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Bridging the gaps: Individual and community level risk factors for non-lethal firearm injuries in the U.S.

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• Introduction and Objectives

- In the past, more studies have been done that involve patients of fatal gun shot wounds (GSW) then nonfatal GSWs.
- This has caused little to be known about risk factors and care for patients with nonfatal GSWs.
- Because of this, 194 trauma centers across the nation will be collecting data for the TQIP Database.
- By reviewing and analyzing the thousands of eventual entries into the database, hopefully the number of GSW victims can be decreased and quality of care improved.

• Methods

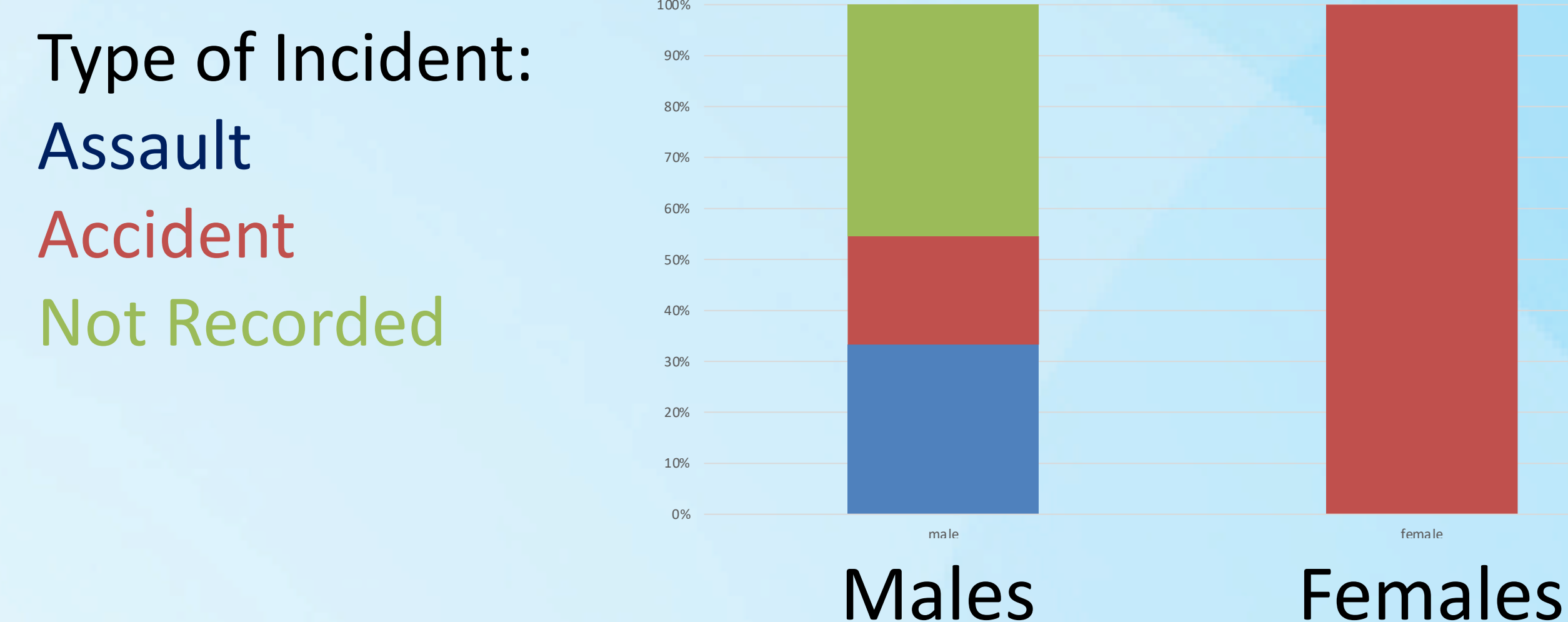
- Retrospective chart review of 36 patients that came into Lehigh Valley Health Network's emergency room (ER) with a GSW since March 1st 2021.
- Collect patient demographics, admission and discharge information, details about the injury, and information surrounding the patient's habits, lifestyle, traumatic events, and psychiatric history.

• Results

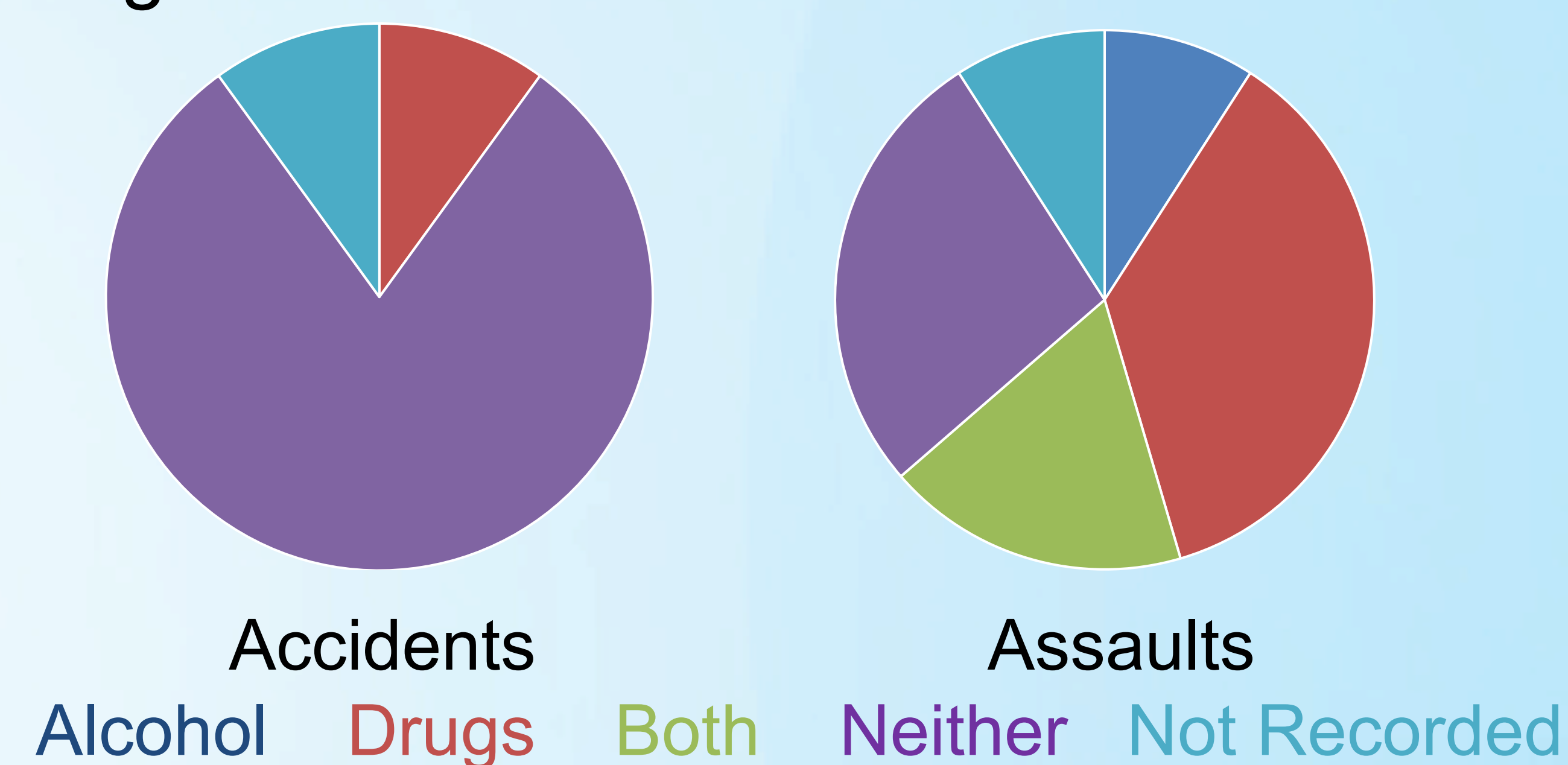
- Figure 1: Patients Demographics



- Figure 2: Incident Details



- Figure 3: Potential Risk Factors



• Conclusions

- Males seem to be involved in non-fatal GSWs at a much higher rate than females.
- Males also appear to be involved in many more incidents of assault than women who have only been shot on accident.
- For assaults, it seems as if the consumption of alcohol, drugs, or both makes an individual more likely to arrive at the ER with a nonfatal GSW.

• Future Directions

- Across the nation, 3294 patients have already been entered to the database .
- With the conclusion of the study in 2022, there will be enough patients to draw proper conclusions and it will be an enormous database that so much can be learned from.
- Based on these conclusions, community members can be properly informed about what may put them at greater risk for nonfatal GSWs and how they may avoid these risk factors.