

Pretoria/Tshwane

Compiled by Hilton Donson and Brett Bowman

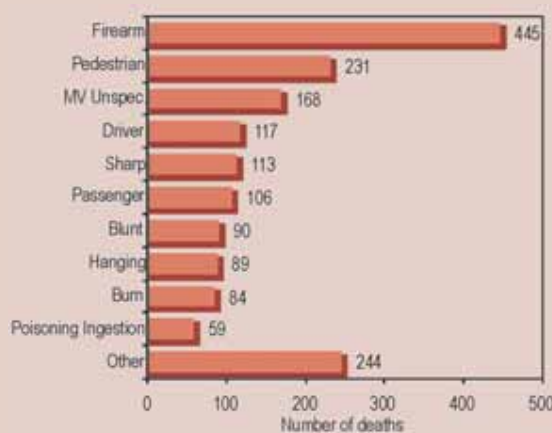
In the 2003 calendar year a total of 2512 deaths presented to the two mortuaries in Tshwane (Pretoria and Medunsa), including 383 (15.2%) deaths due to natural causes, 105 that were either viewed or stored at the mortuaries, and another 278 where the cause of death was undetermined. The analysis that follows is restricted to the remaining 1746 non-natural deaths due to violence, suicide, transport collisions and other unintentional injuries.

3.1 EXTERNAL CAUSE OF DEATH

The cause of death was unknown in 0.5% of the 1746 cases. Of the remaining deaths, the leading external cause was firearms (25.6%), followed by pedestrian fatalities (11.5%), motor vehicle unspecified fatalities (9.7%), driver fatalities (6.7%) and sharp force deaths (6.7%). Transport fatalities combined accounted for 40.2% of all external causes of death.

Figure 44

Leading external causes of death (N = 1746)



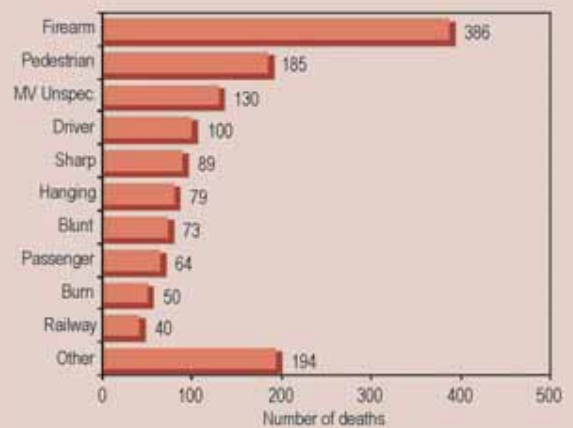
3.1.1 External cause of death, by sex

There were 4 male violence and injury deaths for every female death. Among males the cause of death was unknown in 0.5% of the 1390 cases. Of the remaining deaths, the leading external cause

was firearms (27.9%), followed by pedestrian fatalities (13.4%), motor vehicle unspecified fatalities (9.4%), motor vehicle driver fatalities (7.2%) and sharp force injuries (6.4%).

Figure 45

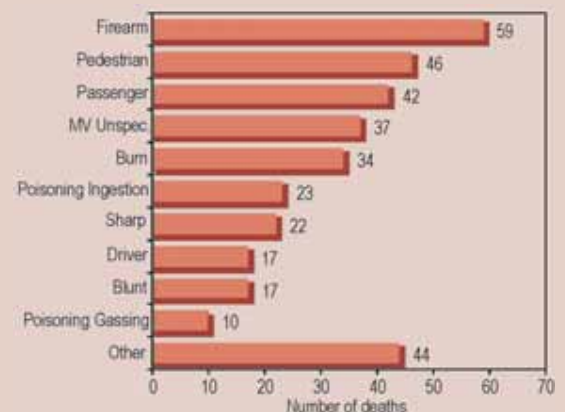
Leading external causes of death among males (N = 1390)



Among females the cause of death was unknown in 0.3% of the 351 cases. Of the remaining deaths, the leading external cause was firearms (16.9%), followed by pedestrian fatalities (13.1%), passenger fatalities (12.0%), motor vehicle unspecified fatalities (13.1%), and burns (9.7%).

Figure 46

Leading external causes of death among females (N = 351)

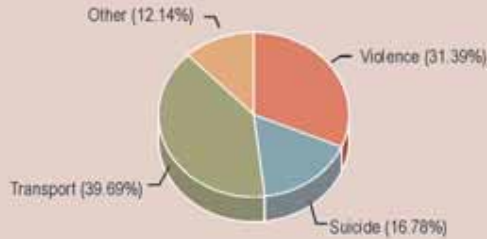


3.2. APPARENT MANNER OF DEATH

The leading apparent manner of non-natural death in Pretoria/Tshwane was transport (39.7%), followed by violence (31.4%).

Figure 47

Overall apparent manner of death (N = 1746)

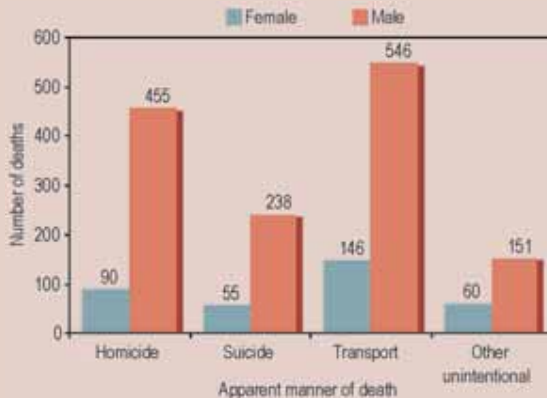


3.2.1 Apparent manner of death, by sex

The leading cause of death among males was transport, which accounted for 39.2% of male deaths, followed by violence (32.7%). The leading cause of death among females was transport (41.6%), followed by violence (25.6%). There were 5 male deaths due to violence for every female death by the same cause. The ratios for suicide, transport and other unintentional injuries were 4.3, 3.7 and 2.5 respectively.

Figure 48

Apparent manner of death, by sex (N = 1741)



3.2.2 Apparent manner of death, by age

The average age at death was 31.1 (± 17.3) years. The leading apparent manners of death among the various age groups were as follows:

- 0-14 years — other unintentional (52.3%);
- 15-24 years — transport (35.8%);
- 25-34 years — violence (48.5%);
- 35-44 years — transport (42.3%);
- 45-54 years — transport (44.5%);
- 55-64 years — transport (51.1%); and
- 65+ years — transport (43.8%).

Figure 49.1

Violence-related deaths by age (N = 306)

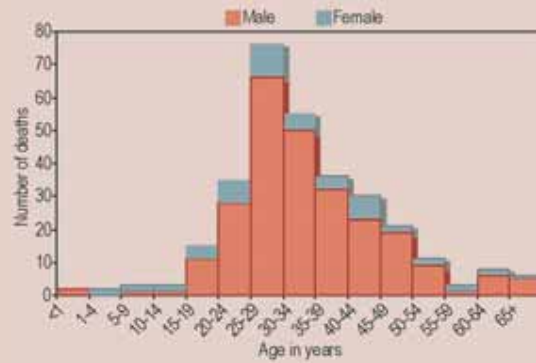


Figure 49.2

Suicide by age (N = 145)

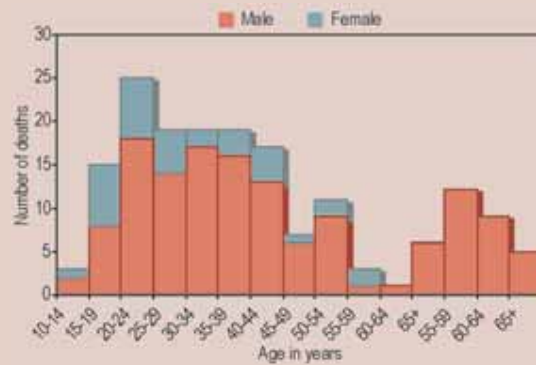


Figure 49.3

Transport-related deaths by age (N = 330)

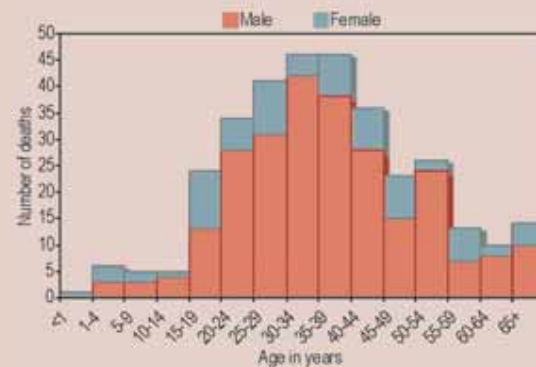
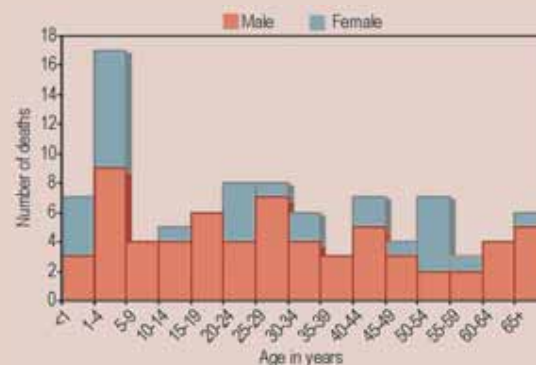


Figure 49.4

Deaths from other unintentional injuries by age (N = 95)



3.2.3 Apparent manner of death by blood alcohol concentration

Blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) were obtained in 1082 of the 1746 cases. The average BAC for those who tested positive was 0.18 ± 0.12 g/100 ml.

Figure 50

Blood alcohol levels (N = 1082)



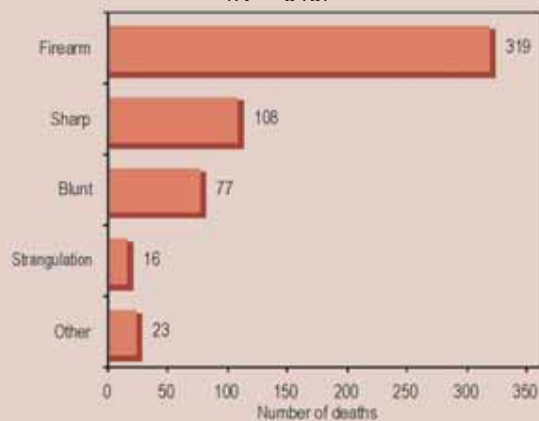
More fatalities tested alcohol positive among the transport- (50.3%) and violence-related deaths (49.3%). Among the positive cases, the transport-related followed by suicide deaths had the highest mean BACs.

3.3 VIOLENCE

The cause of death was unknown in 0.9% of violence-related deaths. Of the remaining deaths, the leading external cause was firearms (58.7%), followed by sharp force injuries (19.9%), blunt force injuries (14.1%) and strangulation (2.9%).

Figure 51

Leading external causes of violence-related deaths (N = 543)

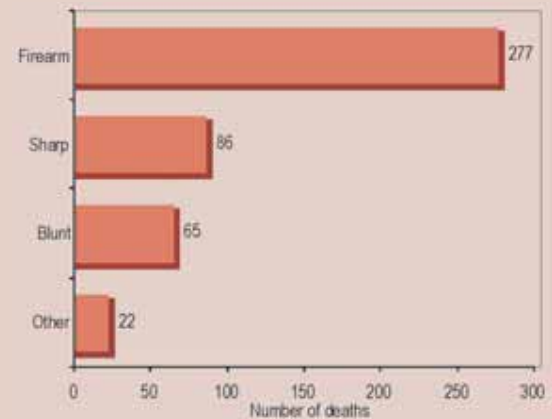


3.3.1 External cause of violent death, by sex

There were 5 male deaths as a result of violence for every female death. Among males the cause of death was unknown in 1.1% of the 455 cases. Of the remaining deaths, the leading external cause was firearms (61.6%), followed by sharp-force injuries (19.1%) and blunt force injuries (14.4%).

Figure 52

Leading external causes of violence-related deaths among males (N = 455)



Among females the cause of death was known for all cases. The leading external cause was firearms (46.7%), followed by sharp force injuries (22.2%), blunt force injuries (11.5%) and strangulation (8.9%).

Figure 53

Leading external causes of violence-related death among females (N = 90)

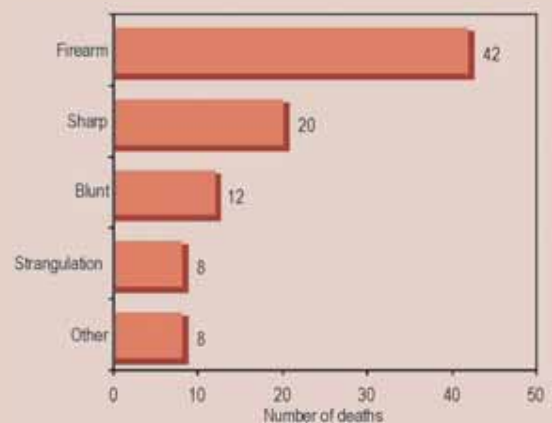


Table VII

Blood alcohol levels by apparent manner of death

Apparent manner of death	BACs done N (%)	BAC positive N (%)	Mean BAC	Std dev.
Violence (548)	380 (69.3)	188 (49.5)	0.15	0.09
Suicide (293)	163 (55.6)	55 (33.7)	0.17	0.14
Transport (693)	489 (70.6)	246 (50.3)	0.21	0.12
Other unintentional (212)	50 (23.6)	23 (46.0)	0.17	0.13
Total (1746)	1082 (62.0)	512 (47.3)	0.18	0.12

3.3.2 External cause of violence by age

Age was unknown in 241 of the 548 cases. Of the remaining cases, the average age at death was 32.6 (± 12.6) years. The leading external causes of violence-related deaths in the various age groups were as follows:

- **0-14 years** — firearms and poisonings (27.3% each);
- **15-24 years** — firearms (56.0%) and sharp force injury (24.0%);
- **25-34 years** — firearms (61.8%) and sharp force injury (21.4%);
- **35-44 years** — firearms (53.0%) and blunt force injury (19.7%);
- **45-54 years** — firearms (40.6%) and sharp force and blunt force injury (25.0% each);
- **55-64 years** — firearms (54.5%) and blunt force injury (36.4%); and
- **65+ years** — blunt force injury (50.0%) and firearms (33.3%).

3.3.3 Violence and alcohol

More victims of sharp-force violence tested alcohol-positive (76%) than those who died from other violent external causes.

3.3.4 Violent death by scene of death and sex

The scene of death was unknown in 190 (42%) of male and 31 (34%) of female violence-related deaths. Of the remaining deaths, the most common scenes among:

- **males** were roads (26.8%) followed by private homes (24.9%); and
- **females** were private homes (57.6%) followed by informal settlements (11.9%).

Figure 54

Leading scenes of violence-related death among males (N = 455)

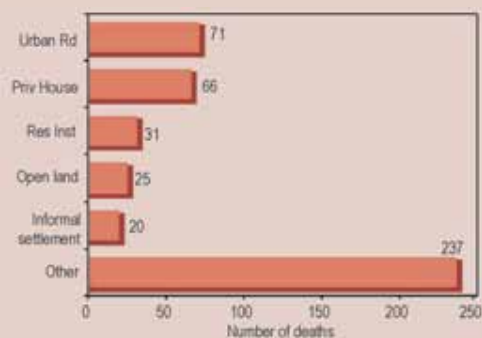
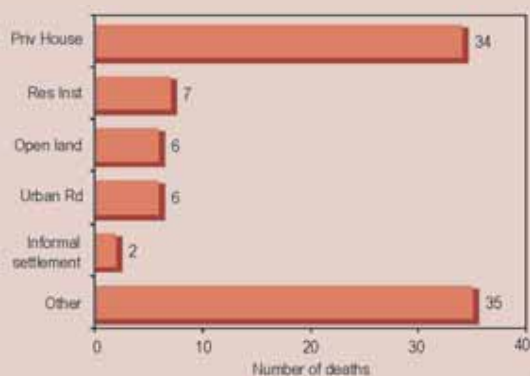


Figure 55

Leading scenes of violence-related death among females (N = 90)



3.4 SUICIDE

The cause of death was known in all suicide cases. The leading external cause was firearms (42.7%), followed by hanging (30%) and poisoning (13.7%).

Figure 56

Leading external causes of death by suicide (N = 293)

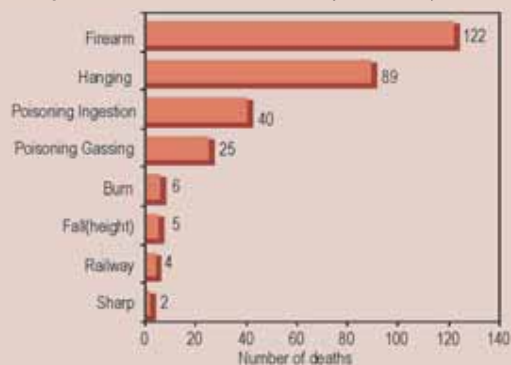


Table VIII

Blood alcohol levels (g/100 ml) by external cause of violent death

External cause	BACs done N (%)	BAC positive N (%)	Mean BAC	Std dev.
Firearm (319)	259 (81.2)	109 (42.1)	0.12	0.08
Sharp (108)	79 (73.1)	60 (75.9)	0.18	0.08
Blunt (77)	30 (39.0)	16 (53.3)	0.20	0.12
Total (543)	377 (69.4)	188 (49.9)	0.15	0.09