CHILD VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes child violent deaths among North Carolina residents for the year 2009.

- In 2009, there were a total of 82 violent deaths to North Carolina children between the ages of zero and seventeen.

- There were 38 homicides (46%), 35 suicides (43%), two unintentional firearm deaths (2%), and seven deaths for which the Medical Examiner’s Office could not determine the manner of death (9%).

- Most of the child victims were male (68%); only 32 percent were female.

- Whites accounted for the greatest percent of deaths (63%), but black children had a higher rate of violent death: 5.8 per 100,000 N.C. population vs. 3.9 per 100,000 for white children and 3.8 per 100,000 for children of other races.
Firearms were involved in nearly half of all violent deaths (48%). This percentage was propelled by the large number of firearm related deaths (33) in the 15-17 age group.

Hanging was the second most common cause of violent death in children (17%).

Physical abuse (unarmed assault, violent shaking & intentional neglect) was the most common cause of death in young children (<1-4 years), while firearms were the most common method of death in older children (10-17 years).

The highest child violent death rate occurred in the 15-17 year age group (12.7 deaths per 100,000 N.C. population).

Children less than one year of age had the second highest rate of violent deaths (7.6 per 100,000 N.C. population).

More information on child violence prevention can be found at:

**State Resource Partners**

**North Carolina Division of Social Services: Child Protective Services**

Contact: (919) 733-4622

www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/cps/

**National Resources**

**Children's Bureau**

Contact: Carlis Williams (404) 562-2900

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb

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