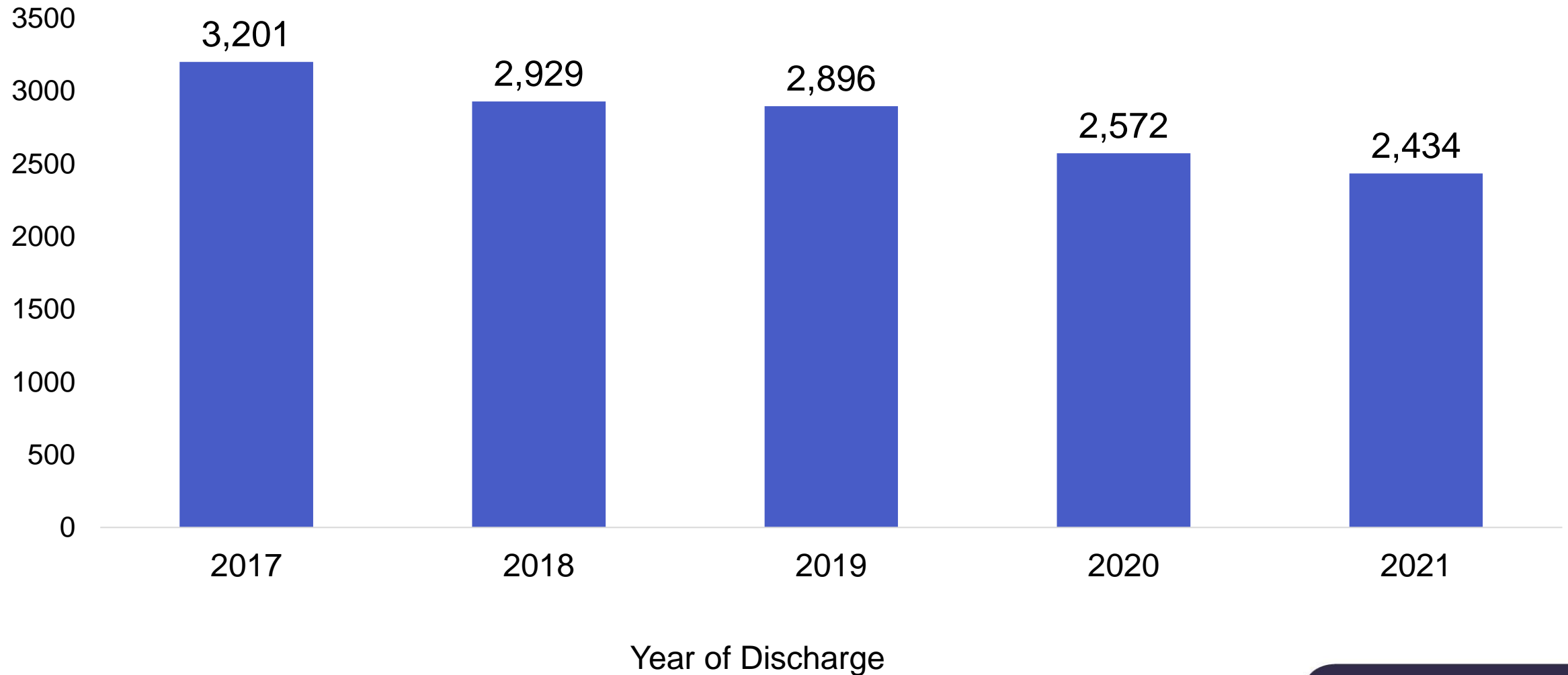


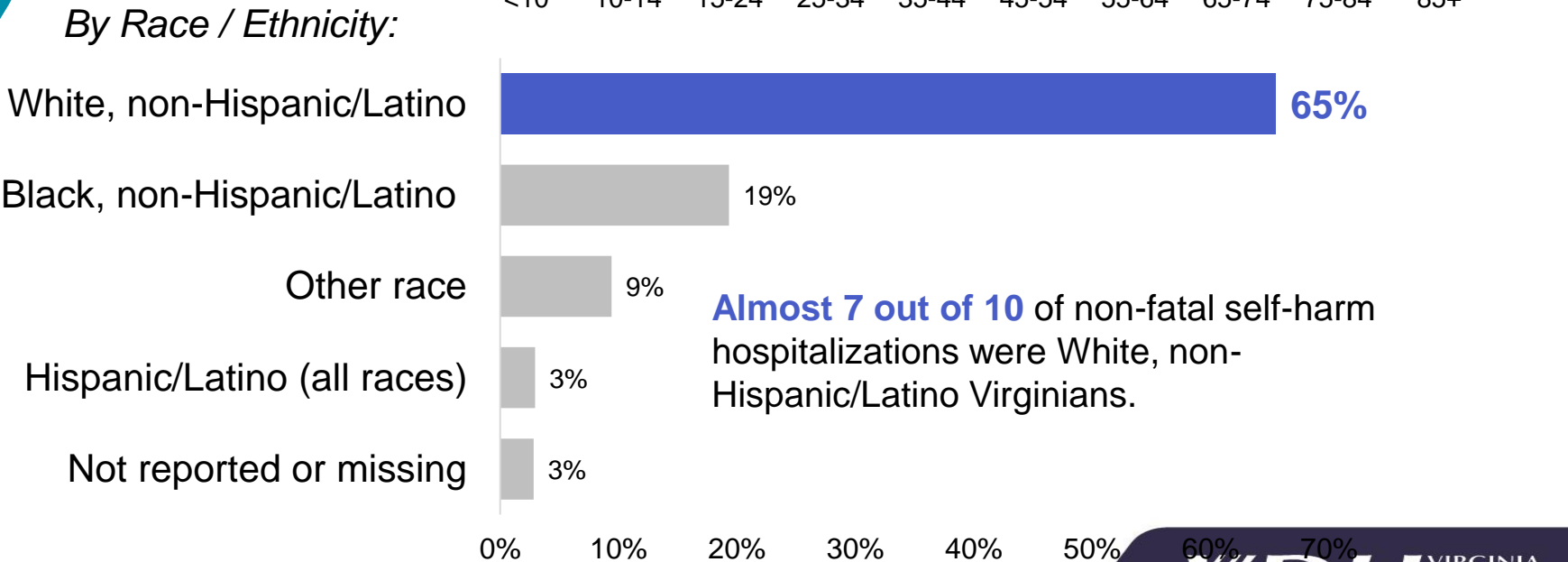
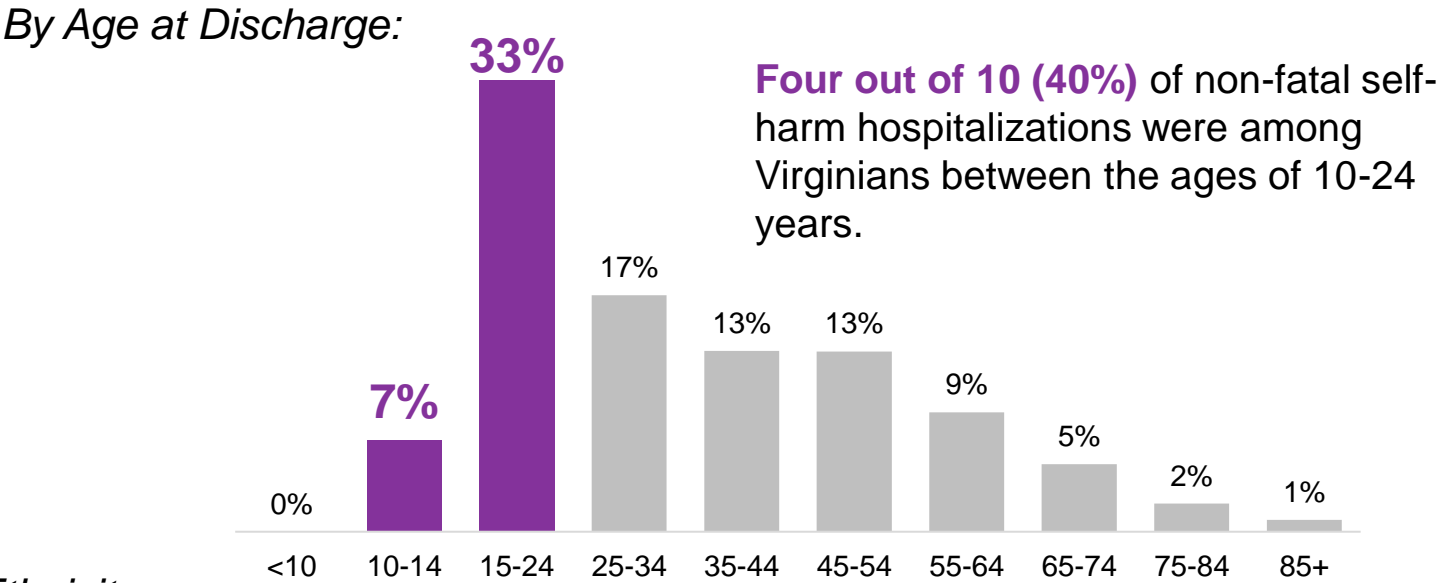
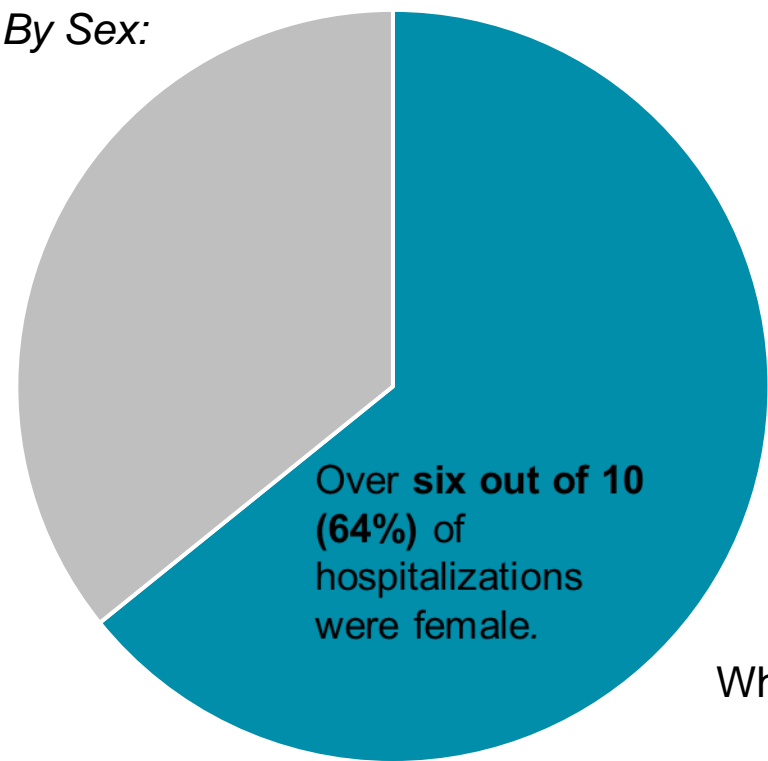
Injury and Violence Prevention Program Presentation to the State Health Commissioner Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)

TARA KEEN, MPH
JUSTIN WALLACE, MPH
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
April 11, 2023

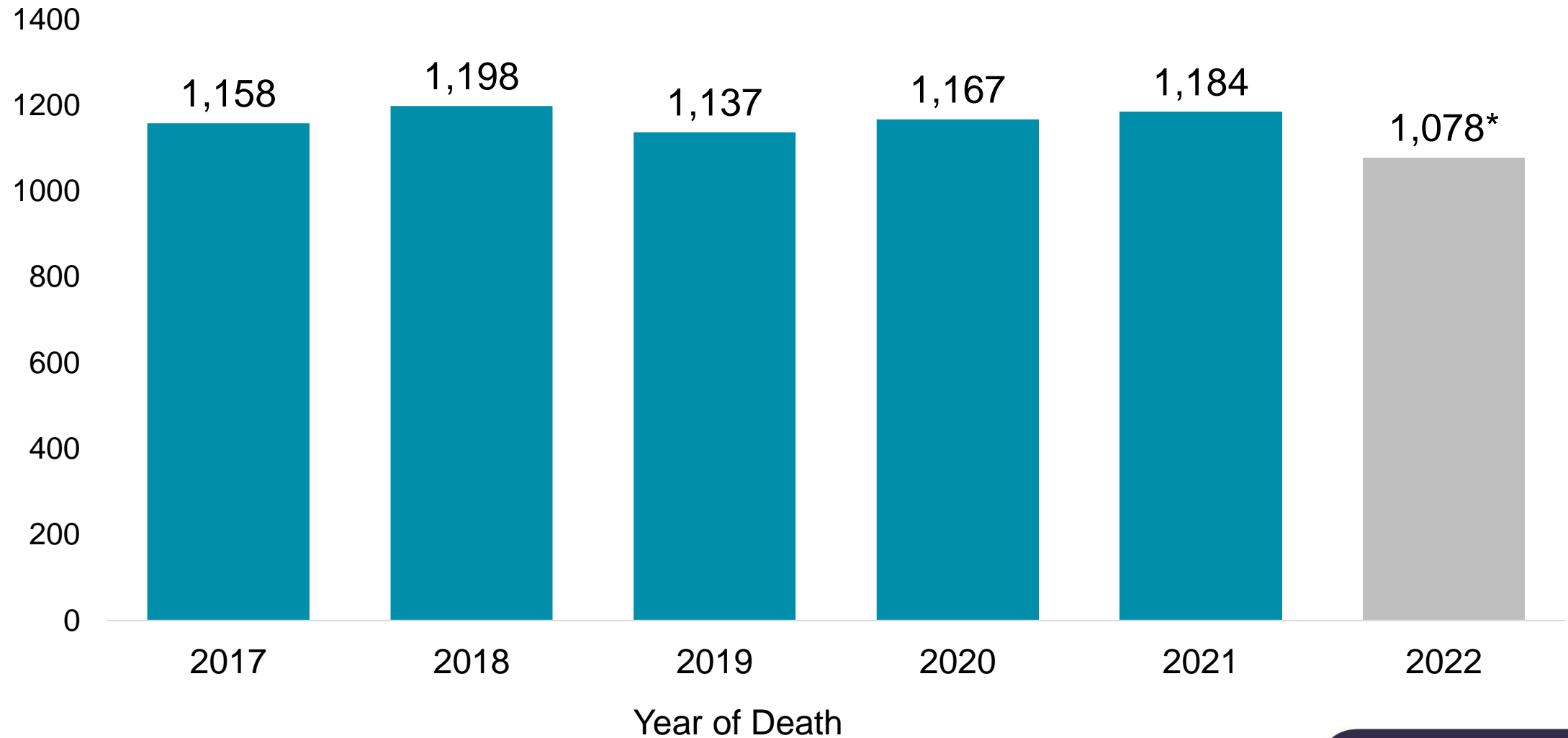
Non-fatal self-harm hospitalizations have declined by **24%** from 2017 to 2021.



Non-fatal self-harm hospitalizations among Virginians in 2021 by demographics (n = 2,434)



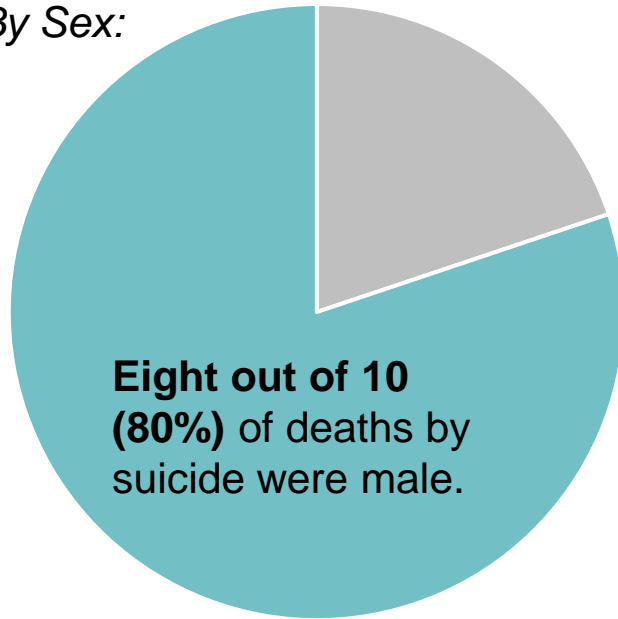
Deaths by suicide among Virginians between 2017 and 2021 remained relatively stable.



*Indicates preliminary data

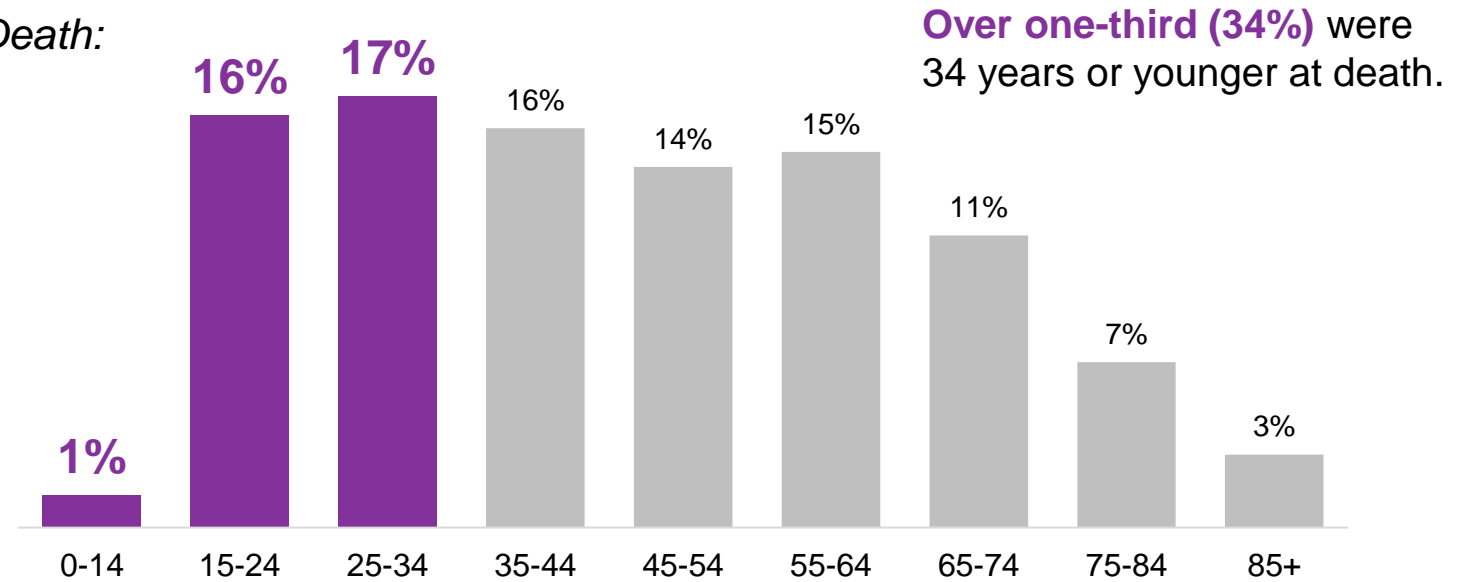
Overview: Deaths by suicide in 2021 among Virginians by demographics (n = 1,184)

By Sex:



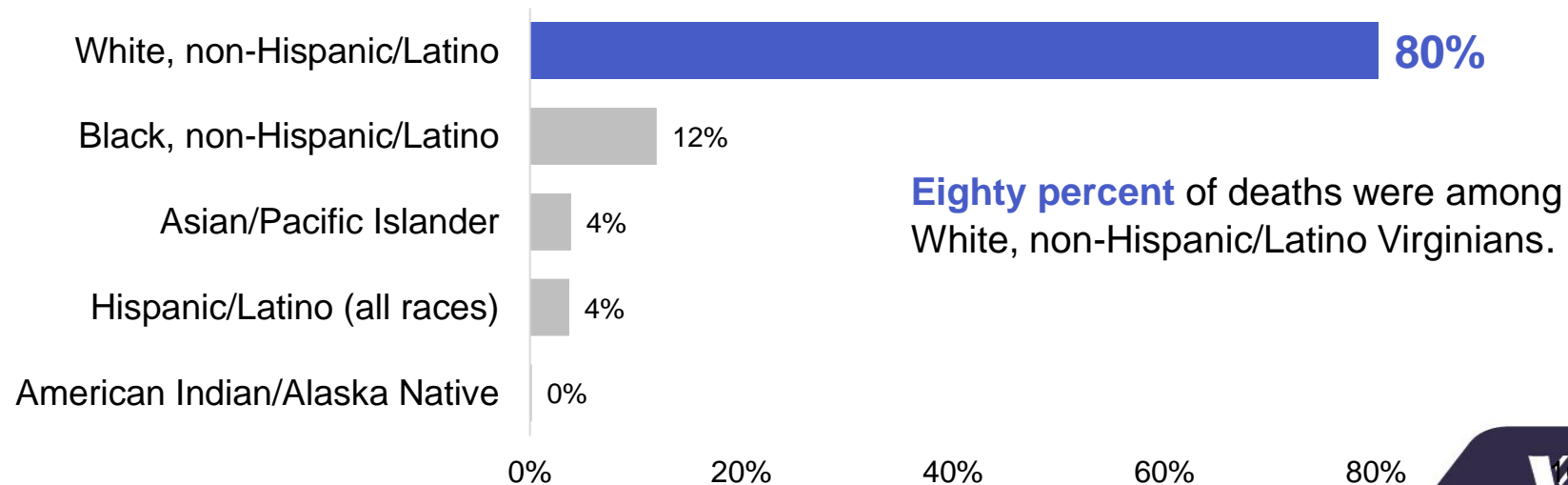
Eight out of 10 (80%) of deaths by suicide were male.

By Age at Death:



Over one-third (34%) were 34 years or younger at death.

By Race/Ethnicity:



Eighty percent of deaths were among White, non-Hispanic/Latino Virginians.

Overview: Trends in priority populations

Population	Trend
Non-Fatal Self-Harm	
Virginians aged 10-14 years	Non-fatal self-harm hospitalizations increased 36% from 2017 to 2021 (120 in 2017 to 163 in 2021).
Suicide	
Virginians aged < 25 years	Deaths by suicide increased 24% from 2017 to 2021 (167 in 2017 to 207 in 2021).
Black, non-Hispanic Virginians, all ages	Deaths by suicide increased 56% from 2017 to 2021 (91 in 2017 to 142 in 2021).
Black, non-Hispanic Virginians aged <25 years	Deaths by suicide increased 65% from 2017 to 2021 (26 in 2017 to 43 in 2021).
Southwest health region	The Southwest health region (18 per 100,000 population) had the highest suicide death rate in 2021 out of the five Virginia health regions.
All Virginians	Firearms were the leading mechanism (cause) of suicide death in 2017-2021 (62%). Suicide deaths by firearm increased 6% from 2017 to 2021.

Overview: Suicide Prevention within IVPP

- § 32.1-73.7. Department to be lead agency for youth suicide prevention
 - \$125,000 in state general funds
 - Primary source of funding is through federal grants - SAMHSA GLS, MCH, CDC, ARPA
- Public health approach to suicide prevention via [CDC's Suicide Prevention Technical Package](#)
 - **Uses data** to drive decision-making
 - **Implements and evaluates** multiple prevention strategies that enhance resilience and improve well-being based on the best available evidence
 - **Works to prevent** people from becoming suicidal
- VDH IVPP Program - Primarily a technical assistance, program development, and policy hub

Key Areas of Focus

Strategy	Approach
Strengthen Economic Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve household financial security • Stabilize housing
Create Protective Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce access to lethal means among persons at risk of suicide* • Create healthy organizational policies and culture • Reduce substance use through community-based policies and practices
Improve Access and Delivery of Suicide Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover mental health conditions in health insurance policies • Increase provider availability in underserved areas • Provide rapid and remote access to help • Create safer suicide care through systems change
Promote Healthy Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy peer norms • Engage community members in shared activities
Teach Coping and Problem-Solving Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support social-emotional learning programs • Teach parenting skills to improve family relationships • Support resilience through education programs
Identify and Support People at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train gatekeepers • Respond to crises • Plan for safety and follow-up after an attempt • Provide therapeutic approaches
Lessen Harms and Prevent Future Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervene after a suicide (postvention) • Report and message about suicide safely

*bold indicates current priorities

Partners and Programs

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Department of Education, and the Department of Veteran Services
- Program and Coalition Funding
 - Suicide Prevention Interagency Advisory Group (SPIAG)
 - Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia (CSPCV)
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or 988
- Training Priorities (Gatekeeper/Clinical)
 - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
 - safeTALK
 - Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS)
 - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)



Thank you!

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