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MEETING NOTICE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (IDPH)

Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance

February 11, 2025

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

****Recording****

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & approval of November Meeting Minutes
- IV. Update on 988 Implementation
- V. Guest Speaker
- VI. IVDRS Update
- VII. Guest Speaker
- VIII. Guest Speaker –
- IX. IDPH Updates
- X. Update on the [Governor's Challenge: To Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#) activities
- XI. SAMHSA/GLS and GRF Updates
- XII. Update on Suicide Related Legislation
- XIII. Partner sharing
 - a. *All - Please share information about your agency's suicide prevention activities*
- XIV. Public Comment

x	1	Jenna Farmer Brackett	Representative from a suicide prevention program serving rural communities (Centerstone)
x	2	Chuck Johnson	Representing Illinois Hospital Association
x	3	Amber Clark	Representing veterans' services
x	4	Eric Davidson	Representing Higher Education
x	5	Angie Thinnes	Representing Attempt Survivors
x	6	Kim Godden	Representing First Responder Professions
x	7	Beth Morrison	Representing Suicide Prevention
x	8	Christopher Balthazar	Representing LGBTQ+
x	9	Deb Martin	Representing Survivors of Suicide Loss
	10	Rafiah Maxie-Cole	Representing Survivors of Suicide Loss
x	11	Sarah Horrell	Representing Survivors of Suicide Loss
x	12	Cynthia Paidipati	Researcher in Suicidology
x	13	Dr. Jack Rein	Organization Representing Suicide Prevention
X	14	Randyl Wilkins	Organization Representing Suicide Prevention
	15	Megan Tyler	Organization Promoting the Improvement of Mental Health
x	16	Tracy Levin	Organization Promoting the Improvement of Mental Health
	17	Brandi Young	Organization Promoting the Improvement of Mental Health
	18	Dawn Steward	Inpatient behavioral health care organization
x	19	Bonnie Hassan	Outpatient behavioral health organization
x	20	Janeth Barba	Community Health Organization
x	21	Donna Nahlik	Healthcare System
x	22	Dr. Nabil Abou Baker	State association representing primary medical providers
x	23	Tandra Rutledge	A faith-based organization
x	24	Katie Wilson	Organization Providing a frontline grassroots perspective
x	25	Sarina Thate Otyhunwahe DiMaso	An American Indian health care system

Ex-Officio Members

Agency

x	26	Brian Kieninger	IDPH /Division of Emergency Preparedness and Highway Safety
x	27	Dr. Teresa Glaze	Illinois Department of Human Services /Division of Mental Health

	28	Dr. Melvin Hinton	Illinois Department of Corrections
x	29	Dr. Erin Alexander	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
x	30	Dr. Alda Leavy-Skinner	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
x	31	Margo Watson	Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
x	32	Samantha Alonis	Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Substance Use Prevention & Recovery
x	33	Sarah Littrell	Illinois State Board of Education
x	34	Dr. Monique Anawis	Office of the Attorney General
x	35	Jill McCamant	IDPH Injury & Violence Prev. Prog.

Stakeholders

Aaron Lenaghan

Amit

Amy Hall, IDPH

Andrew Lerch, IDPH

Claire Farnsworth, Prevention First

Daniel Johnson, University of Chicago

Fran Reyes, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Jackie Mathias, McLean County Jail

Janet Barba

Jennifer Martin, IDPH

Jessica Gall-Adediran, IEMA

Jessica Gimeno, Access Living

Jonathan Singer, PhD, Loyola

Kaitlyn Wilson

Katie

Kellie Henrichs, Prevention First

Kira Berkoff, Hope for the Day

Kristen Smith, Rush University

Kyra VanDoren, AllianceChicago

Lori Sea, Washington County Public

Health Department

Neva Wright, NAMI McHenry County

Nicole Webb, Memorial Behavioral

Health

Olapeju Pej Lawal, IDPH

Pedro Medina, IDPH

Shelly Sital, AllianceChicago

Topaz Lavi, Prevention First

Valerie Wyant, Elyssa's Mission

Yolanda Moreno, Chicago Public

Schools

I. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

- **Facilitator:** Deb Martin
- Deb welcomed attendees and provided a reminder that the ISPA represents diverse members from state agencies, nonprofit sectors, education, public health, and legislative representatives. Due to this diversity, some members may not take public positions on policies.
- It was emphasized that while the Alliance may take collective positions, these do not necessarily represent every member's stance.
- Attendees were informed that the meeting would be recorded solely for note-taking purposes.

II. Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation

- **Conducted by:** Jill McCamant
- A roll call was taken to confirm attendance.
- A quorum was established.
- Participants included representatives from state agencies, public health institutions, mental health organizations, schools, and community outreach programs.
- Notable attendees included Amber Clark, Eric Davidson, Kimberly Godden, Cynthia Paidipati, Jack Rein, Randyl Wilkins, Kaitlyn Wilson, Brian Kieninger, Margo Watson, Samantha Alonis, Teresa Glaze, Sarah Littrell, Monique Anawis, among others.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the **November 2024** meeting were reviewed.
- **Motion to approve:** Teresa Glaze
- **Seconded by:** Nabil Abou Baker
- No objections were raised; the minutes were **unanimously approved**.

IV. Update on 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Implementation

- **Speaker Introduced:** Lucy Craycroft (not yet present)
- **Bio Shared by:** Teresa Glaze
 - Lucy serves as the Social Service Program Planner of policy, planning, and innovation for the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health.
 - She oversees the 988 implementation and has nearly two decades of experience in mental health, developmental disability services, and crisis response.

Due to Lucy's absence, the agenda was shifted.

V. Presentation: Safe2Help Illinois

- **Reporting: Deb Martin**
- **Presenter:** Jessica Gall-Adediran, School and Campus Safety Prevention Specialist, Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Office of Homeland Security. Prior to this role, Jessica 1st trained and worked as a high school English teacher before transitioning to the anti-deformation League or the ADL, where she served as education director and the Senior Associate regional Director advancing civil rights policy and coordinating anti hate.

Overview:

- Jessica detailed the mission of **Safe2Help IL**, which is a student-focused reporting system aimed at preventing school violence and youth suicide through early intervention.
- The program encourages students, parents, and school staff to report warning signs confidentially through:
 - **Phone call**
 - **Email**
 - **Website**
 - **Mobile App (iOS and Android)**
 - **Text messaging**

Key Points:

- The hotline is **confidential**. Caller information is only shared with consent, a court order, or if there is a clear and present danger.
- Staffed by trained agents located in Louisiana, who receive **40+ hours** of initial training and **10–20 hours** of quarterly specialized training.
- Reports are categorized into three types:
 - **Critical** (immediate threat, e.g., suicide, weapons): Notifications sent immediately to law enforcement and school contacts.
 - **Standard** (within 1 hour, e.g., bullying, vaping): Still serious but not an urgent threat.
 - **Other** (misinformation, hoaxes): Filtered and documented for trends.

2023–2024 Statistics:

- **2023 Incidents:** 1646
- **Cumulative Since 2021:** 3,156
- **2024 Projections:** Over 2,100 incidents already logged
- Tips increase ~500 per year, suggesting stronger program awareness.
- **Top concerns:** Bullying, suicidal ideation, distribution of drugs
- **Peak reporting times:** Around noon, possibly during school lunch breaks.

Outreach & Support:

- A campaign titled “**Small Things Turning Big**” encourages early reporting.
- Videos and promotional content developed with University of Illinois at Springfield are available on YouTube.
- Jessica urged all schools to **register** with Safe2Help IL and use available training materials.
- Contact details for program support were shared, and Jessica offered to assist with registration and follow-up training needs.

Questions & Feedback

- No questions were raised during or after the presentation.
- Jessica confirmed her slides would be shared with attendees upon request.

VII. IDPH Program and Grant Updates

Delivered by: Jill McCamant (filling in due to shifting agenda)

- **Funding and Grant Activity:**
 - **Project ECHO- Chicago:** Updates to be provided by Dr. Daniel Johnson.
 - **Zero Suicide Academy:** Managed by Prevention First. Claire to provide upcoming updates.

- **CDC Grant:** Ongoing work under the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention program.
 - **NOFO on Reducing Access to Lethal Means:**
 - Posted: January 2
 - Closing: February 28
- **Grant Work Underway:**
 - Eight grantees in various stages of agreement development
 - Topics: depression screening, timely referrals, and teaching coping skills
- **Subcommittee Work**
 - All three ISPA subcommittees are collaborating on **youth suicide prevention awareness**.
 - A **joint subcommittee meeting** was scheduled (referenced as "tomorrow") to consolidate efforts and strategies.
 - Public Awareness efforts include updated fact sheets and IDPH suicide prevention site.
 - Approval secured from the Communications Division for content revisions.
- **Subcommittee Meeting Schedule:**
 - **Screening & Linking to Services:** Meets 1st Monday each month.
 - **Assessing Mandates:** Meets 1st Tuesday each month.
 - **Public Awareness:** Meets 1st Wednesday each month.
 - **Data & Surveillance:** Meets quarterly (2nd Thursday); next meeting in March.

-Jill invited more members to join the subcommittees and reach out with interest.
- **Gun Lock Distribution Initiative**
 - Since **June 2023**, over **169,900-gun locks** have been distributed to community organizations across Illinois through a partnership with the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**.
 - Locks are provided free of charge to be used in gun safety and suicide prevention efforts.
 - Acknowledgment to **Amber Clark** for coordination efforts.
- **Board Membership:**
 - Six applications submitted for board positions; nine remain open.
 - Encouragement for interested parties to apply via Smartsheet.
- **New Data Dashboard:**
 - Launch of the **Illinois Violent Death Reporting System Dashboard**.
 - Accessible via IDPH website under Gun Safety -> Interactive Dashboard.

VIII. Update on Governor's Challenge:

Presented by: Teresa Glaze

- Training conducted across Illinois (e.g., Urbana and upcoming Carbondale).
- Focused on **military cultural competency training**.
- Open to all community members, including first responders and faith leaders.
- **Training Pathways:**
 - In person sessions via Eventbrite.
 - Online alternatives available.
- **Core Objectives:**
 - Screening and assessing suicide risk.
 - Coordinated care and transitions.
 - Lethal means safety (in partnership with IDPH)

IX. Project ECHO update:

Presented by: Dr. Daniel Johnson

- **Overview:**
 - Project ECHO is a video-based learning model with weekly sessions.
 - Blends 20-minute didactics with case-based learning.
- **Program Metrics:**
 - 7,500 providers trained since 2010 (mostly in Illinois)
 - Series for both primary care and behavioral health professionals.
 - Over 94 organizations engaged; 80+ cases presented.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Positive self-efficacy improvements among participants.
 - Addition of suicide prevention in workplace module launching Spring 2025.
 - Over 11,000 participants completed related QPR training.

X. IVDRS update:

Presented by: Katheleen Kelly, Northwestern University

- Katie oversees community outreach for the **Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS)** and the **Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System**.
- Program aims to:
 - Expand collaboration with coroners and medical examiners.
 - Disseminate actionable data to communities.
 - Support suicide prevention and overdose response strategies.
- Technical difficulties noted during file sharing, but intent to distribute slides confirmed.

XI. Postvention Project/ Elyssa's Mission

Presenters: Valerie Wyant (LCSW) & Jonathan Singer (Professor, LCSW)

- **Valerie Wyant** introduced Elyssa's Mission and its role in delivering School-based postvention resources following a suicide loss.

- She shared her clinical background and the significance of supportive frameworks for both staff and students.
- Postvention was emphasized as both a healing and preventative strategy.
- **Dr. Jonathan Singer** followed with evidence-based insights:
 - Discussed **best practices** in postvention, including structured communication plans, return-to-school protocols, and support group facilitation.
 - Advocated for timely response coordination between schools, mental health providers, and families.
 - Emphasized the importance of addressing grief and stigma and monitoring high-risk peers.
- **Materials:**
 - Videos examples and templates referenced.
 - Integrated resources from Elyssa's Mission and NSAP (National Association School Psychologists).

XII. Suicide in Schools Model Update:

Presented by: Dr. Jonathan Singer (LCSW)

- Presented a **comprehensive model for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention in K-12 schools.**
- Key pillars included:
 - **Policy Development:** Integrating state requirements with district-specific mental health plans.
 - **Training:** staff QPR, peer gatekeeping, teacher-student frameworks.
 - **Risk identification protocols:** Stepwise approach to assessing suicide risk, involving counselors, caregivers, and emergency services.
 - **Postvention:** built-in recovery planning including memorial management and re-entry supports.
- **Outcome Goals:**
 - Reduce stigma.
 - Improve help-seeking behaviors.
 - Foster safe, responsive school environments.

XIII. Timely referral update for Alliance Chicago:

Presenter: Kyra VanDoren Public health program manager at Alliance Chicago

- **Overview:** Alliance Chicago continues to advance its **Timely referrals project**, a GLS- funded initiative aimed at improving coordination and follow up for individuals at risk of suicide.
- **Focus areas:**
 - Ensuring referrals from primary care and community setting are successfully completed.
 - Enhancing connections between clinical and behavioral health services.

- Kyra provided operational insights and mentioned collaboration with organizations like **Prevention First in shared outreach efforts.**

XIV. DuPage high school District 88

Presenters: Aaron Lenaghan & Amit

Project overview:

- Introduced a **Collaborative initiative led by DuPage District 88** focused on creating a centralized, multilingual, and inclusive access point for mental health resources across Illinois.
- Though funded and fiscally hosted by District 88, the platform is open statewide to all school districts and community partners.

Features:

- **Web-based platform:**
 - Includes referral systems, live chat(non-emergency), and navigation support.
 - Built with consideration for language accessibility and cultural inclusivity.
 - Enhances the referral process for students and families in crisis.
 - Pilot integrations mentioned with local health departments and 988 routing partners.
- **Printable Resources:**
 - Flyer and postcards in English and Spanish.
 - Customizable for local branding and partnership outreach.
- **Collaboration with referral GPS:**
 - Flyer and postcards in English and Spanish.
 - Customizable for local branding and partnership outreach.
- **Next steps:**
 - Encouraged broader registration and awareness building in rural and downstate Illinois.
 - Live chat feature under phased testing.
 - Future updates and adaptation guided by user feedback.
- **Jonathan Singer** asked about connections to local 988 teams; Amit agreed to explore integration with regional 988 providers.

. Training Updates Prevention First

Presenter: Topaz Lavi

- Delivered updates on recent and upcoming trainings:
 - **Webinar on Navigating Cross- cultural Communication about Mental Health**, hosted in partnership with Alliance Chicago.
 - **Two QPR Trainings** (suicide prevention) hosted over the holidays.
 - Upcoming **Youth Mental Health First Aid** session led by Randyl and colleague Bryant.
 - Announced the **Suicide Prevention Symposium** on **August 28–29**, to be held in-person at Marriott Naperville.
- Outreach ongoing for more QPR and MHFA events this quarter.
- Encouraged interested parties to reach out for custom training sessions.

XV. Update from depression screening

Presenter: Claire Farnsworth

- Shared progress on developing the **Zero Suicide Academy** for healthcare workers, in collaboration with **ECHO Chicago** and Dr. Johnson.
- Announced the **Virtual Suicide Prevention Summit** scheduled for **June 4, 2025**.
 - Theme: “Implementing Equitable Practices in a New Era of Suicide Prevention”
 - Speakers mostly confirmed; a few presentation slots remain open.
 - Summit will be hosted via Match by Talks platform.

XVI. Update on suicide related Legislation

Reported by: Deb Martin

- **Bills under review:**
 - **Gun safety and gun lock legislation**
 - **House Bill 1236:** Would require school districts to provide services for students traumatized by suicide, homicide, or domestic violence—especially those who do not qualify under existing IEP/504 protections.

XVII. Partner Sharing

Facilitated by: Teresa Glaze

Several organizations shared initiatives and upcoming events:

Jenna Farmer-Brackett – Centerstone

- Announced the **Impact Suicide Conference** (virtual), scheduled for **September 12, 2025**.
- Will offer CEUs for Illinois counselors, social workers, and nurses.

Tracy Levine – Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute

- Providing **Mental Health First Aid and QPR** trainings, including in Chicago and Evanston.

- Planning **Community Mental Health Conference** on **May 17**, focusing on **neurodiversity**.
- Looking for Spanish-speaking instructors.
- Promoting a student research project on **families impacted by suicide**.

Beth Morrison – AFSP Illinois

- Registration open for **Chicagoland Out of the Darkness Walk** on **September 27** (tentative).
- Hosting a **Black History Month panel** on **February 25 at 7:00 p.m.**: “Breaking the Silence – Mental Health in the Black Community”.

Chuck Johnson – Tristate Veterans & Local Coalition

- Shared impact of their **Adams County Veterans Assistance Commission**:
 - Supported 208 veterans.
 - Coordinated **National Guard outreach**, PSA campaigns, and **veteran-focused suicide prevention events**.
 - Notable fundraising efforts:
 - \$25,000 from **Max Wombles Golf Tournament**
 - \$13,000 from additional community fundraising
 - Initiatives include gun lock distribution, 988 magnets, teen PSA campaigns, and Facebook outreach.

Steve Bridges – Illinois Joining Forces

- Promoting **Southern Illinois Regional Summit for Veterans Service Providers** on **February 27**, with an evening **Town Hall and Veterans Night Out**.

Amber Clark – VA

- Promoted the **2025 Bonnie Suicide Prevention Conference** at Eastern Illinois University on **March 28**.
 - Topics: Crisis response, mental health in the classroom, veteran safety.
 - Keynote: Francesca Reicher of *Inspiring My Generation*

XVIII. Public Comment & Closing

- **Deb Martin** expressed appreciation to all presenters and participants for their time and contributions.
- **Slides** from presenters will be made available **after the meeting minutes are approved in May**. Attendees can also directly contact presenters for earlier access.

XX. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Monday, August 25, 2025
- Tuesday, November 18, 2025
- Wednesday, February 11, 2026
- Thursday, May 14, 2026

XXI. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn:** Jonathan Singer
- **Seconded by:** Jenna Farmer-Brackett
- Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.

POSTVENTION BEST PRACTICES
A FIVE PART VIDEO SERIES



Here is the link to the Postvention Best Practices.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcAzANVNCbAghwltoK0mK0EIWn9DjRDfpEjETCCBlnpwleSg/viewform>

Epidemiology of suicide in rural Illinois counties

Maryann Mason, PhD

February 11, 2025



Some details before the data...

Data source

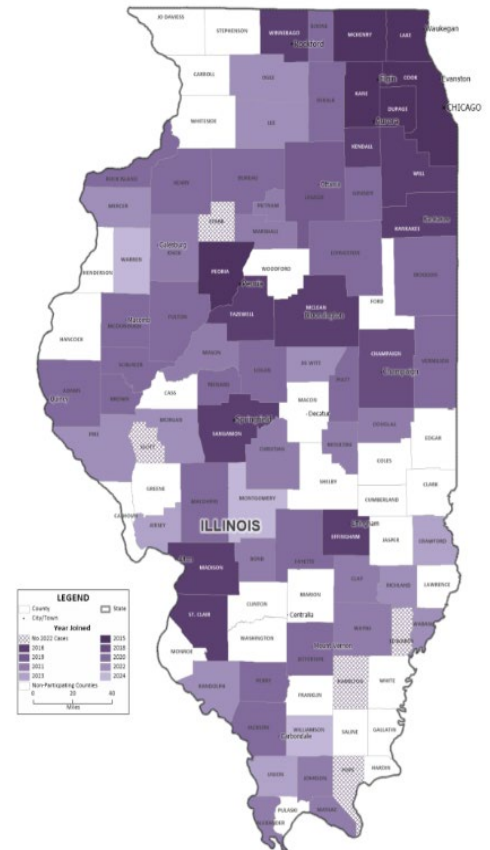
Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS)

- Part of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
 - Combines data from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner, law enforcement, autopsy and toxicology reports.
- 600 unique variables
 - Demographics
 - Physical, mental and behavioral health history
 - Circumstances leading up to fatal injury
 - Fatal injury details
 - Postmortem toxicology
 - Autopsy

IVDRS

County participation is voluntary:
based on coroner/medical
examiner decision

- In 2022 79 of 102 counties contributed data to IVDRS
- Captured 98% of all suicide deaths in Illinois

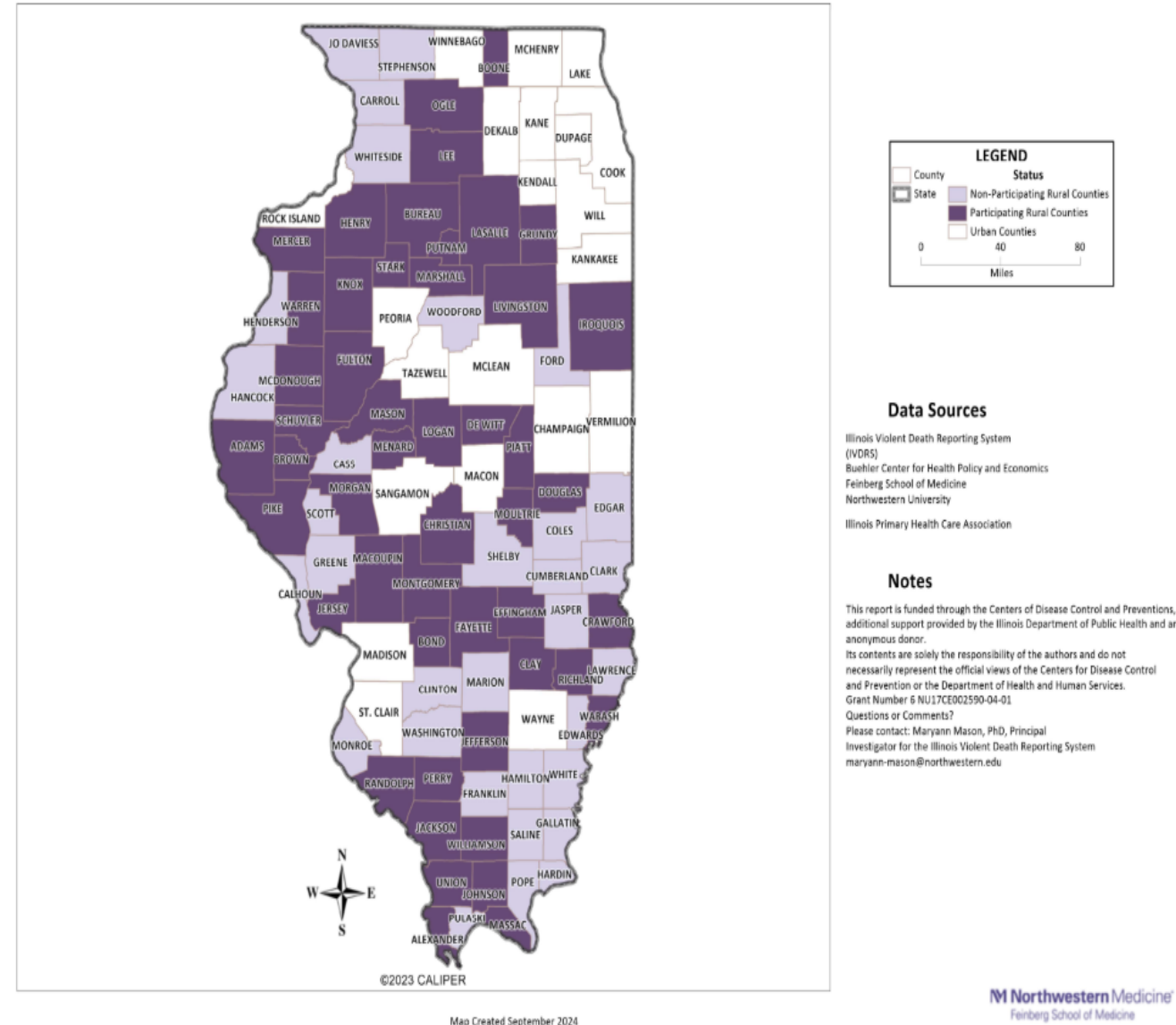


Some details before the data....

Rural definition

- Illinois Primary Health Care Association classification
 - County with population of <60,000 or not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
 - 83 of Illinois counties are considered rural by that definition
 - 49 of Illinois' rural counties participate in IVDRS

Illinois IVDRS Counties by Rural/Urban Classification



Disproportionate risk



**12.8% of
Illinoisans live
in rural areas**



**23.4% of all suicides in
Illinois are in rural areas**

In 2022 there were 353 suicide deaths in rural Illinois

Suicide deaths are not evenly distributed among all rural counties

Counties with 5 or more suicides

County	Count	County	Count
LaSalle	25	Grundy	8
Henry	13	Jersey	7
Jackson	13	Christian	7
Franklin	11	Bureau	6
Lee	10	Williamson	6
Fulton	10	Whiteside	6
Adams	9	Boone	6
Macoupin	9	Ogle	6
Randolph	8	Livingston	6
Stephenson	8	Knox	6
Saline	8	Jo Daviess	6
Montgomery	8	Lawrence	5
Jefferson	8	Perry	5
		Monroe	5
		Ford	5
		Fayette	5

Two-thirds (66.5%) of rural suicide deaths occurred in these 30 rural counties

Counties with less than 5 suicides

Combined death counts for all rural counties with less than 5 suicides per county totaled 118.

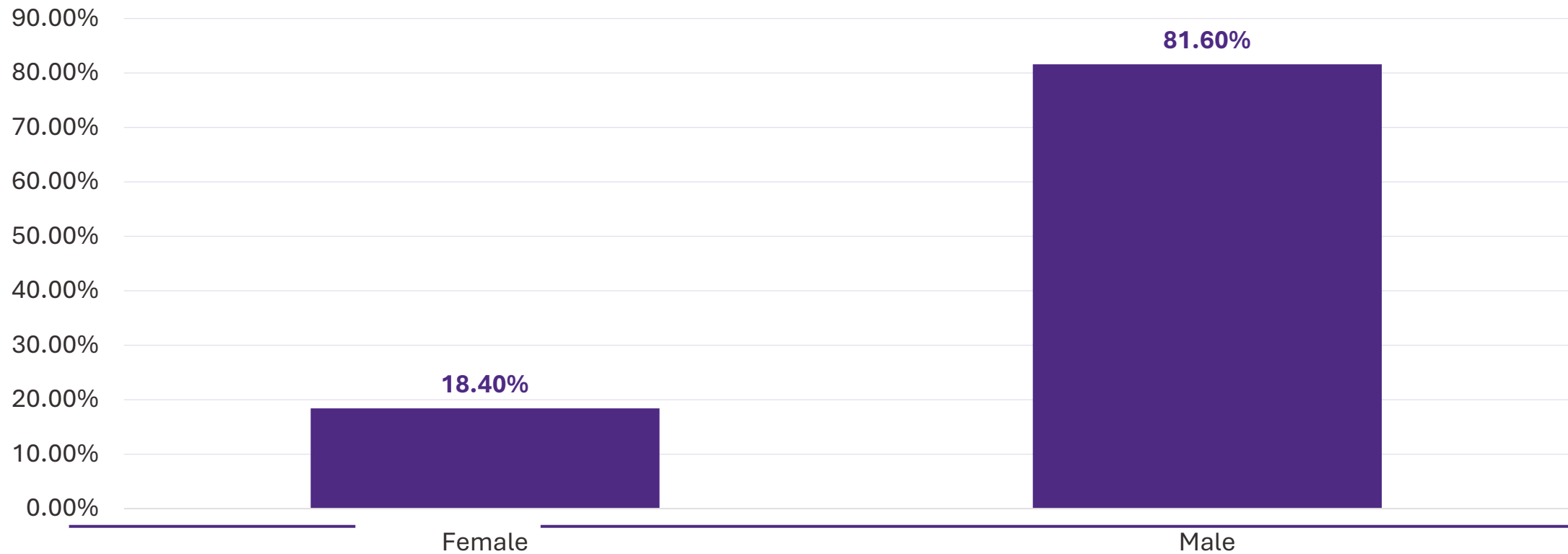
One-third (118) of all rural suicide deaths occurred in among 44 rural counties

Counties with 0 suicide deaths in 2022

Edward, Hamilton, Marshall, Pope, Schuyler, and Stark counties had no recorded suicide deaths in 2022.

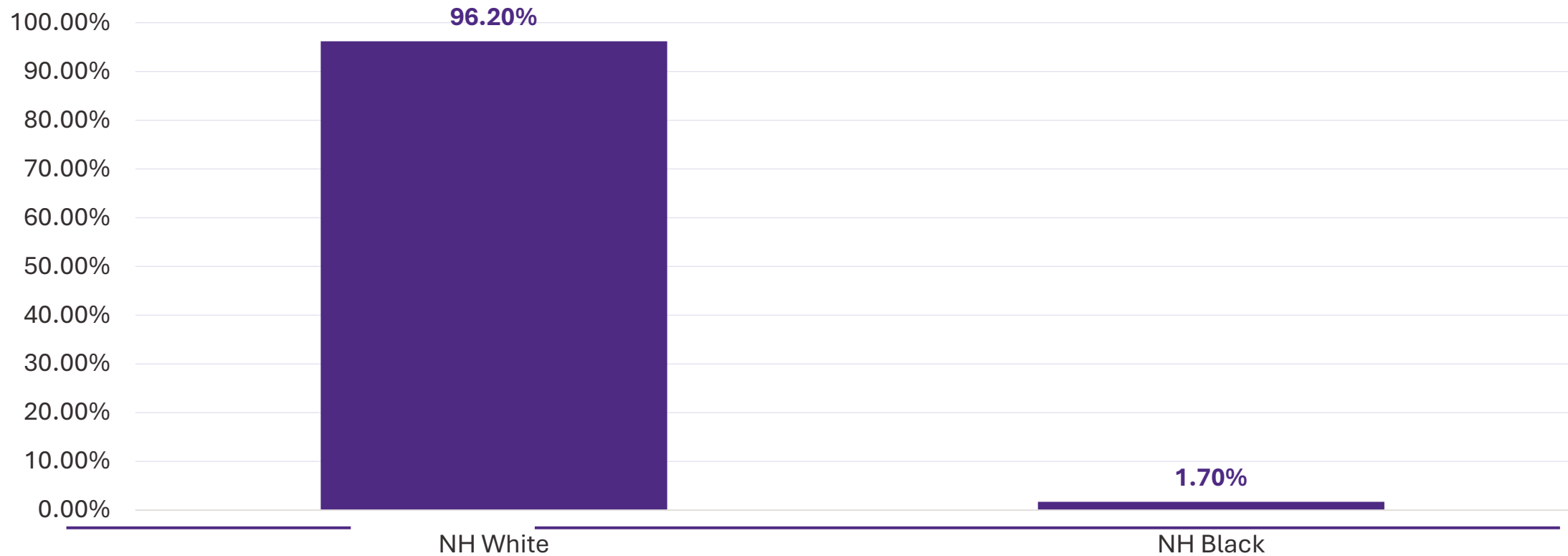
Illinois rural suicide decedents: More than 80% are male

2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by gender



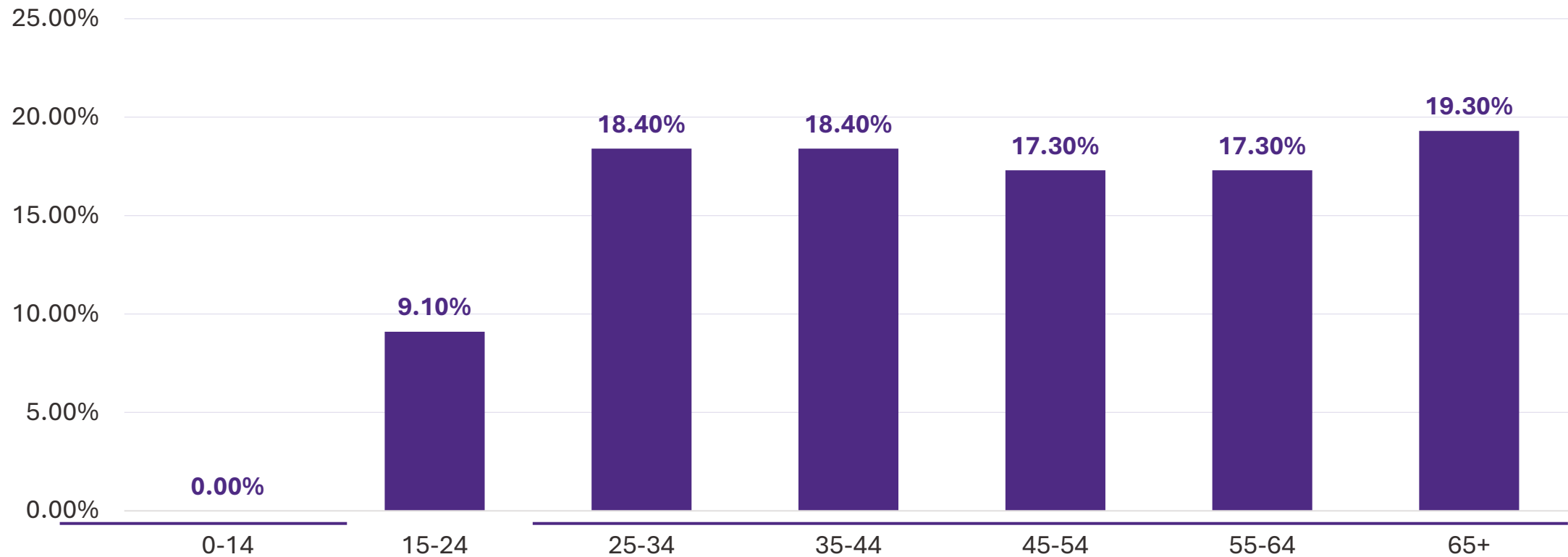
Illinois rural suicide decedents: Almost all are NH White

2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by race/ethnicity



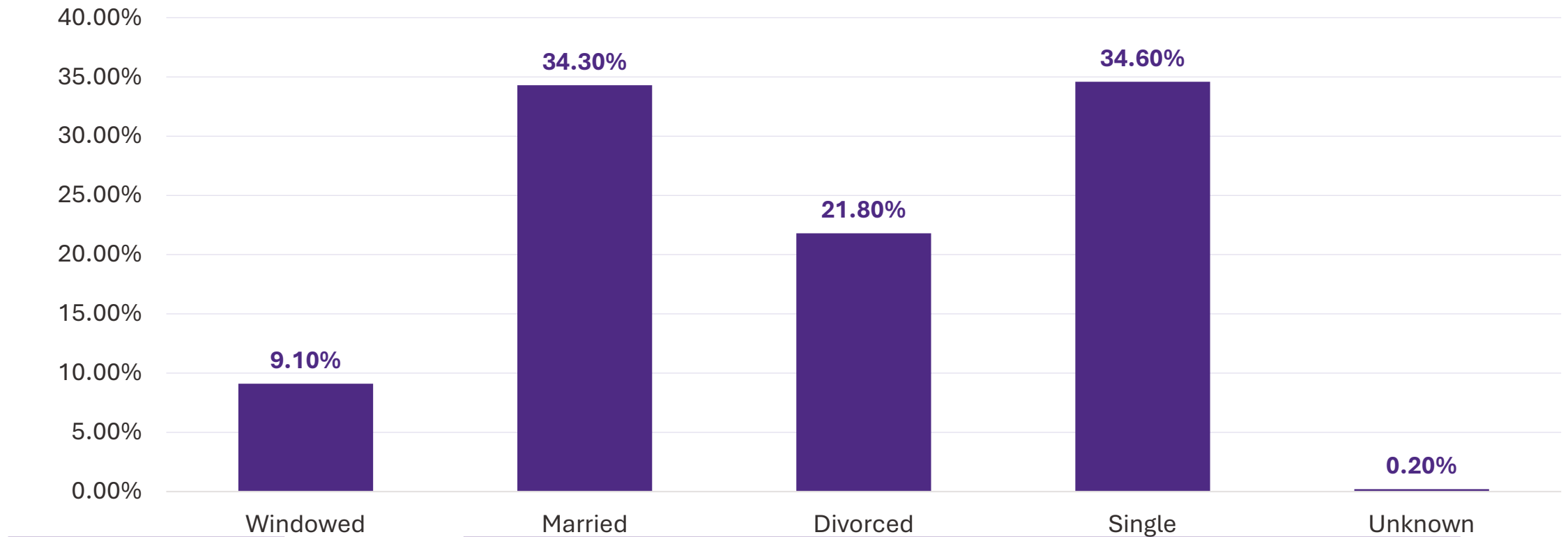
Illinois rural suicide decedents: Age distribution

2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by age group



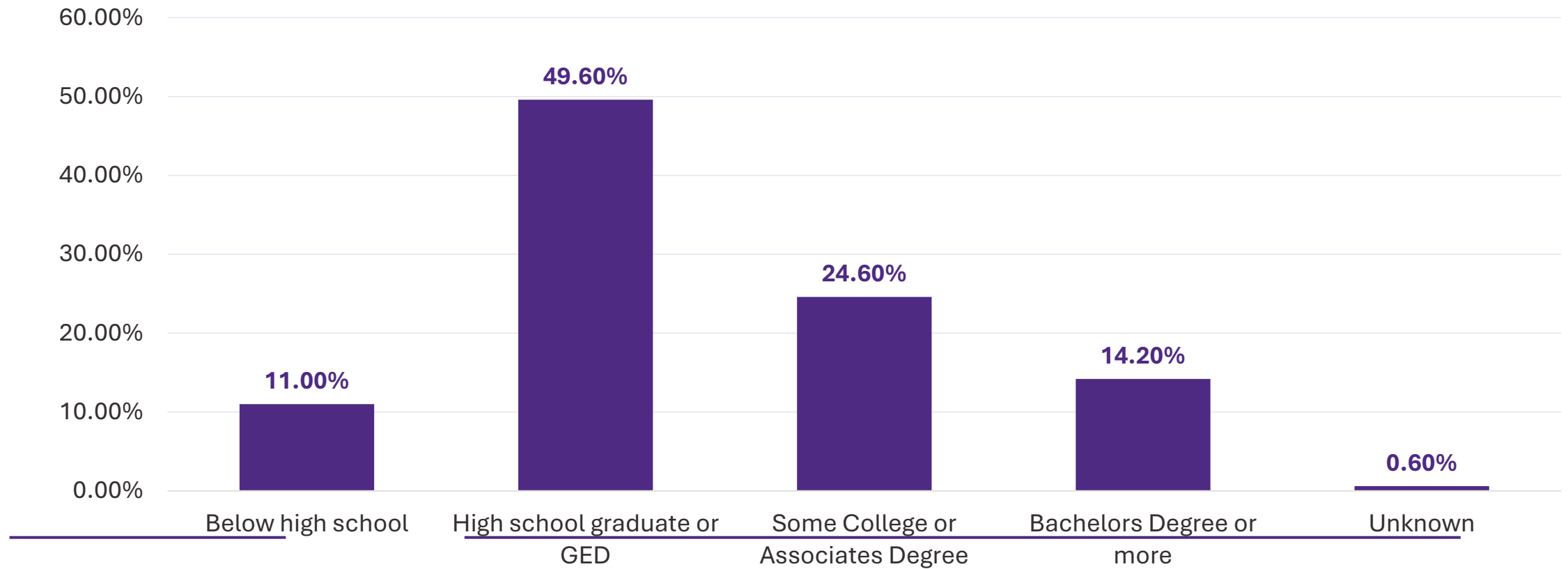
Illinois rural suicide decedents: Marital Status

2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by marital status



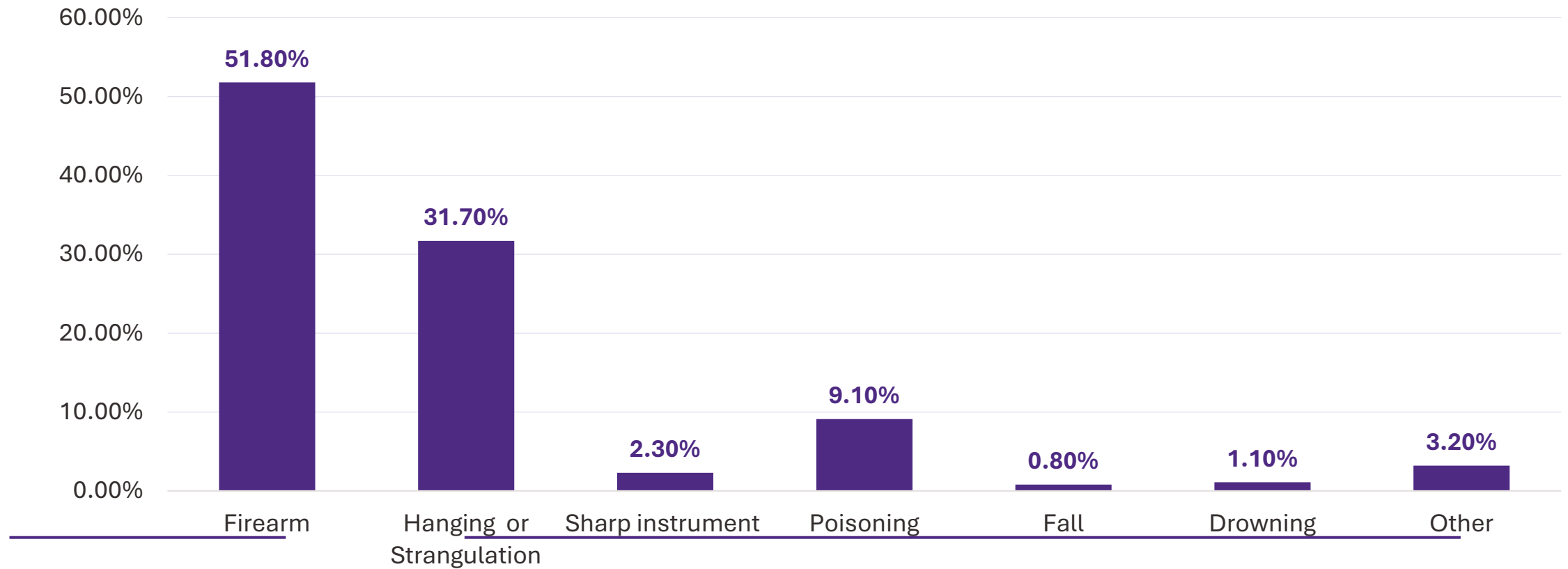
Illinois rural suicide decedents: Education Level

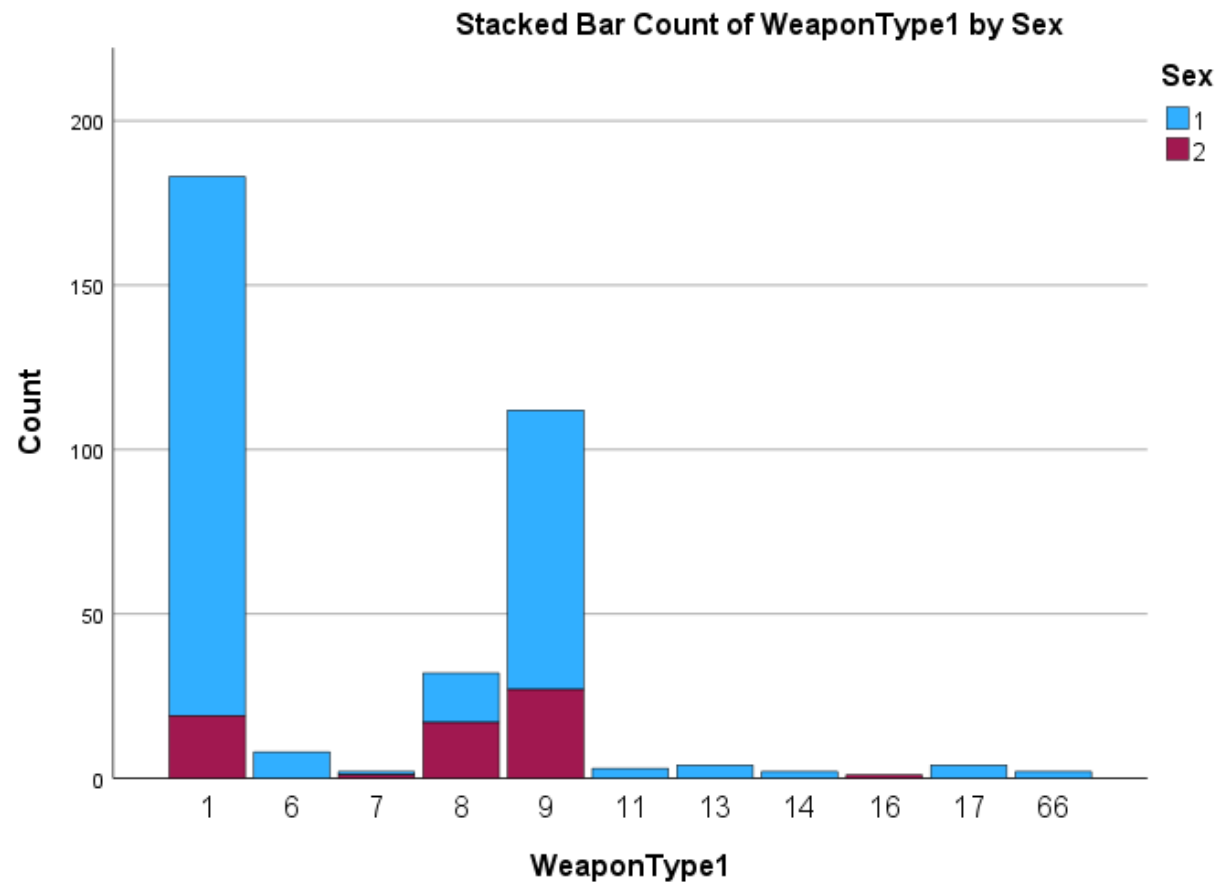
2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by education level



Illinois rural suicide decedents: Weapon Type

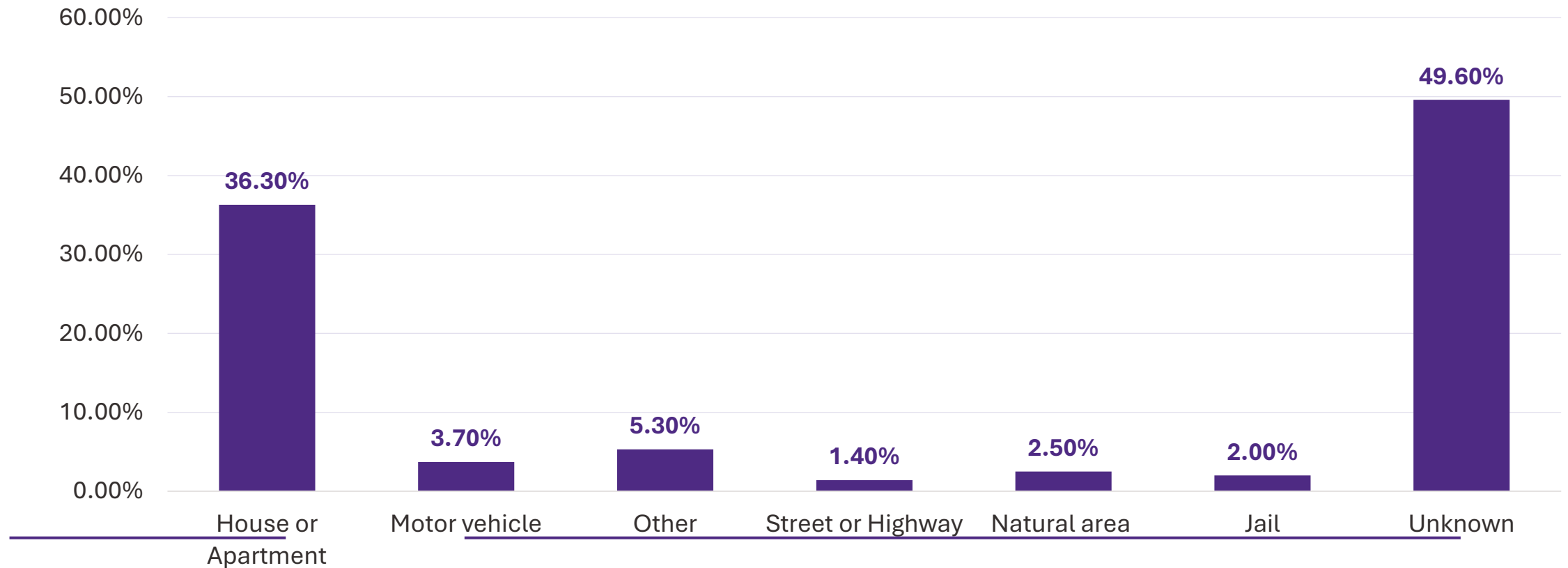
2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by Weapon Type





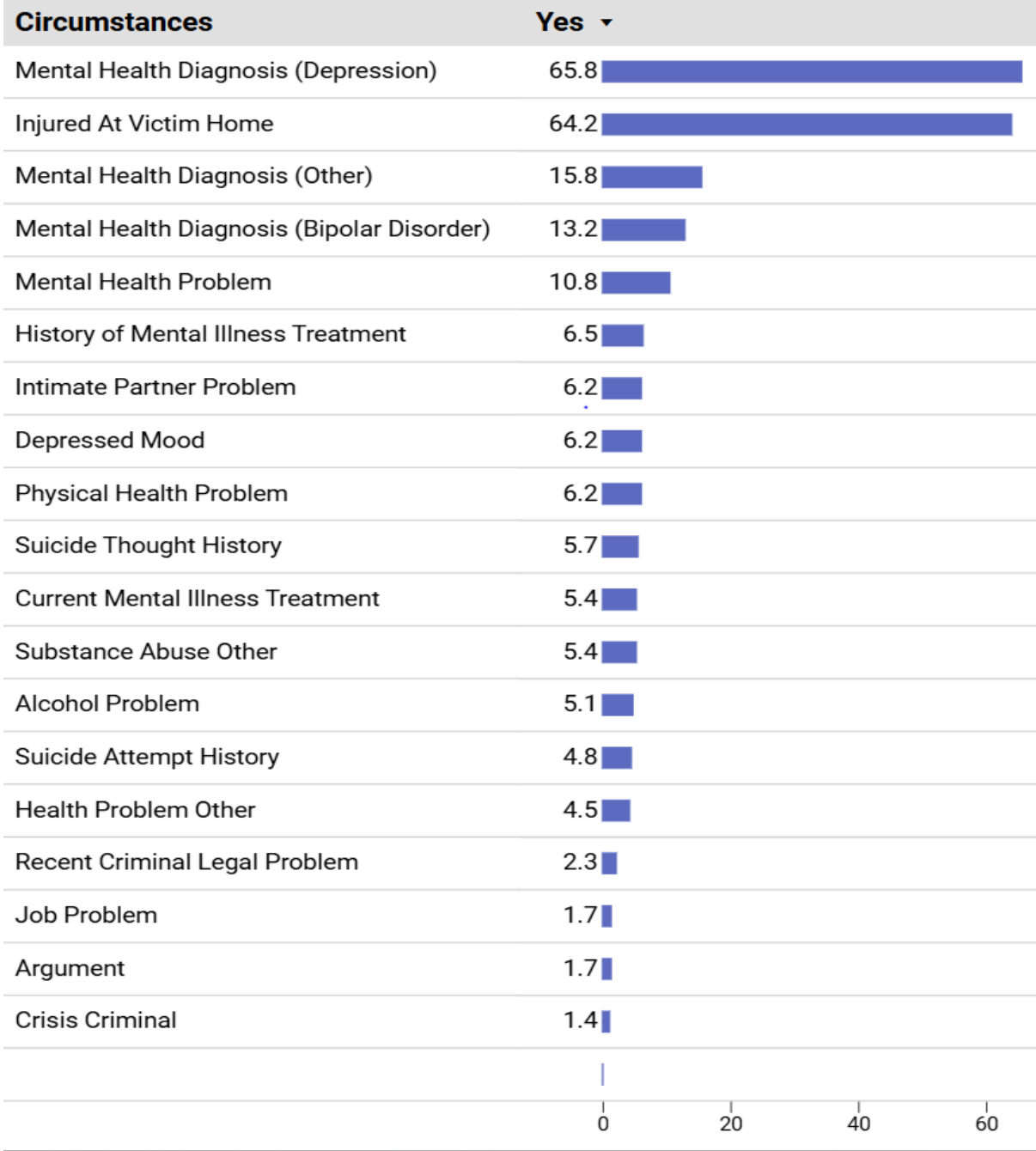
Illinois rural suicide decedents: Injury Location

2022 rural Illinois suicide deaths by injury location

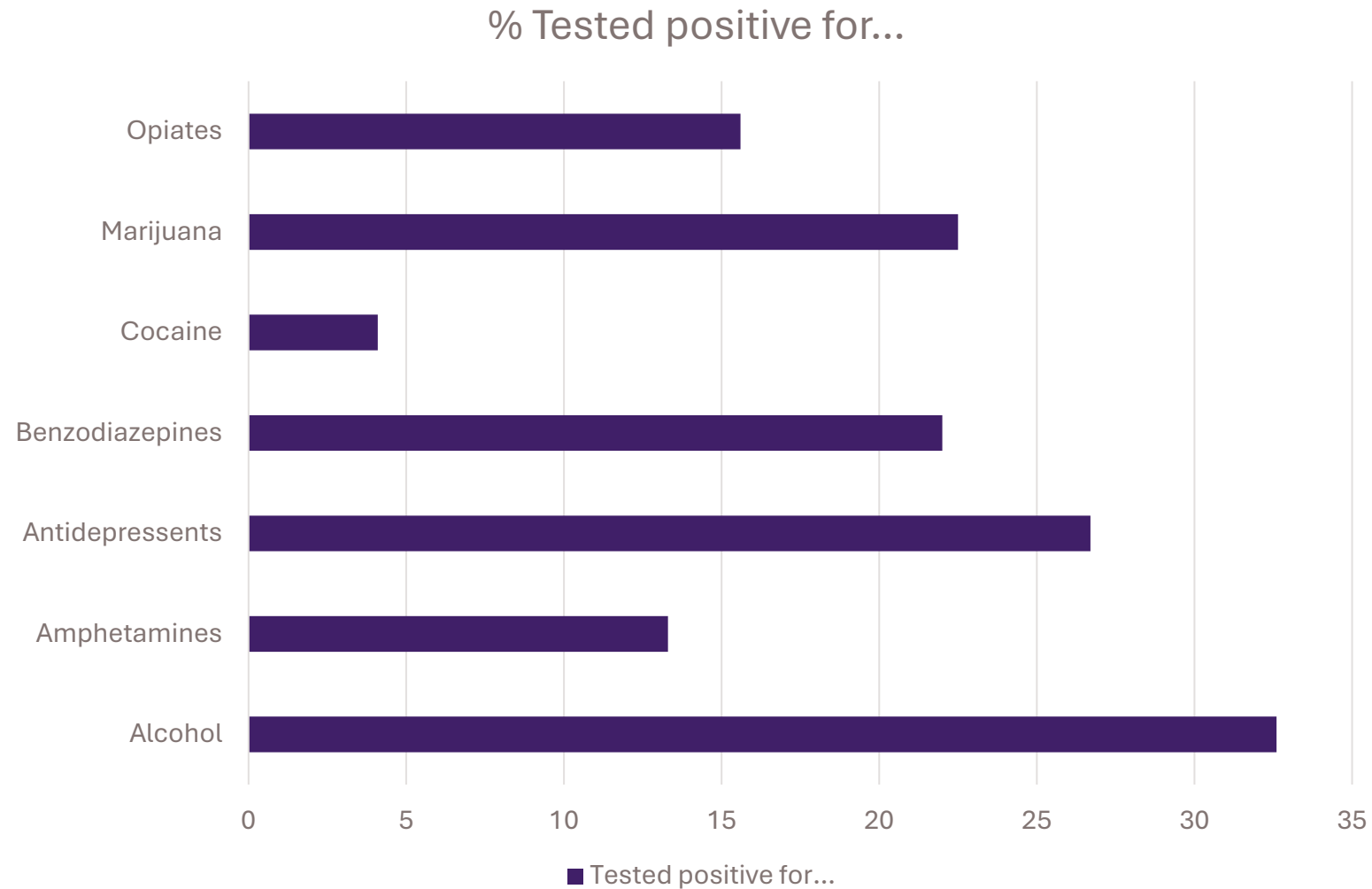


Circumstances leading up to fatal injury

Mental health related circumstances are most often present



Post-mortem toxicology results



Thank you

M Northwestern Medicine[®]
Feinberg School of Medicine

Icons

Choose from the selection on this and the following page



ambulance



badge



bandage



calendar



certificate



checkup



clipboard



clock



communication



document



donut chart



evaluation



evidence



experience



growth



health

Icons, continued



hospital



idea



lab



location



Medical records



medical



medication



microscope



network



office



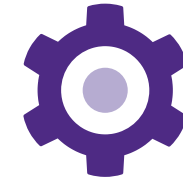
Online help



report



search



settings



solution



statistics



stethoscope



surveys



talking



team



telephone



thinking



treatment



vision