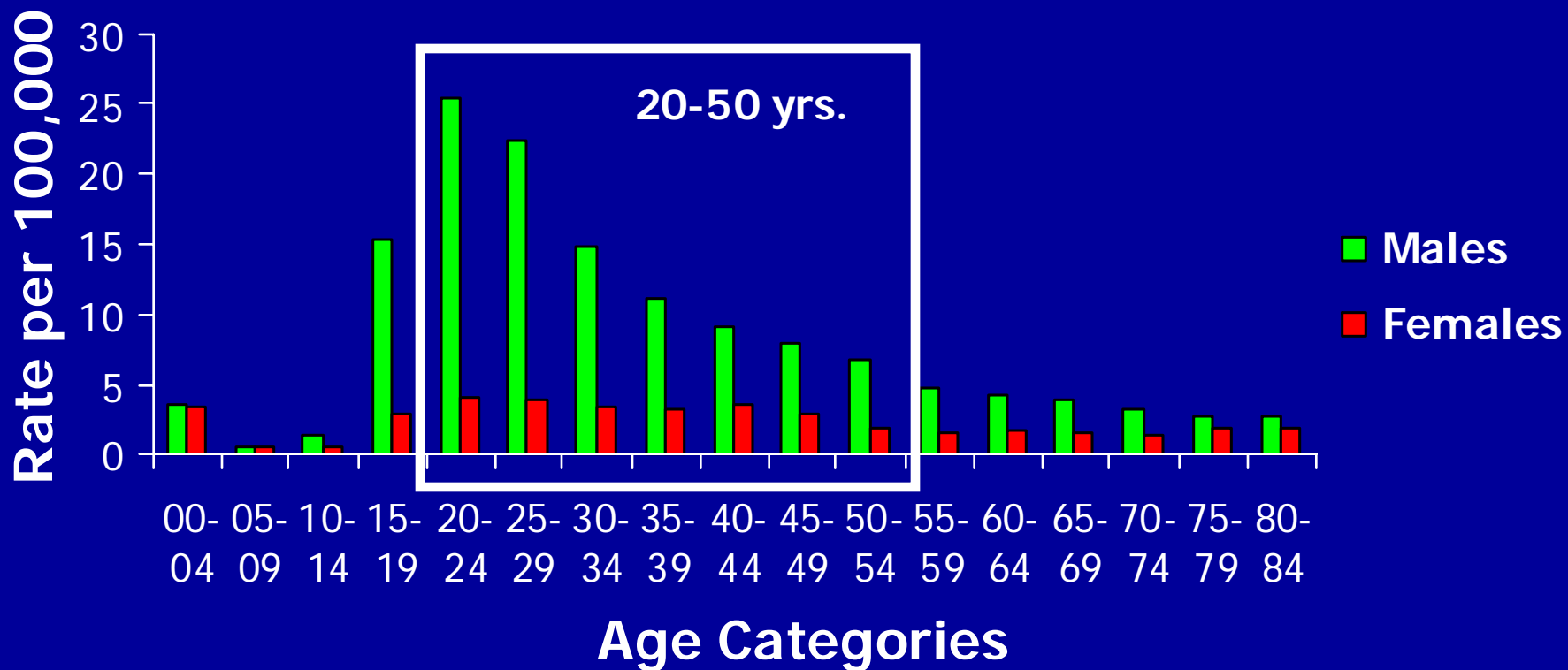
# Preceding circumstances of homicide and suicide deaths: National Violent Death Reporting System, 2004–2005

J. Logan, PhD, D. Karch, PhD, N. Patel, MS

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



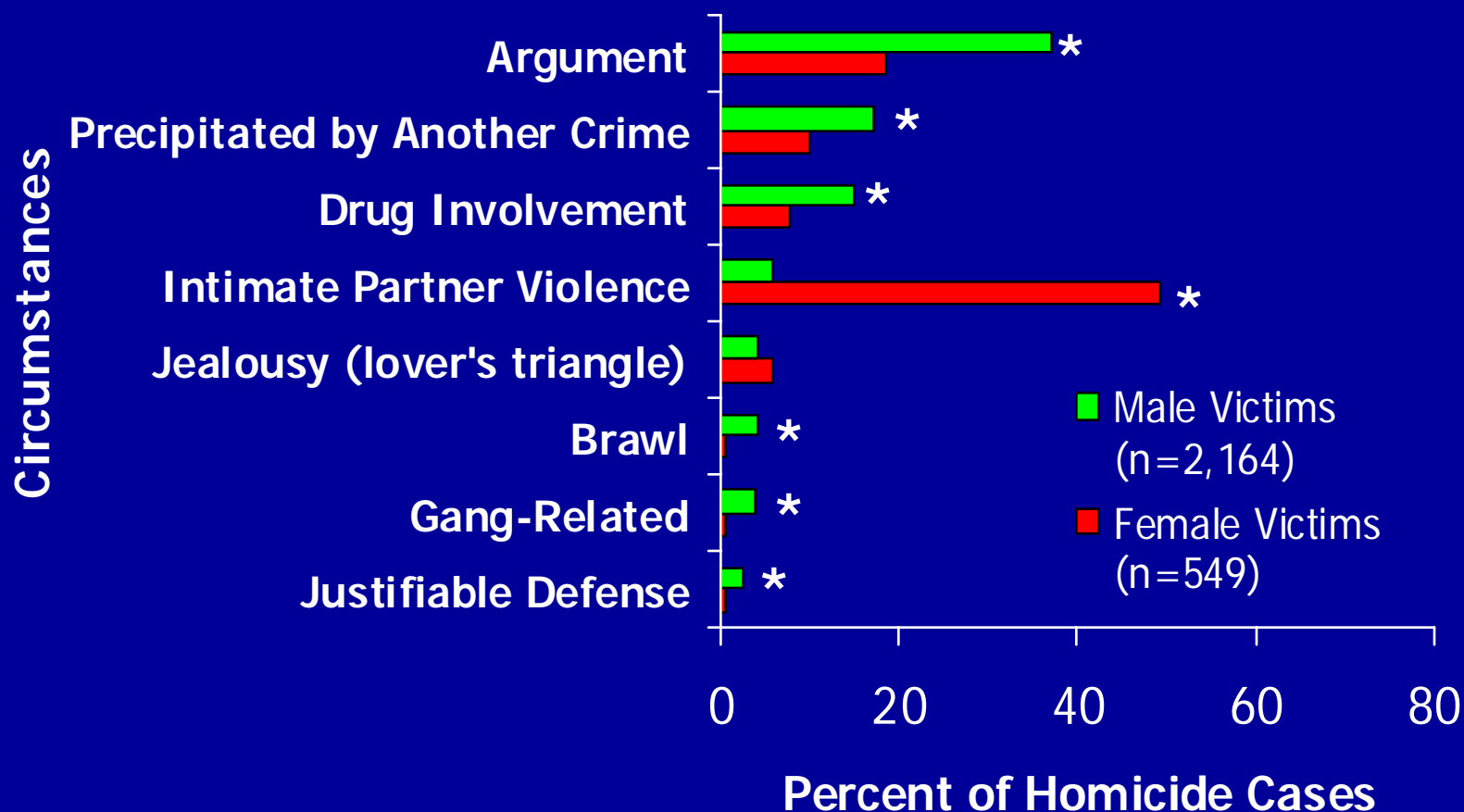
# Homicide Rates per 100,000 by Age and Sex, 2004<sup>1</sup>



**1. Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics**



# Selected Circumstance Information for Homicide Victims 20–50 Yrs. of Age by Sex<sup>a</sup>

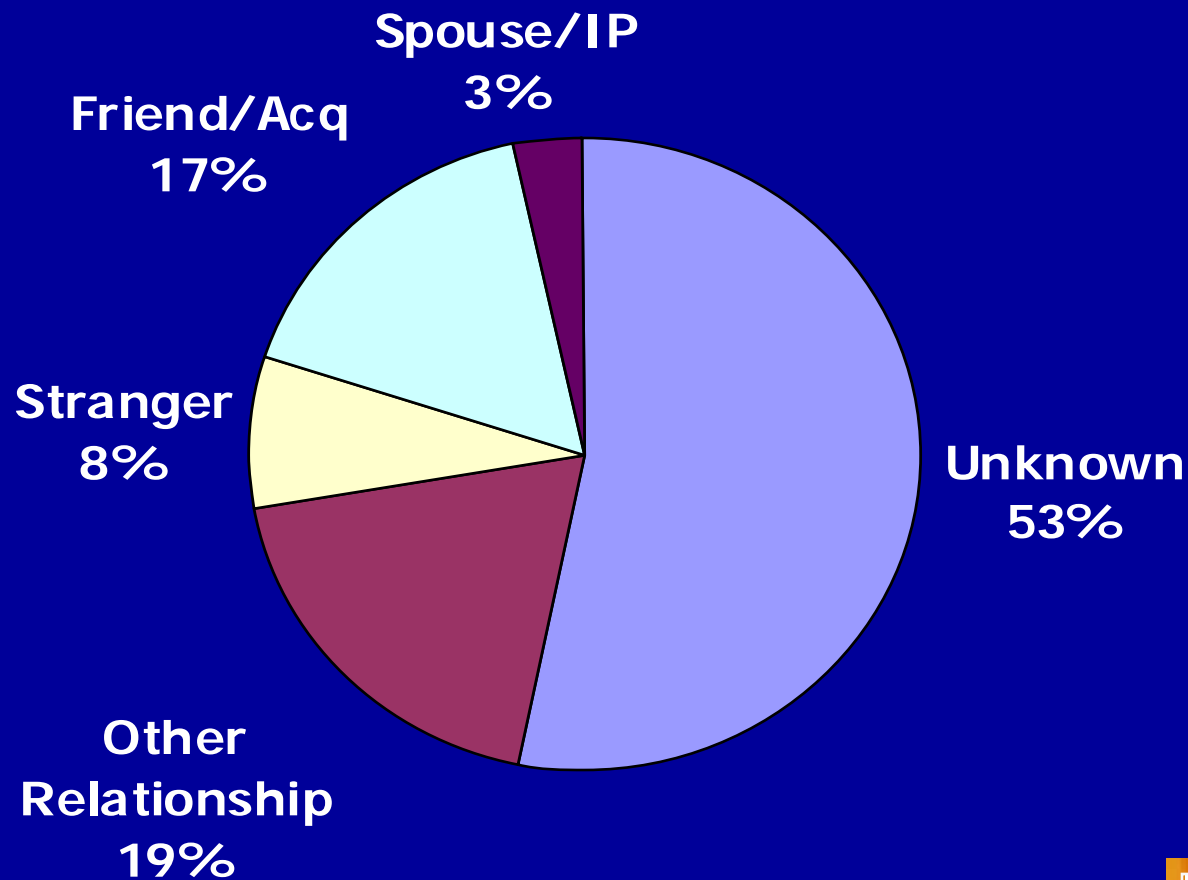


<sup>a</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive

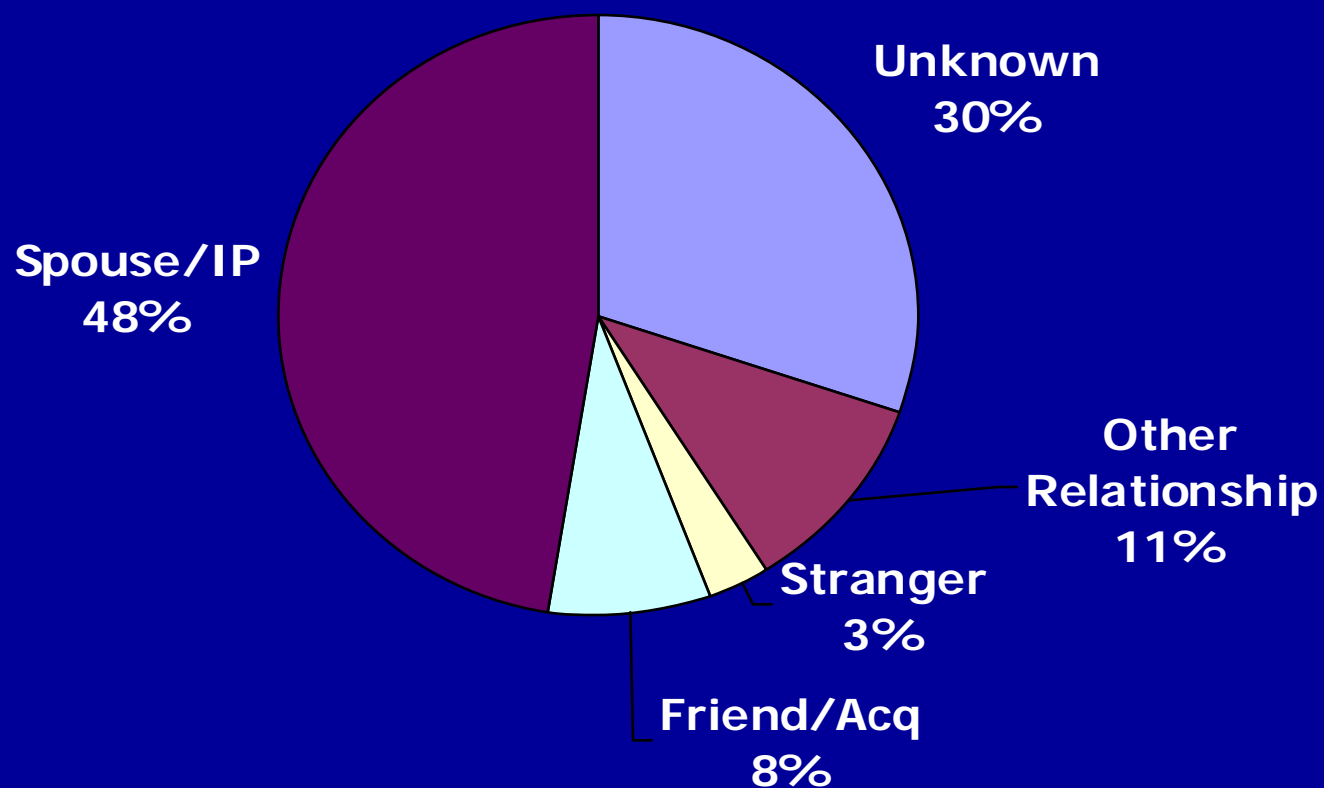
\* Significant difference between males and females at  $p < 0.05$



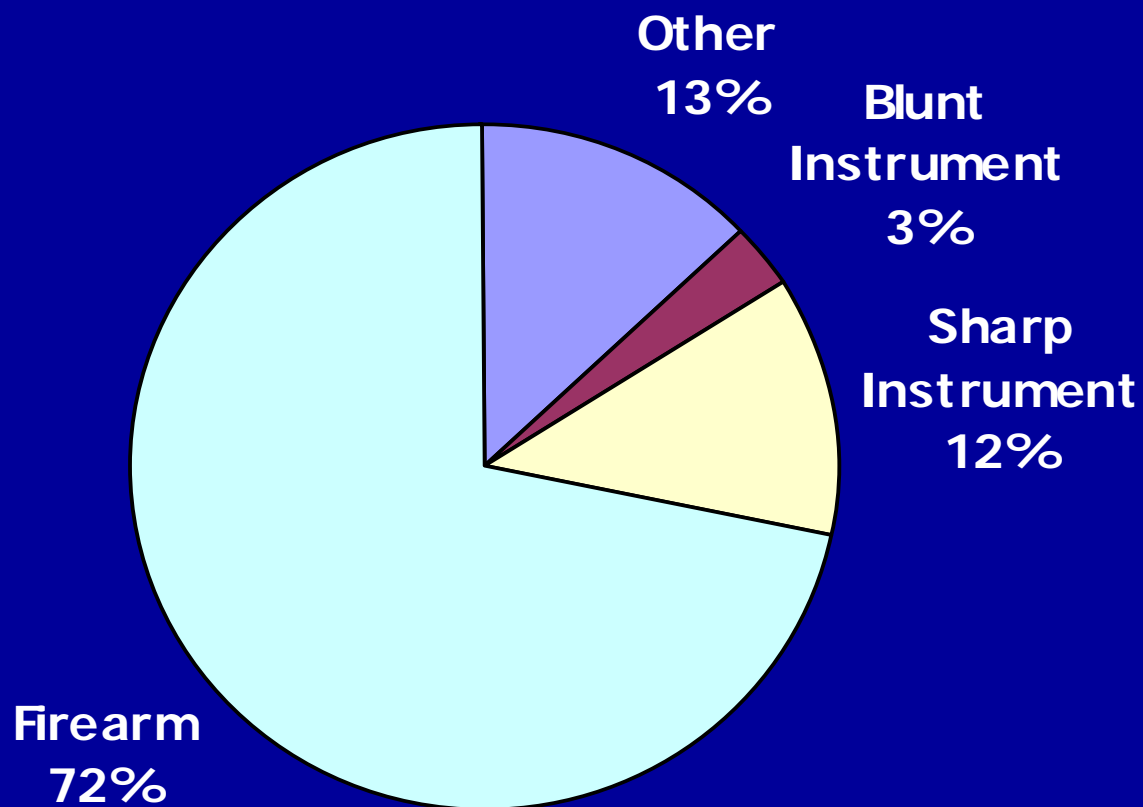
# Victim-Suspect Relationship Information for Male Homicide Victims 20–50 Yrs. of Age



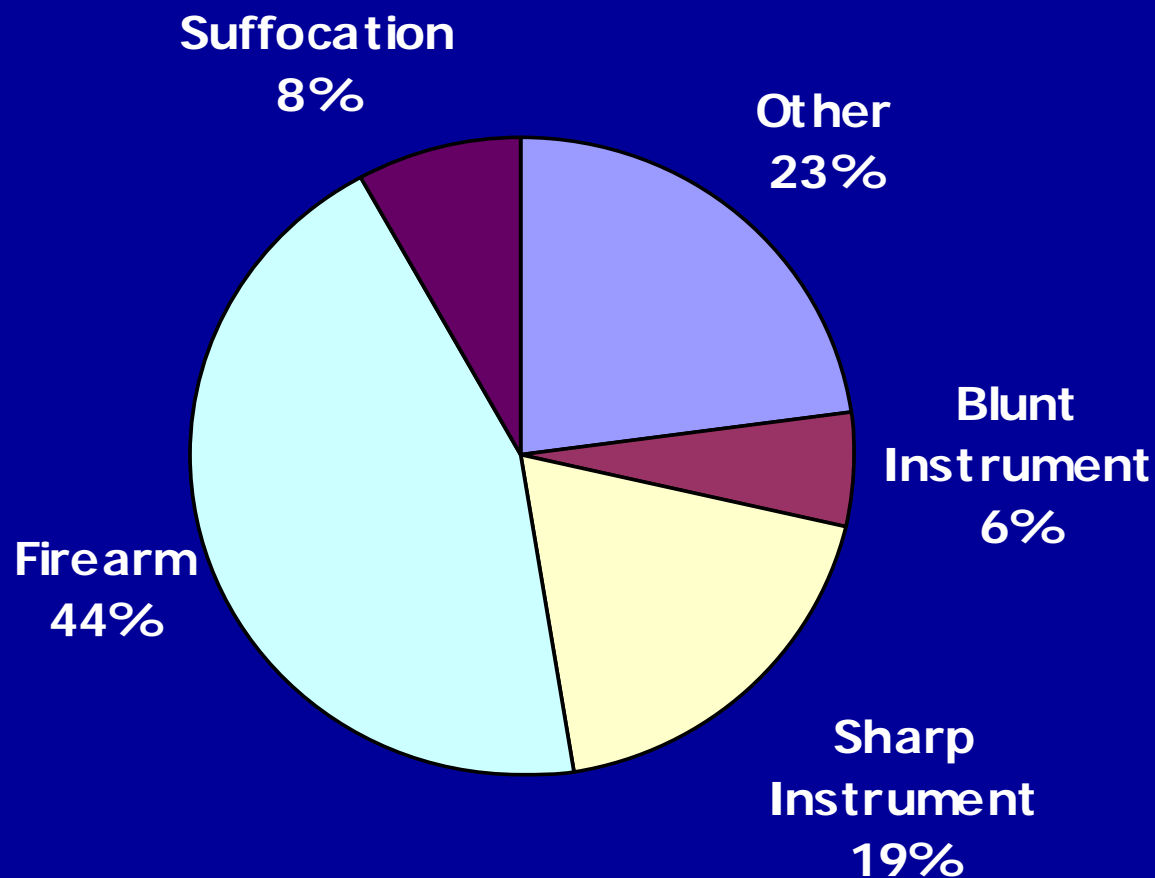
# Victim-Suspect Relationship Information for Female Homicide Victims 20–50 Yrs. of Age



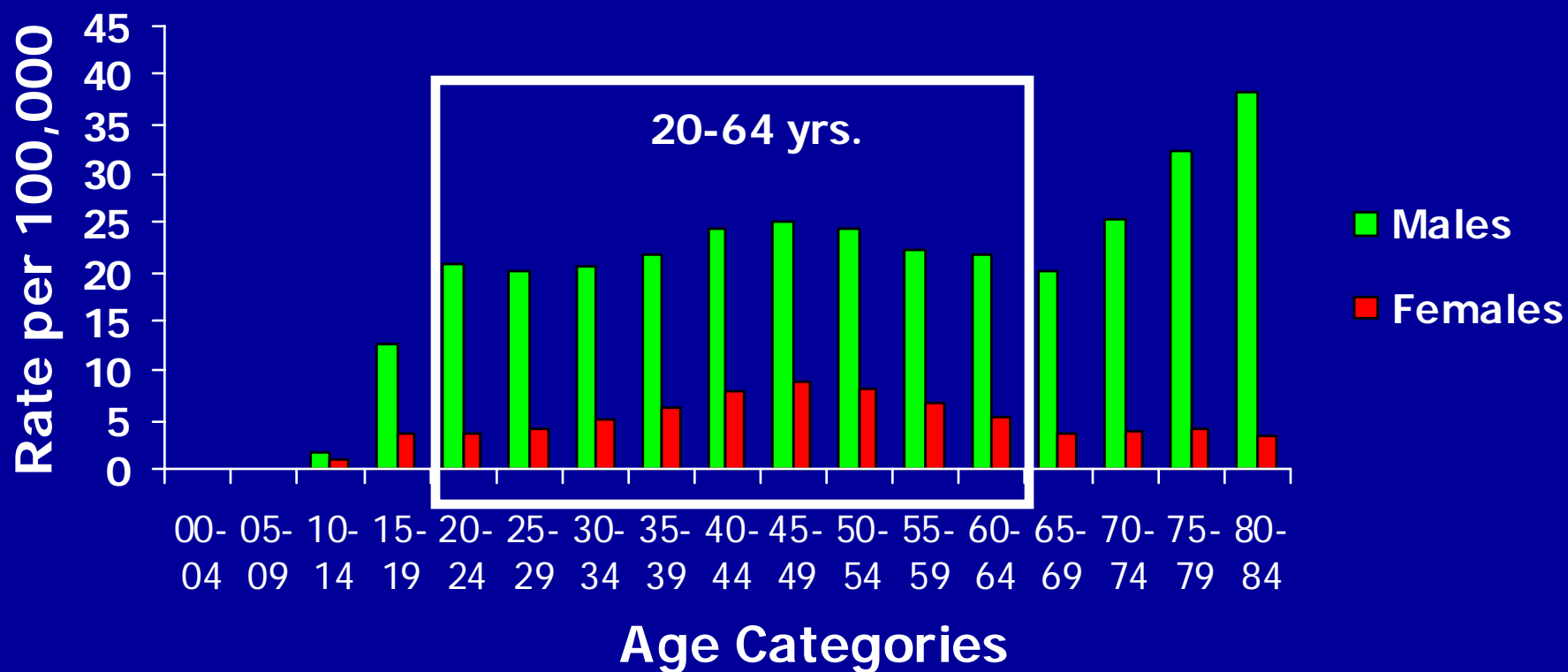
# Weapons Used in Homicides with Male Victims 20–50 Yrs. of Age



# Weapons Used in Homicides with Female Victims 20–50 Yrs. of Age



# Suicide Rates per 100,000 by Age and Sex, 2004<sup>1</sup>

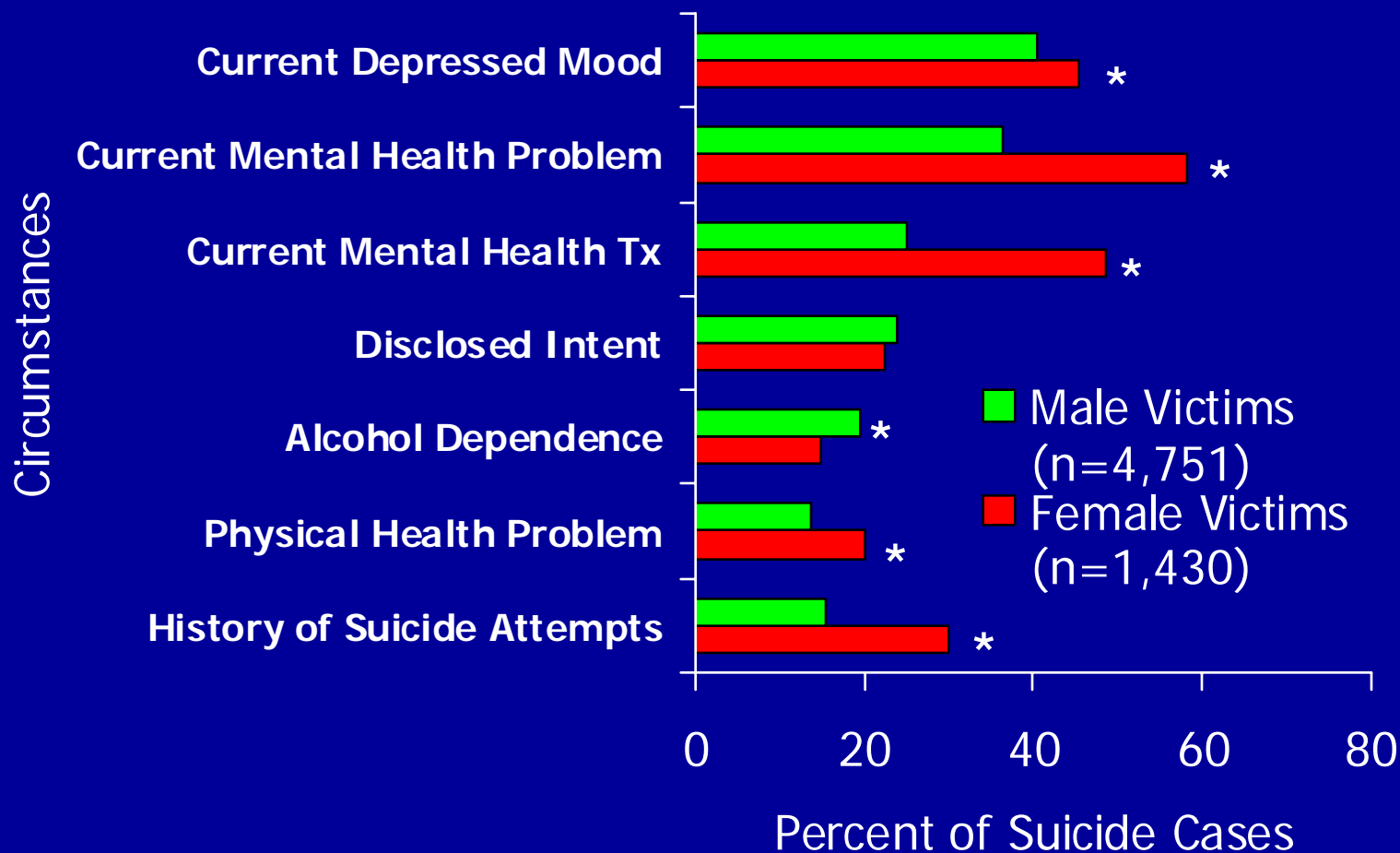


1. Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics





# Health/Behavior Information for Suicide Victims 20–64 Yrs. of Age by Sex<sup>a</sup>

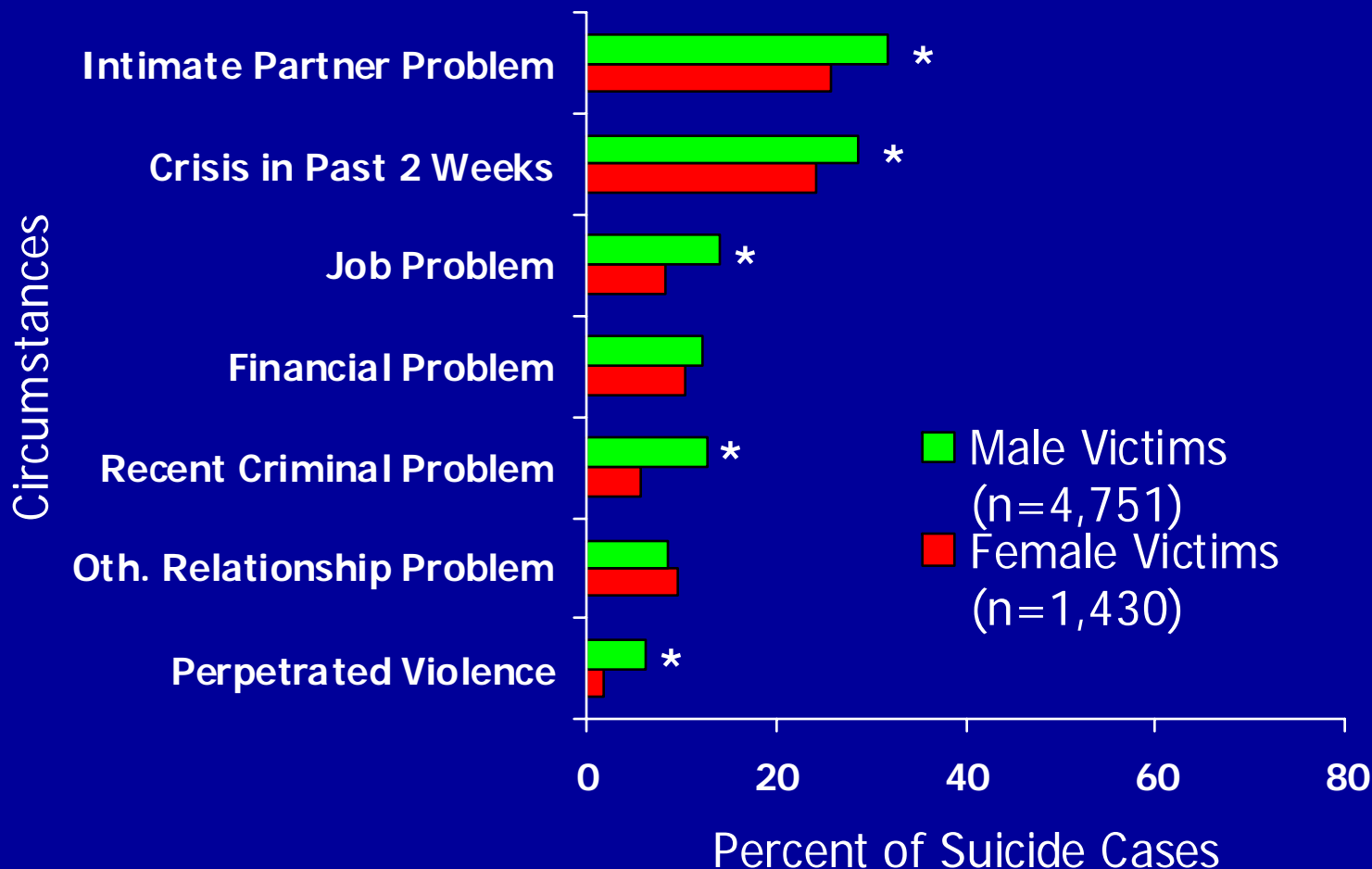


<sup>a</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive

\*Significant difference between males and females at  $p < 0.05$



# Life-Event Information for Suicide Victims 20–64 Yrs. of Age by Sex<sup>a</sup>

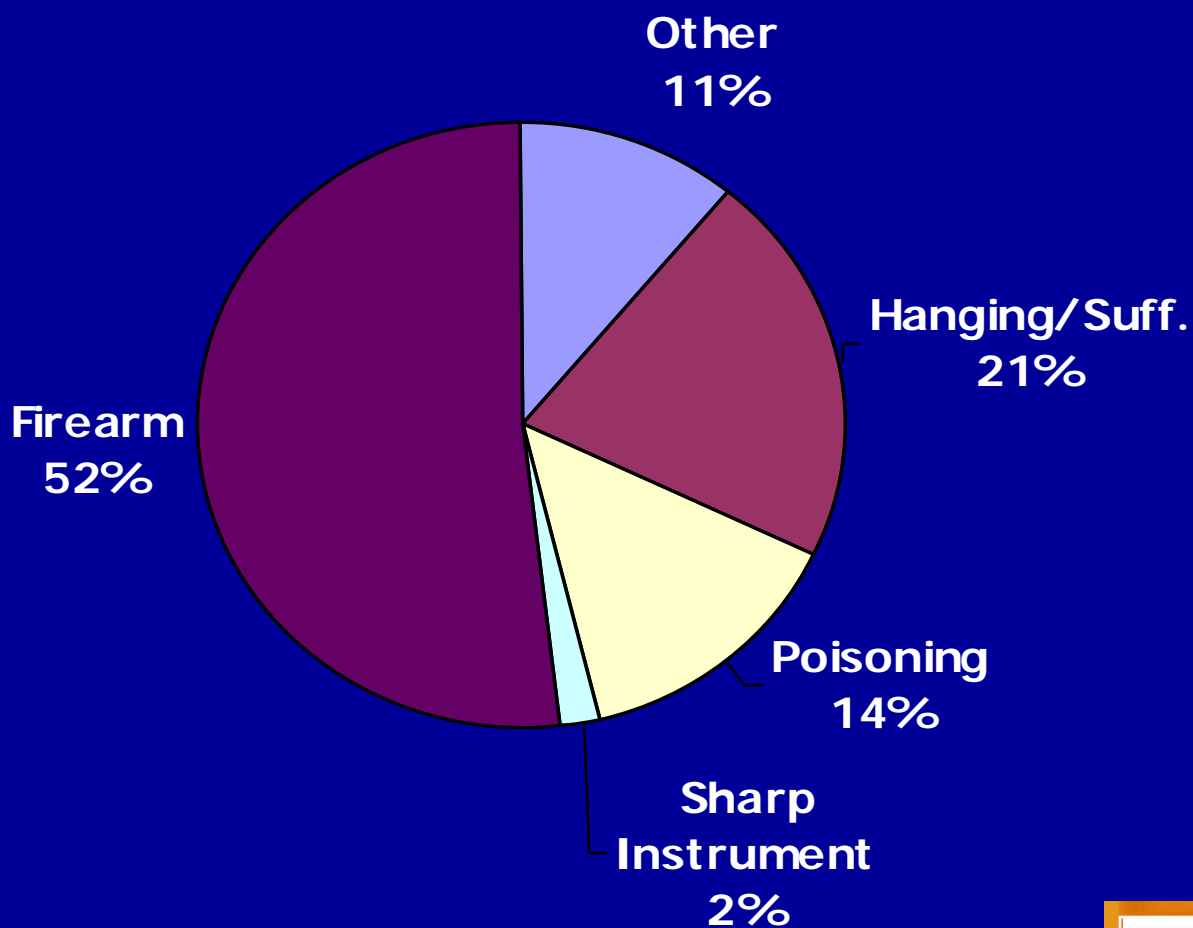


<sup>a</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive

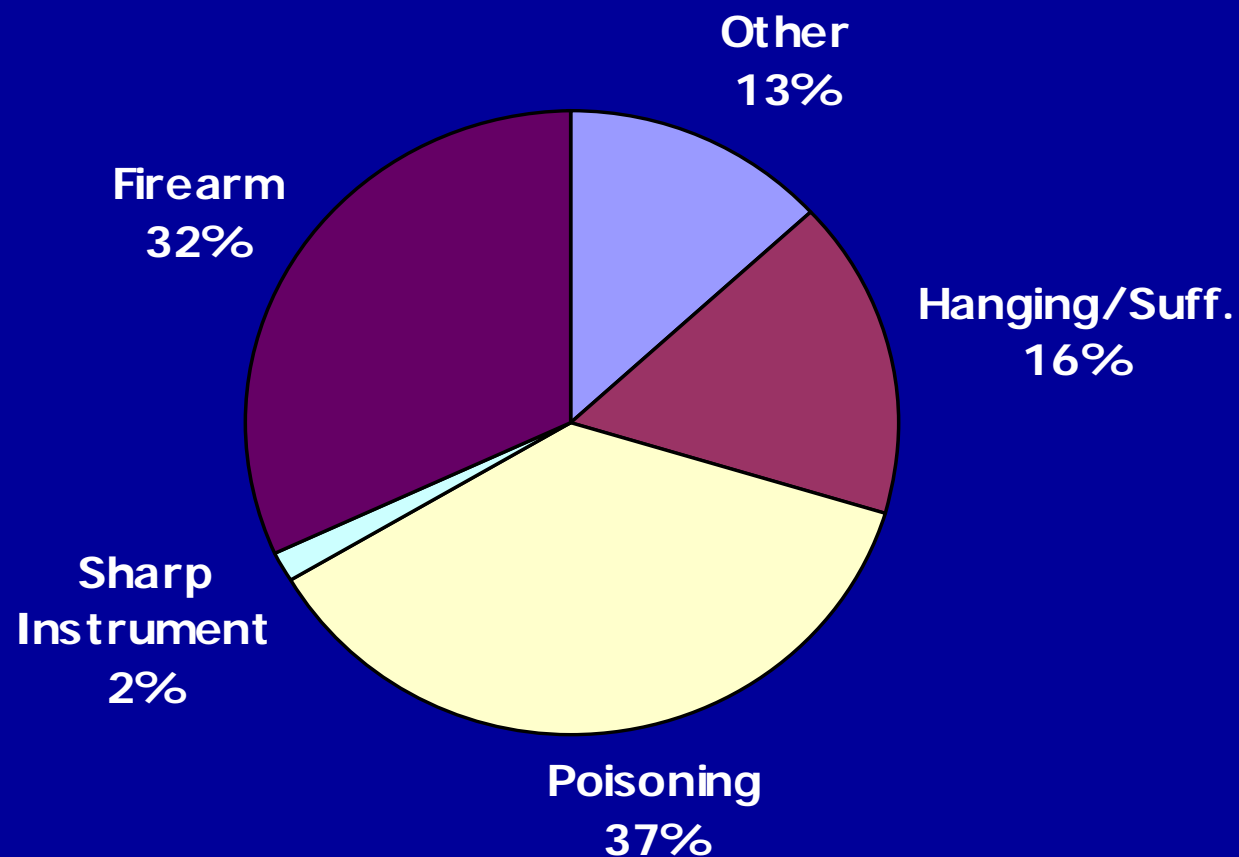
\*Significant difference between males and females at  $p < 0.05$



# Weapons Used by Male Suicide Victims 20–64 Yrs. of Age



# Weapons Used by Female Suicide Victims 20–64 Yrs. of Age



# Key Findings: Preceding Circumstances of Suicides

- Many suicide victims disclosed intent, accessed treatment, or had a history of prior attempts
- Mental health factors more common among female victims
- Life-event factors more common among male victims



# Bridging Surveillance to Policy, Programs, Research, and Practice



# Definition

- **Public Health Surveillance:**<sup>1</sup>
  - “Ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of outcome-specific data, closely integrated with timely dissemination of these data to those responsible for preventing and controlling disease or injury”

1. Thacker & Stroup, 1994



# Roles of Surveillance Systems<sup>1</sup>

- Detect incidents
- Provide direction to control risk
- Focus research

1. Thacker & Stroup, 1994





# Roles of Surveillance Systems<sup>1</sup> (2)

- Facilitate policy and program decisions
  - Provide timely data to prioritize prevention efforts
  - Evaluate policy and program initiatives

1. Thacker & Stroup, 1994



# NVDRS Impact on Policy and Program Initiatives

- Provided annual summaries for (AK, CO, NJ) state advisory councils:
  - Suicide prevention
  - Domestic violence
  - Child fatality review
- Published summaries on circumstance information
  - Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
  - Injury Prevention



# NVDRS Impact on Policy and Program Initiatives (2)

- **Provided guidance for prevention initiatives**
  - Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan-Oregon
  - Intimate Partner Violence Homicide Report-Oregon
- **Used by programs to evaluate their prevention initiatives**
  - Suicide Prevention Program-Massachusetts



# NVDRS Impact on Research

- **Provided direction for current etiologic inquiries**
  - Arguments preceding homicides
  - Mental health treatment referral and adherence following suicide attempt



# NVDRS Impact on Practices

- Improved timely detection and provided measures to control risk:
  - North Carolina NVDRS increased awareness on pregnancy-related homicides
  - Kentucky NVDRS staff facilitate interactions between coroners and the Department of Mental Health and Retardation's Suicide Task Force



# Bridging Violent Death Surveillance to Policy, Programs, Research, and Practice—Recommendations

- Improve data collection
  - Build law enforcement's trust
  - Train investigators on core information needs



# Bridging Violent Death Surveillance to Policy, Programs, Research, and Practice—Recommendations (2)

- Increase timeliness
  - Electronic submissions



# Bridging Violent Death Surveillance to Policy, Programs, Research, and Practice—Recommendations (3)

- Maintain flexibility





# Bridging Violent Death Surveillance to Policy, Programs, Research, and Practice—Recommendations (4)

- Seek new findings
  - Link preceding circumstance, victim-suspect relationships, and weapons



# Acknowledgments

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# Thank You



# Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy





# Limitations of NVDRS

- Varying levels of acceptability among law enforcement
- Dependent upon the perspectives of investigating officers
- Representative of select U.S. states
- Dependent upon information recall

