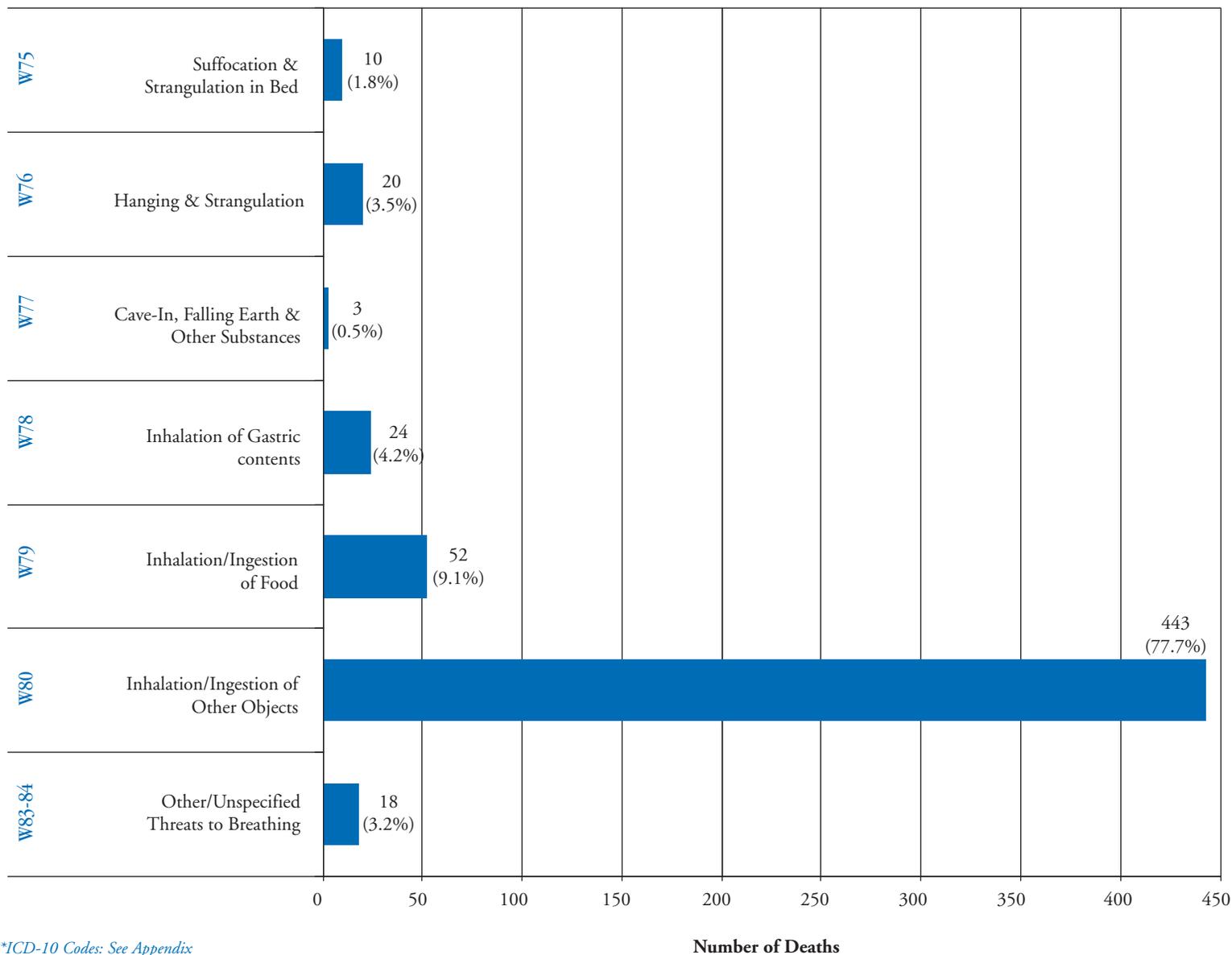


## Suffocation Deaths

- Suffocation was the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury death in Connecticut between 2000 – 2004
  - » During this five-year period there were 570 suffocation deaths, for an average of 114 deaths per year
- The inhalation or ingestion of objects other than food accounted for nearly 80% of all suffocation deaths; the inhalation/ingestion of food or gastric contents resulted in an additional 13% of suffocation deaths in the State
- The cities and towns with the highest number of suffocation deaths among residents were Waterbury (32), New Haven (22), West Hartford (21), Hartford (20), Bridgeport (19), Manchester (17), and Stratford (15)
- There were nearly twice as many suffocation deaths (570) as hospitalizations (303), which underscores the high lethality of suffocation injuries
- Similar to the pattern demonstrated by fall deaths, suffocation death rates increased significantly towards the upper end of the lifespan
  - » Seventy-five percent of all suffocation deaths occurred in the age 70 and older population
  - » Nine-nine percent of suffocation deaths in the elderly were due to inhalation or ingestion of food or other objects, possibly medications
  - » For infants less than one year, the predominant cause was mechanical suffocation, e.g., bedding, plastic bags, unintentional hanging or strangulation
- Suffocation death rates were slightly higher for males than females across lifespan, with the greatest difference appearing among the 75 – 79 year of old age group, where males had a rate 2.5 times higher than their female counterparts. Among the infants, the rate for males was over twice that of females
  - » For the population overall, the suffocation death rate was 13% higher for males (3.5) than for females (3.1)—a much smaller difference than that seen for most injuries
- The differences by race and ethnicity, however, were far more pronounced, with Non-Hispanic Whites registering a rate close to 4 times that of the Hispanic population, and almost 7.5 times higher than for Non-Hispanics of Other Races
- At 4.0 per 100,000 population, Hartford County exhibited the highest death rate in Connecticut, while Tolland, Windham and Fairfield Counties all had rates between 2.0 – 2.5 per 100,000 population
- Nearly 30% of suffocation deaths occurred in a nursing home environment

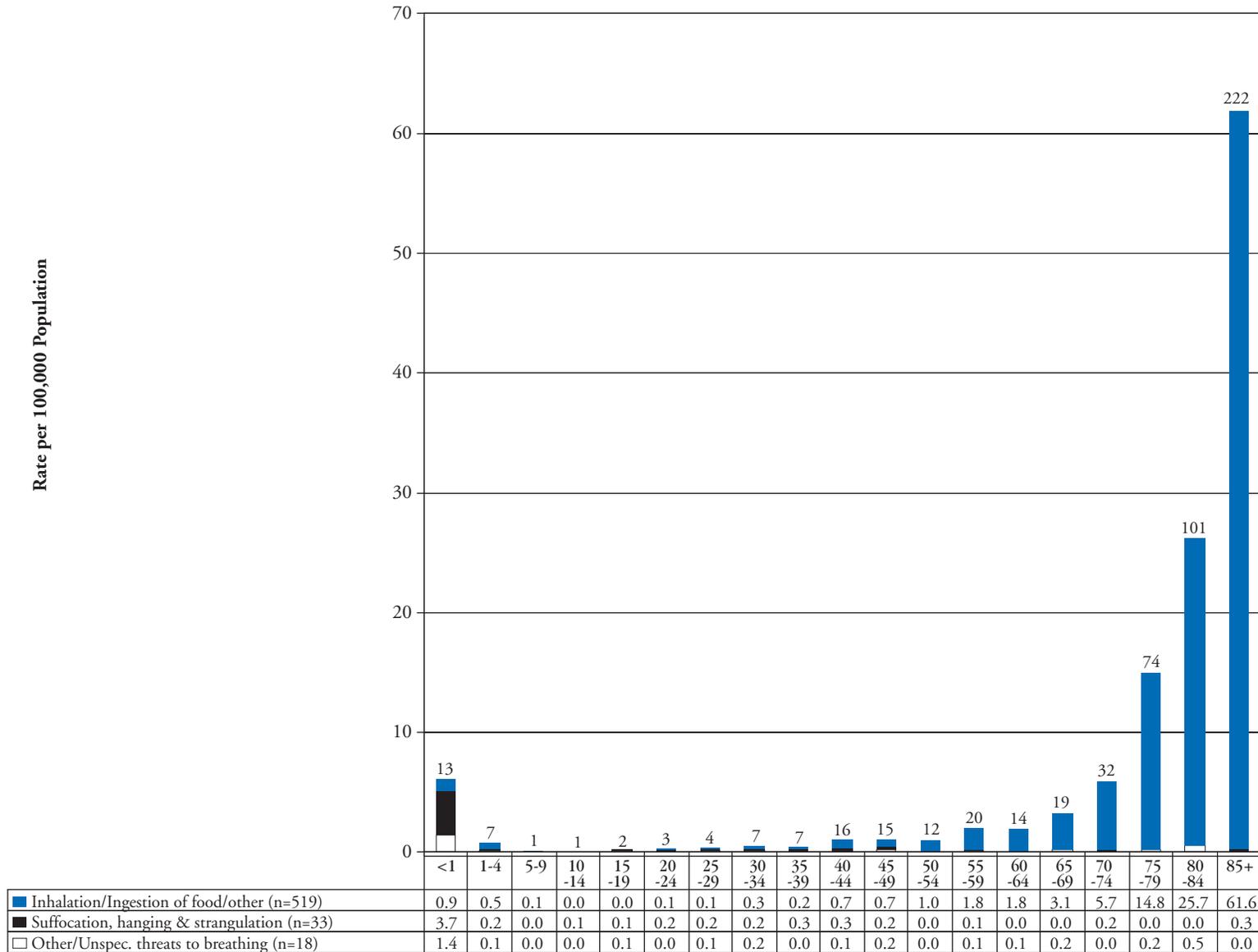
**Figure 43**  
**Unintentional Suffocation\* Deaths by Mechanism**  
**Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004**  
 (n = 570; average = 114/year)

ICD-Codes

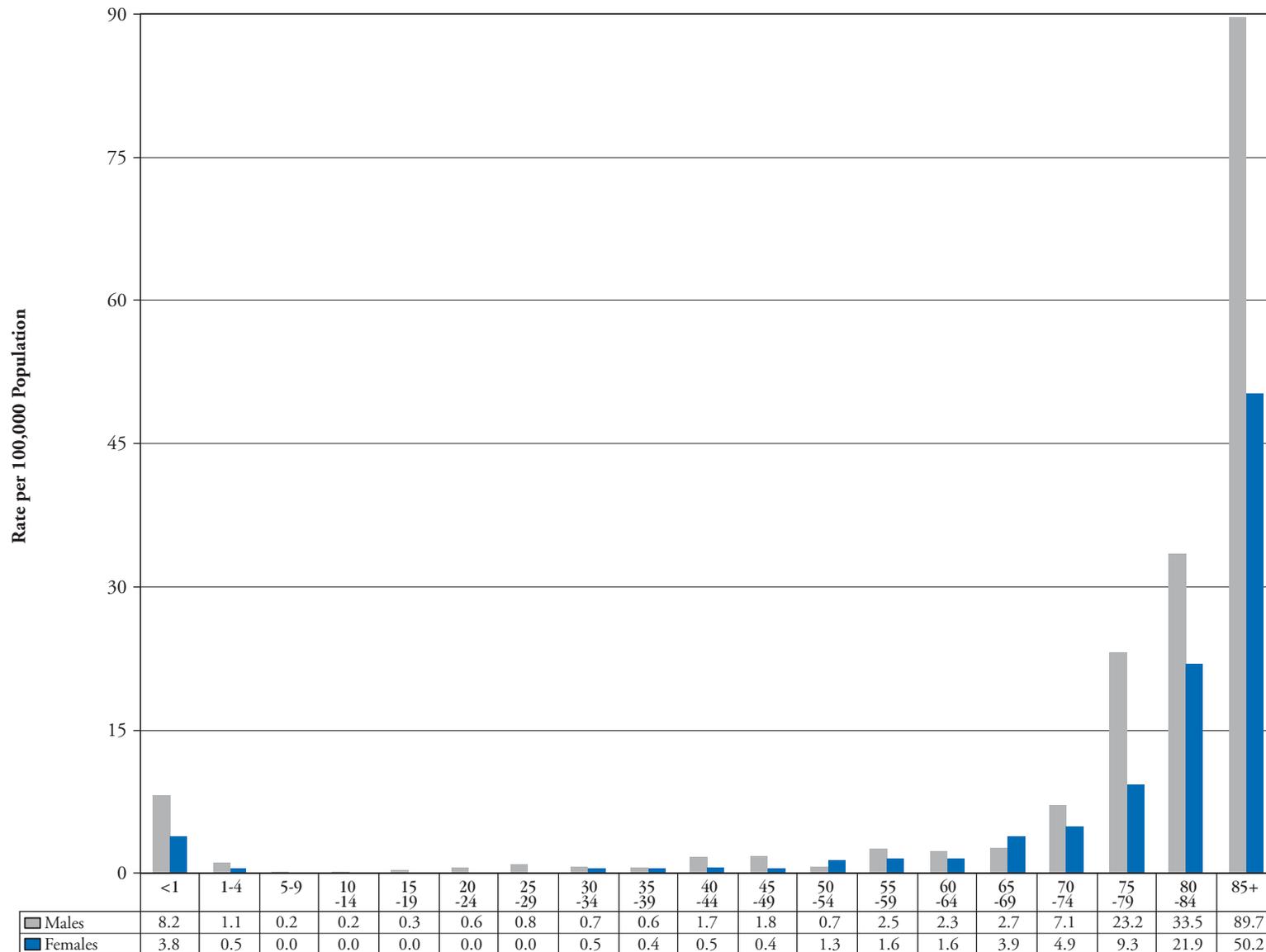


\*ICD-10 Codes: See Appendix

**Figure 44**  
**Suffocation Death Rates by Mechanism & Age**  
**Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004**  
 (n = 570; average = 114/year)



**Figure 45**  
**Suffocation Death Rates By Age & Sex**  
**Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004**  
 (n = 570; average = 114/year)



**Figure 46**  
**Suffocation Death Rates per 100,000 Population**  
**by Sex, Race/Ethnicity & County of Residence**  
**Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004**

