Characteristics of Death by Suicide Among Occupation Groups

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Maine Violent Death Reporting System

- Funded in 2014, with our first year of data collection in 2015

- Collects data on all deaths resulting from violence as well as unintentional firearm injuries

- As of the 2020 data year, all 50 states, DC and PR are funded

- Currently have data for 2015 to 2023
  - Maine VDRS is housed at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner who contracts with the University of Maine for project administration and staffing

Maine Violent Death Reporting System

- Has over 650 variables that can be collected
  - Basic demographic information
  - Weapon information
  - Circumstances
  - Collected from Medical Examiner, Law Enforcement, and Death Certificates

- Limitations
  - Secondary data collection
  - Accuracy of death certificates

Maine Violent Death Reporting System

- Example projects:
    - Maine veteran suicide

    - Law enforcement suicide

Overview of Today's Presentation

- Characteristics of suicides by occupation
    - Construction and Trades
    - Medical Professionals
    - First Responders

- Looking at demographics, mental health profiles, and life circumstances

- N's <5 are suppressed

- Maine residents only

Occupations

- Gathered from death certificate

- Construction and Trades
  - Laborers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, welders, etc.

- Medical Professionals
  - Doctors, nurses, CNAs, CRMAs

- First Responders
  - Law enforcement, corrections, marine patrol, game wardens

Overview of Deaths by Suicide

Maine Resident Suicides By Year

Year	Deaths
2015	222
2016	218
2017	264
2018	257
2019	268
2020	228
2021	270
2022	264
2023	269
Grand Total	**2,260**

Maine Resident Suicides By Occupation Group

Occupation Group	N	Percent of All Suicides
Gen. Pop.	1,634	72%
Construction/Trades	474	21%
Medical	114	5%
First Responders	38	2%
Total	2,260	

Race and Ethnicity

- 96% of decedents were individuals who identified as White, non-Hispanic

Average Age by Occupation Group

	Gen. Pop. n=1,624	Construction / Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Average Age	43.96	44.17	49.76	50.95

Sex by Occupation Group

Sex	General Population n=1,624	Construction/ Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Female	24%	1%	57%	8%
Male	76%	99%	43%	92%

Marital Status by Occupation Group

Marital Status	General Population n=1,624	Construction/Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Divorced	23%	26%	34%	21%
Married, but separated	2%	Suppressed	0%	0%
Married/Civil Union/Domestic Partnership	30%	28%	47%	61%
Never Married	36%	37%	Suppressed	11%
Unknown	1%	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Widowed	7%	6%	Suppressed	Suppressed

Level of Education by Occupation, 2015 to 2023

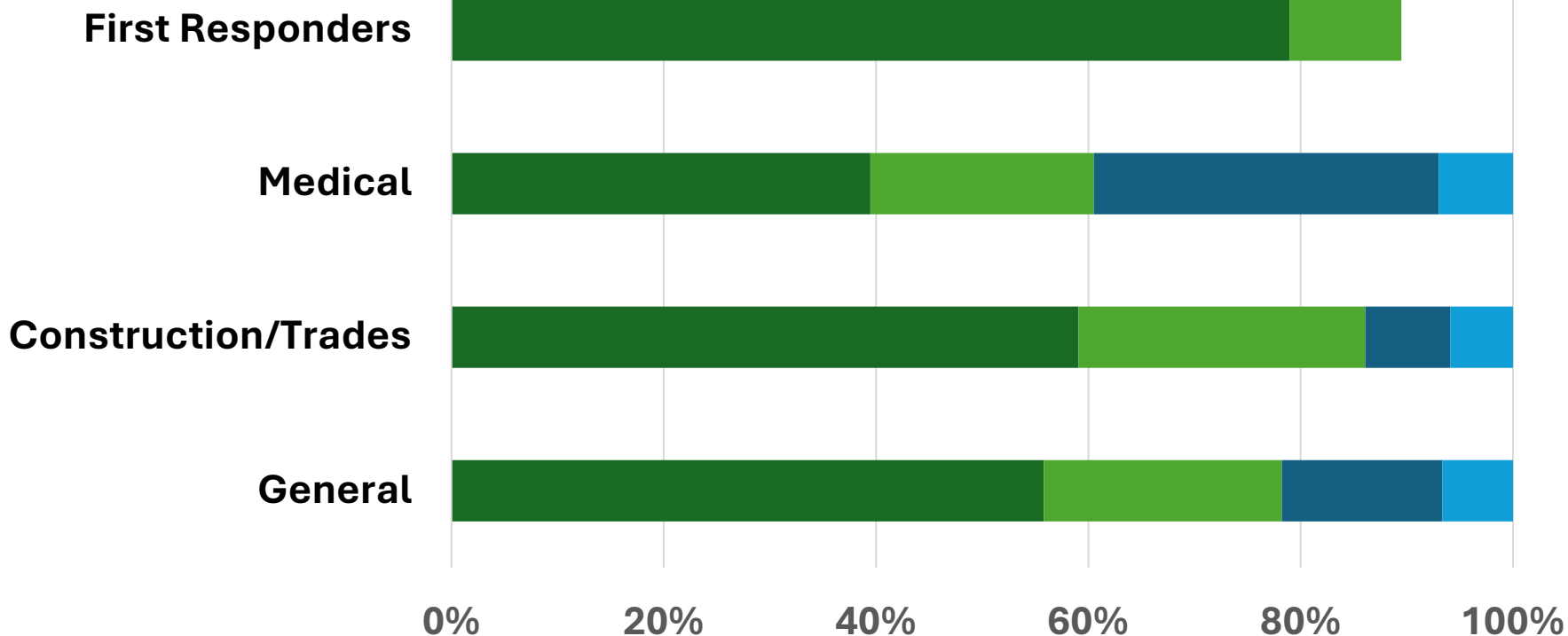| Level of Education	General Population n=1,624	Construction / Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Less than High School	12%	12%	Suppressed	3%
High School Diploma	45%	65%	20%	34%
Some College	14%	12%	12%	34%
2- or 4-Year Degree	21%	11%	45%	26%
Graduate Degree	6%	Suppressed	21%	0%
Unknown	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed

Military Service by Occupation, 2015 to 2023

Military	Gen. Pop. n=1,624	Construction/ Trades n= 474	Medical n= 114	First Responder n=38
No	82%	78%	89%	55%
Yes	18%	22%	11%	45%

Mechanism of Injury

Mechanism of Injury By Occupation

	General	Construction /Trades	Medical	First Responders
■ Firearm	56%	59%	39%	79%
■ Hanging, Strangulation, Asphyxia	22%	27%	21%	11%
■ Poisoning	15%	8%	32%	0%
■ All Other	7%	6%	7%	0%

Mental Health

Mental Health by Occupation, 2015 to 2023

Characteristic	General Population n=1,624	Construction/ Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Hx of Mental Health Tx	38%	**41%**	27%	29%
Current Mental Health Tx	26%	26%	16%	18%
MH Diagnosis	47%	**48%**	39%	39%
Hx of Suicidal Thoughts	34%	**35%**	32%	11%
History of Suicide Attempts	17%	**20%**	18%	Suppressed
Depressed Mood at Time of Death	47%	46%	**54%**	34%

Life Circumstances

Top Circumstances By Occupation, 2015 to 2023

Circumstance	General Population n=1,624	Construction/ Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Any Crisis	45%	37%	49%	47%
Physical Health Problem	24%	22%	31%	34%
Intimate Partner Problem	24%	25%	27%	16%
Disclosed Intent	23%	18%	25%	24%
Alcohol Problem	19%	21%	16%	Suppressed
Substance Use Problem	15%	15%	11%	16%

Top Circumstances By Occupation cont…

Circumstance	General Population n=1,624	Trades n= 474	Medical Professionals n= 114	First Responders n=38
Argument	14%	14%	16%	Suppressed
Family Relationship Problem	9%	9%	7%	18%
Job Problem	9%	8%	9%	Suppressed
Financial Problem	8%	5%	5%	Suppressed
Non-suicide Death	7%	6%	15%	0%
Criminal Legal Problem	7%	7%	4%	Suppressed