



*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW ANNUAL REPORT 2025





*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview

Purpose and Objectives _____	3
SFR Meeting Schedule and Structure _____	4
Board and Committee Members _____	4
Review Process and Data Sources _____	5
SFR Stark County Case Review Summary of Information _____	5

SFR Data and Findings

Annual Report Survey

Table 1 County Metrics _____	6
Table 2 Demographic Metrics _____	6
Graph 1 Age Metrics _____	6
Graph 2 Method Metrics _____	7
Graph 3 Marital Status Metrics _____	7

SFR Trends _____	8
-------------------------	----------

SFR Summary of Recommendations _____	9-10
---	-------------

SFR Summary of Implementation _____	10
--	-----------

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the suicide fatality review (SFR) process is to reduce the incidence of suicide deaths in Stark County, through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive review of individual suicide deaths. The SFR committee identifies, evaluates, and makes recommendations to improve community programs and systems that serve Stark County residents.

The Ohio Revised Code 307.643 states "The purpose of the suicide fatality review committee is to decrease the incidence of preventable suicide deaths by doing all of the following:

(A) Promoting cooperation, collaboration, and communication between all groups, professions, agencies, or entities engaged in suicide prevention, education, or mental health treatment efforts.

(B) Maintaining a comprehensive database of all suicide deaths that occur in the county or region served by the review committee in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of those deaths.

(C) Recommending and developing plans for implementing local service program changes and changes to the groups, professions and agencies, or entities that serve local residents that might prevent suicide deaths.

(D) Advising the department of health of aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning suicide deaths."

This report provides information and recommendations community leaders and stakeholders have recommended after analyzing suicide deaths that occurred in 2025.



SFR MEETING SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings are held quarterly, or as often as necessary. Three meetings were held in 2025.

Structure

The SFR Board was created according to Section 307.641 of the ORC, and per ORC 307.642, consisting of the following required members:

- Kirkland Norris, R.E.H.S, M.P.H, Stark County Health Department, Health Commissioner*
- Eric Weisburn, Stark County Sheriff*
- Amanda Uhler MPH, RN, Public Health Official
- John Aller, LICDC-CS, LPCC-S, Executive Director of Stark County Mental Health and Addition Recovery*
- Dr. Maureen Ahmann, D.O., Physician

Additional Board Member Agencies

- Stark County Coroner*
- Jackson Township Fire Department
- Veteran Community Member
- Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities*

*Agencies have multiple members active on the SFR board

Voting

Each appointed official pursuant to ORC 307.642 and each agency has one vote on each matter brought before the team.

Quorum

At all meetings of the SFR team, the presence of a least a majority (3 of the 5 appointed officials) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction/purpose of business and voting.



SFR REVIEW PROCCES AND DATA SOURCES

The SFR committee is focused on decedents of suicide who resided in Stark County. Recognizing suicide as a public health issue is founded on an understanding of suicidal behavior arising from contextual, biological, environmental, systemic, and social stressors. This approach focuses on prevention by addressing the known factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of suicide.

For each death by suicide, the committee collects:

- Age
 - Sex
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Year of Death
 - Location of Death
- Cause of Death
 - Contributing Factors
 - Health Information
 - Public Records
 - Community Services
 - Any Other Pertinent Information/Service Record

The cases reviewed in this report were deaths that occurred in 2024 and 2025. Each case review is discussed among the team to gather a comprehensive understanding of the context of the decedent's life and the events and actions that led to the fatality. The discussions highlight potential contributing factors, intervention implications and recommendations for systemic improvements.

STARK COUNTY SUMMARY OF CASES REVIEWED

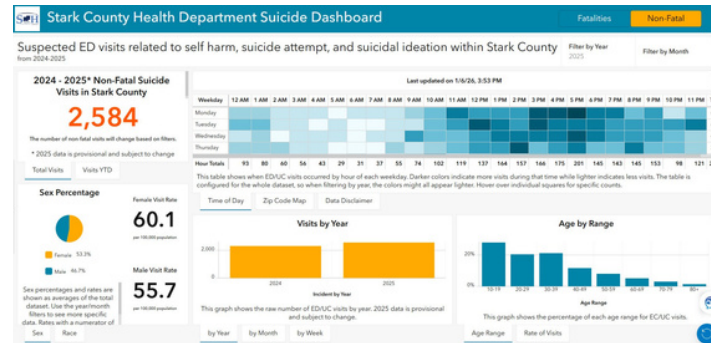
Age	3: 10-40 Years of Age	4: 41-50 Years of Age	3: 51-60 Years of Age	2: 61+ Years of Age
Sex	9: Male	3: Female		
Race	11: White	1: Black		
Ethnicity	12: Non-Hispanic			
Method	9: Firearm	3: Drug Toxicity		

SFR ANNUAL REPORT

Table 1: County Metrics

Total Number of Cases in 2025	64
Total Number Reviewed in 2025	12
Total Number Not Reviewed	52

For more information on emergency visits related to suicidal ideation, suicide attempt and self-harm, visit the SFR dashboard at https://starkhealth.org/government/offices/public_health/health_education__promotion/health_education__promotion_suicide_prevention.php



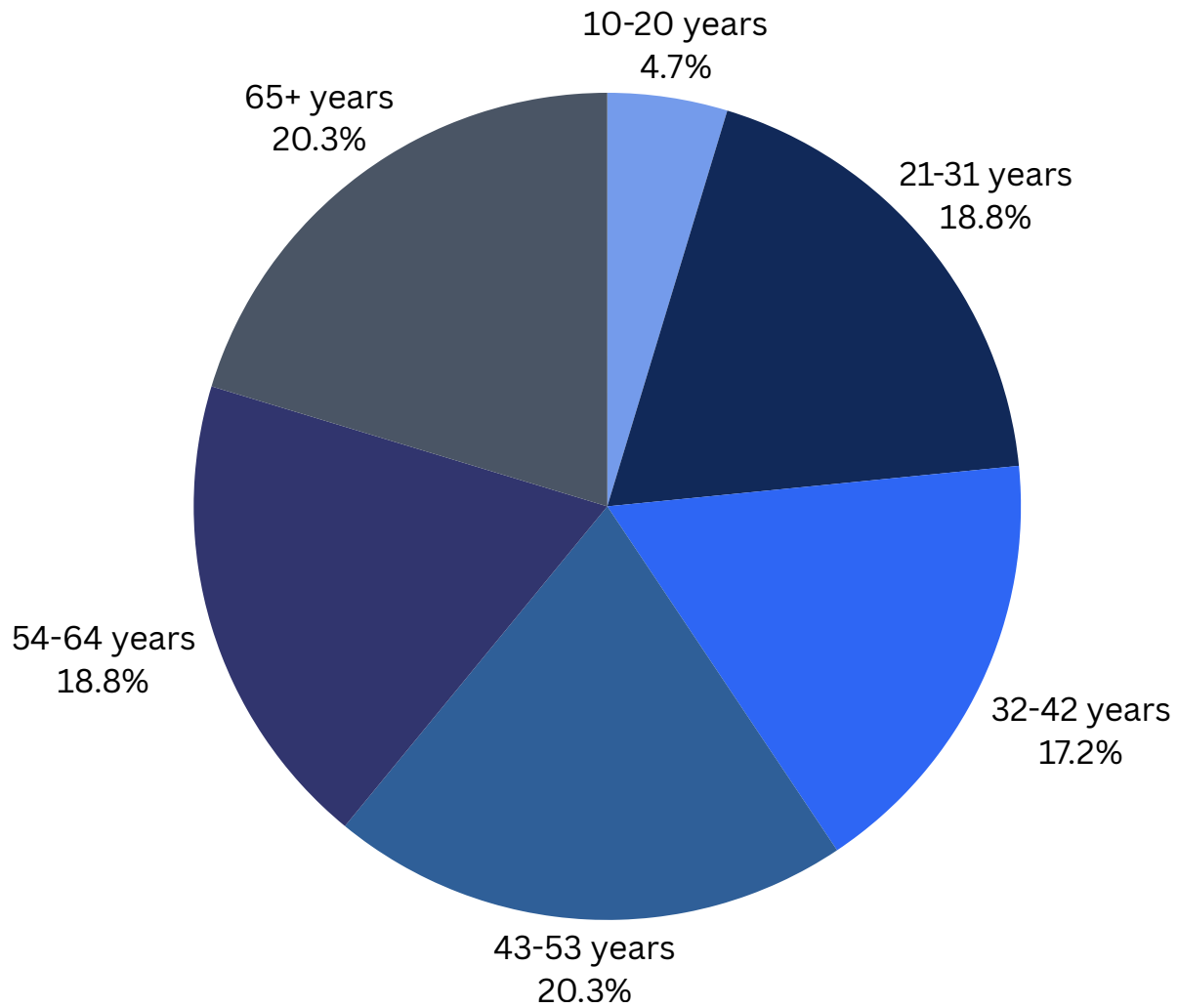
Cases reviewed occurred in 2024 and 2025

*Per DataOhio Mortality Protected Download 3.13.26

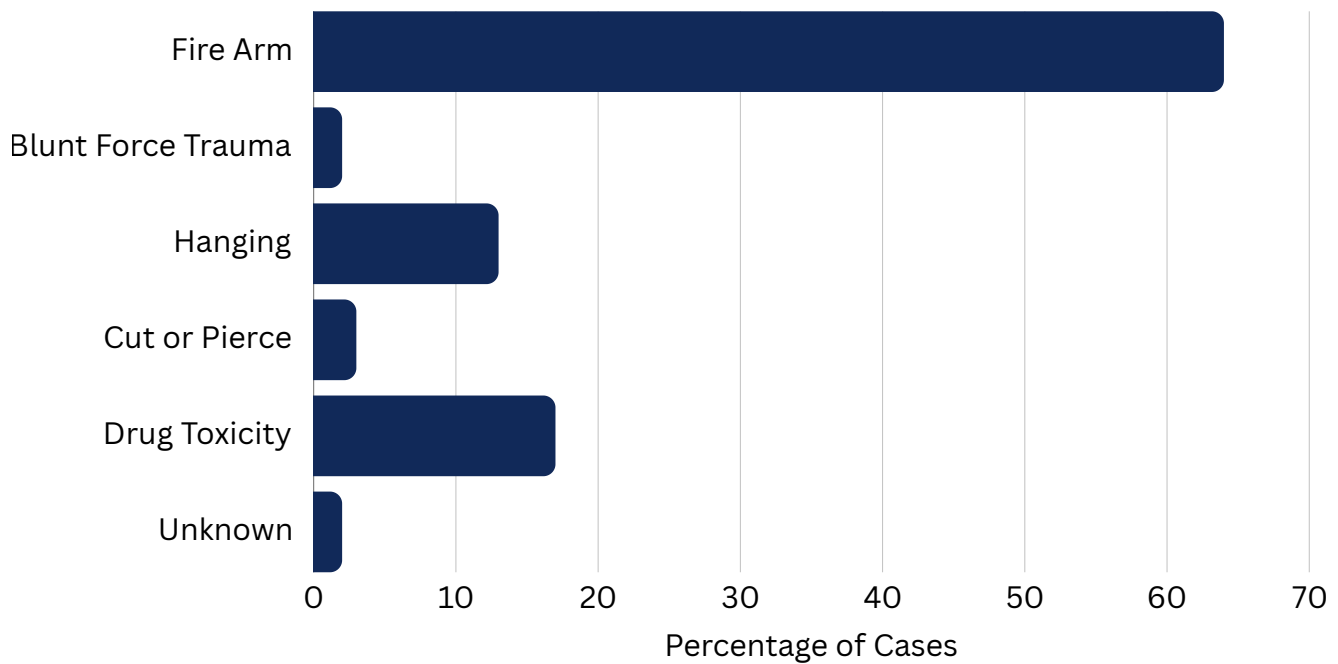
Table 2: Demographic Metrics

Race	55: White	7: Black	1: Two or More Races	1: Unknown
Ethnicity	63: Non Hispanic	1: Unknown		
Gender	48: Male	15: Female	1: Unknown	
History of Armed Forces Services	51: No Armed Forces Service	12: Armed Forces Service	1: Unknown	

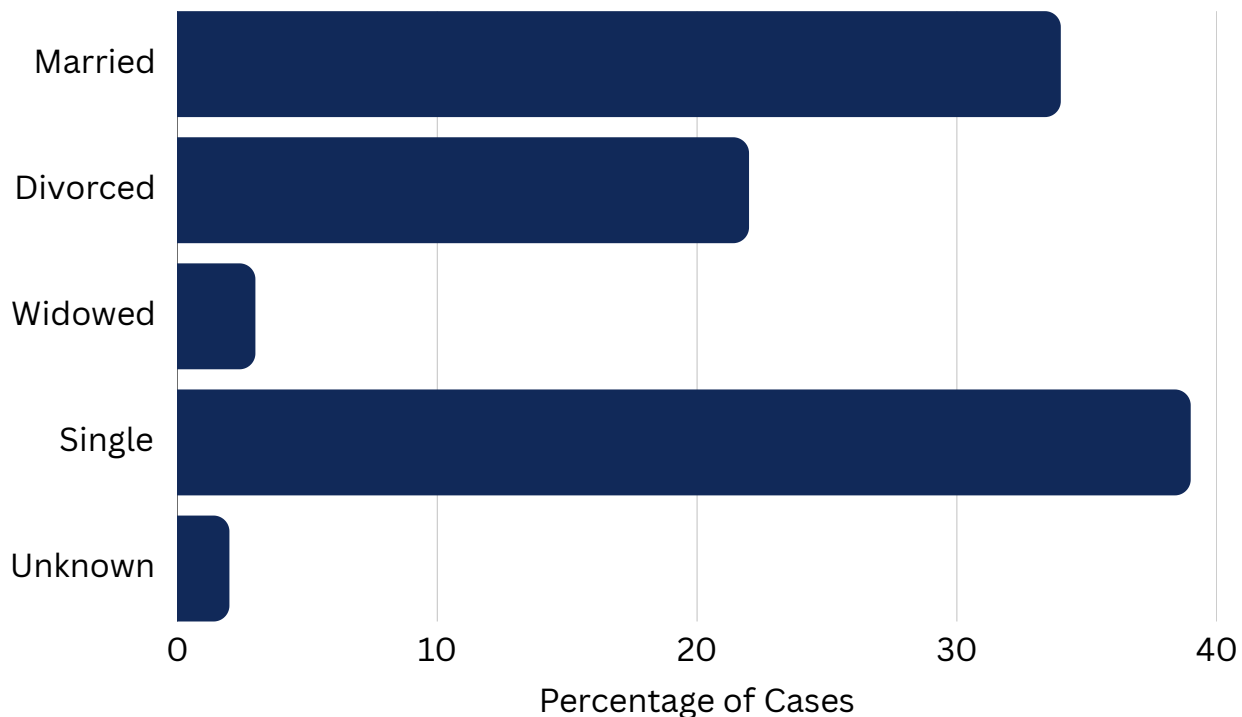
Graph 1: Age Metrics



Graph 2: Method Metrics



Graph 3: Marital Status Metrics



STARK COUNTY SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW 2025 TRENDS

During 2025, the Stark County Suicide Fatality Review Board noted the age and race demographics were consistent with data from previous years. There continues to be outreach efforts targeted at the aging population because this trend has remained consistent.

Additionally, the SFR board explored the relationship alcohol may have played in the lives of those who died by suicide in 2023 and 2024. Research was completed by cross-analyzing data from mortality warehouse records, public criminal justice information and alcohol abuse related emergency department visits. In 2023, 55% of suicide deaths had alcohol in their system at the time of death. Of the residents who died by suicide in 2023, 19% had criminal records involving operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OVI), driving under the influence (DUI), open containers while driving or disorderly conduct by intoxication. In 2024, 45% of suicide deaths had alcohol in their system at the time of death. Of the residents who passed away due to suicide in 2024, 12% had a criminal records involving alcohol use, use as OVI, DUI or open containers while driving.

A literature review also indicated evidence of a linear association between alcohol use disorders and suicidal thoughts and non-suicidal self-harm.

STARK COUNTY SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW

2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a list of recommendations from the Suicide Fatality Review team. Some recommendations may have been made more than once.

Community Recommendations

- See Something, Say Something Campaign
- Provide community and mental health resources at first involvement with the justice system
- Implement a digital wellness program
- Promote safe gun storage
- Promote community navigators to assist in applying for community programs
- Provide mental health supports for people experiencing homelessness
- Provide mental health resources at hotels where it is known people reside in the hotel
- Extend homeless hotline hours to all hours of the day
- Promote mental health resource messaging tailored to the aging population
- Increase access to drug disposal bags
- Promote drug disposal locations

Provider Based Recommendations

- Utilize centralized medical records system so emergency staff can see if an individual has had a pink slip visit at another facility
- Promote StarkMHAR contact information at hospital discharge for mental health visits
- Implement welfare check when a patient with known suicidal ideation does not show for a appointment
- Promote legislation to increase access to data sharing among mental health, primary care, hospitals and public health agencies
- Promote referrals to Direction Home for 60+ year olds who need connection to community resources

Military/First Responder Recommendations

- Increase mental health support for veterans
- Share local mental health resources for agencies outside of the VA system
- Implement Men's Shed to gather as a community and learn a new skill
- Promote Stark County Men's Center
- Promote county wide peer support for police and fire department staff
- Train local police and fire departments on when to call for Mobile Crisis

School Based Recommendations

- Implement suicide prevention training at young grade levels

2025 Summary of Implementation

- Mindfulness walk was held on September 7, 2025, at Petros Park
- Softball Showdown between Stark County and Summit County Suicide Prevention Coalitions was held on September 11, 2025, to provide hope to the community and raise awareness of suicide prevention efforts
- QPR training offered through StarkMHAR on a monthly basis
- Safe Home Kits provided by Stark County Suicide Prevention Coalition to various community agencies
- Gun lock distribution through Stark County Health Department and HealthMobile Unit
- Creation of a suicide fatality review dashboard located at www.starkhealth.org
- A digital wellness committee began meeting and provided resources at www.starkhealthcentral.org

Next Steps

Next steps include:

- Evaluation of additional members including mobile response personnel.
- Consideration to update the SFR dashboard on a monthly basis, rather than quarterly basis.



[**www.StarkHealth.org**](http://www.StarkHealth.org)

7235 Whipple Ave. NW, North Canton, OH 44720

9888

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

*Ohio*TM



*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

