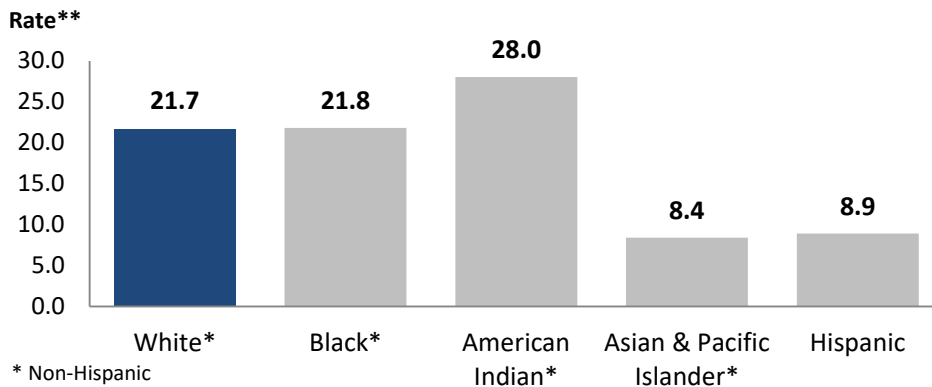# VIOLENT DEATHS AMONG NON-HISPANIC WHITE RESIDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2010-2019
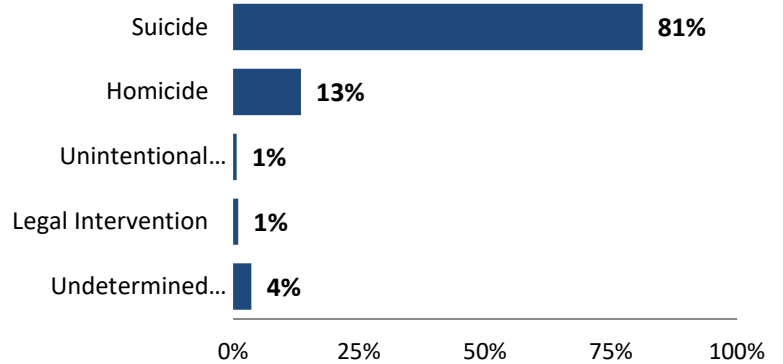
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS triangulates information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. For more information, please visit https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

Violent Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity: NC-VDRS, 2010-2019

Rate**

White* 21.7
Black* 21.8
American Indian* 28.0
Asian & Pacific Islander* 8.4
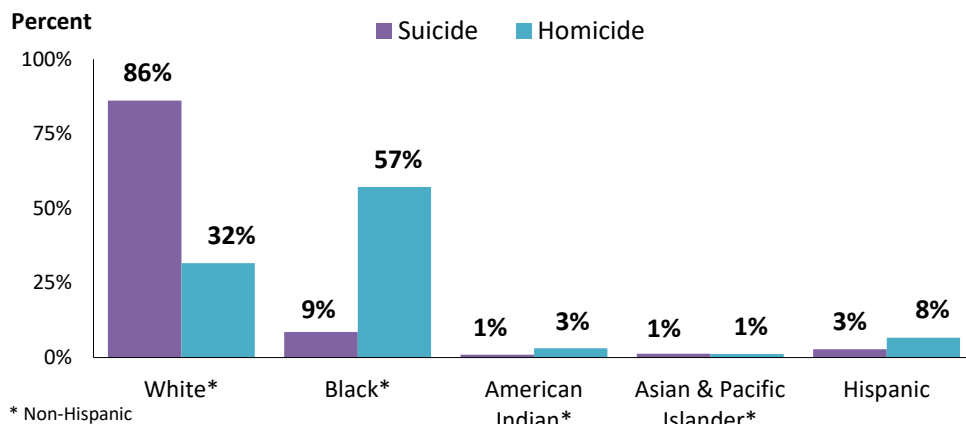Hispanic 8.9

* Non-Hispanic
** Rate per 100,000 population

• For the year 2019, there were 6,668,532 non-Hispanic (NH) white residents living in North Carolina, accounting for 63.6% of the state's population.

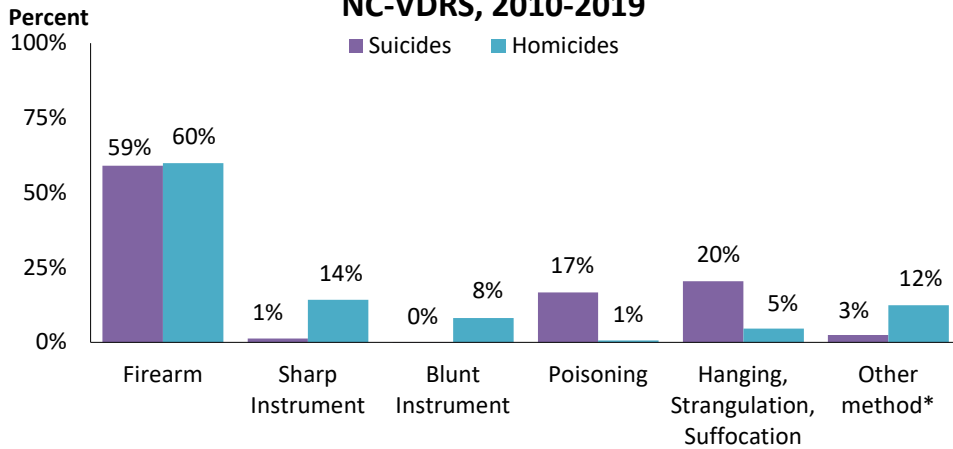• NH white victims had the third highest rate of violent death by race in North Carolina (21.7 per 100,000

• From 2010 to 2019, 14,102 NH white residents in North Carolina died by violence.

• There were 1,897 homicides (13.5%), 11,459 suicides (81.3%), 96 unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%), 141 deaths due to legal interventions (1.0%), and 509 deaths of undetermined intent (3.6%) among NH white residents.

• Male NH White residents were more likely to die by violence than females from 2010 to 2019 (73.6% versus 26.4%).

Manner of Death Among NH White Victims: NC-VDRS 2010-2019

Suicide 81%
Homicide 13%
Unintentional… 1%
Legal Intervention 1%
Undetermined… 4%

Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: NC-VDRS, 2010-2019

Percent

Suicide ■ Homicide ■

White* — Suicide 86%, Homicide 32%
Black* — Suicide 9%, Homicide 57%
American Indian* — Suicide 1%, Homicide 3%
Asian & Pacific Islander* — Suicide 1%, Homicide 1%
Hispanic — Suicide 3%, Homicide 8%

* Non-Hispanic

• NH white victims accounted for 31.7% of all homicides and 86.2% of all suicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2010 to 2019.

• In contrast, NH Black victims accounted for 57.2% of all homicides and 8.6% of all suicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2010 to 2019.

Method of Death Among NH White Victims: NC-VDRS, 2010-2019

Percent

Legend: Suicides (purple), Homicides (teal)

Method	Suicides	Homicides
Firearm	59%	60%
Sharp Instrument	1%	14%
Blunt Instrument	0%	8%
Poisoning	17%	1%
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	20%	5%
Other method*	3%	12%

• The majority of homicides (59.9%) and suicides (59.0%) among NH white victims involved firearms.

• The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (14.2%).

• The second most common method of suicide was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (20.4%).

*Other includes fire/burns, falls, intentional neglect, personal weapons and other methods.

• Of all homicides among NH white victims with known circumstance information, over one-third (42.6%) involved an argument or conflict.

• Another serious crime (e.g., robbery, burglary) precipitated 32.8% of homicides among NH white victims.
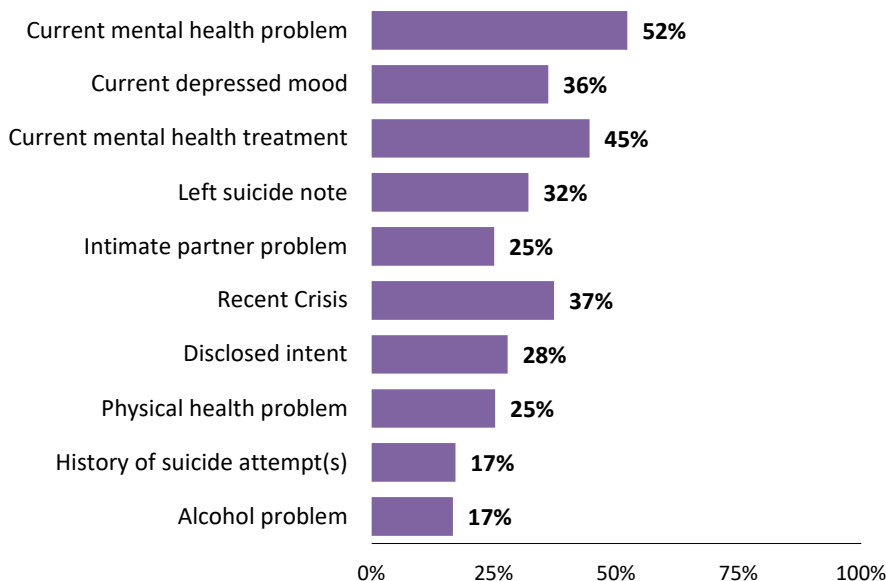
• Of these homicides, 28.5% involved intimate partner violence.

Homicide Circumstances* Among NH White Victims: NC-VDRS, 2010-2019

Circumstance	Percent
Argument or conflict	43%
Precipitated by another crime	33%
Intimate partner violence	28%
Drug involvement	13%
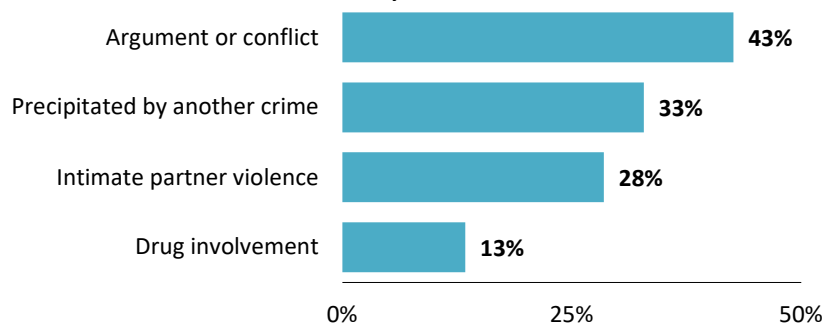
* Ninety-four percent (94.0%) of homicide cases had circumstance information.

Suicide Circumstances* Among NH White Victims: NC-VDRS, 2010-2019

Circumstance	Percent
Current mental health problem	52%
Current depressed mood	36%
Current mental health treatment	45%
Left suicide note	32%
Intimate partner problem	25%
Recent Crisis	37%
Disclosed intent	28%
Physical health problem	25%
History of suicide attempt(s)	17%
Alcohol problem	17%

* Ninety-six percent (95.7%) of suicide cases had circumstance information.

• Among NH white suicide victims with known circumstance information, 52.2% were characterized as having a current mental health problem and 36.1% were characterized as being depressed at the time of suicide.

• More than one-third (37.3%) of NH white suicide victims experienced a recent crisis.

• Thirty-two percent (32.0%) of NH white suicide victims left a suicide note and 27.8% disclosed their intent to complete suicide.

• Twenty-five percent (25.1%) of NH white suicide victims experienced a recent problem with an intimate partner.

NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH
NC VDRS
REPORTING SYSTEM