

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death Reporting System

Annual Report
2014

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

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PREVENTION Branch

North Carolina Violent Death



**Annual Report
2014**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
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Executive Summary

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2014

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded, state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence, specifically homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm injuries, legal intervention and those deaths for which the intent could not be determined. The system is a relational database and compiles information on the victims, suspects and circumstances surrounding each violent death. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. Collection of this information has created a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths that occur in North Carolina. The goal of the system is to aid researchers, legislators and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. This report summarizes the violent deaths of North Carolina residents that occurred in 2014.

Overall Violent Deaths

In 2014, 1,932 North Carolina residents (19.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. The leading causes of violent death were suicide (67.4%) and homicide (27.7%) (Figure i). Leading methods of violent death were firearm (59.3%), poisoning (14.1%) and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (15.3%). The most common firearms involved in violent firearm deaths were handguns (76.2%), shotguns (12.3%) and rifles (7.6%).

Males were 3.0 times as likely to die from violence as women (29.6 vs. 9.8 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure ii). The violent death rates per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity were non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian (33.4), NH white (21.3), NH black (19.9), NH Asian (8.6), and Hispanic (3.1).

Adults from ages 20 to 64 years had the highest violent death rates by age per 100,000 as follows: 25 to 34 (26.5), 55 to 64 (25.0), 20 to 24 (24.8), 45 to 54 (24.5) and 35 to 44 (23.6). The violent death rate trend by age differed by sex, with males showing higher rates than females across nearly all age groups (Figure iii).

Figure i: Manner of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2014

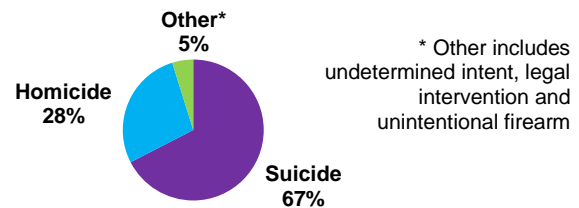


Figure ii: Overall Violent Death Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity in N.C. 2014

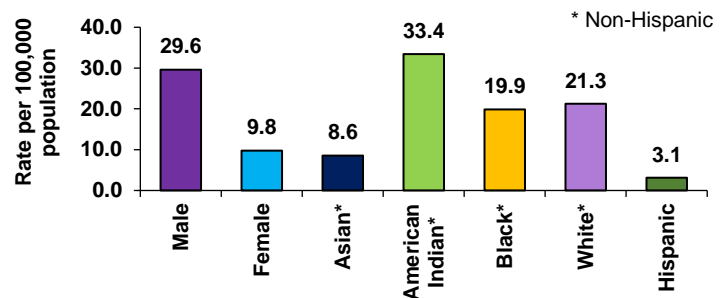
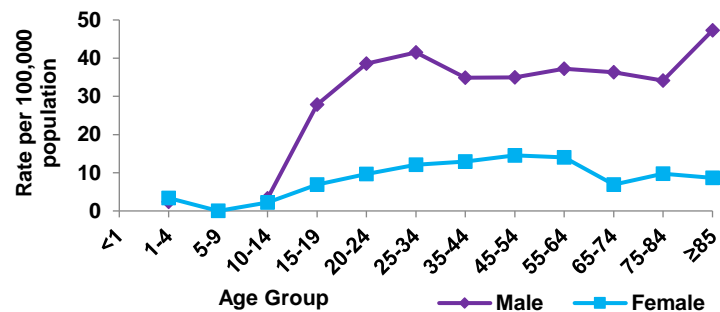


Figure iii: Overall Violent Death Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for some age and sex groups.

Suicides

Suicide was the cause of death for 1,303 North Carolinians (15.0 per 100,000) in 2014. Suicides were most commonly completed by a firearm (55.7%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (21.7%) and poisoning (18.2%). A handgun was the most common firearm, involved in 76.9 percent of suicide firearm deaths.

Men were 2.8 times more likely to die from suicide than women (22.5 versus 8.0 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 72.6 percent were male and 86.1 percent were NH white. The suicide rate per 100,000 was highest among NH whites (19.4) and NH American Indians (16.5), and lower among NH blacks (5.8), NH Asians (7.5), and Hispanics (2.8).

The age group with the highest suicide rate was 55 to 64 years (20.3 per 100,000). Although the suicide rate was higher for men than women for all age groups, men ages 85 years and older were 10.5 times more likely to be a suicide victim than women in the same age group (Figure v).

The most common circumstances of suicide were current mental health problem (52.4%), current treatment for mental illness (44.7%), ever treated for mental illness (51.3%) and current depressed mood (32.5%). Most (76.1%) with a current mental health problem had depression. Other common circumstances of suicide were problems with an intimate partner (25.8%), physical health problem (15.8%), an alcohol problem (15.4%), or other substance abuse problem (14.6%). Of the 89.4 percent of suicide victims tested, 29.0 percent had alcohol present at the time of death. Most (78.4%) injuries resulting in suicide occurred in a house or apartment.

Figure iv: Suicide Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

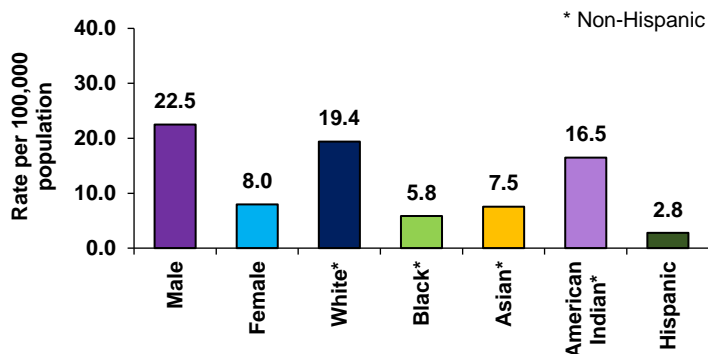
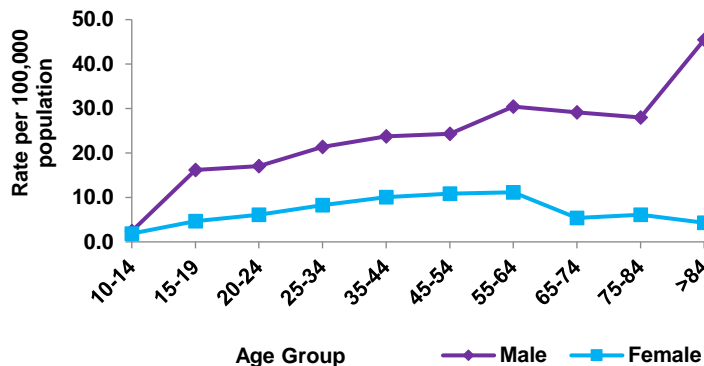


Figure v: Suicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Homicides

A total of 536 North Carolinians (5.4 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2014. Firearm (70.1%) and sharp instrument (12.5%) were the most common homicide methods. Handguns accounted for 74.8 percent of firearms used in homicide firearm deaths.

Men accounted for 77.8 percent of homicide victims and were 3.7 times more likely to die from homicide than women (8.6 vs. 2.3 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates per 100,000 were higher among NH blacks (13.9 per 100,000) and NH American Indians (16.7 per 100,000) than in NH Asians (1.8 per 100,000), NH whites (2.8 per 100,000), and Hispanics (0.9 per 100,000).

Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest in the following age groups: 20 to 24 years (11.1 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (10.8 per 100,000) and 15 to 19 years (6.4 per 100,000). Males had a higher homicide rate for all age groups. (Figure vii). Among 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year olds, the homicide rate was 5.7 times greater among males than females.

The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (45.2%), gang related (37.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (33.3%), intimate partner violence related (21.4%) and drug involvement (10.1%). Homicides occurred most often in a house or apartment (59.5%), a motor vehicle (11.1%) or a street, road, sidewalk or alley (9.8%).

Legal Intervention

Twenty-five North Carolina residents died in 2014 from legal intervention. These victims were killed by police or other law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty. Ninety-six percent of legal intervention victims were male, and all victims were from 15 to 74 years of age. Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (84.0%), a handgun used most frequently (57.7%).

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

In 2014, 16 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from a firearm injury sustained in a shooting not intentionally directed at the victim. The most common firearm involved in the deaths was a handgun (68.8%) followed by a rifle (18.8%) and a shotgun (12.5%).

Figure vi: Homicide Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

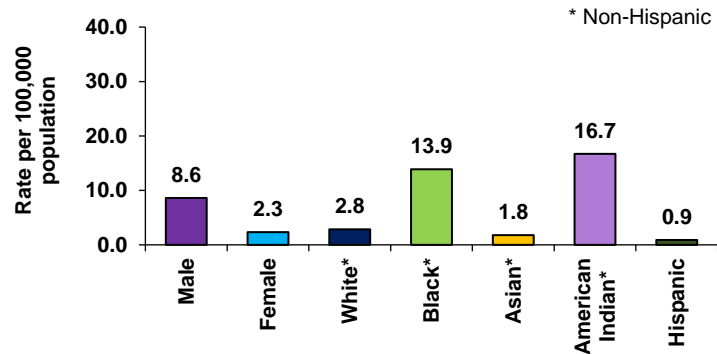
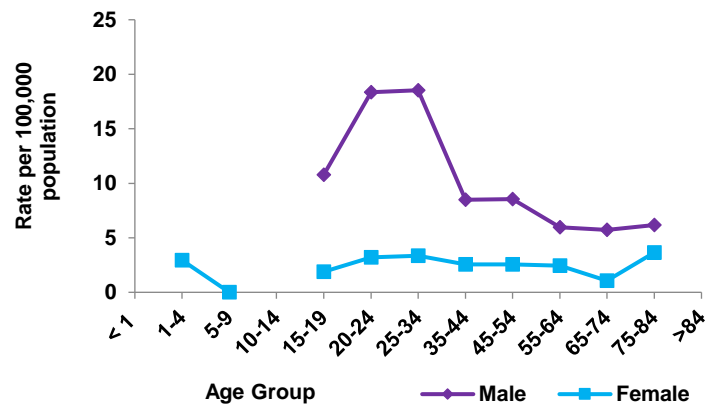


Figure vii: Homicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: Numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for males younger than 1 year, and ages 1 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 85 and older.

Child Violent Deaths

In North Carolina in 2014, 91 children (4.0 per 100,000) died from violence. Suicide (51.6%) and homicide (41.8%) were the leading causes of child violent death. Firearm (52.7%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (27.5%) and personal weapons (9.9%) were the most common methods of child death.

Male children were 8.5 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (5.1 vs. 0.6 per 100,000, respectively). The violent death rate per 100,000 was 1.6 times higher for NH black children (6.7 per 100,000) than for NH white children (4.1 per 100,000).

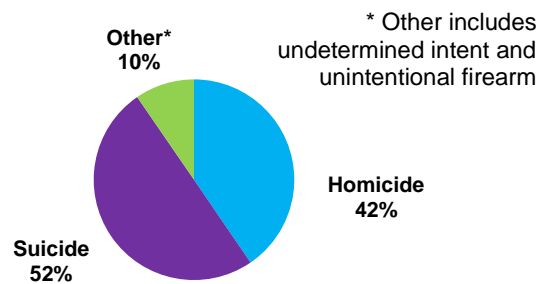
Undetermined Intent

A total of 52 deaths of undetermined intent (0.5 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2014. The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (69.2%) and firearm (13.5%).

Violent Death over Time

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained fairly stable from 2004 to 2014, averaging 19.7 per 100,000 per year. The overall violent death rate was 19.6 per 100,000 in 2004, 20.4 per 100,000 in 2008 and 19.4 per 100,000 in 2014.

Figure viii: Manner of Violent Death among Children in North Carolina, 2014



Introduction

Violence-related injuries are among the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2014, there were more than 42,700 suicides and 15,800 homicides nationwide, many of which were preventable. In North Carolina, more than 17,000 residents died from suicide or homicide in the ten-year period from 2005 to 2014. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's 11th and 16th leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. In North Carolina in 2014, suicide was the second leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 19 and for adults ages 20 to 34. Suicide was the third leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 14 and the fourth leading cause of death for adults ages 35 to 44. Homicide was the state's third leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 24, adults ages 25 to 34, and the fourth leading cause of death for children ages one to four. In addition, violent death rates show disparities by sex, race and ethnicity. For males in North Carolina in 2014, suicide was the seventh leading cause of death, compared to the 13th leading cause among females. Homicide was the ninth leading cause of death in NH American Indians, and suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in NH whites in North Carolina in 2014. Among Hispanics in North Carolina, homicide and suicide were respectively the seventh and eighth leading causes of death in 2014.

This report provides comprehensive information on the characteristics and circumstances of violent death victims and incidents within North Carolina, using data from the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS). For the purpose of this report, violent deaths include homicide, suicide and legal intervention as well as deaths of undetermined intent and from unintentional firearm injuries.

The NC-VDRS is a CDC-funded public health, population-based surveillance system that contains detailed information on deaths that result from violence. Operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, it provides injury and violence prevention specialists and policy-makers detailed information on the victims, suspects, relationships, circumstances and weapons that are associated with every incident of violence that results in a fatality in North Carolina. The NC-VDRS is an incident-based, relational database that combines data from multiple sources such as death certificates, medical examiner reports and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data on January 1, 2004.

The NC-VDRS is part of a larger, national system being developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC. In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million to create the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) as a means to implement a nationwide surveillance system on deaths from violence. NVDRS is built on the knowledge gained from a firearm reporting system developed at the University of Wisconsin and the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS, operated by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center). Participation in NVDRS is through competitive cooperative agreements. North Carolina was awarded funding in August 2003. In 2016, the CDC received funding to expand the NVDRS system from 32 to 42 participating states. The goal is to eventually expand NVDRS to all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

This annual report for the NC-VDRS presents statistics on deaths from violence to North Carolina residents during the period of January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014. The 2014 data file used for this report was generated in October 2016. Note that if changes are made to the 2014 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2014 violent death data could change in future reports. A glossary of the terms used in this report is shown in Appendix C.

Methods

Case Identification

This report provides a comprehensive summary of all violent deaths to residents of North Carolina during 2014. Violent deaths are captured by data abstractors using multiple, complementary data sources that include:

- **Death Certificates** – obtained from North Carolina's State Center for Health Statistics.
- **Chief Medical Examiner Reports** – obtained from the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner which is required to evaluate all violent deaths in North Carolina.
- **Law Enforcement Reports** – obtained from more than 200 local law enforcement agencies across the state and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

In most cases, the sources provide a unanimous categorization for the manner of death. However, in cases where a discrepancy occurs, the abstractor assigns a manner of death for which there is a preponderance of evidence from all sources. This classification must agree with at least one of the primary data sources listed above. These deaths must also correspond with the International Classification of Disease codes, version 10 (ICD-10), to be selected as cases for the NC-VDRS.

Operational Definition: ICD-10 Codes that Define NC-VDRS Cases

Manner of Death	Death < 1 year after injury	Death ≥ 1 year or more after injury
Intentional self-harm	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined Intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional firearm	W32-W34	Y86 (guns)
Legal intervention	Y35.0-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

These data are received electronically from the medical examiner and death certificate sources and imported into NC-VDRS. Data not received electronically are obtained by hard-copy file and manually entered by the NC-VDRS abstraction team. Data are routinely evaluated for quality by the program manager. Quality control procedures ensure that the data are as accurate and complete as possible. Quality control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to determine whether cases meet NVDRS eligibility criteria;
- Review of death certificate data and medical examiner data to identify inconsistent manner of death or ICD-10 codes;
- Assessment of data completeness, especially manner of death;
- Evaluation of data entry errors, including comparison against electronic death certificate data;
- Documentation of coding errors; and
- Assessment of narrative completeness.

Defining Manner of Death

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to “the intentional use of physical force against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.” Deaths meeting this definition include intentional deaths, such as:

- **Suicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for people ages 10 or older.
- **Homicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.
- **Legal Intervention** – A death when the decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer (person with specified legal authority to use deadly force) acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the national system (NVDRS) but are reported in the state system (NC-VDRS) as legal intervention deaths.

The database also captures deaths from unintentional firearm injuries and deaths with undetermined intent. These deaths are defined as:

- **Unintentional Firearm** – A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and for which a preponderance of evidence indicates that the shooting was not directed intentionally at the decedent. Because most firearm deaths are intentional, unintentional firearm deaths are included in the data system so that they can be reviewed to identify patterns for injury prevention. This category also includes a child under the age of six who shoots himself or another person, as children under the age of six are presumed not to have developed the ability to intentionally harm themselves or others.
- **Undetermined Intent** – A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.

The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repository of deaths from terrorism. Deaths in North Carolina from an act of terrorism would be listed as a homicide or suicide in the NC-VDRS.

Analysis

This report provides three main types of analytic data on violent deaths in North Carolina: 1) number of deaths for each violent death category; 2) percent of total deaths for each manner of death and by specific demographic characteristics; and 3) rate of violent deaths for each manner of death and by demographic characteristics, where possible. Demographic characteristics include age, sex, race/ethnicity, years of completed education, marital status and North Carolina county.

The rate of violent death is calculated as the number of deaths during the specified time per 100,000 North Carolina residents in the same category (rate = [number of deaths x 100,000 / population]). Rates were calculated using bridged North Carolina population data (vintage 2015) from the National Center for Health Statistics. The numbers of the total North Carolina population and children by demographic characteristic are available in Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, a child is a person under 18 years of age.

Resident vs. Occurrent Deaths

The NC-VDRS captures data on all violent deaths that occur in the state.

- **Resident deaths** are those in which the victim was a North Carolina resident at the time of death, and the death occurred in North Carolina (**N**=1,932).
- **Occurrent deaths** capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent (**N**=1,987).

The data in this report are restricted to resident deaths. All victims included in the analyses were classified as residents of North Carolina at the time of death.

Data Use Caveat

All findings in the report are based on rigorous data collection and analysis. However, counts that are small (fewer than 20) must be interpreted with caution, particularly when they are used in the calculation of death rates. Small numbers, even if they are not used in the calculation of rates, have substantial variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). This report presents mortality rates for cases where there are at least five deaths; however, rates for counts fewer than 20 should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. An asterisk (*) in the rate cell indicates the number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate. A good way of determining significance of death rates is to evaluate the 95 percent confidence interval (95% CI). The wider the confidence interval (i.e., the greater the difference between the lower and upper bounds of the confidence interval), the less accurate the rate is, and therefore, more caution should be employed when using the data.

Note:

Data on the types of crimes that precipitated homicides was excluded from the 2014 annual report due to issues identified within the data quality of that specific variable during 2014.

Data on the type of poison used in suicide poisoning deaths was unavailable for deaths in 2014, and therefore is not included in this report.

Acknowledgements

The NC-VDRS is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC, and is operated by the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. This annual report was supported in part by CDC Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE002613-03. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the CDC.

We thank and acknowledge the ongoing support and assistance of the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and many local law enforcement agencies throughout North Carolina that have provided information to the NC-VDRS. Without these key data partners, the NC-VDRS would not be as credible or strong. The law enforcement agencies that provided data for this report are:

Ahoskie Police Department	Cherryville Police Department
Alamance County Sheriff	China Grove Police Department
Albemarle Police Department	Chowan County Sheriff
Alexander County Sheriff	Clay County Sheriff
Alleghany County Sheriff	Clayton Police Department
Anson County Sheriff	Cleveland County Sheriff
Apex Police Department	Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
Ashe County Sheriff	Columbus County Sheriff
Asheboro Police Department	Concord Police Department
Asheville Police Department	Cornelius Police Department
Avery County Sheriff	Craven County Sheriff
Beaufort County Sheriff	Creedmoor Police Department
Belmont Police Department	Cumberland County Sheriff
Benson Police Department	Currituck County Sheriff
Bertie County Sheriff	Dare County Sheriff
Beulaville Police Department	Davidson County Sheriff
Black Mountain Police Department	Davie County Sheriff
Bladen County Sheriff	Denton Police Department
Bladenboro Police Department	Duplin County Sheriff
Boiling Springs Lake Police Department	Durham County Sheriff
Boone Police Department	Durham Police Department
Boonville Police Department	Eden Police Department
Brevard Police Department	Elizabeth City Police Department
Brunswick County Sheriff	Elizabethtown Police Department
Buncombe County Sheriff	Emerald Isle Police Department
Burke County Sheriff	Fairmont Police Department
Burlington Police Department	Farmville Police Department
Butner Public Safety	Fayetteville Police Department
Cabarrus County Sheriff	Fletcher Police Department
Caldwell County Sheriff	Forest City Police Department
Camden County Sheriff	Forsyth County Sheriff
Canton Police Department	Four Oaks Police Department
Carolina Beach Police Department	Franklin Police Department
Carteret County Sheriff	Fuquay-Varina Police Department
Cary Police Department	Garner Police Department
Catawba County Sheriff	Garysburg Police Department
Chadbourne Police Department	Gaston County Police Department
Chapel Hill Police Department	Gastonia Police Department
Chatham County Sheriff	Goldsboro Police Department
Cherokee County Sheriff	Graham County Sheriff

Graham Police Department
 Granite Quarry Police Department
 Granville County Sheriff
 Greene County Sheriff
 Greensboro Police Department
 Greenville Police Department
 Guilford County Sheriff
 Halifax County Sheriff
 Harnett County Sheriff
 Havelock Police Department
 Haw River Police Department
 Haywood County Sheriff
 Henderson County Sheriff
 Henderson Police Department
 Hendersonville Police Department
 Hertford County Sheriff
 Hertford Police Department
 Hickory Police Department
 High Point Police Department
 Hillsborough Police Department
 Hoke County Sheriff
 Holly Ridge Police Department
 Holly Springs Police Department
 Hope Mills Police Department
 Hudson Police Department
 Huntersville Police Department
 Hyde County Sheriff
 Iredell County Sheriff
 Jackson County Sheriff
 Jacksonville Police Department
 Johnston County Sheriff
 Kannapolis Police Department
 Kernersville Police Department
 Kill Devil Hills Police Department
 Kings Mountain Police Department
 Kinston Police Department
 Knightdale Police Department
 Landis Police Department
 Laurinburg Police Department
 Lee County Sheriff
 Leland Police Department
 Lenoir County Sheriff
 Lenoir Police Department
 Lexington Police Department
 Lincoln County Sheriff
 Lincolnton Police Department
 Longview Police Department
 Louisburg Police Department
 Lumberton Police Department
 Macon County Sheriff
 Madison County Sheriff
 Maggie Valley Police Department
 Manteo Police Department
 Marion Police Department
 Marshville Police Department
 Martin County Sheriff

Maysville Police Department
 McDowell County Sheriff
 Mebane Police Department
 Mint Hill Police Department
 Mitchell County Sheriff
 Mocksville Police Department
 Montgomery County Sheriff
 Moore County Sheriff
 Mooresville Police Department
 Morehead City Police Department
 Morganton Police Department
 Morrisville Police Department
 Mount Airy Police Department
 Nags Head Police Department
 New Bern Police Department
 New Hanover County Sheriff
 Newton Police Department
 Northampton County Sheriff
 Oak Island Police Department
 Onslow County Sheriff
 Orange County Sheriff
 Oxford Police Department
 Pamlico County Sheriff
 Pasquotank County Sheriff
 Pender County Sheriff
 Perquimans County Sheriff
 Person County Sheriff
 Pinehurst Police Department
 Pink Hill Police Department
 Pitt County Sheriff
 Plymouth Police Department
 Raeford Police Department
 Raleigh Police Department
 Randleman Police Department
 Randolph County Sheriff
 Reidsville Police Department
 Richlands Police Department
 Richmond County Sheriff
 Roanoke Rapids Police Department
 Robeson County Sheriff
 Rockingham County Sheriff
 Rockingham Police Department
 Rockwell Police Department
 Rocky Mount Police Department
 Rowan County Sheriff
 Rutherford County Sheriff
 Rutherfordton Police Department
 Salisbury Police Department
 Sanford Police Department
 Scotland County Sheriff
 Scotland Neck Police Department
 Shelby Police Department
 Siler City Police Department
 Smithfield Police Department
 Southern Pines Police Department
 Southern Shores Police Department

Sparta Police Department
 Spencer Police Department
 Stanly County Sheriff
 Statesville Police Department
 Stokes County Sheriff
 Sunset Beach Police Department
 Surry County Sheriff
 Tabor City Police Department
 Tarboro Police Department
 Thomasville Police Department
 Transylvania County Sheriff
 Trent Woods Police Department
 Union County Sheriff
 Valdese Police Department
 Vance County Police Department
 Wake County Sheriff
 Wake Forest Police Department
 Warren County Sheriff
 Washington County Sheriff
 Watauga County Sheriff
 Waxhaw Police Department

Wayne County Sheriff
 Waynesville Police Department
 Weaverville Police Department
 Weldon Police Department
 West Jefferson Police Department
 Wilkes County Sheriff
 Williamston Police Department
 Wilmington Police Department
 Wilson County Sheriff
 Wilson Police Department
 Wilsons Mills Police Department
 Windsor Police Department
 Wingate Police Department
 Winston Salem Police Department
 Winterville Police Department
 Woodfin Police Department
 Yadkin County Sheriff
 Yadkinville Police Department
 Yancey County Sheriff
 Youngsville Police Department

NC-VDRS is fortunate to have a dedicated and professional staff. Program Manager Tammy Norwood oversees all operational aspects of the NC-VDRS and is chiefly responsible for data quality and program integrity. Data abstractors, Susan Autry and Devon Weaver, spent many hours compiling the data and constructing sound narratives to make North Carolina's system one of the best in the nation. Without their daily efforts throughout the years, the data and reports would not be as accurate or complete.

During 2014 and the period of the data close-out (2014-2016), the NC-VDRS Advisory Board provided input and assistance. A full listing of the advisory board is found in Appendix B. Special thanks to the steering committee consisting of Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Stephen Marshall and Anna Waller. Thanks to all of the NC-VDRS advisory board members for their input, support and continuing participation.

Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

Table 1 describes violent death victims in North Carolina in 2014 by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity and age. The 2014 overall rate of violent deaths per 100,000 people in North Carolina is displayed in **Figure 1** by sex and race/ethnicity and in **Figure 2** by age group.

Key Findings:

- A total of 1,932 North Carolinians (19.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence in 2014.
- Males were 3.0 times as likely to die from violence as females (29.6 versus 9.8 per 100,000, respectively).
- Non-Hispanic (NH) American Indians had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (33.4) followed by NH whites (21.3), NH blacks (19.9), NH Asians (8.6), and Hispanics (3.1).
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (26.5), followed by adults ages: 55-64 (25.0), 20 to 24 (24.8), 45 to 54 (24.5) and 35 to 44 (23.6).
- Among children under the age of 15, children less than one year had the highest violent death rate (5.0 per 100,000).

Table 2 lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2014. N.C. violent deaths in 2014 are presented in **Figure 3** by manner of death and in **Figure 4** by method of death. The type of firearm used in firearm violent deaths is shown in **Table 3**.

Key Findings:

- The leading causes of violent death were suicide (67.4%) and homicide (27.7%).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (59.3%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (15.3%) and poisoning (14.1%).
- The most common firearm involved in violent firearm deaths was a handgun (75.1%).

Table 4 characterizes adult violent death victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2014 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Most adult victims completed high school (76.4%); 38.0 percent completed at least some college.
- One-third of adult violent death victims were married, in a civil union, or a domestic partnership (30.7%). Over one-third were never married (36.8%). Fewer victims were divorced (20.9%) or widowed (5.9%).
- Military veterans accounted for 15.4 percent of North Carolina adult violent death victims in 2014.

Table 5 and **Figure 5** show the overall violent death rates in 2014 by North Carolina County of residence. County violent death rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of violent deaths by county are small and subject to variation. The number of deaths in 18 counties was too small to support a rate calculation (greater than zero, but less than 5).

Key Findings:

- For the 79 counties where the number of resident deaths was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average rate of violent deaths by North Carolina County of residence was 21.0 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 41.2 deaths per 100,000.

Table 1: Demographics of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2014					
		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	498	25.8	9.8	8.9 - 10.6
	Male	1434	74.2	29.6	28.1 - 31.1
Race/Ethnicity					
	White**	1373	71.1	21.3	20.1 - 22.4
	Black**	435	22.5	19.9	18.0 - 21.7
	Asian**	24	1.2	8.6	5.1 - 12.0
	American Indian**	40	2.1	33.4	23.1 - 43.8
	Hispanic	28	1.4	3.1	2.0 - 4.3
	Unknown	32	1.7	--	--
Age Group (Years)					
	< 1	6	0.3	5.0	1.0 - 9.0
	1-4	14	0.7	2.9	1.4 - 4.4
	5-9	4	0.2	*	*
	10-14	18	0.9	2.8	1.5 - 4.0
	15 - 19	115	6.0	17.6	14.4 - 20.8
	20 - 24	178	9.2	24.8	21.1 - 28.4
	25 - 34	343	17.8	26.5	23.7 - 29.4
	35 - 44	308	15.9	23.6	21.0 - 26.3
	45 - 54	335	17.3	24.5	21.9 - 27.1
	55 - 64	311	16.1	25.0	22.2 - 27.8
	65 - 74	178	9.2	20.5	17.5 - 23.5
	75 - 84	85	4.4	20.0	15.7 - 24.2
	85 +	36	1.9	21.1	14.2 - 28.0
Total Deaths		1,932	100	19.4	18.6 - 20.3

Sex, race/ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 1: Crude Overall Violent Death Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

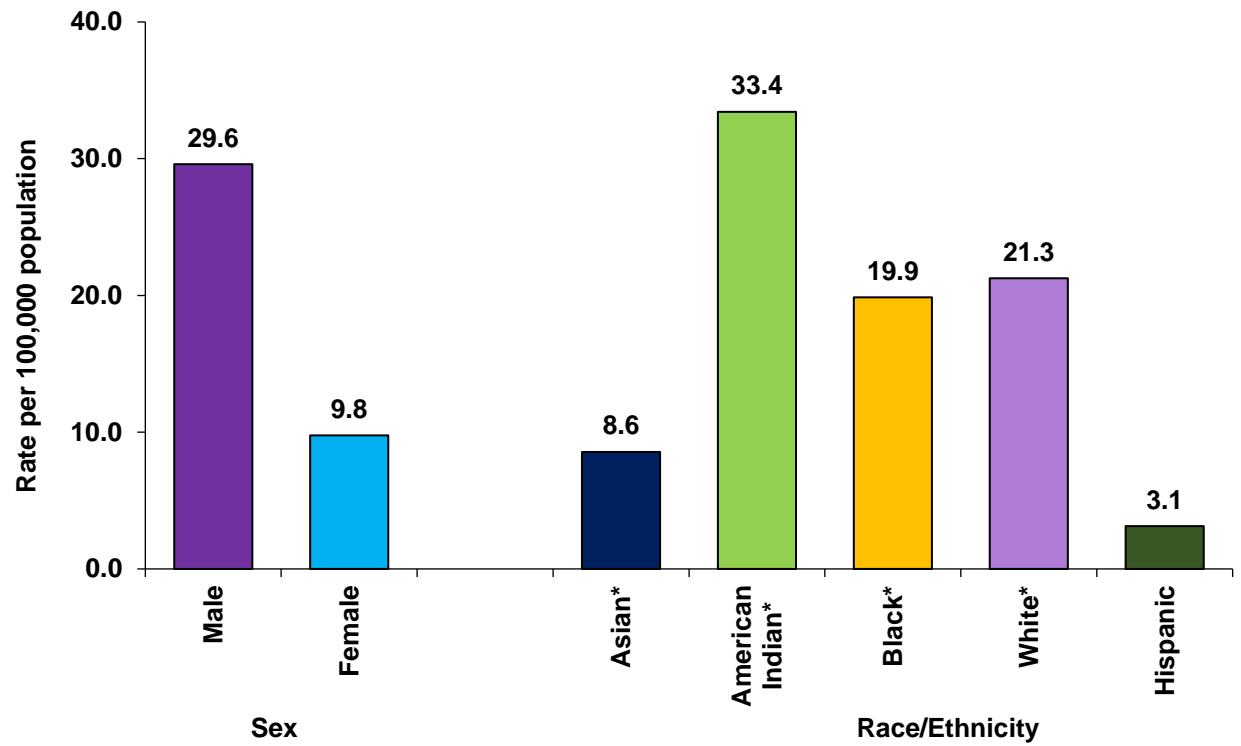
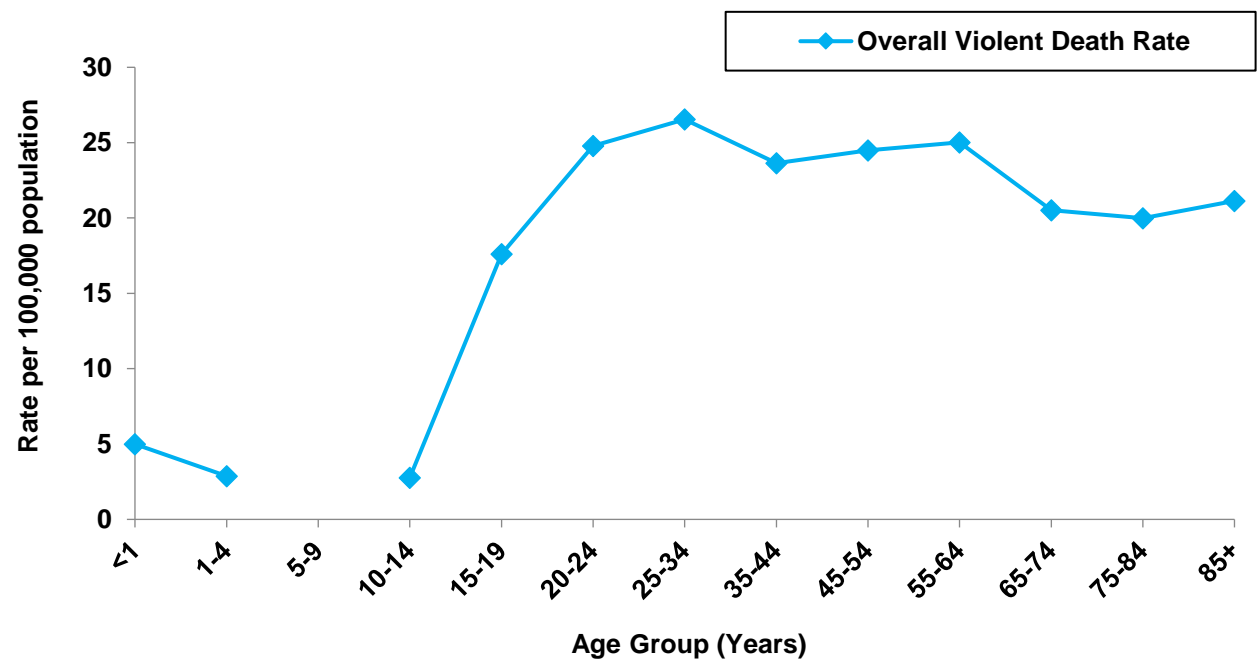


Figure 2: Age-Specific Crude Overall Violent Death Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2014



Note: The number of violent deaths for ages 5-9 was too small to support a rate calculation.

**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death
in North Carolina, 2014**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	1,303	67.4
	Homicide	536	27.7
	Undetermined Intent	52	2.7
	Legal Intervention	25	1.3
	Unintentional Firearm	16	0.8
Method of Death			
	Firearm	1,146	59.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	296	15.3
	Poisoning	273	14.1
	Sharp Instrument	86	4.5
	Blunt Instrument	43	2.2
	Personal Weapons	27	1.4
	Fall	13	0.7
	Motor Vehicle	11	0.6
	Fire or Burns	9	0.5
	Other Transport Vehicle	2	0.1
	Drowning	12	0.6
	Intentional Neglect	1	0.1
	Violent Shaking	1	0.1
	Other	8	0.4
	Unknown/missing	4	0.2
Total Deaths		1,932	100

Figure 3: Manner of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2014

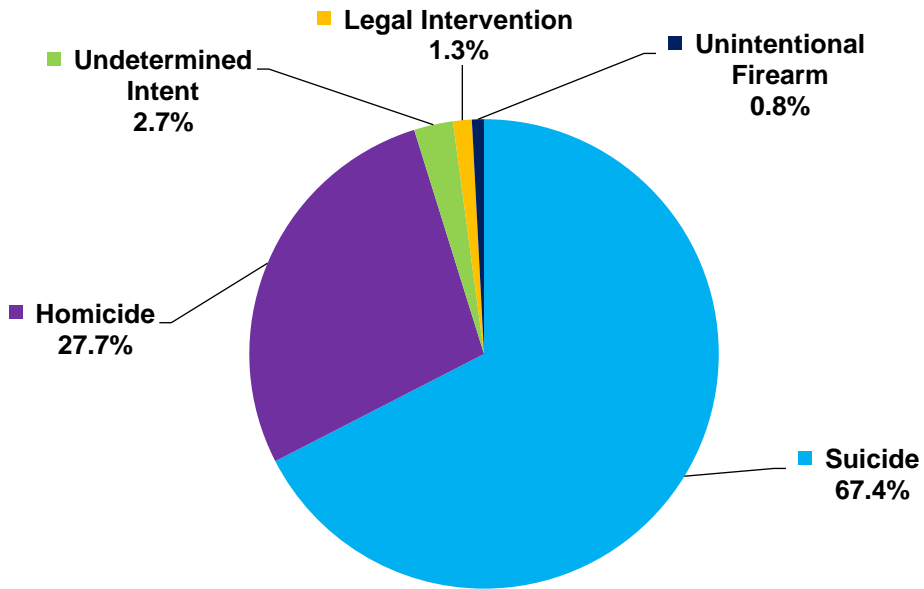
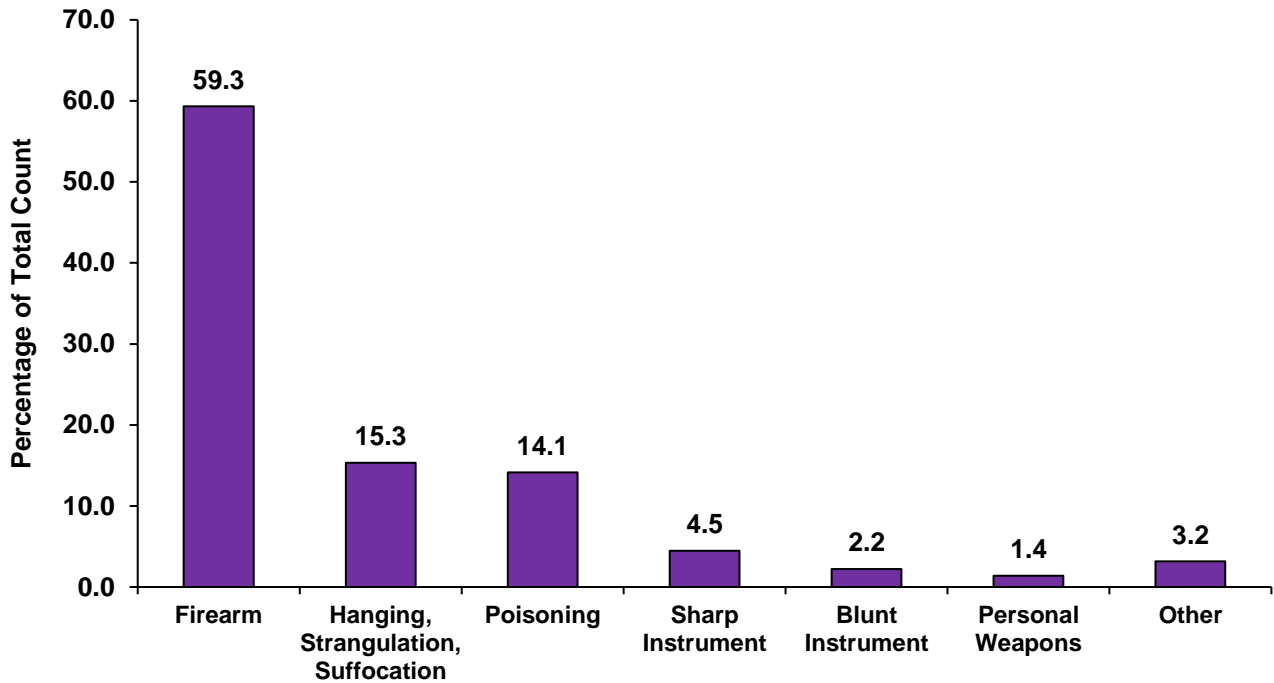


Figure 4: Method of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2014



* Other includes: drowning, fall, motor vehicle, fire or burns, other transport vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other/unknown.

Table 3: Type of Firearm Involved in Violent Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%
Firearm Type			
	Handgun	873	75.1
	Shotgun	87	7.5
	Rifle	141	12.1
	Unknown Type	62	5.3
Total Firearms Involved, All Violent Deaths		1,163	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported for 6 violent deaths in 2014; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of violent firearm deaths (n=1146).

Table 4: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Violent Death Victims (Ages 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%
Education Level			
	8 th Grade or Less	70	3.8
	9 th – 12 th Grade	324	17.6
	High school or GED graduate	707	38.4
	Some college credit	286	15.5
	Associates degree	138	7.5
	Bachelor degree	167	9.1
	Master degree	84	4.6
	Doctorate degree	25	1.4
	Unknown	40	2.2
Marital Status			
	Never Married	677	36.8
	Married*	566	30.7
	Divorced	385	20.9
	Widowed	109	5.9
	Married, but separated	81	4.4
	Single, not otherwise specified	7	0.4
	Unknown	16	0.9
Veteran Status			
	Non-Veteran	1,530	83.1
	Veteran	284	15.4
	Unknown	27	1.5
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)		1,841	100

*Married includes: married, in a civil union or a domestic partnership

Table 5: Overall Violent Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	23	14.8	Franklin	11	17.5	Pamlico	4	*
Alexander	6	16.0	Gaston	42	19.9	Pasquotank	7	17.6
Alleghany	3	*	Gates	0	0.0	Pender	16	28.4
Anson	6	23.3	Graham	3	*	Perquimans	3	*
Ashe	7	25.8	Granville	16	27.4	Person	10	25.6
Avery	3	*	Greene	3	*	Pitt	34	19.4
Beaufort	14	29.4	Guilford	76	14.8	Polk	6	29.5
Bertie	4	*	Halifax	13	24.5	Randolph	28	19.6
Bladen	15	43.3	Harnett	22	17.4	Richmond	10	21.9
Brunswick	27	22.7	Haywood	10	16.8	Robeson	59	43.8
Buncombe	52	20.8	Henderson	31	27.9	Rockingham	23	25.1
Burke	22	24.6	Hertford	5	20.6	Rowan	47	33.9
Cabarrus	32	16.7	Hoke	9	17.4	Rutherford	12	18.0
Caldwell	25	30.7	Hyde	1	*	Sampson	15	23.4
Camden	1	*	Iredell	20	12.0	Scotland	8	22.5
Carteret	16	23.3	Jackson	10	24.4	Stanly	14	23.1
Caswell	0	0.0	Johnston	31	17.1	Stokes	13	28.0
Catawba	31	20.1	Jones	6	59.5	Surry	20	27.4
Chatham	13	18.9	Lee	14	23.5	Swain	1	*
Cherokee	4	*	Lenoir	15	25.6	Transylvania	8	24.2
Chowan	2	*	Lincoln	15	18.8	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	12	26.7	Union	25	11.4
Cleveland	22	22.7	Macon	10	29.5	Vance	12	26.9
Columbus	11	19.3	Madison	3	*	Wake	131	13.1
Craven	19	18.2	Martin	6	25.6	Warren	6	29.7
Cumberland	72	22.1	Mecklenburg	157	15.5	Washington	3	*
Currituck	9	36.0	Mitchell	4	*	Watauga	11	20.9
Dare	7	19.9	Montgomery	4	*	Wayne	20	16.1
Davidson	26	15.8	Moore	18	19.3	Wilkes	22	32.0
Davie	12	29.0	Nash	23	24.4	Wilson	11	13.5
Duplin	10	16.7	New Hanover	62	28.7	Yadkin	10	26.5
Durham	53	18.0	Northampton	6	29.3	Yancey	3	*
Edgecombe	8	14.6	Onslow	43	22.9			
Forsyth	70	19.2	Orange	12	8.5			

Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

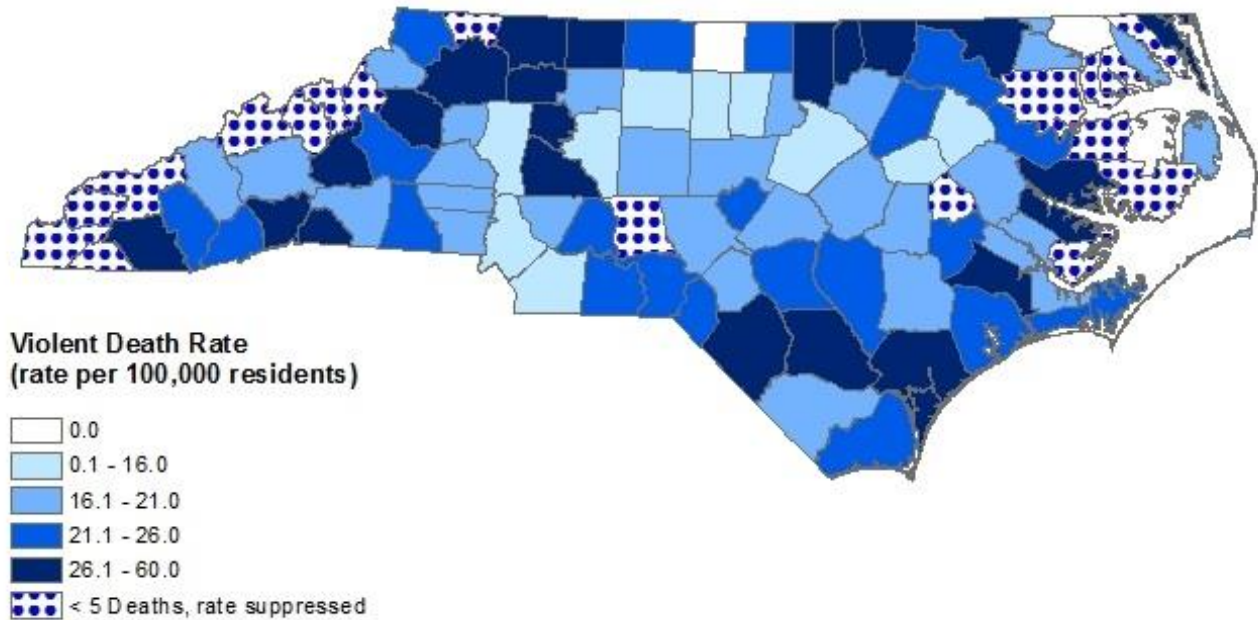
* The number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

Two deaths had no county of residence reported.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude overall violent death rates are shown in bold.

Figure 5: Map of Overall Violent Death Rates by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

North Carolina 2014 Violent Death Rate: 19.4 deaths per 100,000 residents



Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 6 and **Figure 6** summarize the characteristics of violent death victims in North Carolina in 2014 stratified by race/ethnicity and sex.

Key Findings:

- NH whites (71.1%) and males (74.2%) represented the majority of violent death victims, as shown in Table 1.
- NH whites accounted for 67.9 percent of male violent death victims and 80.3 percent of female victims, while NH blacks comprised 25.2 percent of male victims and 14.7 percent of female victims.
- Among males, NH American Indian men had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (53.8) followed by NH black men (35.3) NH white men (30.8), NH Asian men (14.1) and Hispanic men (4.7).
- Among females, NH American Indian women also had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (14.5), followed by NH white women (12.1), NH black women (6.3), NH Asian women (3.4), and Hispanic women (1.4).
- The violent death rate was higher for males than for females of the same race/ethnicity by 5.6 times for NH blacks, 4.1 for NH Asians, 3.7 for NH American Indians, 3.3 for Hispanics, and 2.5 times for NH whites.

Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 7 stratifies the North Carolina violent death victims in 2014 by age group and sex. **Figure 7** illustrates the 2014 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

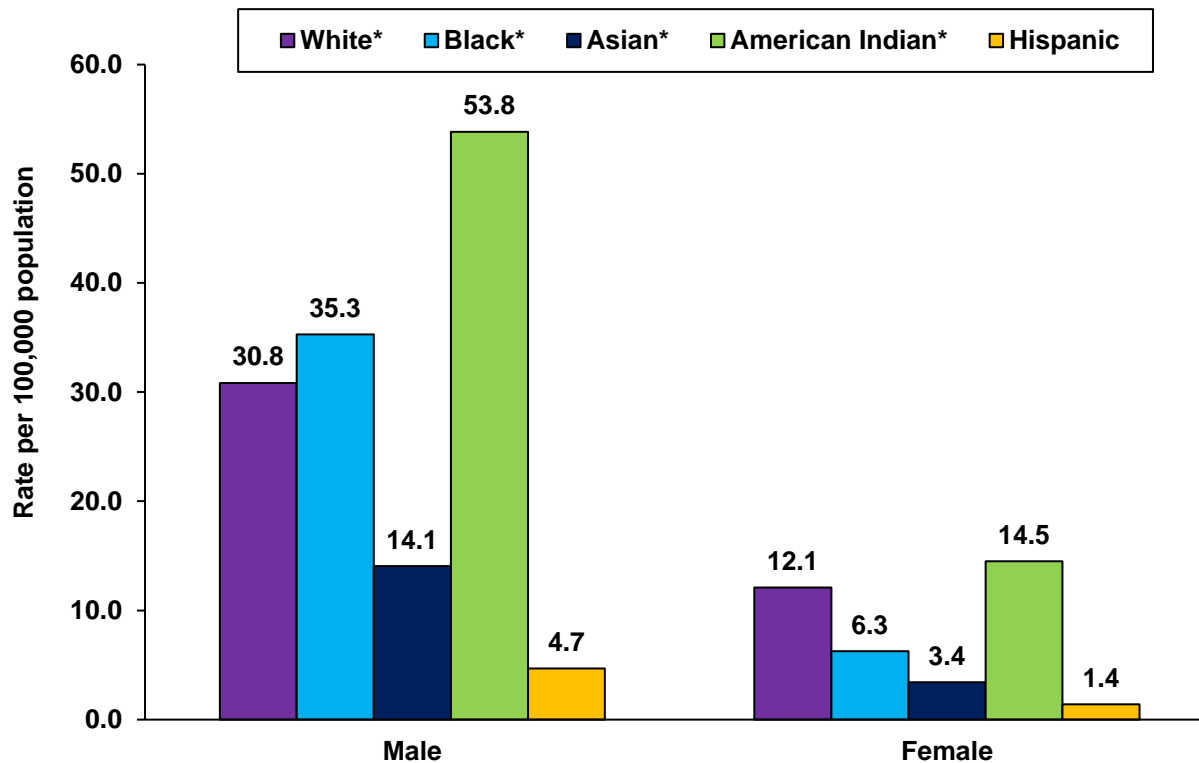
- Most male violent death victims were ages 25 to 34 (18.4%) and 45 to 54 (16.2%) years followed by males ages 35 to 44 (15.5%), 55 to 64 (15.3%), 65 to 74 (10.2%), 20 to 24 (10.1%), and 15 to 19 (6.5%).
- Among females, the majority of violent death victims were ages 45 to 54 (20.5%) years followed by females ages 55 to 64 (18.5%), 35 to 44 (17.3%), 25 to 34 (15.9%), 20 to 24 (6.6%) and 65 to 74 (6.4%).
- Among men, the violent death rate per 100,000 by age group was highest for ages 85 and older (47.3) followed by ages 25 to 34 years (41.5) and 20 to 24 (38.6).
- For women, the violent death rate trend by age reached a peak of 14.5 per 100,000 for ages 45 to 54 followed by ages 55 to 64 years (14.1) and 35 to 44 (12.9).
- Males were more likely to experience violent death than females by 5.5 times for ages 85 and older, 5.3 times for ages 65 to 74, 4.0 times for ages 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 and 3.5 times for ages 75 to 84.

Table 6: Race/Ethnicity by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White*	973	67.9	30.8	400	80.3	12.1
Black*	362	25.2	35.3	73	14.7	6.3
Asian*	19	1.3	14.1	5	1.0	3.4
American Indian*	31	2.2	53.8	9	1.8	14.5
Hispanic	22	1.5	4.7	6	1.2	1.4
Other / Unknown	27	1.9	--	5	1.0	--
Total Deaths	1,434	100	29.6	498	100	9.8

Sex and race/ethnicity-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

* Non-Hispanic

Figure 6: Crude Overall Violent Death Rate Stratified by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in North Carolina, 2014

* Non-Hispanic (NH)

Rates for NH Asian males were based on fewer than 20 deaths. Rates for NH American Indian, NH Asian, and Hispanic females were based on fewer than 10 deaths. These rates should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time.

Table 7: Age Group by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2014

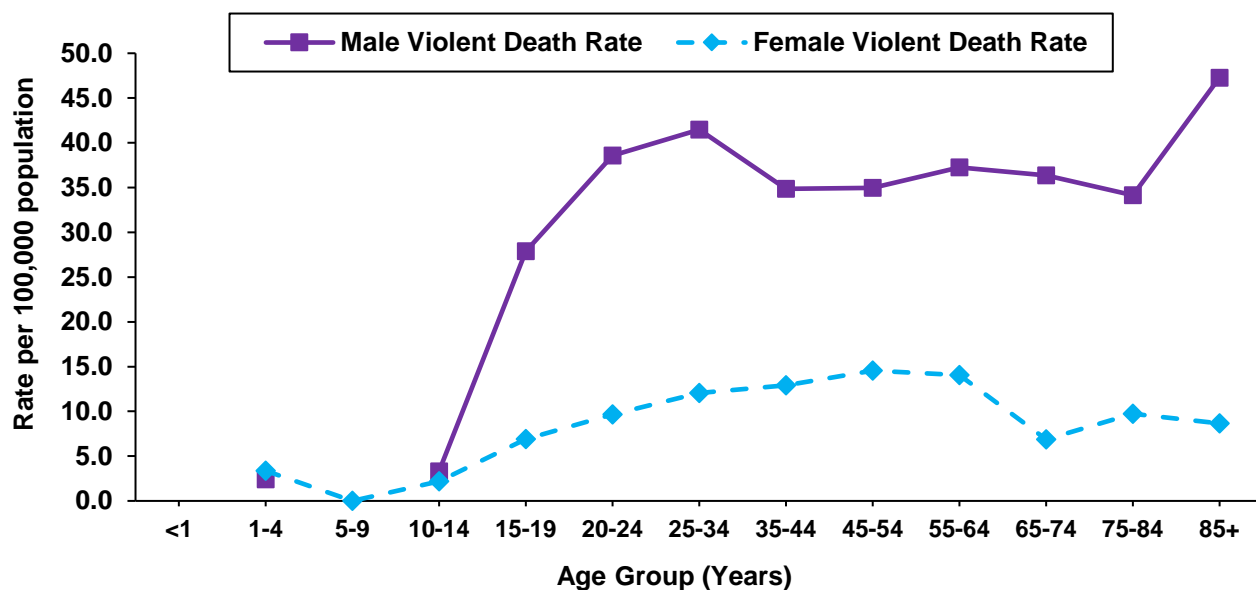
Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	3	0.2	*	3	0.6	*
1-4	6	0.4	2.4	8	1.6	3.4
5-9	4	0.3	*	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	11	0.8	3.3	7	1.4	2.2
15-19	93	6.5	27.9	22	4.4	6.9
20-24	145	10.1	38.6	33	6.6	9.6
25-34	264	18.4	41.5	79	15.9	12.0
35-44	222	15.5	34.9	86	17.3	12.9
45-54	233	16.2	35.0	102	20.5	14.5
55-64	219	15.3	37.2	92	18.5	14.1
65-74	146	10.2	36.3	32	6.4	6.9
75-84	61	4.3	34.2	24	4.8	9.7
85 +	26	1.8	47.3	10	2.0	8.7
Total Deaths	1434	99.9	29.6	498	100	9.8

Sex and age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

Age was not available for one male victim, therefore the total percent for males is less than 100.

* The number of deaths was too small to support calculation of a rate.

Figure 7: Age-Specific Crude Overall Violent Death Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females less than 1 year of age, males less than 1 year of age, and males ages 5-9.

Section II: Suicide

Basic Characteristics of Suicides

Table 8 describes suicides in 2014 for North Carolinians age 10 or older by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The rate of suicide in North Carolina per 100,000 population in 2014 is illustrated by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 8** and by age group in **Figure 9**.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, a total of 1,303 North Carolinians (15.0 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 2.8 times as likely to die from suicide as females (22.5 vs. 8.0 per 100,000).
- NH whites had the highest suicide rate (19.4 per 100,000) followed NH American Indians (16.5 per 100,000), NH blacks (5.8 per 100,000), NH Asians (7.5 per 100,000), and by Hispanics (2.8 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 55 to 64 had the highest rate of suicide (20.3 per 100,000) followed by those ages 85 and older (17.6 per 100,000) and 45 to 54 (17.4 per 100,000).

Table 9 and **Figure 10** summarize the method of death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2014. **Table 10** shows the type of firearm used for suicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of suicide were firearm (55.7%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (21.7%) and poisoning (18.2%).
- Men more often died from suicide by a firearm (62.8%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (22.7%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (10.6%).
- Women more commonly completed suicide by poisoning (38.4%) or firearm (37.0%) compared to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (19.0%).
- Considering only suicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used in 76.9 percent of all deaths, 74.1 percent of male deaths and 89.4 percent of female deaths.

Table 11 characterizes the 1,256 adult suicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina in 2014 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- The majority (82.7%) of adult suicide victims graduated high school or received their GED.
- Suicide victims were most often married, in a civil union or domestic partnership (34.6%) and less frequently never married (28.6%), divorced (24.0%), or widowed (6.6%).
- Military veterans accounted for 19.3 percent of suicide victims

Table 12 and **Figure 11** show the suicide rates in 2014 by North Carolina county of residence. County rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of suicides by county are small and subject to variation. The number of suicides in 25 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Furthermore,

county suicide rates are influenced by small populations with 13 of the 20 counties with the highest suicide rates having less than 50,000 residents in 2014.

Key Findings:

- For the 75 counties where the number of suicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average suicide rate by North Carolina county of residence was 17.4 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 55.2 deaths per 100,000.

Table 8: Demographics of Suicide Victims (Ages 10 or Older) in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	357	27.4	8.0	7.1 - 8.8
	Male	946	72.6	22.5	21.1 - 23.9
Race					
	White*	1,122	86.1	19.4	18.3 - 20.5
	Black*	110	8.4	5.8	4.8 - 6.9
	Asian*	18	1.4	7.5	4.1 - 11.0
	American Indian*	17	1.3	16.5	8.6 - 24.3
	Hispanic	19	1.4	2.8	1.5 - 4.0
	Other/Unknown	17	1.3	--	--
Age Group (Years)					
	10 - 14	14	1.1	2.1	1.0 - 3.3
	15 - 19	69	5.3	10.6	8.1 - 13.1
	20 - 24	85	6.5	11.8	9.3 - 14.3
	25 - 34	190	14.6	14.7	12.6 - 16.8
	35 - 44	218	16.7	16.7	14.5 - 19.0
	45 - 54	238	18.3	17.4	15.2 - 19.6
	55 - 64	252	19.3	20.3	17.8 - 22.8
	65 - 74	142	10.9	16.4	13.7 - 19.1
	75 - 84	65	5.0	15.3	11.6 - 19.0
	85 +	30	2.3	17.6	11.3 - 23.9
Total Deaths		1,303	100	15.0	14.2 - 15.8

Sex, race/ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population. 95% CI = 95 percent confidence interval for the rate.

* Non-Hispanic

Figure 8: Crude Suicide Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014

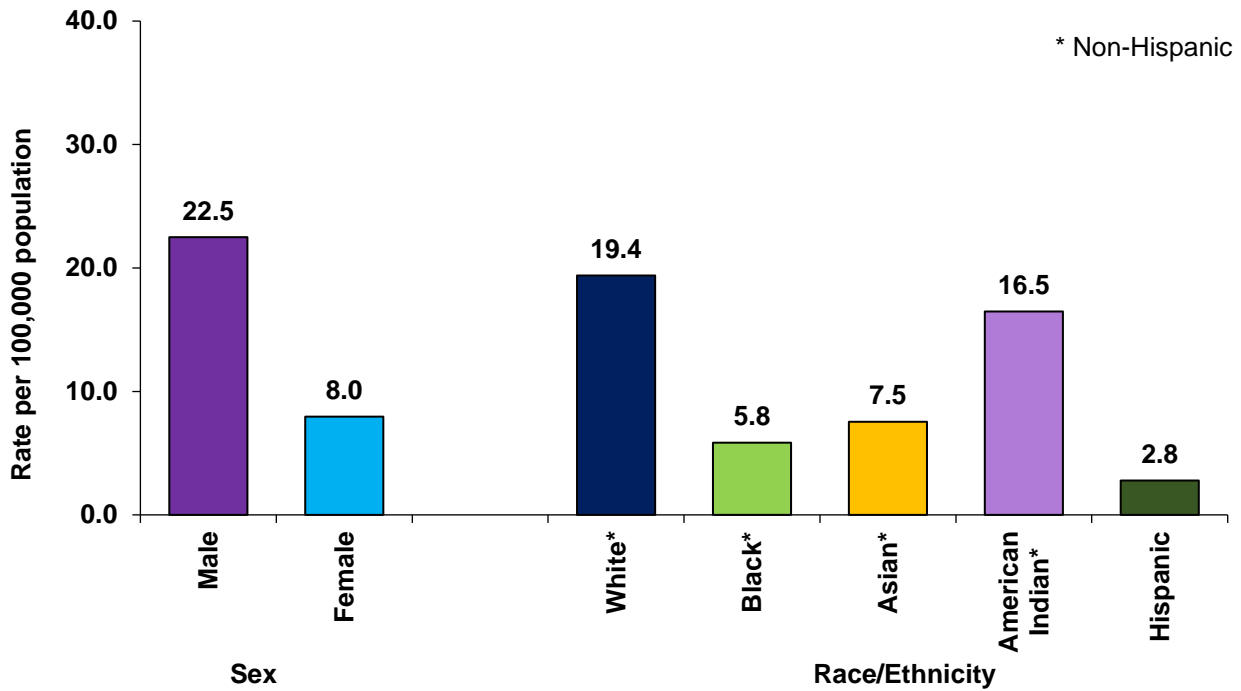


Figure 9: Age-Specific Crude Suicide Rate by Age Group for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014

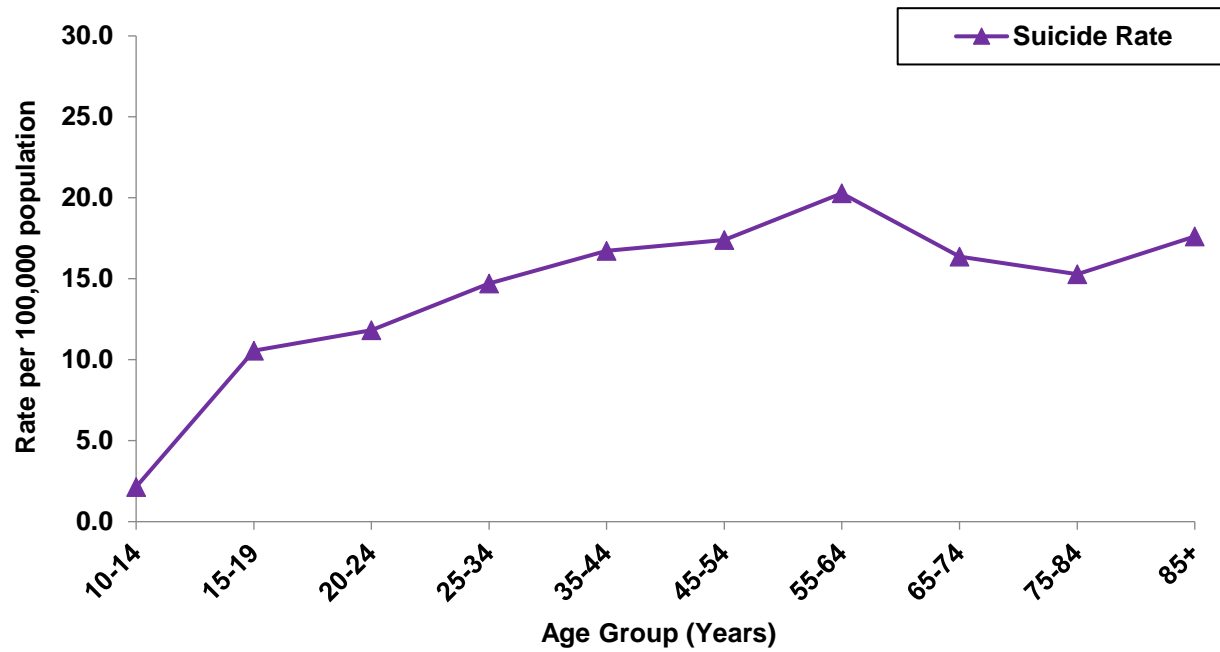
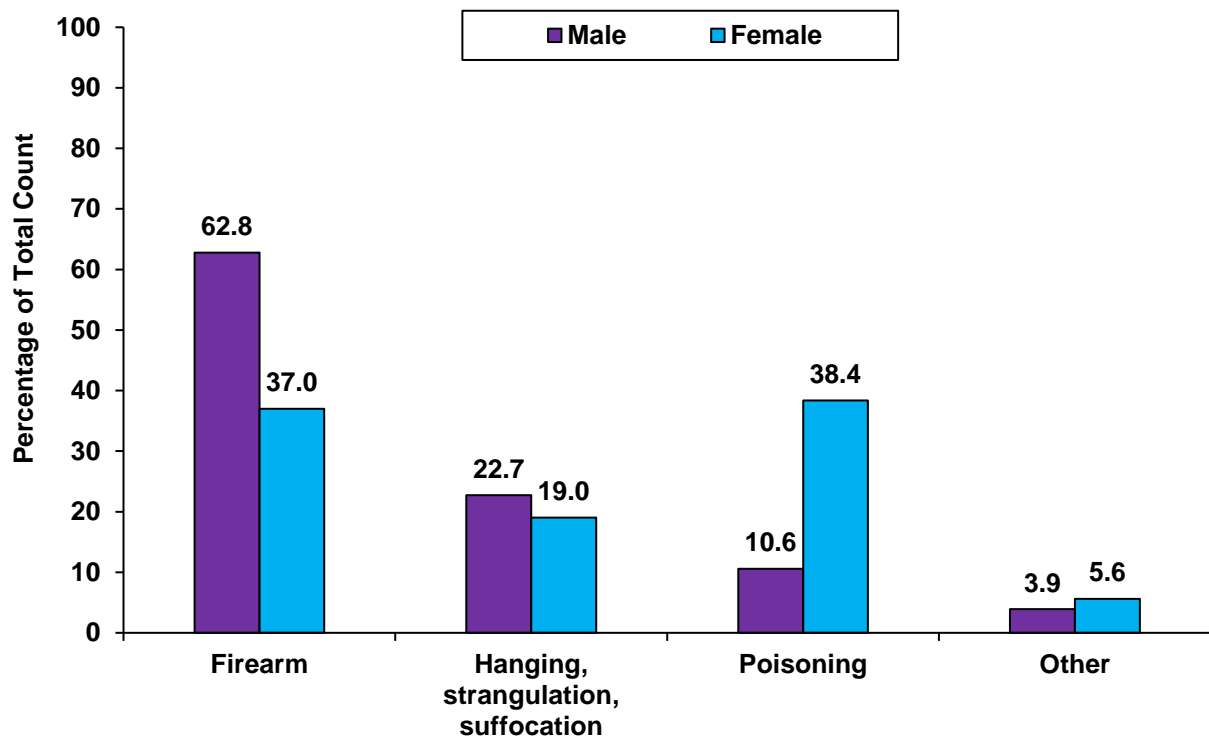


Table 9: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	594	62.8	132	37.0	726	55.7
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	215	22.7	68	19.0	283	21.7
Poisoning	100	10.6	137	38.4	237	18.2
Sharp Instrument	11	1.2	7	2.0	18	1.4
Fall	11	1.2	1	0.3	12	0.9
Drowning	4	0.4	7	2.0	11	0.8
Motor Vehicle	6	0.6	1	0.3	7	0.5
Fire or Burns	2	0.2	1	0.3	3	0.2
Other	3	0.3	3	0.8	6	0.5
Total Deaths	946	100	357	100	1,303	100

Figure 10: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014



* Other includes: drowning, fall, sharp instrument, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, fire or burns, non-powder gun, other, and unknown.

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm Type*						
Handgun	440	74.1	119	89.5	559	76.9
Shotgun	100	16.8	9	6.8	109	15.0
Rifle	50	8.4	5	3.8	55	7.6
Unknown Type	4	0.7	0	0.0	4	0.6
Total Firearms Involved, Suicides	594	100	133	100	727	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported for one suicide fatality in 2014; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=726).

	Number	%
Education Level		
8 th Grade or Less	41	3.3
9 th – 12 th Grade	151	12.0
High school or GED graduate	467	37.2
Some college credit	222	17.7
Associates degree	113	9.0
Bachelor degree	140	11.1
Master degree	75	6.0
Doctorate degree	22	1.8
Unknown	25	2.0
Marital Status		
Never Married	360	28.7
Married*	435	34.6
Divorced	302	24.0
Married, but Separated	64	5.1
Widowed	83	6.6
Single, not otherwise specified	3	0.2
Unknown	9	0.7
Veteran Status		
Non-Veteran	999	79.5
Veteran	243	19.3
Unknown	14	1.3
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)	1,256	100

* Married includes: married, civil union, or domestic partnership.

**Table 12: Suicides by County of Residence
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014**

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	19	13.9	Franklin	8	14.5	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	3	*	Gaston	37	20.0	Pasquotank	6	17.2
Alleghany	2	*	Gates	0	0.0	Pender	13	26.2
Anson	3	*	Graham	3	*	Perquimans	3	*
Ashe	6	24.6	Granville	11	21.1	Person	6	17.3
Avery	3	*	Greene	0	0.0	Pitt	26	16.9
Beaufort	11	26.1	Guilford	45	10.0	Polk	6	32.2
Bertie	1	*	Halifax	5	10.7	Randolph	23	18.4
Bladen	8	26.1	Harnett	14	13.1	Richmond	6	15.0
Brunswick	21	19.5	Haywood	8	14.9	Robeson	18	15.6
Buncombe	40	17.9	Henderson	27	27.2	Rockingham	16	19.6
Burke	14	17.4	Hertford	4	*	Rowan	34	27.9
Cabarrus	22	13.3	Hoke	6	14.1	Rutherford	11	18.6
Caldwell	19	26.1	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	9	16.2
Camden	1	*	Iredell	13	8.9	Scotland	4	*
Carteret	12	19.3	Jackson	9	24.3	Stanly	10	18.7
Caswell	0	0.0	Johnston	22	14.1	Stokes	8	19.1
Catawba	25	18.4	Jones	5	55.2	Surry	17	26.3
Chatham	9	14.7	Lee	8	15.6	Swain	1	*
Cherokee	3	*	Lenoir	6	11.7	Transylvania	7	23.2
Chowan	2	*	Lincoln	11	15.5	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	7	17.5	Union	18	9.6
Cleveland	17	19.9	Macon	7	23.0	Vance	4	*
Columbus	3	*	Madison	2	*	Wake	100	11.6
Craven	15	16.6	Martin	5	23.9	Warren	3	*
Cumberland	31	11.2	Mecklenburg	103	11.8	Washington	2	*
Currituck	8	36.1	Mitchell	4	*	Watauga	10	20.5
Dare	6	19.2	Montgomery	3	*	Wayne	11	10.2
Davidson	18	12.4	Moore	16	19.4	Wilkes	16	26.1
Davie	9	24.4	Nash	10	12.1	Wilson	7	9.9
Duplin	8	15.5	New Hanover	42	21.8	Yadkin	9	26.9
Durham	24	9.4	Northampton	3	*	Yancey	3	*
Edgecombe	2	*	Onslow	30	19.2			
Forsyth	43	13.5	Orange	11	8.8			

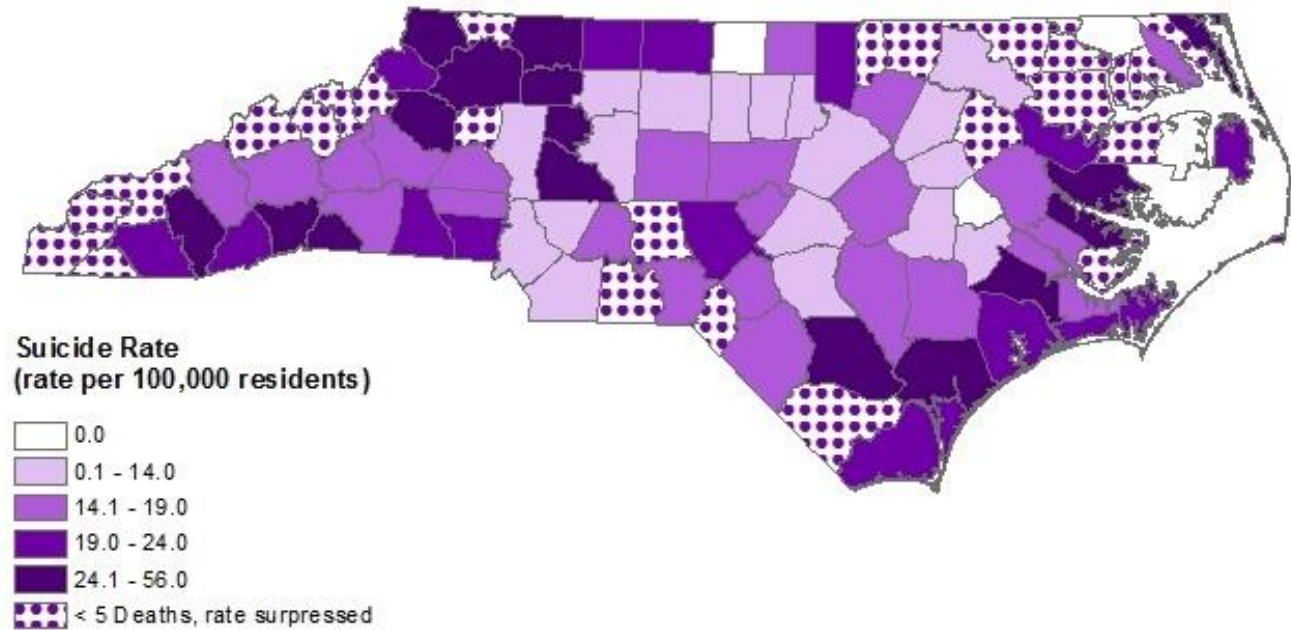
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

* The number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude overall violent death rates are shown in bold.

**Figure 11: Map of Suicide Rates
by County of Residence for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014**

North Carolina 2014 Suicide Rate: 15.0 deaths per 100,000 residents



Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 13 and **Figure 12** describe suicide victims in North Carolina in 2014 by race and sex.

Key Findings:

- Of all suicide victims, 86.1 percent were white and 72.6 percent were male, as shown in Table 8.
- The majority of male suicide victims were NH white (85.2%) as compared to NH black (8.9%). Similarly, the majority of female suicide victims were NH white (88.5%) as compared to NH black (7.3%).
- For men, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity was NH white men (28.7), NH American Indian men (26.4), NH Asian men (12.3), NH black men (9.7) and Hispanic men (3.9).
- The suicide rate per 100,000 for females was higher for NH white women (10.6) than NH black women (2.6) and Hispanic women (1.6). The numbers of suicide deaths were too small to calculate rates for NH Asian women and NH American Indian women.
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 3.8 times for NH blacks, 2.7 times for NH whites, and 2.5 times for Hispanics. There were four suicide deaths among NH American Indian women and four suicide deaths among NH Asian women.

Age and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 14 portrays the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2014 by age group and sex. **Figure 13** plots the 2014 suicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

- Among males, the majority of suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 55 to 64 (18.9%), 45 to 54 (17.1%), 35 to 44 (16.0%) and 25 to 34 (14.4%).
- Similarly among females, the majority of suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 45 to 54 (21.3%), 55 to 64 (20.4%), 35 to 44 (18.8%) and 25 to 34 (15.1%).
- For men, the suicide rate increased by age group and peaked among those 85 years and older (45.5 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate by age group for women peaked at 55 to 64 (11.2 per 100,000) and then declined.
- Males had higher suicide rates than females across all age groups with the largest sex disparity among those age 85 and older with the rate being 10.5 times higher among men than women (45.5 versus 4.3 per 100,000, respectively).

Table 13: Race by Sex of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014

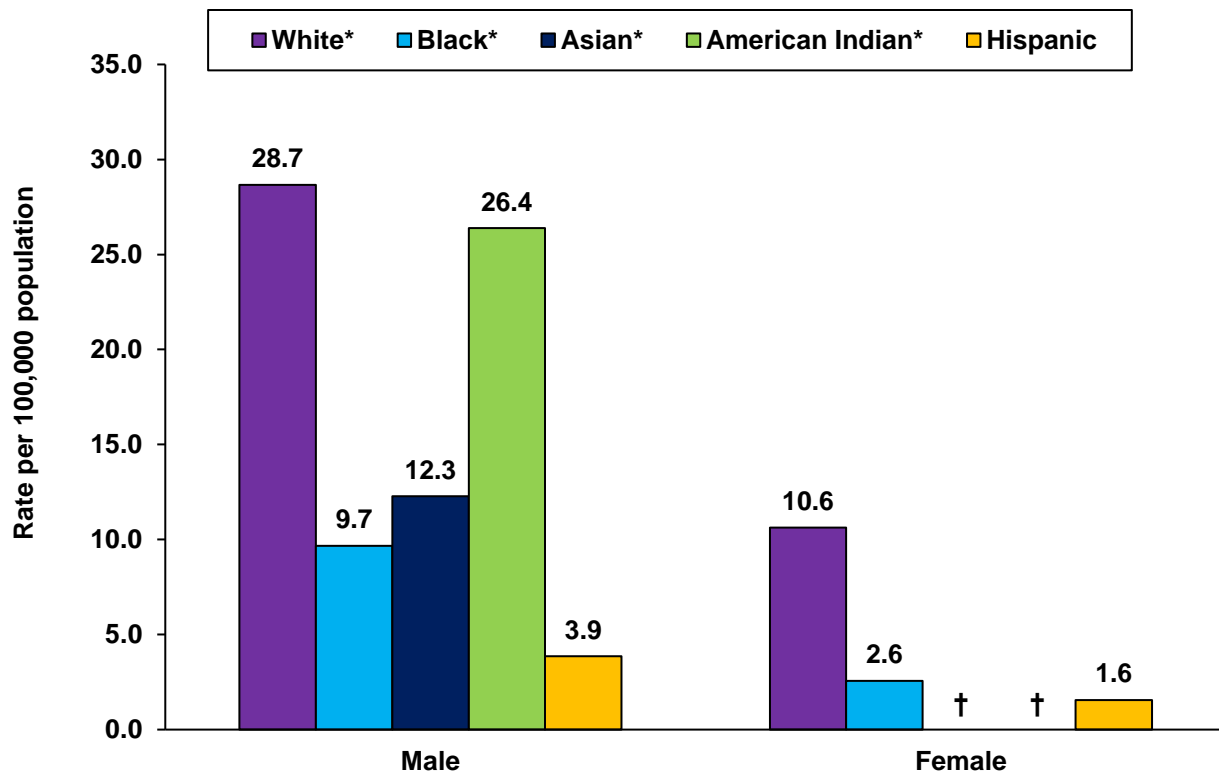
Race	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White**	806	85.2	28.7	316	88.5	10.6
Black**	84	8.9	9.7	26	7.3	2.6
Asian**	14	1.5	12.3	4	1.1	*
American Indian**	13	1.4	26.4	4	1.1	*
Hispanic	14	1.5	3.9	5	1.4	1.6
Other/Unknown	15	1.6	--	2	0.6	--
Total Deaths	946	100	22.5	357	100	8.6

Sex and race-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

* The number of deaths was too small to support calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 12: Crude Suicide Rate Stratified by Race/Ethnicity and Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014



* Non-Hispanic

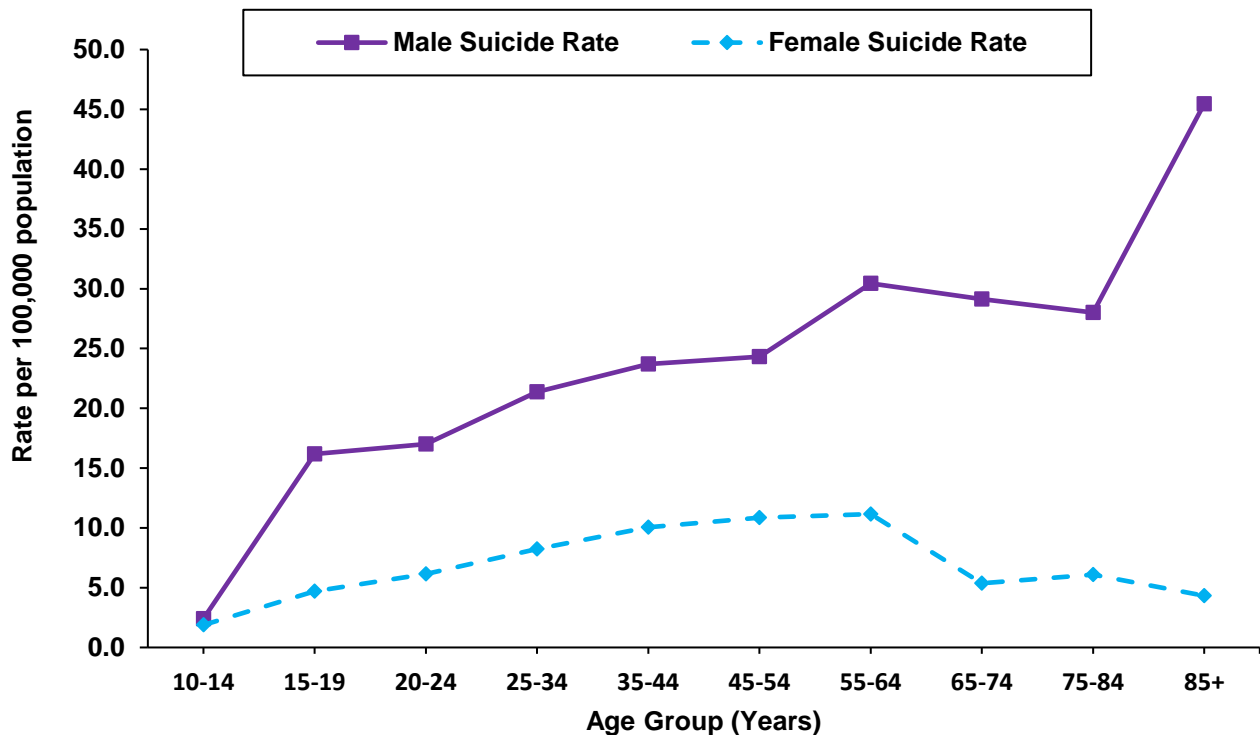
† The numbers of suicide deaths among NH Asian females and NH American Indian females were too small to support calculation of rates.

**Table 14: Age Group by Sex of Suicide Victims
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014**

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
10-14	8	0.8	2.4	6	1.7	1.9
15-19	54	5.7	16.2	15	4.2	4.7
20-24	64	6.8	17.0	21	5.9	6.1
25-34	136	14.4	21.4	54	15.1	8.2
35-44	151	16.0	23.7	67	18.8	10.1
45-54	162	17.1	24.3	76	21.3	10.8
55-64	179	18.9	30.4	73	20.4	11.2
65-74	117	12.4	29.1	25	7.0	5.4
75-84	50	5.3	28.0	15	4.2	6.1
85 +	25	2.6	45.5	5	1.4	4.3
Total Deaths	946	100	22.5	357	100	8.0

Sex and age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

**Figure 13: Age-Specific Suicide Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014**



Circumstances, Toxicology Testing and Injury Location for Suicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding suicides. In 2014, 94.4 percent of suicide victims had available data. A wide range of circumstances lead to suicide, and each victim may have more than one circumstance. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of suicides. **Table 15** and **Figure 14** describe the circumstances for suicide victims age 10 or older stratified by sex based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2014. **Table 16** lists the mental health problem at the time of the suicide for both men and women in 2014.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstances of suicide for male victims were current mental health problem (47.2%), ever treated for mental illness (45.8%), current treatment for mental health illness (39.9%), current depressed mood (33.2%), and intimate partner problem (28.2%).
- The most common circumstances of suicide for female victims were current mental health problem (66.1%), ever treated for mental illness (65.5%), current treatment for mental health illness (57.3%), current depressed mood (30.7%), and substance problem other than alcohol (19.9%).
- A suicide note was left by 27.9 percent of male victims and 38.3 percent of female victims. Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 27.4 percent of men and 20.8 percent of women. A total of 13.9 percent of male and 28.1 percent of female victims reported a history of suicide attempts and 38.0 percent of male and 45.0 percent of female victims had a history of suicidal thoughts.

An intimate partner problem was a circumstance of suicide for 19.6 percent of women. Other substance problem was a circumstance of suicide for 12.5 percent of men. Other common circumstances of suicide for men and women, respectively, were alcohol problem (16.9% and 11.4%), physical health problem (16.7% and 13.5%), recent criminal-related legal problem (9.5% and 7.8%), job problem (7.1% and 5.6%) and financial problem (6.3% and 5.3%).

At the time of suicide, the most common mental health problems were depression or dysthymia (76.1%), anxiety disorder (9.8%), bipolar disorder (8.7%), schizophrenia (3.3%), and post-traumatic stress disorder (2.6%).

Toxicology testing was performed on suicide victims at the medical examiner's direction to identify substances believed to have contributed to the death or circumstances surrounding the death. A positive test for a substance does not necessarily indicate that substance was present at a lethal level. Testing of North Carolina suicide victims in 2014 is shown by sex in **Table 17** and by age and race/ethnicity in **Table 18**.

Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 89.4 percent of all suicides. Testing was relatively infrequent for other substances. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 29.0 percent of all suicide victims, 29.7 percent of male victims and 27.2 percent of female victims.
- Ages 20 to 54 had the highest percentage of suicide victims with alcohol present, with a range from 32.2 percent to 42.2 percent of those age groups testing positive for alcohol. Alcohol was present in those victims tested by race as follows: NH whites (28.7%), NH blacks (26.9%), NH Asians (23.5%), NH American Indians (62.5%), and Hispanics (33.3%).

Table 19 lists the location of the injury resulting in death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

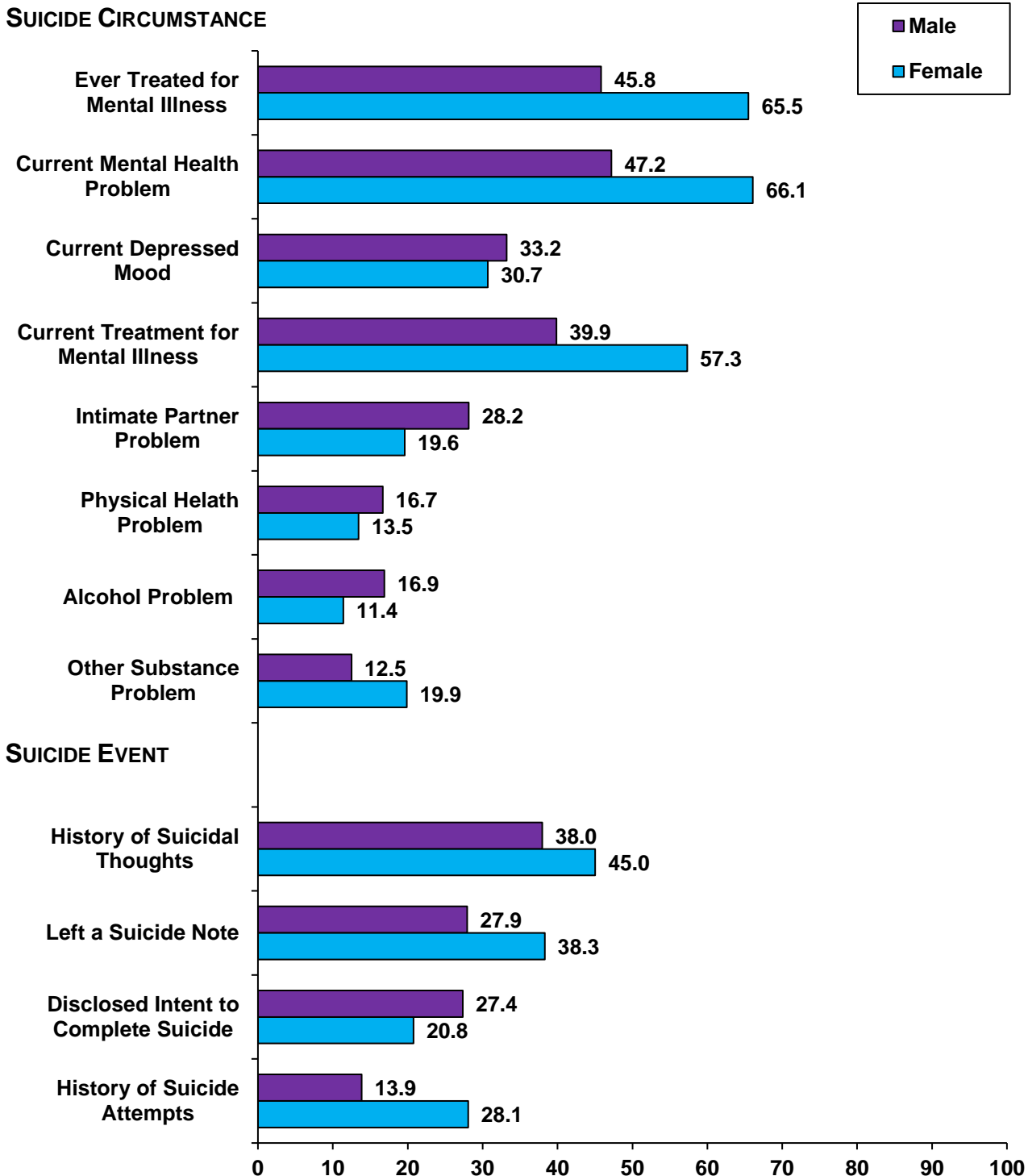
- The majority (78.4%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment.

Table 15: Circumstances of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mental Health						
Ever Treated for Mental Illness	407	45.8	224	65.5	631	51.3
Current Mental Health Problem	419	47.2	226	66.1	645	52.4
Current Depressed Mood	295	33.2	105	30.7	400	32.5
Current Treatment for Mental Illness	354	39.9	196	57.3	550	44.7
Substance Abuse/ Addiction						
Alcohol Problem	150	16.9	39	11.4	189	15.4
Other Substance Problem	111	12.5	68	19.9	179	14.6
Other Addiction (gambling, sexual, etc.)	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Interpersonal						
Intimate Partner Problem	250	28.2	67	19.6	317	25.8
Other Relationship Problem	12	1.4	4	1.2	16	1.3
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence in Past Month	55	6.2	1	0.3	56	4.6
Other Death of Friend/Family	29	3.3	15	4.4	44	3.6
Suicide of Friend/Family in Past 5 Years	9	1.0	7	2.1	16	1.3
Life Stressor						
Physical Health Problem	148	16.7	46	13.5	194	15.8
Job Problem	63	7.1	19	5.6	82	6.7
Recent Criminal Related Legal Problem	84	9.5	6	1.8	90	7.3
Financial Problem	56	6.3	18	5.3	74	6.0
Other Legal Problems	23	2.6	5	1.5	28	2.3
School Problem	14	1.6	5	1.5	19	1.5
Suicide Event						
Left a Suicide Note	248	27.9	131	38.3	379	30.8
Disclosed Intent to Complete Suicide	243	27.4	71	20.8	314	25.5
History of Suicide Attempts	123	13.9	96	28.1	219	17.8
History of Suicidal Thoughts	337	38.0	154	45.0	491	39.9

* Circumstances were available for 93.9 percent (888/946) of male victims, 95.8 percent (342/357) of female victims, and 94.4 percent (1,230/1,303) of all suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2014.

Figure 14: Circumstances of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: For Table 15 and Figure 14, suicide victims may have more than one circumstance; therefore, the responses add up to more than 100 percent. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 16: Current Mental Health Problem at the Time of Suicide by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Current Mental Health Problem *						
Depression / Dysthymia	310	74.0	181	80.1	491	76.1
Bipolar Disorder	28	6.7	28	12.4	56	8.7
Schizophrenia	16	3.8	5	2.2	21	3.3
Anxiety Disorder	41	9.8	22	9.7	63	9.8
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	16	3.8	1	0.4	17	2.6
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	8	1.9	0	0.0	8	1.2
Eating Disorder	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.3
Other	17	4.1	8	3.5	25	3.9
Unknown	14	3.3	3	1.3	17	2.6

* For 419 males, 226 females, and 645 total suicide victims with a current mental health problem

Note: Victims may have more than one current problem; thus, responses add up to more than 100%.

Table 17: Toxicology Testing and Results for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alcohol						
Tested with Results	838	88.6	327	91.6	1,165	89.4
Alcohol Present in Those Tested	249	29.7	89	27.2	338	29.0
Amphetamines						
Tested with Results	3	0.3	8	2.2	11	0.8
Amphetamines Present in Those Tested	3	100	8	100	11	100
Antidepressant						
Tested with Results	45	4.8	84	23.5	129	9.9
Antidepressant Present in Those Tested	45	100	82	97.6	127	98.4
Cocaine						
Tested with Results	69	7.3	121	33.9	190	14.6
Cocaine Present in Those Tested	13	18.8	6	5.0	19	10.0
Opiates						
Tested with Results	71	7.5	124	34.7	195	15.0
Opiates Present in Those Tested	27	38.0	62	50.0	89	45.6
Other substances*						
Tested with Results	100	10.8	138	38.7	238	18.3
Other drugs Present in Those Tested	60	60.0	89	64.5	149	62.6

*Other substances include carbon monoxide, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines. No suicide victims were tested for marijuana.

Table 18: Alcohol Toxicology Testing and Results for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older) by Age Group and Race in North Carolina, 2014

	Alcohol tested with results		Alcohol present in those tested	
	Number	%	Number	%
Age Group (Years)				
10-14	13	92.9	1	7.7
15-19	60	87.0	3	5.0
20-24	75	88.2	28	37.3
25-34	166	87.4	70	42.2
35-44	200	91.7	71	35.5
45-54	211	88.7	68	32.2
55-64	222	88.1	66	29.7
65-74	130	91.5	19	14.6
75-84	62	95.4	8	12.9
85 +	26	86.7	4	15.4
Race				
Hispanic	18	94.7	6	33.3
White*	1,004	89.5	288	28.7
Black*	93	84.5	25	26.9
American Indian*	16	88.9	10	62.5
Asian*	17	100	4	23.5
Other/Unknown	17	100	5	29.4

*Non-Hispanic

**Table 19: Injury Location for Suicide Victims
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2014**

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, Apartment	1,022	78.4
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	68	5.2
Natural Area (e.g., Field, River, Beach, Woods)	68	5.2
Hotel/Motel	35	2.7
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	17	1.3
Park, Playground, Public Use Area	8	0.6
Other Commercial Establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	12	0.9
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	24	1.8
Parking Lot/Public Parking Garage	8	0.6
Highway/Freeway	8	0.6
Hospital or Medical Facility	5	0.4
Synagogue, Church, Temple	6	0.5
Other Specified*	21	1.6
Unknown	1	0.1
Total Deaths	1,303	100

*Other Specified includes office building, industrial/construction area, abandoned house or building, college/university, farm, supervised residential facility, and railroad tracks.

Section III: Homicide

Basic Characteristics of Homicides

Table 20 characterizes the homicides in 2014 for North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity and age. The homicide rate in 2014 in North Carolina per 100,000 people is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 15** and by age group in **Figure 16**.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, 536 North Carolinians (5.4 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were 3.7 times as likely to be victims of a homicide as females (8.6 versus 2.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indians (16.7 per 100,000) and NH blacks (13.9 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than NH whites (2.8 per 100,000), NH Asians (1.8 per 100,000) and Hispanics (0.9 per 100,000).
- Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest for adults ages 20 to 24 years (11.1 per 100,000) and 25 to 34 years (10.8 per 100,000). Among children younger than 14, the rate was highest in children younger than one year old (5.0 per 100,000) for age groups where rates could be calculated.

The method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2014 is shown in **Table 21** and **Figure 17**. The type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2014 is listed in **Table 22**.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of homicide were firearm (70.1%), sharp instrument (12.5%), blunt instrument (7.8%), personal weapons (4.9%), and hanging, strangulation and suffocation (2.4%).
- The majority of male and female homicide victims died by firearm (74.3% and 55.5% respectively), or sharp instrument (12.5% and 12.6% respectively).
- Considering only homicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used (73.9%).

Table 23 describes adult homicide victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2014 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Among adult homicide victims, 40.8 percent graduated high school or received their GED, 20.9 percent completed at least some college credit, and 35.7 percent completed up to 12th grade but did not graduate.
- More than half of homicide victims were never married (56.0%) as compared to married, civil union, or domestic partnership (21.5%), divorced (13.5%), widowed (4.6%) or married but separated (2.6%).
- Military veterans accounted for 5.8 percent of adult homicide victims.

Table 24 and **Figure 18** display the homicide rates in 2014 by North Carolina County of residence. County rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of homicides by county are small and subject to variation. The number of homicides in 47 counties was too small to support a rate calculation and three of the 20 counties with the highest rates had less than 50,000 residents in 2014.

Key Findings:

- For the 53 counties where the number of homicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average homicide rate by North Carolina County of residence was 5.3 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 27.5 deaths per 100,000.

Table 20: Demographics of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	119	22.2	2.3	1.9 - 2.8
	Male	417	77.9	8.6	7.8 - 9.4
Race					
	White**	184	34.3	2.8	2.4 - 3.3
	Black**	304	56.7	13.9	12.3 - 15.4
	Asian**	5	0.9	1.8	0.2 - 3.3
	American Indian**	20	3.7	16.7	9.4 - 24.0
	Hispanic	8	1.5	0.9	0.3 - 1.5
	Other/Unknown	15	2.8	--	--
Age Group (Years)					
	< 1	6	1.1	5.0	1.0 - 9.0
	1 - 4	11	2.1	2.3	0.9 - 3.6
	5 - 9	2	0.4	*	*
	10 - 14	4	0.7	*	*
	15 - 19	42	7.9	6.4	4.5 - 8.4
	20 - 24	80	15.0	11.1	8.7 - 13.6
	25 - 34	140	26.2	10.8	9.0 - 12.6
	35 - 44	71	13.3	5.4	4.2 - 6.7
	45 - 54	75	14.0	5.5	4.2 - 6.7
	55 - 64	51	9.5	4.1	3.0 - 5.2
	65 - 74	28	5.2	3.2	2.0 - 4.4
	75 - 84	20	3.7	4.7	2.6 - 6.8
	85 +	5	0.9	2.9	0.4 - 5.5
Total Deaths		535	100.0	5.4	1.0 - 9.0

Sex, race/ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 15: Crude Homicide Rates by Sex, Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

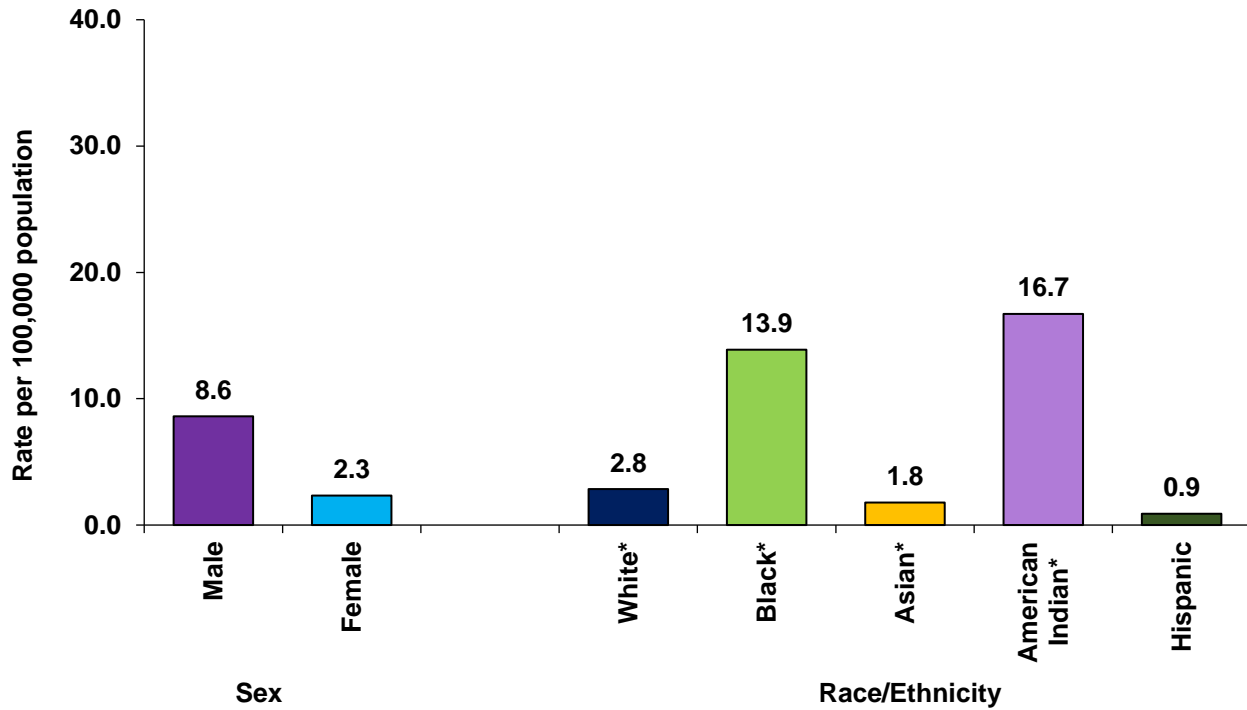
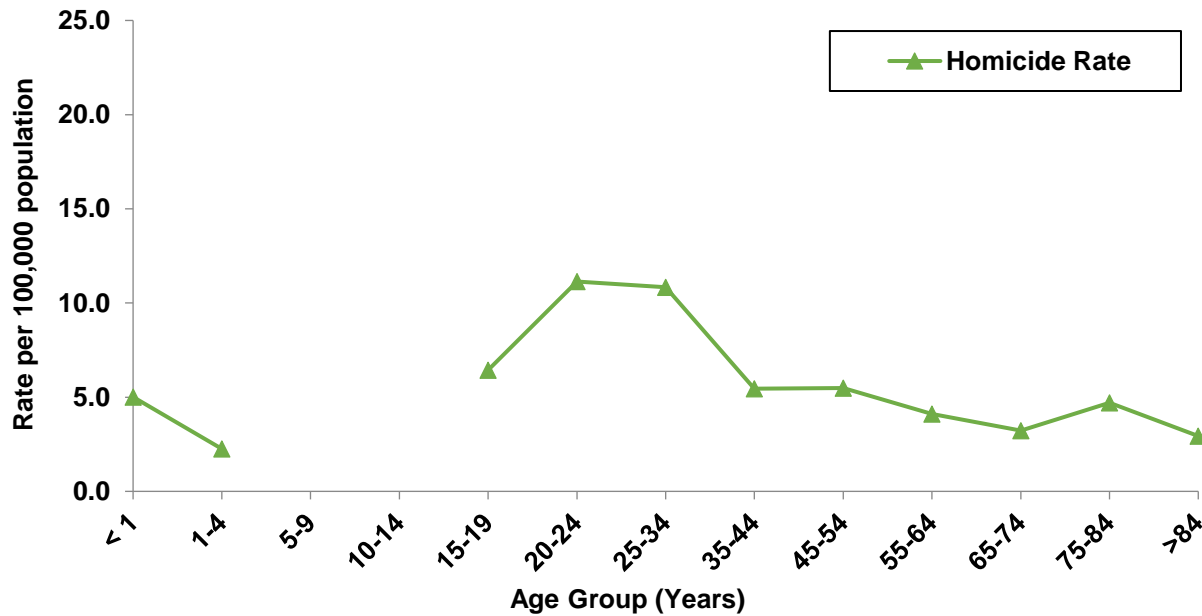


Figure 16: Age-Specific Crude Homicide Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2014



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for the 5-9 and 10-14 year age groups.

Table 21: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	310	74.3	66	55.5	376	70.1
Sharp instrument	52	12.5	15	12.6	67	12.5
Blunt instrument	32	7.7	10	8.4	42	7.8
Personal weapons	15	3.6	11	9.2	26	4.9
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	3	0.7	10	8.4	13	2.4
Fire or burns	1	0.2	4	3.4	5	0.9
Motor Vehicle	3	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.6
Other*	1	0.2	1	0.8	2	0.4
Unknown	0	0.0	2	1.7	2	0.4
Total Deaths	417	100	119	100	536	100

* Other includes: intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), and violent shaking.

Figure 17: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

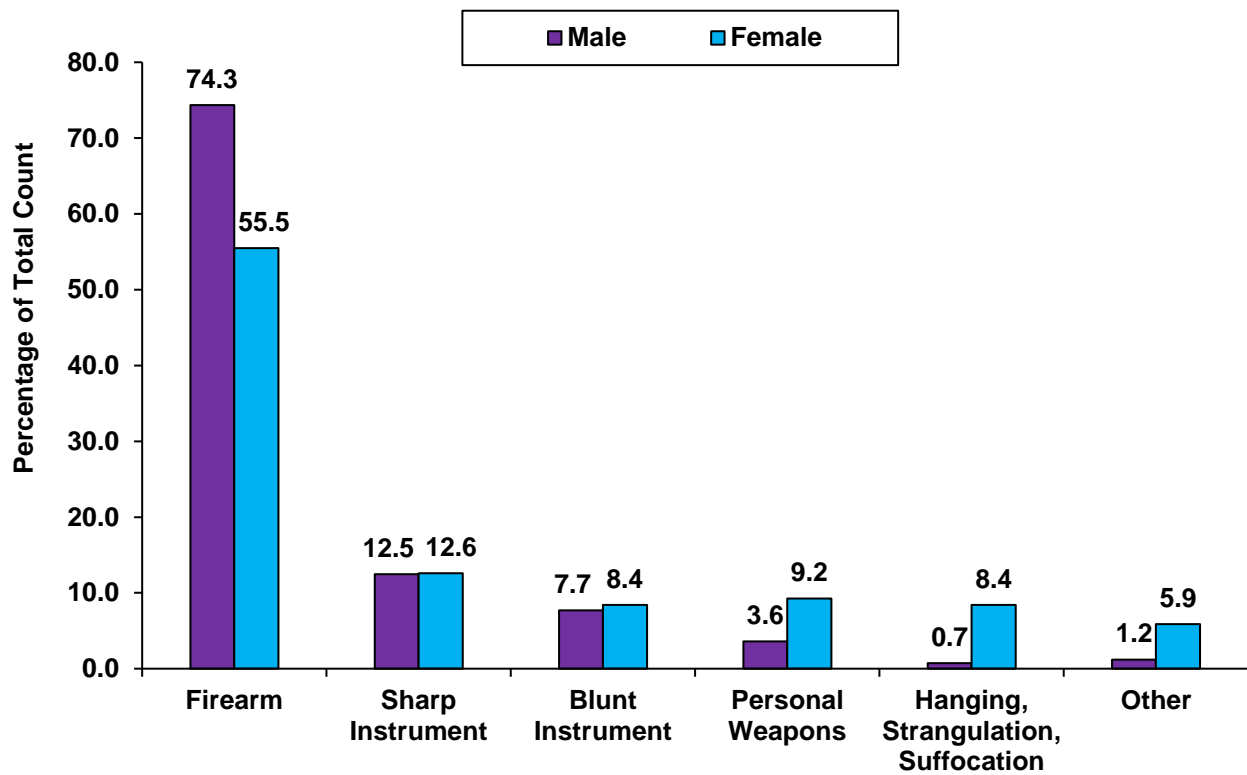


Table 22: Type of Firearm Involved in Homicide Firearm Deaths by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm Type*						
Handgun	230	73.5	51	76.1	281	73.9
Shotgun	26	8.3	3	4.5	29	7.6
Rifle	19	6.1	7	10.4	26	6.8
Unknown Type	38	12.1	6	9.0	44	11.6
Total Firearms Involved, Homicides	313	100	67	100	380	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported for three male and one female homicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=376).

Table 23: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Homicide Victims (Age 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2014

	Number	%
Education Level		
8 th Grade or Less	25	5.0
9 th – 12 th Grade	153	30.7
High school or GED graduate	203	40.8
Some college credit	49	9.8
Associates degree	20	4.0
Bachelor degree	24	4.8
Master degree	8	1.6
Doctorate degree	3	0.6
Unknown	13	2.6
Marital Status		
Never Married	279	56.0
Married*	107	21.5
Divorced	67	13.5
Married, but Separated	13	2.6
Widowed	23	4.6
Single, not otherwise specified	4	0.8
Unknown	5	1.0
Veteran Status		
Non-Veteran	458	92.0
Veteran	29	5.8
Unknown	11	2.2
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)	498	100

* Married includes: married, civil union or domestic partnership.

Table 24: Homicides by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	3	*	Franklin	3	*	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	2	*	Gaston	4	*	Pasquotank	0	0.0
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	0	0.0	Pender	1	*
Anson	3	*	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	0	0.0
Ashe	1	*	Granville	5	8.5	Person	3	*
Avery	0	0.0	Greene	3	*	Pitt	7	4.0
Beaufort	3	*	Guilford	28	5.5	Polk	0	0.0
Bertie	3	*	Halifax	6	11.3	Randolph	4	*
Bladen	6	17.3	Harnett	8	6.3	Richmond	3	*
Brunswick	4	*	Haywood	1	*	Robeson	37	27.5
Buncombe	10	4.0	Henderson	3	*	Rockingham	7	7.6
Burke	6	6.7	Hertford	1	*	Rowan	11	7.9
Cabarrus	10	5.2	Hoke	2	*	Rutherford	1	*
Caldwell	4	*	Hyde	1	*	Sampson	4	*
Camden	0	0.0	Iredell	5	3.0	Scotland	3	*
Carteret	3	*	Jackson	1	*	Stanly	4	*
Caswell	0	0.0	Johnston	8	4.4	Stokes	2	*
Catawba	3	*	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	1	*
Chatham	3	*	Lee	5	8.4	Swain	0	0.0
Cherokee	1	*	Lenoir	8	13.7	Transylvania	1	*
Chowan	0	0.0	Lincoln	3	*	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0	McDowell	5	11.1	Union	6	2.7
Cleveland	5	5.2	Macon	2	*	Vance	7	15.7
Columbus	7	12.3	Madison	0	0.0	Wake	28	2.8
Craven	1	*	Martin	0	0.0	Warren	2	*
Cumberland	35	10.7	Mecklenburg	49	4.8	Washington	1	*
Currituck	0	0.0	Mitchell	0	0.0	Watauga	0	0.0
Dare	0	0.0	Montgomery	1	*	Wayne	9	7.2
Davidson	7	4.3	Moore	2	*	Wilkes	6	8.7
Davie	3	*	Nash	12	12.7	Wilson	4	*
Duplin	2	*	New Hanover	19	8.8	Yadkin	1	*
Durham	26	8.8	Northampton	3	*	Yancey	0	0.0
Edgecombe	6	10.9	Onslow	11	5.9			
Forsyth	23	6.3	Orange	1	*			

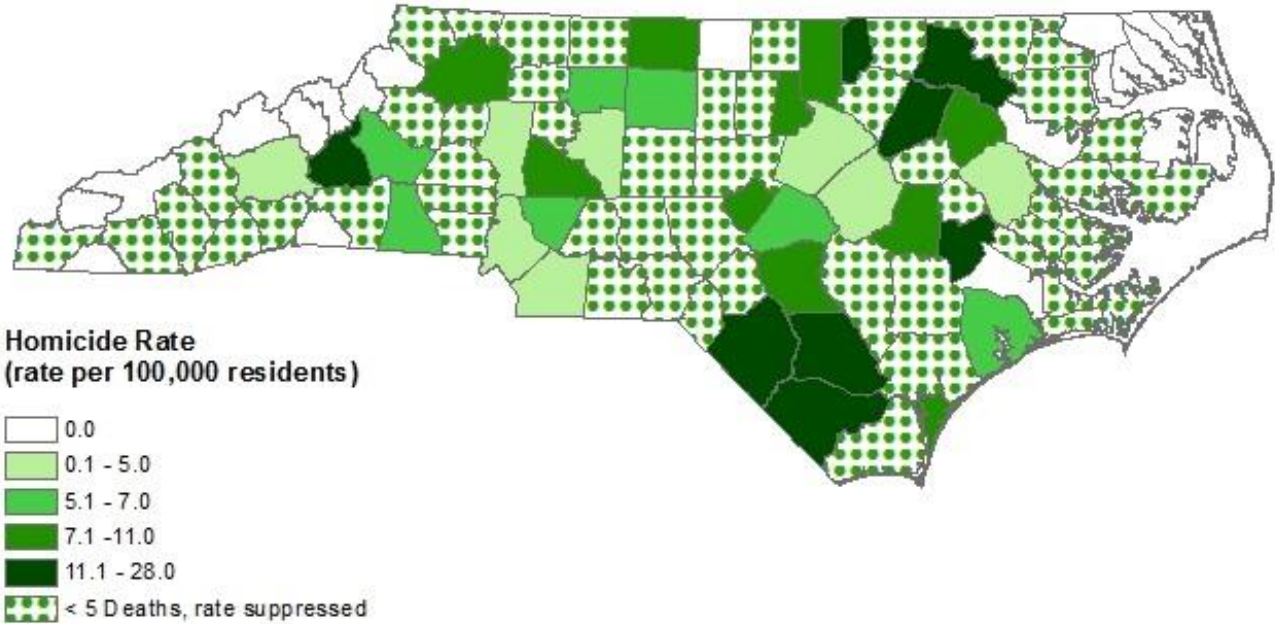
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

* Number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude homicide rates are shown in bold.

Figure 18: Map of Homicide Rates by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

North Carolina 2014 Homicide Rate: 5.4 deaths per 100,000 residents



Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Homicide Victims

Table 25 and **Figure 19** describe the 2014 North Carolina homicide victims by sex and race/ethnicity.

Key Findings:

- Of all homicide victims, 77.8 percent were male, 56.6 percent were NH black, and 34.3 percent were NH white as shown in Table 19.
- The majority of male homicide victims were NH black (62.4%) as compared to NH white (28.1%), NH American Indian (3.8%), Hispanic (1.7) and NH Asian (1.2%). Conversely, more than half of female homicide victims were NH white (56.3%) as compared to NH black (37.0%), NH American Indian (3.4%), and Hispanic (0.8%).
- The homicide rates per 100,000 were 6.8 times higher for NH black males (25.3 per 100,000) and 7.5 times higher for NH American Indian males (27.8 per 100,000), then NH white males (3.7 per 100,000).
- NH black females were 1.9 times as likely to be homicide victims as NH white females (3.8 versus 2.0 per 100,000, respectively).
- The homicide rate was 6.7 times higher for NH black males than for NH black females. The homicide rate was 1.8 times higher for NH white males than NH white females.

Age and Sex of Homicide Victims

The age and sex of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2014 are categorized in **Table 26**. The 2014 homicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina are stratified by age group and sex in **Figure 20**.

Key Findings:

- Most male homicide victims were ages 15 to 64 years, with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (28.3%), 20 to 24 (16.5%), 45 to 54 (13.7%), 35 to 44 (12.9%), 15 to 19 (8.6%) and 55 to 64 (8.4%).
- Among females, the majority of homicide victims were ages 20 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (18.5%), 45 to 54 (15.1%), 35 to 44 (14.3%), 55 to 64 (13.4%), and 20 to 24 (9.2%).
- Adult males ages 20 to 84 had higher homicide rates than females across all age groups for 2014.
- Males were more likely to die of homicide than females by more than 5.7 times among ages 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years, and 5.5 times in ages 25 to 34 years.
- The homicide rate by age for males peaked in ages 25 to 34 years (18.5 per 100,000) and then declined to 5.7 per 100,000 for ages 65 to 74 years.
- For females, the largest peak in the homicide rate by age was among those ages 75 to 84 years (3.6 per 100,000).

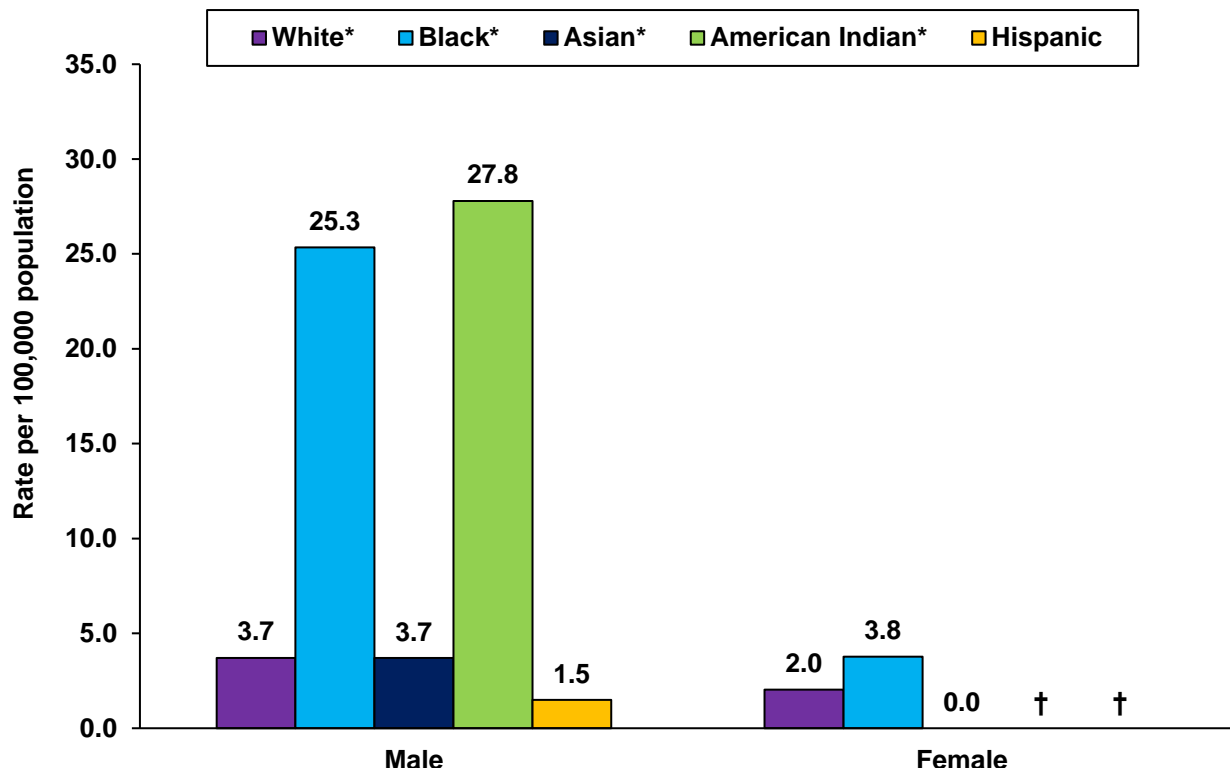
Table 25: Race/Ethnicity by Sex of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White*	117	28.1	3.7	67	56.3	2.0
Black*	260	62.4	25.3	44	37	3.8
Asian*	5	1.2	3.7	0	0	0.0
American Indian*	16	3.8	27.8	4	3.4	*
Hispanic	7	1.7	1.5	1	0.8	*
Other/Unknown	12	2.8	--	3	2.5	--
Total Deaths	417	100	8.6	119	100	2.3

Sex and race-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

* The number of deaths was too small to support calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 19: Crude Homicide Rate Stratified by Race/Ethnicity and Sex in North Carolina, 2014

* Non-Hispanic

† The numbers of suicide deaths among NH American Indian females and Hispanic females were too small to support the calculation of rates.

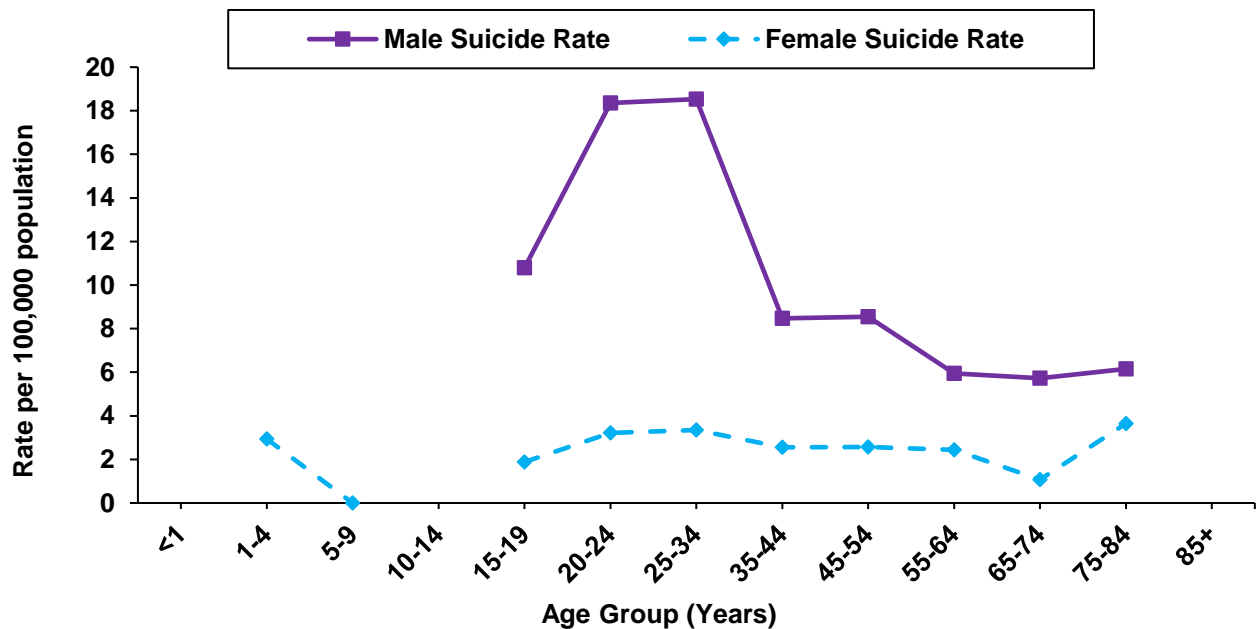
Table 26: Age Group by Sex of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2014

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	3	0.7	*	3	2.5	*
1-4	4	1	*	7	5.9	2.9
5-9	2	0.5	*	0	0	0.0
10-14	3	0.7	*	1	0.8	*
15-19	36	8.6	10.8	6	5	1.9
20-24	69	16.5	18.3	11	9.2	3.2
25-34	118	28.3	18.5	22	18.5	3.4
35-44	54	12.9	8.5	17	14.3	2.6
45-54	57	13.7	8.6	18	15.1	2.6
55-64	35	8.4	6.0	16	13.4	2.4
65-74	23	5.5	5.7	5	4.2	1.1
75-84	11	2.6	6.2	9	7.6	3.6
85 +	1	0.2	*	4	3.4	*
Total Deaths	417	100	8.6	119	100	2.3

Sex and age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

* The number of deaths was too small to support calculation of a rate.

Figure 20: Age-Specific Crude Homicide Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: The numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for males younger than one year and ages 1 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 85 and older. The numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for females younger than 1 year and ages 10 to 14, and 85 and older.

Circumstances and Injury Location for Homicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the event and victim circumstances involving homicides to understand the underlying causes of violent death. However, circumstance data were not available for all homicides. In 2014, 83.0 percent of homicide victims had data available for at least one circumstance related to the homicide. Since each victim may have more than one circumstance, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides.

Please note that drug-related homicides are characterized in two ways. If the drug-related crime (e.g., drug sales) was part of the homicide, then the circumstances are categorized as “precipitated by another crime” and the crime is listed as “drug trade.” If drugs played a role in the homicide, then the homicide is classified as “drug involvement.” In addition, gang-related crimes are likely significantly undercounted because these crimes are difficult to identify and definitions differ across agencies.

Table 27 describes the circumstances for homicide victims stratified by sex based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2014. **Figure 21** illustrates the most common homicide event circumstances and precipitating crimes for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides for males were an argument, abuse or conflict (45.2%), gang related (37.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (33.3%), intimate partner violence-related (21.4%), and drug involvement (10.1%).
- For females, the most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were intimate partner violence-related (50.5%), an argument, abuse or conflict (30.3%), gang related (28.4%), precipitated by another serious crime (27.5%), and jealousy related to a lovers’ triangle (7.8%).
- Common victim circumstances surrounding homicides were: the victim used a weapon (11.2%), jealousy related to a lovers’ triangle (3.2%), and a brawl or mutual physical fight (1.8%).

Table 28 summarizes the location of the injury resulting in death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

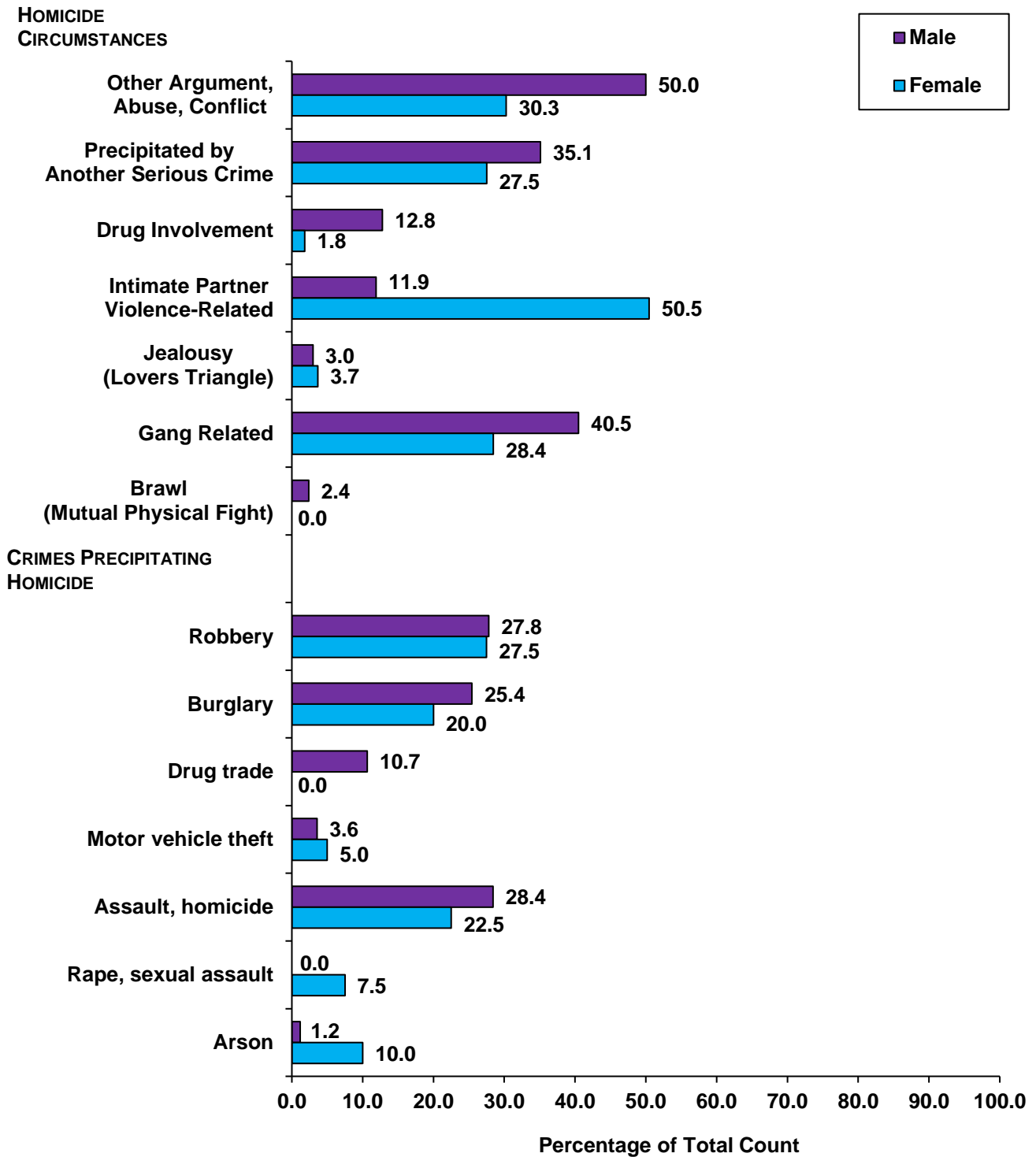
- The majority (62.2%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment.
- Other common locations where injuries resulting in death occurred were: a street, road, sidewalk or alley (11.2), a motor vehicle (7.7%), other commercial establishments such as a grocery store or laundromat (3.4%), parking lot or garage (3.2%), natural areas such as a field or woods (2.8%), and bars/nightclubs (2.2%).

Table 27: Circumstances of Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

Circumstance**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Event						
Other Argument, Abuse, Conflict	168	50.0	33	30.3	201	45.2
Precipitated by Another Serious Crime	118	35.1	30	27.5	148	33.3
Drug Involvement	43	12.8	2	1.8	45	10.1
Intimate Partner Violence-Related	40	11.9	55	50.5	95	21.4
Jealousy (Lovers' Triangle)	10	3.0	4	3.7	14	3.2
Gang Related	136	40.5	31	28.4	167	37.5
Brawl (Mutual Physical Fight)	8	2.4	0	0.0	8	1.8
Victim						
Victim Used a Weapon	49	14.6	1	0.9	50	11.2
Victim was a Bystander	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	0.7
Justifiable Self-Defense	3	0.9	0	0.0	3	0.7

** Circumstances were available for 80.6 percent (336/417) of male victims, 91.6 percent (109/119) of female victims and 83.0 percent (445/536) of all homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2014.

Figure 21: Circumstances of Homicide Victims and Crimes Precipitating Homicide by Sex in North Carolina, 2014



Note: Homicides may have more than one circumstance and precipitating crime; therefore, the responses add up to more than 100 percent. This figure does not include all circumstances and crimes.

**Table 28: Injury Location for Homicide Victims
in North Carolina, 2014**

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, Apartment	333	62.2
Street/road, Sidewalk, Alley	60	11.2
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	41	7.7
Other Commercial Establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	18	3.4
Parking Lot/Public Parking Garage	17	3.2
Natural Area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	15	2.8
Bar, Nightclub	12	2.2
Hotel/Motel	6	1.1
Park, Playground, Public Use Area	3	0.6
Service Station	3	0.6
Abandoned House, Building, or Warehouse	2	0.4
Highway or Freeway	2	0.4
Hospital or Medical Facility	2	0.4
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	2	0.4
Unknown	16	3.0
Other	3	0.6
Total Deaths	535	100

Section IV: Legal Intervention

NC-VDRS compiles data on legal intervention deaths which are classified as homicide by the medical examiner but are defined by NVDRS as legal intervention. Legal intervention deaths represent victims killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. In addition, legal executions are not included in the national system but are reported in the state system as legal intervention deaths. **Table 29** summarizes the demographics of legal intervention victims in North Carolina in 2014. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of legal intervention deaths. **Table 30** shows the type of weapon used in legal intervention deaths of North Carolina residents in 2014. **Table 31** lists the number of legal intervention deaths in 2014 by North Carolina county of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, 25 residents of North Carolina (0.3 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- Nearly all of the victims were male (96.0%) and most were from 20 to 54 years of age (88.0%).
- Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (84.0%), a handgun used most frequently (57.7%).

Table 29: Demographics of Legal Intervention Death Victims in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	1	4.0	*	*
	Male	24	96.0	0.5	0.3 - 0.7
Race/Ethnicity					
	White**	14	56.0	0.2	0.1 - 0.3
	Black**	9	36.0	0.4	0.1 - 0.7
	American Indian**	1	4.0	*	*
	Asian**	1	4.0	*	*
	Hispanic	0	0.0	*	*
Age Group (Years)					
	15 - 19	1	4.0	*	*
	20 - 24	3	12.0	*	*
	25 - 34	5	20.0	0.4	0.0 - 0.7
	35 - 44	6	24.0	0.5	0.1 - 0.8
	45 - 54	8	32.0	0.6	0.2 - 1.0
	55 - 64	1	4.0	*	*
	65 - 74	1	4.0	*	*
Total Deaths		25	100	0.3	0.2 - 0.3

Sex, race/ ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 North Carolina population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic (NH)

Table 30: Type of Weapon for Legal Intervention Deaths in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%
Weapon Type*			
	Handgun	15	57.7
	Rifle	3	11.5
	Shotgun	1	3.8
	Unknown firearm type	3	11.5
	Other, non-firearm weapon	4	15.4
Total Weapons Involved, Legal Intervention		26	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported for one legal intervention fatality in 2014; therefore, the total number of weapons exceeds the number of legal intervention deaths (n=25).

Table 31: Legal Intervention Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

	Number		Number
County		County	
Brunswick	2	Henderson	1
Caldwell	1	Hoke	1
Catawba	1	Lee	1
Columbus	1	Lincoln	1
Craven	2	Nash	1
Cumberland	4	Pender	1
Davidson	1	Robeson	1
Durham	1	Rowan	1
Guilford	2	Surry	1
Haywood	1		

Section V: Unintentional Firearm Death

An unintentional firearm death is a death that results from the discharge of a firearm that killed a victim but the firearm was not intentionally directed at the victim. Therefore, unintentional firearm death is considered separately from a firearm-related suicide or homicide. **Table 32** describes the unintentional firearm injury victims in North Carolina in 2014 by sex, race/ethnicity, and age. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of unintentional firearm deaths. **Table 33** displays the type of firearm for unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2014. **Table 34** provides the number of unintentional firearm deaths in 2014 by North Carolina County of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, 16 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Unintentional firearm victims were 75.0 percent male, 62.5 percent NH white, 31.3 percent NH black and 6.3 percent Hispanic.
- Deaths from an unintentional firearm injury occurred among those ages 1 to 74.
- The most common firearm involved in unintentional firearm deaths was a handgun (68.8%) followed by a rifle (18.8%) and a shotgun (12.5%).

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths to help understand the underlying causes of death. Fifteen of the 16 unintentional firearm deaths had data available for at least one circumstance related to the death. Since each death may have more than one circumstance, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of deaths. **Table 35** summarizes the circumstances of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstance among mechanisms of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death was that the shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger (22.6%). Another common circumstance was that the shooter thought the firearm was unloaded (19.4%).
- Among contexts of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death, the most common contexts were that the injury occurred while playing with a firearm (16.1%), and the injury occurred while showing the firearm to others (6.5%).

**Table 32: Demographics of Unintentional Firearm Death Victims
in North Carolina, 2014**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	4	25.0%	*	*
	Male	12	75.0%	0.2	0.1 - 0.4
Race/Ethnicity					
	White**	10	62.5%	0.2	0
	Black**	5	31.3%	0.2	0
	Hispanic	1	6.3%	*	*
Age Group (Years)					
	< 1	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	1 – 4	2	12.5	*	*
	5 – 9	2	12.5	*	*
	10 - 14	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	15 - 19	2	12.5	*	*
	20 - 24	5	31.3	0.7	0.1 - 1.3
	25 - 34	1	6.3	*	*
	35 - 44	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	45 - 54	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	55 - 64	1	6.3	*	*
	65 - 74	3	18.8	*	*
	75 - 84	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	85 +	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
Total Deaths		16	100	0.2	0.1 - 0.2

Sex, race/ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 North Carolina population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Table 33: Type of Firearm for Unintentional Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%
Firearm Type			
	Handgun	11	68.8
	Rifle	3	18.8
	Shotgun	2	12.5
Total Firearms Involved, Unintentional Firearm		16	100.0

*Multiple firearm types were not reported for any unintentional firearm fatalities in 2014; Therefore, the total number of firearms equals the number of unintentional firearm deaths (n=16).

Table 34: Unintentional Firearm Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2014

	Number		Number
County		County	
Caldwell	1	Lenoir	1
Carteret	1	Madison	1
Catawba	1	Mecklenburg	1
Cumberland	1	Pender	1
Durham	1	Robeson	1
Gaston	1	Stokes	1
Halifax	1	Surry	1
Iredell	2		

**Table 35: Circumstances of Unintentional Firearm Deaths
in North Carolina, 2014**

	Number	%
Context		
Occurred While Playing with a Gun	5	16.1
Occurred While Showing Gun to Others	2	6.5
Occurred While Target Shooting	1	3.2
Occurred While on a Hunting Trip	1	3.2
Shooter Thought Gun was a Toy	1	3.2
Other Context	3	9.7
Mechanism		
Shooter Unintentionally Pulled Trigger	7	22.6
Shooter Thought Magazine was Unloaded	0	0
Occurred While Cleaning a Gun	2	6.5
Shooter Thought Gun was Unloaded	6	19.4
Gun Discharged While Operating the Safety/Lock	0	0
Gun Discharged When it was Dropped	1	3.2
Shooter Thought Gun Safety was Engaged	1	3.2
Bullet Ricocheted and Hit Victim	1	3.2

** Circumstances were available for 15 of 16 (93.6%) of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina during 2014.

Note: Each death may have more than one circumstance. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of deaths.

Section VI: Child Death

Table 36 characterizes violent deaths for children under the age of 18 years in North Carolina in 2014 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, 91 children in North Carolina (4.0 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 8.5 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (5.1 vs. 0.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- The violent death rate for children per 100,000 was 1.6 times higher for NH blacks (6.7 per 100,000) than for NH whites (4.1 per 100,000).
- The highest death rate was for children ages 15 to 17 (12.5 per 100,000). The lowest rate was for ages 10-14 (2.8 per 100,000).

Manner of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2014 is displayed in **Figure 22**, and it is shown stratified by sex in **Table 37**, by race/ethnicity in **Table 38** and by age group in **Table 39**.

Key Findings:

- The most common causes of violent death for all child victims were suicide (51.6%) and homicide (41.8%).
- Homicide was the cause of violent death in the majority of NH black children (73.7%).
- Homicide was the leading cause of violent death for infants less than one year (100%) and for children ages one to four (78.6%).
- Suicide was the cause of violent death in the majority NH white children (75.0%).
- Suicide was the leading cause of violent death for children ages 10 to 14 (77.8%) and ages 15 to 17 (68.8%).

Method of child violent death in North Carolina in 2014 is provided stratified by sex in **Table 40**, by race/ethnicity in **Table 41** and by age group in **Table 42**.

Key Findings:

- The most common methods of violent death for all child victims were firearm (52.7%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (27.5%) and personal weapons (i.e., abuse by a caretaker) (9.9%).
- Firearm was the leading method of child violent death for males (65.0%), NH blacks (47.4%) and NH whites (55.8%).
- Personal weapons (50.0%), shaking (i.e., shaken baby syndrome) (16.7%), blunt instruments (16.7%) and intentional neglect (16.7%) were the leading methods of violent death in infants less than one year. For children ages one to four, personal weapons (42.9%), firearm (28.6%) and blunt instruments (14.3%) were the leading methods of death. There were four child deaths for ages five to nine, attributed to firearms (100%). Hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (44.4%) and firearm (44.4%) were the top causes of violent child death for ages 10 to 14. Firearm was the leading method of violent child death for ages 15 to 17 (52.7%).

Table 36: Demographics of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Deaths in North Carolina, 2014

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	31	34.1	0.6	0.4 - 0.8
	Male	60	65.9	5.1	3.8 - 6.4
Race					
	White**	52	57.1	4.1	3.0 - 5.2
	Black**	38	41.8	6.7	4.6 - 8.8
	Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	American Indian**	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	Unknown	1	1.1	*	*
Age Group (Years)					
	<1	6	6.6	5.0	1.0 - 9.0
	1 - 4	14	15.4	2.9	1.4 - 4.4
	5 - 9	4	4.4	*	*
	10 - 14	18	19.8	2.8	1.5 - 4.0
	15 - 17	48	52.7	12.5	9.0 - 16.1
	Unknown	1	1.1		
Total Deaths		91	100.0	3.9	3.1 - 4.7

Sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 North Carolina population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

Table 37: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death						
Homicide	23	38.3	15	48.4	38	41.8
Suicide	32	53.3	15	48.4	47	51.6
Undetermined Intent	1	1.7	0	0	1	1.1
Unintentional Firearm	4	10	1	6.4	5	8.8
Total Deaths	60	100	31	100	91	100

Figure 22: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death in North Carolina, 2014

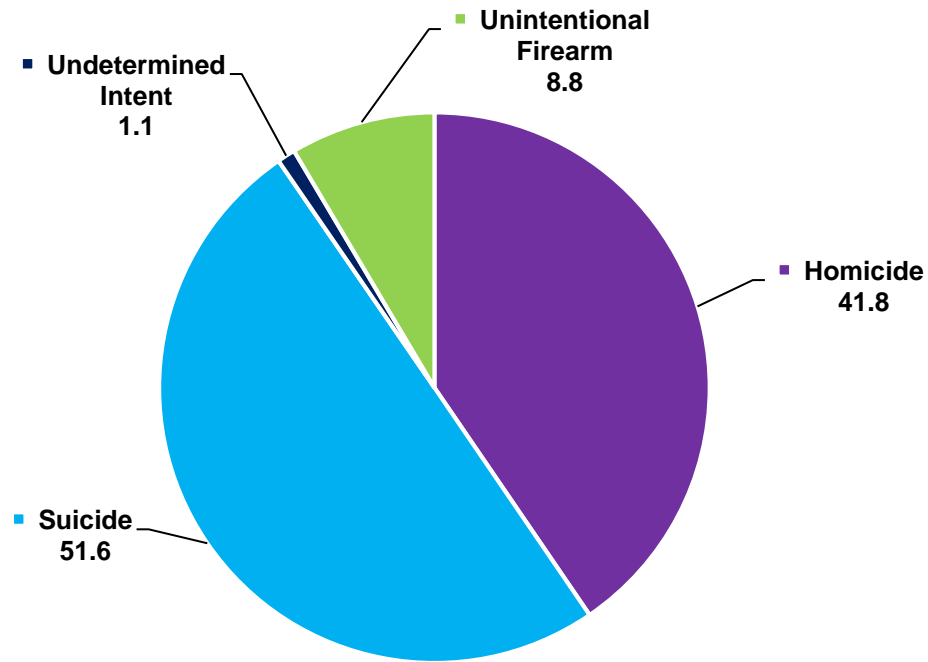


Table 38: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

Race/Ethnicity*	White**		Black**	
	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death				
Homicide	39	75	7	18.4
Suicide	10	19.2	28	73.7
Undetermined Intent	1	1.9	2	5.3
Unintentional Firearm	2	3.8	1	2.6
Legal Intervention	52	100	38	100
Total Deaths	39	75	7	18.4

* Race was unknown for 1 child violent death in 2014. There were no child deaths among NH American Indians, NH Asians, or Hispanics in North Carolina in 2014.

** Non-Hispanic

Table 39: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group in North Carolina, 2014

Age Group*	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death										
Homicide	6	100	11	78.6	2	50	4	22.2	14	29.2
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	77.8	33	68.8
Undetermined Intent	0	0	1	7.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unintentional Firearm	0	0	2	14.3	2	50	0	0	1	2.1
Legal Intervention	6	100	14	100	4	100	18	100	48	100
Total Deaths	6	100	11	78.6	2	50	4	22.2	14	29.2

* Age was unknown for 1 child violent death in 2014.

Table 40: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Sex in North Carolina, 2014

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death						
Firearm	39	65.0	9	29.0	48	52.7
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	13	21.7	12	38.7	25	27.5
Personal Weapons	4	6.7	5	16.1	9	9.9
Blunt Instrument	1	1.7	2	6.5	3	3.3
Poisoning	1	1.7	1	3.2	2	2.2
Fire or Burns	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	1.1
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	1.1
Violent Shaking	1	1.7	0	0.0	1	1.1
Sharp Instrument	1	1.7	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total Deaths	60	100	31	100	91	100

Table 41: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race/Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2014

Race*	White**		Black**	
	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death				
Firearm	29	55.8	18	47.4
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	18	34.6	7	18.4
Personal Weapons	3	5.8	6	15.8
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	3	7.9
Poisoning	2	3.8	0	0.0
Fire or Burns	0	0.0	1	2.6
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	1	2.6
Violent Shaking	0	0.0	1	2.6
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	1	2.6
Total Deaths	52	100	38	100

* Race/ethnicity was unknown for 1 child violent deaths in 2014. There were no child deaths among NH American Indians, NH Asians, or Hispanics in North Carolina in 2014.

** Non-Hispanic

Table 42: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group in North Carolina, 2014

Age Group*	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death										
Firearm	0	0	4	28.6	4	100	8	44.4	31	64.6
Sharp Instrument	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.1
Blunt Instrument	1	16.7	2	14.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poisoning	0	0	1	7.1	0	0	1	5.6	0	0
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	0	0	1	7.1	0	0	8	44.4	16	33.3
Personal Weapons	3	50	6	42.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire or Burns	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.6	0	0
Violent Shaking	1	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intentional Neglect	1	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Deaths	6	100	14	100	4	100	18	100	48	100

* Age was unknown for 1 child violent death in 2014.

Section VII: Undetermined Intent

The NC-VDRS defines an undetermined intent death as a death with some evidence of intent but without enough information to definitively classify the death as purposeful. **Table 43** provides the characteristics of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2014 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2014, 52 undetermined intent deaths (0.5 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Males had an undetermined death rate of 2.2 times that of females (0.7 versus 0.3 per 100,000).
- NH whites accounted for 82.7 percent of undetermined intent victims.
- The majority (86.5%) of undetermined intent death victims was among those ages 20 to 64, and the highest undetermined intent death rate by age group was among those 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 years (1.0 per 100,000).

Table 44 summarizes the method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2014.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (69.2%) and firearm (13.5%).
- A handgun was involved in all seven undetermined intent firearm deaths that occurred in North Carolina in 2014.
- Multiple firearm types were not reported for any undetermined intent fatalities in 2014. Therefore, the total number of firearms equals the number of undetermined intent firearm deaths.

Table 45 provides the number of undetermined intent deaths in 2014 by North Carolina County of residence.

**Table 43: Demographics of Undetermined Intent Death Victims
in North Carolina, 2014**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	17	32.7%	0.3	0.2 - 0.5
	Male	35	67.3%	0.7	0.5 - 1.0
Race					
	White**	43	82.7%	0.7	0.5 - 0.9
	Black**	7	13.5%	0.3	0.1 - 0.6
	Asian**	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	American Indian**	2	3.8%	*	*
	Hispanic	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
Age Group (Years)					
	<1	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	1 - 4	1	1.9	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	10 - 14	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	15 - 19	1	1.9	*	*
	20 - 24	5	9.6	0.7	0.1 - 1.3
	25 - 34	7	13.5	0.5	0.1 - 0.9
	35 - 44	13	25.0	1.0	0.5 - 1.5
	45 - 54	14	26.9	1.0	0.5 - 1.6
	55 - 64	6	11.5	0.5	0.1 - 0.9
	65 - 74	4	7.7	*	*
	75 - 84	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0
	85+	1	1.9	*	*
Total Deaths		52	100.0	0.5	0.4 - 0.7

Sex, race/ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 North Carolina population

95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** Non-Hispanic

**Table 44: Method of Undetermined Intent Deaths
in North Carolina, 2014**

		Number	%
Method of Death			
	Poisoning	36	69.2
	Firearm	7	13.5
	Blunt Instrument	1	1.9
	Drowning	1	1.9
	Fire or Burns	1	1.9
	Motor Vehicle	1	1.9
	Personal weapons	1	1.9
	Sharp Instrument	1	1.9
	Other	2	3.8
	Unknown	1	1.9
Total Deaths		52	100

**Table 45: Undetermined Intent Deaths by County of Residence
in North Carolina, 2014**

	Number		Number		Number
County		County		County	
Alamance	1	Guilford	1	Richmond	1
Alexander	1	Halifax	1	Robeson	2
Bladen	1	Johnston	1	Rowan	1
Buncombe	2	Jones	1	Sampson	2
Burke	2	Macon	1	Scotland	1
Catawba	1	Martin	1	Stokes	2
Chatham	1	Mecklenburg	4	Union	1
Craven	1	New Hanover	1	Vance	1
Cumberland	1	Onslow	2	Wake	3
Currituck	1	Pasquotank	1	Warren	1
Dare	1	Person	1	Watauga	1
Durham	1	Pitt	1		
Forsyth	4	Randolph	1		

Section VIII: Violent Death Trend Over Time

Table 46 shows the number and the rate of violent deaths over time in North Carolina from 2004 to 2014 including overall violent deaths, suicides for people ages 10 or older and homicides. **Figure 23** plots the overall violent death, suicide and homicide rates in North Carolina from 2004 to 2014.

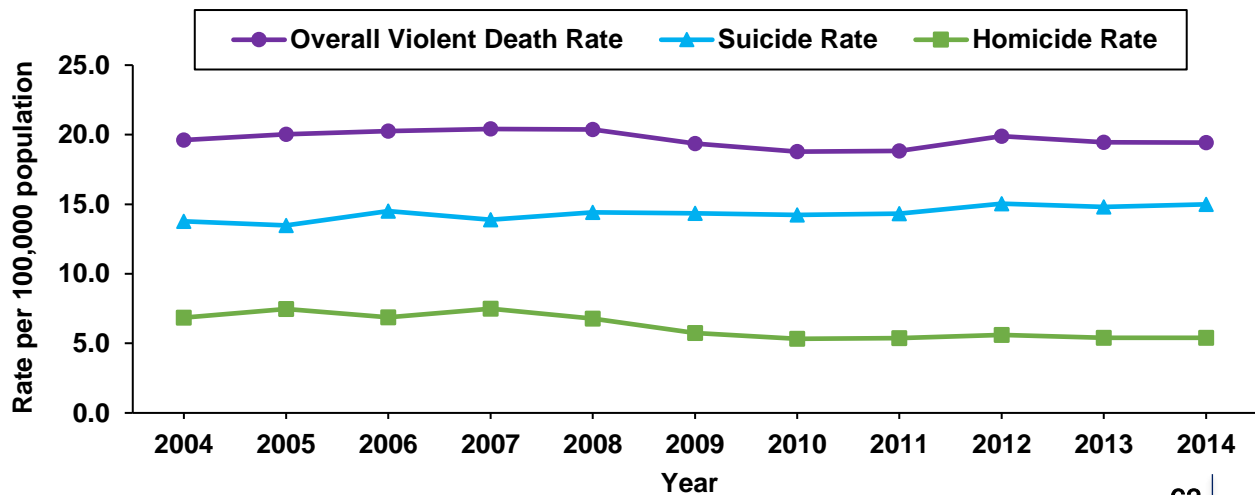
Key Findings:

- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina has remained fairly stable from 2004 (19.6 per 100,000) to 2014 (19.4 per 100,000), with a slight peak during 2007 and 2008 (20.4 per 100,000).
- From 2004 to 2014 in North Carolina, the death rates were stable for suicides (range of 13.5 to 15.0 per 100,000 by year) and homicides (range of 5.3 to 7.5 per 100,000 by year).

Table 46: Trend in Violent Deaths Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2014

Year	Overall Violent Deaths		Suicides (Age 10+)		Homicides	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2004	1,674	19.6	1,017	13.8	585	6.9
2005	1,737	20.0	1,010	13.5	647	7.5
2006	1,797	20.3	1,111	14.5	609	6.9
2007	1,850	20.4	1,085	13.9	679	7.5
2008	1,885	20.4	1,148	14.4	628	6.8
2009	1,817	19.4	1,158	14.3	540	5.8
2010	1,791	18.8	1,177	14.2	508	5.3
2011	1,819	18.8	1,202	14.3	519	5.4
2012	1,941	19.9	1,277	15.0	547	5.6
2013	1,916	19.5	1,273	14.8	532	5.4
2014	1,932	19.4	1,303	15.0	536	5.4

Figure 23: Trend in Violent Death Rate Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2014



Appendix A: Population Data for Rate Calculations

Appendix A: North Carolina Population Data in 2014 for Rate Calculations			
	Number of Total Population	Number of People Ages 10 or Older (for Suicide Rates)	Number of Children (Age Less than 18)
Sex			
Female	5,099,371	4,486,170	5,099,371
Male	4,844,593	4,205,423	1,166,773
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian*	119,671	103,180	30,852
Asian*	280,626	238,672	73,050
Black*	2,190,093	1,880,999	567,520
Hispanic	894,276	682,634	346,528
White*	6,459,298	5,786,108	1,269,599
Age Group (Years)			
< 1	119,904	--	119,904
1 - 4	487,572	--	487,572
5 - 9	644,895	--	644,895
10 - 14	651,864	651,864	651,864
15 - 19	652,941	652,941	383,314
20 - 24	718,261	718,261	--
25 - 34	1,292,250	1,292,250	--
35 - 44	1,302,758	1,302,758	--
45 - 54	1,367,565	1,367,565	--
55 - 64	1,242,592	1,242,592	--
65 - 74	867,783	867,783	--
75 - 84	425,197	425,197	--
85 +	170,382	170,382	--
Total Population	9,943,964	8,691,593	2,287,549

* Non-Hispanic

Appendix B: Advisory Board

The list of advisory board members below represents the membership and their positions during the year of this report and during the data collection close-out period (2011-2014).

NC-VDRS Advisory Board

Steering Committee:

Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Stephen Marshall, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Core Faculty of Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Anna E. Waller, ScD

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Phillip Graham, DrPH, MPH

Public Health Researcher, RTI International

Peggy Goodman, MD

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Gayle Harris

Director, Durham County Department of Public Health

Elizabeth Hudgins

Executive Director, Child Fatality Task Force

Amy Ising

Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Kathleen Jones-Vessey
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N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Larry Smith
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North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Marcia Owen
Community Volunteer, Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham

Timothy Parker
N.C. State Bureau of Investigation

Deborah Radisch, MD
Chief Medical Examiner, Office of Chief Medical Examiner
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Rebecca Reyes
Latino Health Project Coordinator, Duke University

Joel Rosch, PhD
Senior Research Scholar, Child and Health Policy Initiative,
Center for Child and Family Policy, Terry Sanford Institute, Duke University

Kristen Rosselli
Community Services Director, City of Raleigh

Stephania Sidberry
Public Health Program Coordinator, Division of Public Health,
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Mike Smith
Director, Durham County Emergency Medical Services

Kevin Strom
Public Health Researcher, RTI International

Appendix C: Glossary

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was younger than 18 years of age on date of death.
Homicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. In North Carolina, legal intervention includes legal executions.
NVDRS	National Violent Death Reporting System
NC-VDRS	North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System
Occurrent death	Death occurred in North Carolina during the specified time frame. Decedent may or may not have been a resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as number of deaths x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a North Carolina resident at the time of death and the death occurred in North Carolina. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Suicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for people age 10 or older.
Unintentional firearm	A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and from a shooting that was not directed intentionally at the decedent.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Intentional deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides and legal interventions.



Public Health
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

North Carolina
Injury & Violence 
 PREVENTION Branch

State of North Carolina • Roy Cooper, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services • Mandy Cohen, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Kelly Kimple, M.D., State Health Director
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North Carolina Violent Death



Reporting System

North Carolina Division of Public Health

VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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