

# California Violent Death Reporting System Suicide Data Dashboard

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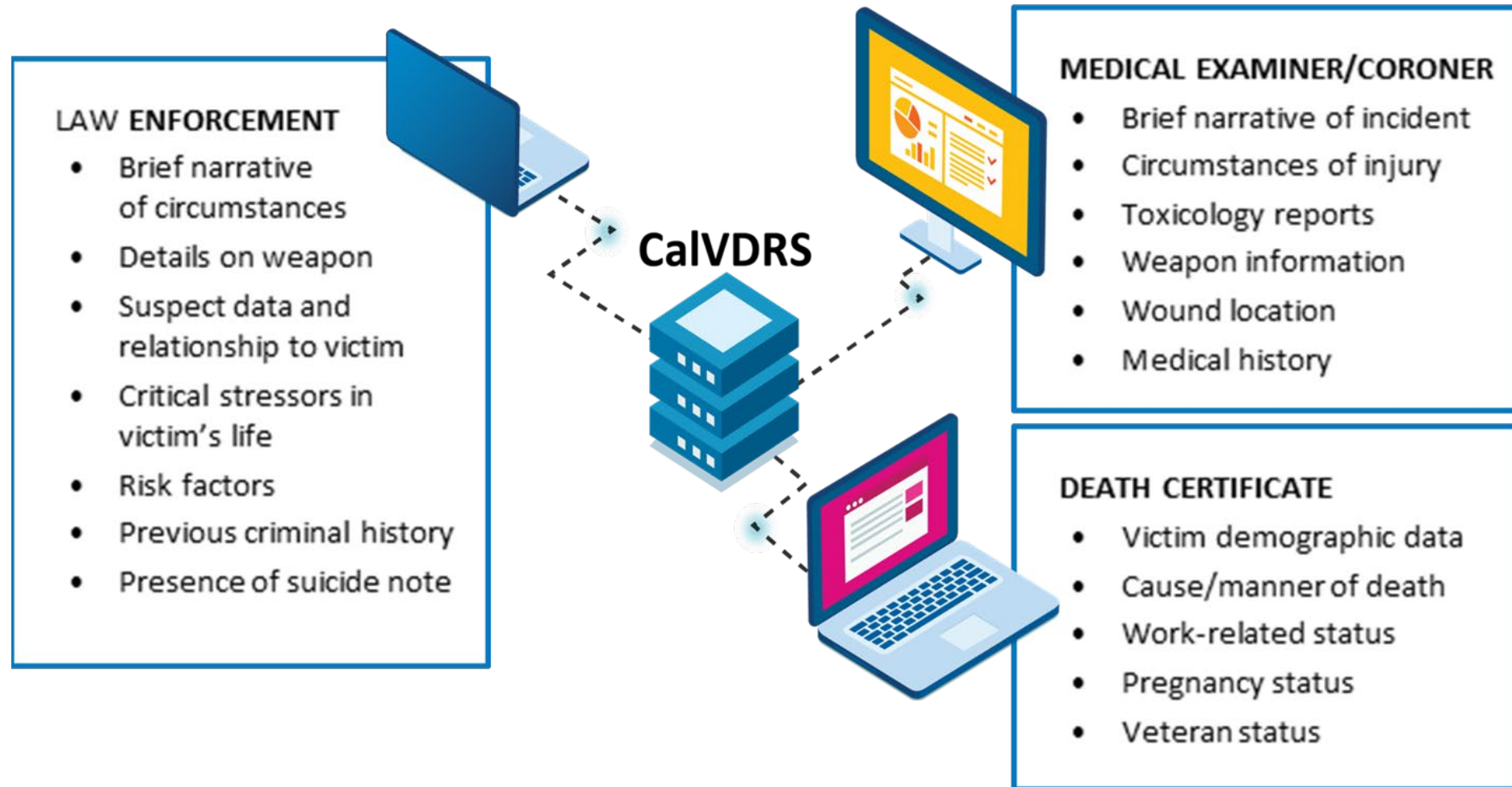
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

# CaVDRS Background

- State based surveillance system
- National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Links multiple sources of data for violent deaths that occur in California
- Related deaths are linked in multi-victim incidents
- Captures information regarding victim demographics, suspect details, fatal weapon(s), toxicology, circumstances

# Multiple Sources of Data



# Annual Data Products

- [Homicide in California, 2020](#)
- [Suicide in California, 2020](#)
- [Infographic: Suicide in California, 2020](#)
- [Firearm-Related Deaths in California, 2020](#)
- [Violent Deaths Involving Multiple Victims in California, 2020](#)
- [CalVDRS Deaths](#) (full CalVDRS profile as well as individual county-level profiles for all counties providing data)

All are available as Data Quick Links on CDPH's CalVDRS webpage:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/Pages/California-Violent-Death-Reporting-System-\(CalVDRS\).aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/Pages/California-Violent-Death-Reporting-System-(CalVDRS).aspx)

# CalVDRS Suicide Dashboard

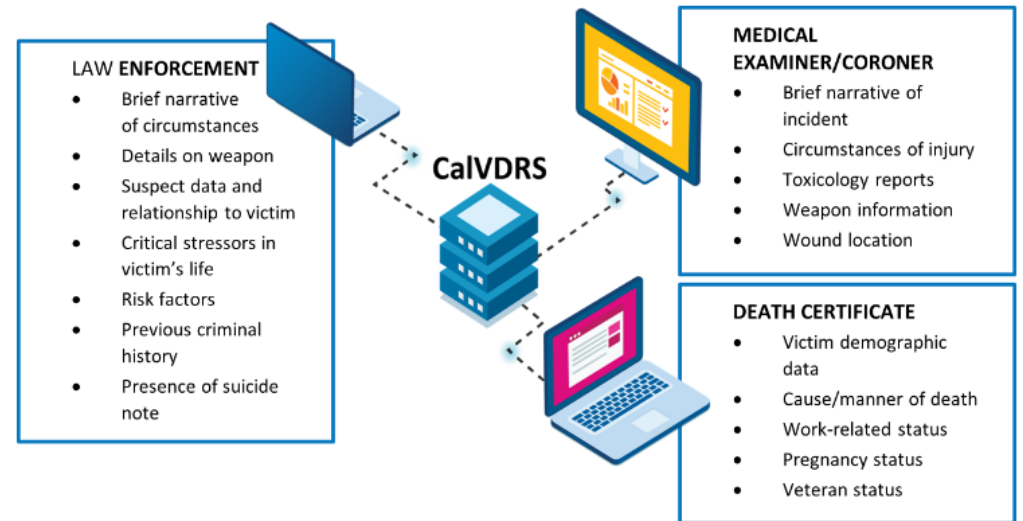
- Developed to share more data that is collected (i.e. circumstances, toxicology)
- Filter data by county of death, year, and other options
  - Can select multiple counties for a 'regional' look for a single year
  - Can select multiple years for a single county for an aggregate look

## California Violent Death Reporting System



The California Department of Public Health is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to participate in the [National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\)](#) to compile information on violent deaths that occur in California.

- CalVDRS combines data on violent deaths from various data providers (i.e., vital records, law enforcement, and coroners/medical examiners) in one secure and confidential database.
- Data presented here are not representative of all violent deaths. The data presented here summarize violent deaths for which CalVDRS received an investigative narrative, autopsy, or toxicology report.
- Violent deaths include suicides, homicides, and deaths where law enforcement is involved. CalVDRS also includes deaths of undetermined intent and unintentional firearm deaths.
- CalVDRS enables us to integrate data reports to piece together a more complete picture of the circumstances and underlying causes of violent deaths, to track trends in communities across California, and to translate these findings into actionable information for local and state action.



Year of Death

2020



CalVDRS Participation

■ Participating

User Guide

Methods

## User Guide

### Getting Started

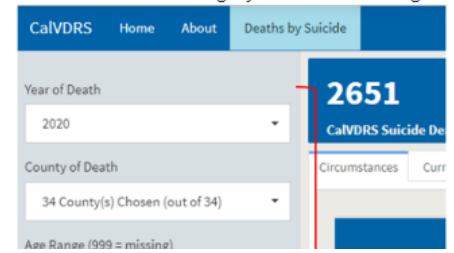
The CalVDRS Dashboard currently has a few tabs where information and data are stored. The Home page provides an overview of CalVDRS and has an interactive map of participating counties. The About page has a user guide and methods section. The Deaths by Suicide page summarizes the CalVDRS suicide data. These pages can be accessed by selecting an option from the top blue panel (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Select a dashboard option.

### How to choose different filters

Dashboard data can be filtered using the options shown in the image (Figure 2-A). Filters are organized under the categories of Year of Death, County of Death, Age Range, Method used to inflict the fatal injury, Biological sex, Race and ethnicity, Education, Marital Status, and Veteran Status. Most filters have a select all/deselect all option for ease of use. Filters will be immediately applied and tables and charts will automatically update based on filter selection. MULTIPLE YEARS: Multiple years can be selected for a single county to aggregate data. MULTIPLE COUNTIES: Multiple counties can be selected for a single year to view data regionally. To clear all filters, click on the "RESET" button at the bottom of the filter panel on the left of the page.







Year of Death  
2020

County of Death  
34 County(s) Chosen (out of 34)

Age Range (999 = missing)  
0 to 999

Method used to inflict the fatal injury  
All/Multiple Selections

Biological sex  
All/Multiple Selections

Race and ethnicity (combined)  
All/Multiple Selections

Education  
All/Multiple Selections

Marital Status  
All/Multiple Selections

Veteran Status (ever in U.S. Armed Forces)  
All/Multiple Selections

RESET

**2651**  
CalVDRS Suicide Deaths, 2020

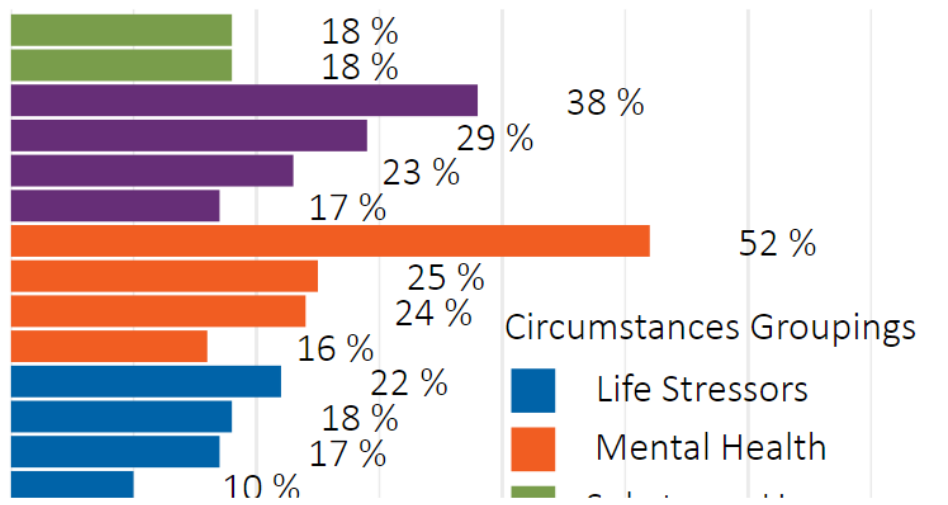
**2651**  
Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020

Circumstances Current Mental Health Diagnoses Fatal Injury Location Toxicology Download

CalVDRS Suicide Deaths, 2020	
At least one circumstance known	2382
Circumstances unknown	269

Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020	
At least one circumstance known	2382
Circumstances unknown	269

- Problem with a substance other than alcohol
- Problems with alcohol
- History of suicidal thoughts
- Left a suicide note
- Previous suicide attempt
- Recently disclosed suicidal intent
- Current diagnosed mental health problem
- Current depressed mood
- Ever treated for mental health problem
- Current mental health treatment
- Recent or imminent crisis of any kind
- Contributing physical health problem
- Contributing intimate partner problem
- Argument preceded death



County of Death

34 County(s) Chosen (out of 34)

Select All    Deselect All

- AMADOR ✓
- BUTTE ✓
- COLUSA ✓
- CONTRA COSTA ✓
- FRESNO ✓
- GLENN ✓
- HUMBOLDT ✓
- IMPERIAL ✓
- KERN ✓
- KINGS ✓
- LAKE ✓
- LASSEN ✓
- LOS ANGELES ✓
- MARIN ✓
- MENDOCINO ✓
- MERCED ✓
- MODOC ✓
- MONO ✓
- ORANGE ✓

Year of Death

2020

County of Death

34 County(s) Chosen (out of 34)

Select All    Deselect All

Age Range (999 = missing)

0    to    999

Method used to inflict the fatal injury

All/Multiple Selections

Biological sex

All/Multiple Selections

Race and ethnicity (combined)

All/Multiple Selections

Education

All/Multiple Selections

Marital Status

All/Multiple Selections

Veteran Status (ever in U.S. Armed Forces)

All/Multiple Selections

Year of Death

2020

- 2018
- 2019
- 2020 ✓

Method used to inflict the fatal injury

All/Multiple Selections

Select All    Deselect All

- Fall ✓
- Firearm ✓
- Hanging, strangulation, suffocation ✓
- Poisoning ✓
- Sharp Instrument ✓
- Other ✓

Veteran Status (ever in U.S. Armed Forces)

All/Multiple Selections

**RESET**

2651

CalVDRS Suicide Deaths, 2020

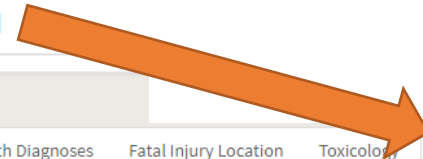
2651

Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020



Changes based on filter options selected

Circumstances Current Mental Health Diagnoses Fatal Injury Location Toxicology Download



Circumstances Current Mental Health Diagnoses Fatal Injury Location Toxicology Download

Please choose view for download

Circumstances

Download

Search:

CIRCUMSTANCES	Selected Population	Total Population
Problem with a substance other than alcohol	18 %	18 %
Problems with alcohol	18 %	18 %
History of suicidal thoughts	38 %	38 %
Left a suicide note	29 %	29 %

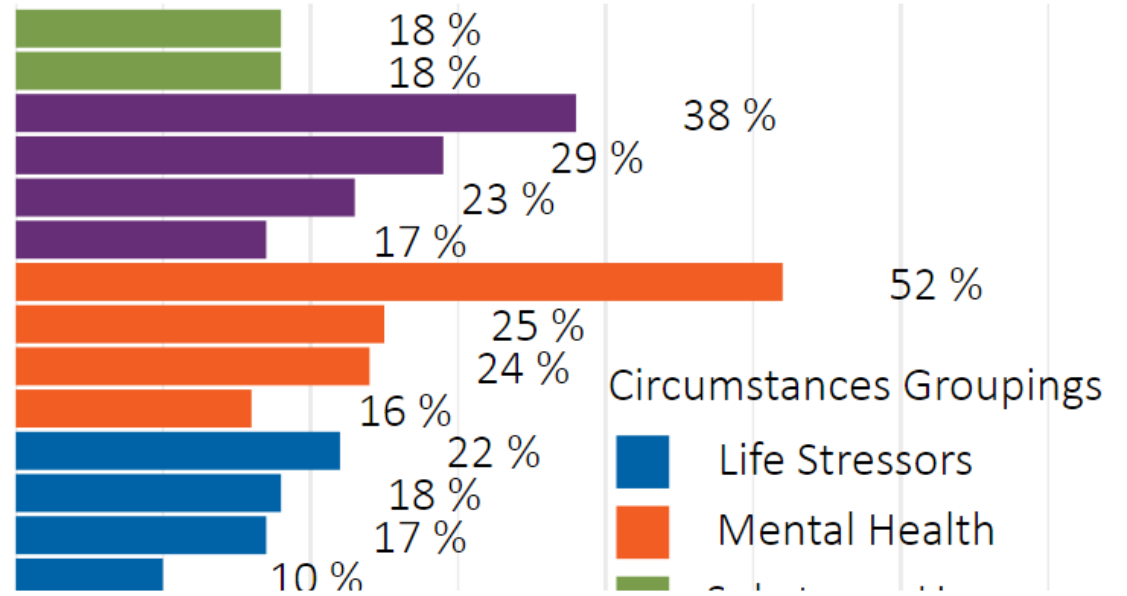
### CalVDRS Suicide Deaths, 2020

At least one circumstance known	2382
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### Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020

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- Contributing intimate partner problem
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\* counts <11 are suppressed

Note: Data presented here are not representative of all violent deaths. Data represent deaths that occurred in California and include both California residents and non-residents. The data presented here summarize violent deaths for which CalVDRS received an investigative narrative, autopsy, or toxicology report. Please use the [EpiCenter](#) to determine the total number of suicide deaths in a given group.

**CalVDRS Suicide Deaths, 2020**

At least one mental health diagnosis	<b>1236</b>
No known mental health diagnoses	<b>1415</b>

**Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020**

At least one mental health diagnosis	<b>1236</b>
No known mental health diagnoses	<b>1415</b>

Depression

Anxiety Disorder

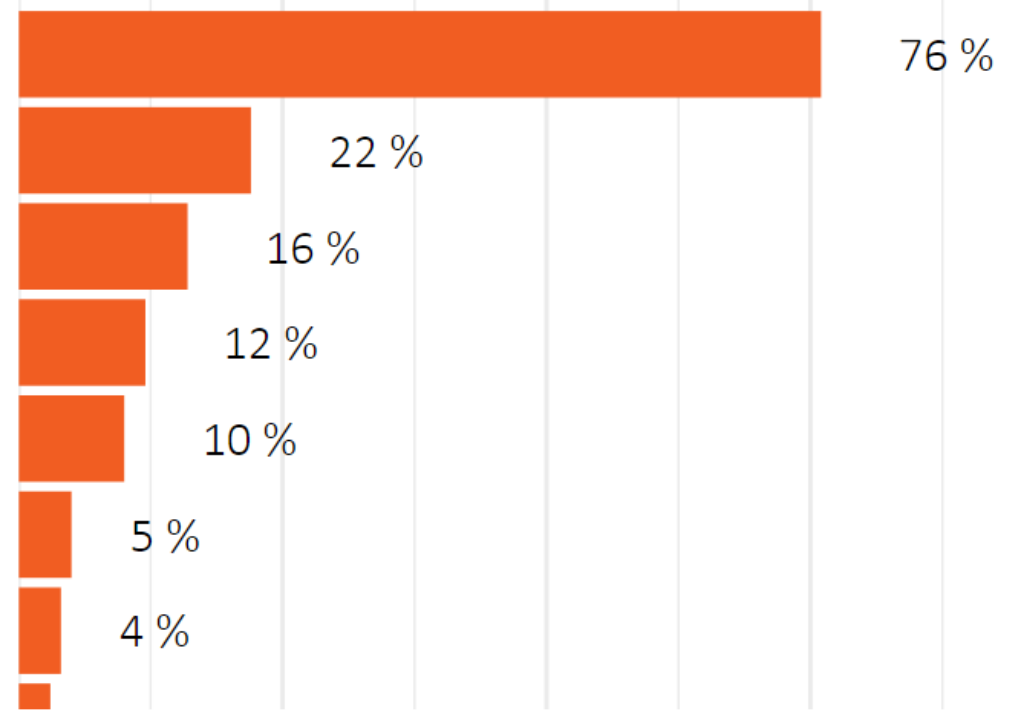
Bipolar disorder

Other diagnosis

Schizophrenia

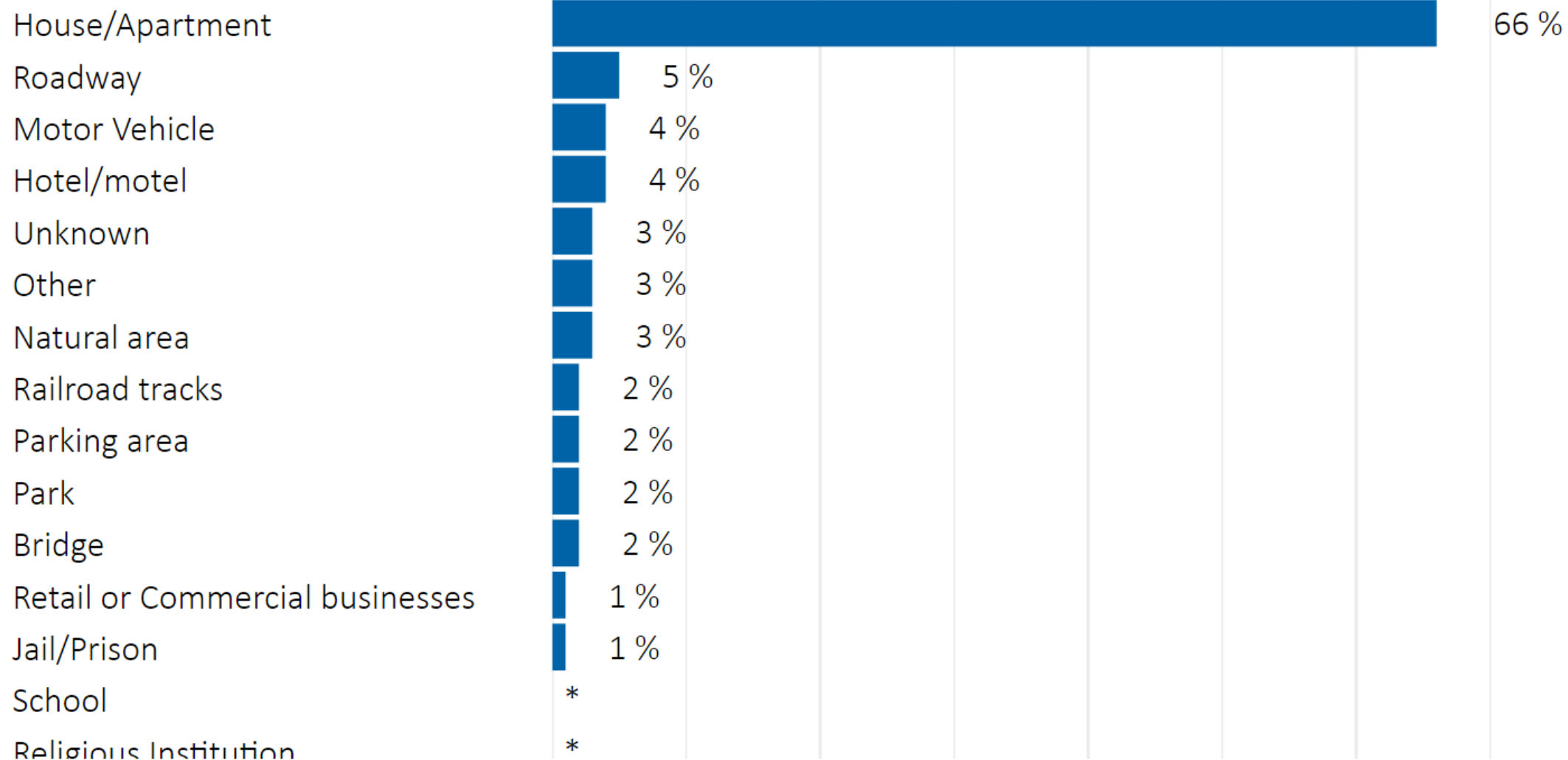
Post-traumatic stress disorder

Unknown diagnosis



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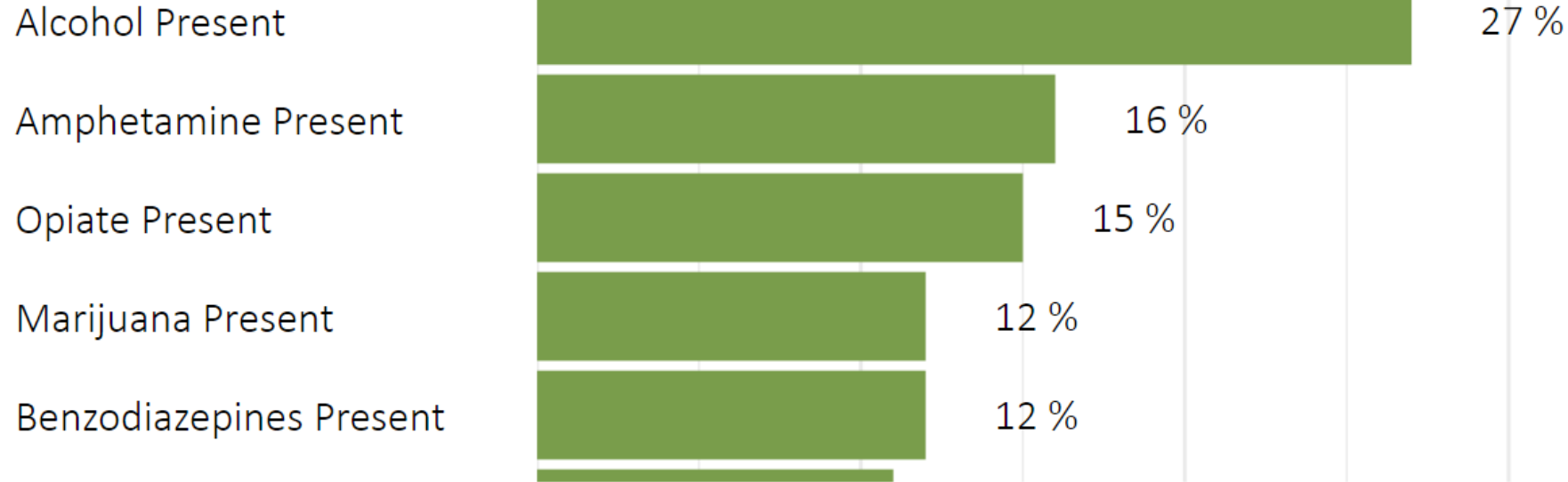
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**CalDVRS Suicide Deaths, 2020**

Toxicology known	<b>2033</b>
Toxicology unknown	<b>618</b>

**Selected Suicide Deaths, 2020**

Toxicology known	<b>2033</b>
Toxicology unknown	<b>618</b>



\* counts <11 are suppressed

Note: Data presented here are not representative of all violent deaths. Data represent deaths that occurred in California and include both California residents and non-residents. The data presented here summarize violent deaths for which CalDVRS received an investigative narrative, autopsy, or toxicology report. Please use the [EpiCenter](#) to determine the total number of suicide deaths in a given group.

# Data to Action

- Unique data source for public health to use that combines vital records, law enforcement, and coroner/medical examiners into one database
- Participating counties can look at their data year over year and aggregated
  - More information than provided in individual county profiles
- Useful for informing suicide prevention planning and suicide awareness activities



# How to Participate

- If your county isn't participating, email us at [CalVDRS@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CalVDRS@cdph.ca.gov)
- Public health support shows Coroner and Medical Examiners that this is valuable data
- Relationship building with Coroner and Medical Examiners helps support their participation in CalVDRS

# Thank you and Acknowledgements

- Carl Ganz
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- AgreeYa
- The ADA Compliance Team
- The ESS Team

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Questions can also be directed to: [CaIVDRS@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CaIVDRS@cdph.ca.gov)