



### Trends in Suicides

Report Date: September 11, 2023

The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) investigated a total of **381** suicides from January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2023. This report examines demographic variables along with cause of death.

#### Trends

OCME observed an average of **55** suicides per year over the last decade (Fig. 1). As of August 31, 2023, **28** suicides were investigated.

**Fig. 1: 10 Year Trend in Suicides Observed at DC OCME**

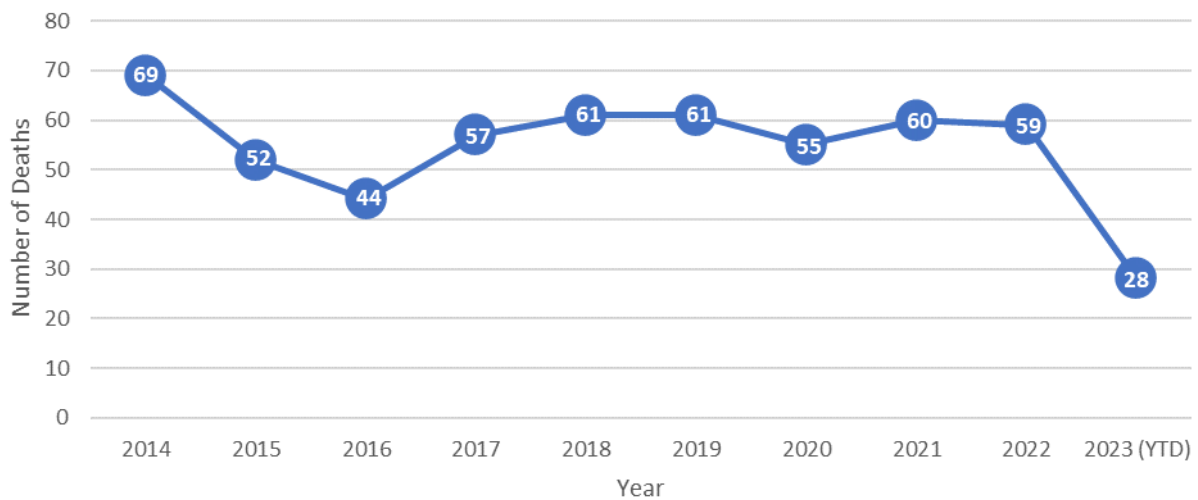
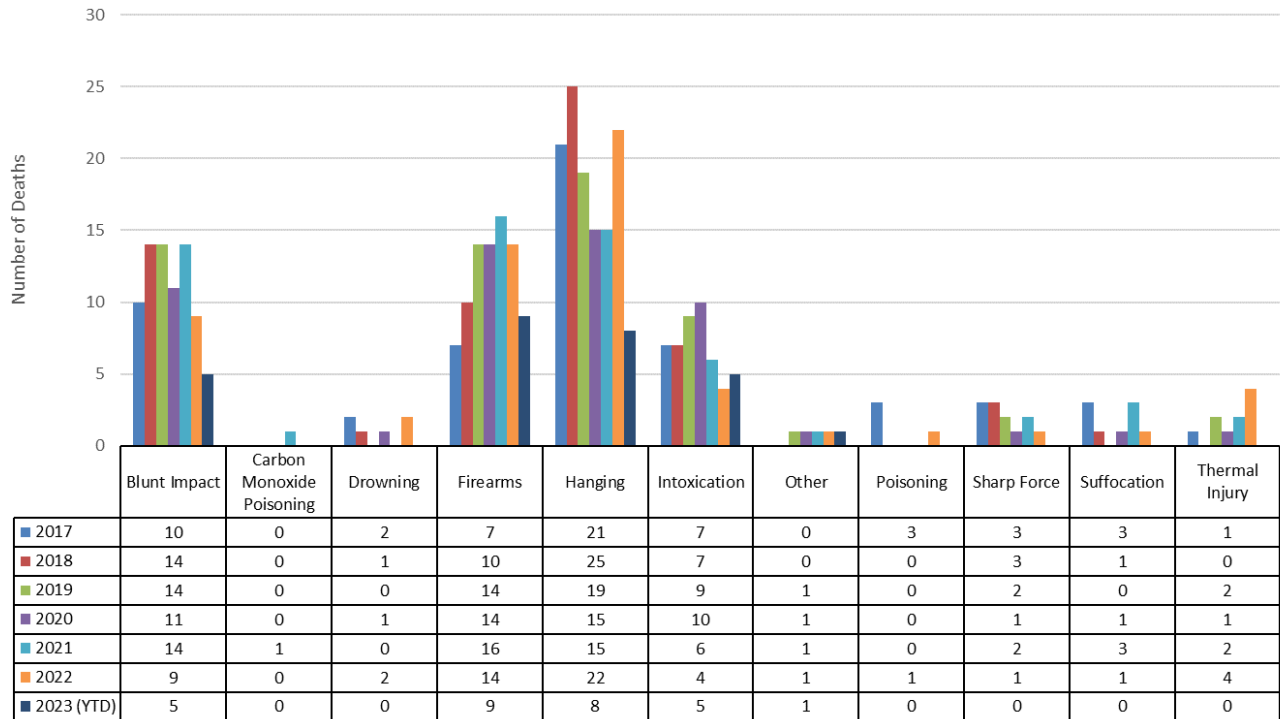


Fig. 2: Suicides by Cause of Death and Year



**Demographics**

Overall, suicides were most prevalent among persons aged 20-29, followed by 30-39 and 50-59 (Table 1). In addition, suicides have been more prevalent among males than females. However, prevalence among racial/ethnic groups varies across years.

Table 1. Demographic Breakdown of Suicides Observed at DC OCME (2017 - 2023 YTD)							
	2017 (n=57)	2018 (n=61)	2019 (n=61)	2020 (n=55)	2021 (n=60)	2022 (n=59)	2023 (n=28)
<b>Age Category</b>							
Under 9	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
10-19	3	6	6	3	5	1	1
20-29	18	10	12	11	18	14	5
30-39	11	15	13	10	11	12	3
40-49	7	7	10	9	5	8	8
50-59	8	11	9	9	9	7	3
60-69	7	7	6	5	8	10	3
70+	3	5	5	7	4	6	5
<b>Race</b>							
Black	25	16	30	24	18	29	14
White	27	37	25	20	29	21	13
Other	5	8	6	11	13	9	1
<b>Gender</b>							
Female	17	17	23	12	9	13	10
Male	40	44	38	43	51	46	18



### Jurisdiction of Residence

Overall, sixty-nine percent of the decedents that died due to suicide were residents of the District of Columbia. Suicides were most prevalent in wards 6, 4, and 1. However, there are variations in prevalence across the years. Given the small number of deaths per ward, the ward level data is not displayed.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023 (YTD)</b>
DC	41	46	39	32	45	38	21
MD	4	4	15	10	5	8	4
VA	3	7	1	6	6	2	0
Other	5	4	3	3	2	8	2
Homeless	4	0	2	4	2	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	3	1

