

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death
Reporting System

Annual Report
2012

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

North Carolina Violent Death



**Annual Report
2012**

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, 2012

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 2012.

Overall Violent Deaths

In 2012, 1,941 North Carolina residents (19.9 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. The leading causes of violent death were suicide (65.8%) and homicide (28.2%) (Figure i). Leading methods of violent death were firearm (58.8%), poisoning (15.1%), and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.8%). The most common firearms involved in violent firearm deaths were handguns (71.5%), shotguns (15.4%), and rifles (8.8%).

Males were 3.1 times as likely to die from violence as women (30.5 vs. 9.8 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure ii). The violent death rates per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race were white (21.0), black (17.7), American Indian (15.6), and Asian (10.5). Non-Hispanics had a higher death rate than Hispanics (21.0 vs. 8.1 per 100,000, respectively).

Adults from ages 20 to 54 years had the highest violent death rates by age per 100,000 as follows: ages 20 to 24 (30.0), ages 45 to 54 (29.2), ages 25 to 34 (28.5), ages 55 to 64 (23.3), and ages 35 to 44 (23.2). 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, 2012

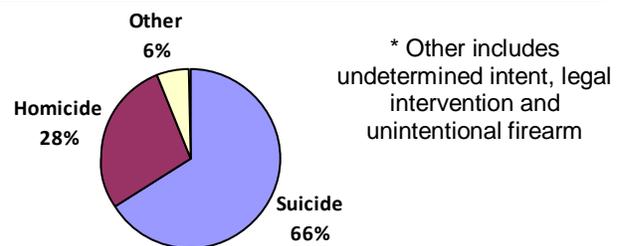


Figure ii: Overall Violent Death Rates by Sex and Race and Ethnicity in N.C. 2012

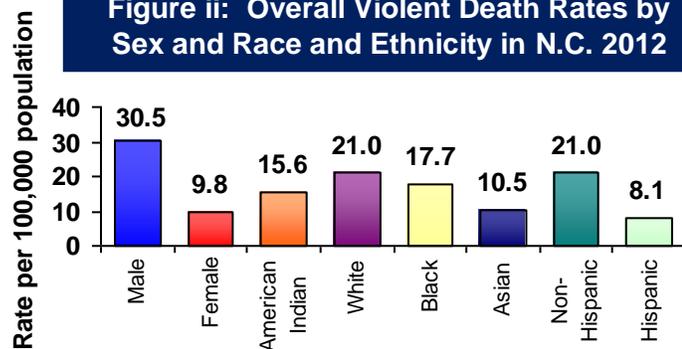
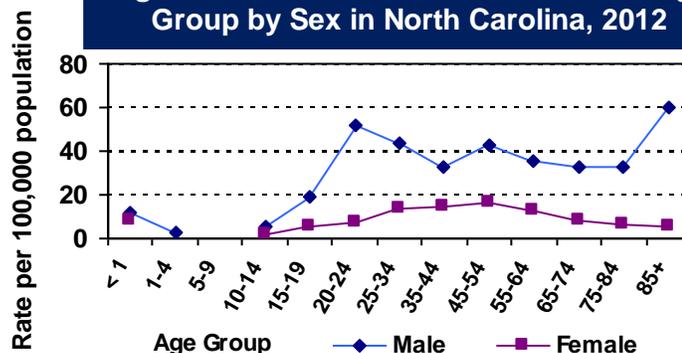


Figure iii: Overall Violent Death Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



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 1,277 North Carolinians (15.0 per 100,000) in 2012. Suicides were most commonly completed by a firearm (55.0%), poisoning (20.3%), and hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (20.1%). A handgun was the most common firearm, involved in 72.1 percent of suicide firearm deaths. Pharmaceuticals were the most common poison, used in 50.3 percent of suicide poisoning deaths.

Men were 3.0 times more likely to die from suicide than women (23.0 vs. 7.6 per 100,000, respectively; Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 73.8 percent were male and 91.3 percent were white. The suicide rate per 100,000 was highest in whites (18.7) and lower in American Indians (5.2), Asians (9.0), and blacks (4.4). The suicide rate was 4.5 times higher in non-Hispanics than in Hispanics (16.0 vs. 3.6 per 100,000, respectively).

The age group with the highest suicide rate was 45 to 54 years (22.5 per 100,000). Although the suicide rate was higher for men than women for all age groups, men aged 75 to 84 years were 7.1 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 (54.5%), current treatment for mental illness (54.4%), ever treated for mental illness (50.3%), and current depressed mood (31.9%). Most (80.8%) with a current mental health problem had depression. Other common circumstances of suicide were problems with an intimate partner (27.1%), physical health problem (23.5%), other substance abuse problem (17.5%), and an alcohol problem (15.6%). Of the 86.7 percent of suicide victims tested, 29.5 percent had alcohol present at the time of death. Most (80.4%) injuries resulting in suicide occurred in a house or apartment.

Figure iv: Suicide Rates by Sex and Race in North Carolina, 2012

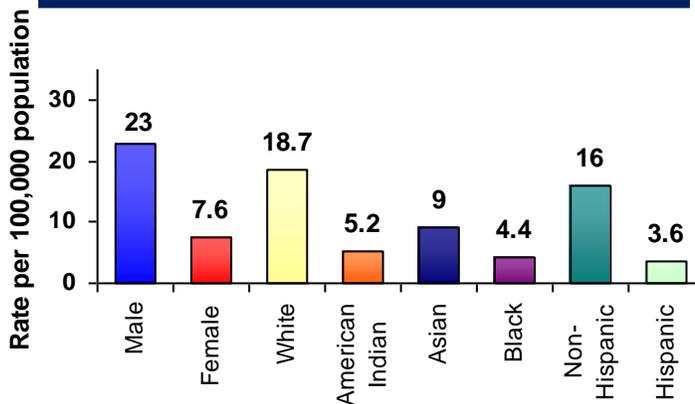
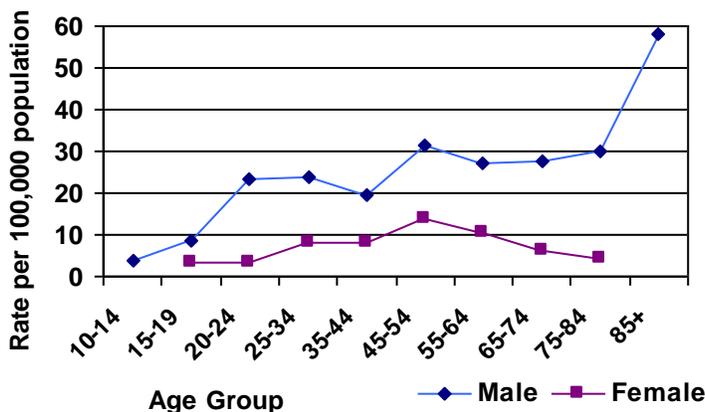


Figure v: Suicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



Note: The number of suicides for females ages 10-14 and 85+ were too small to support a rate calculation.

Homicides

A total of 547 North Carolinians (5.6 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2012. Firearm (71.3%) and sharp instrument (10.8%) were the most common homicide methods. Handguns were the most common firearm and used in 72.6 percent of homicide firearm deaths.

Men accounted for 77.7 percent of homicide victims and were 3.7 times more likely to die from homicide than women (8.9 vs. 2.4 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates per 100,000 were higher in blacks (12.6 per 100,000) and American Indians (11.2 per 100,000) than in Asians (2.6 per 100,000) and whites (3.4 per 100,000). Hispanics were less likely to be a homicide victim compared to non-Hispanics (4.8 vs. 5.6 per 100,000, respectively).

Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest in the following age groups: 20 to 24 years (14.6 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (10.7 per 100,000), and infants less than 1 (9.1 per 100,000). Males had a higher homicide rate for all age groups. (Figure vii). Among 20 to 24 year olds, the homicide rate was 9.8 times greater among males than females.

The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (46.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (34.9%), gang related (29.1%), and intimate partner violence related (21.1%). The most common crimes that precipitated homicide were robbery (46.7%), burglary (34.9%), drug trade (17.8%), and assault (4.7%). Homicides occurred most often in a house or apartment (60.1%) or a street, road, sidewalk, or alley (9.5%).

Legal Intervention

Twenty two North Carolina residents died in 2012 from legal intervention. These victims were killed by police or other law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty. One hundred percent of legal intervention victims were male, and all victims were from 20 to 64 years of age. Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (90.9%), primarily a handgun (72.7%).

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

In 2012, 18 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 shotgun (33.3%) followed by a handgun (27.8%) and a rifle (27.8%).

Figure vi: Homicide Rates by Sex and Race in North Carolina, 2012

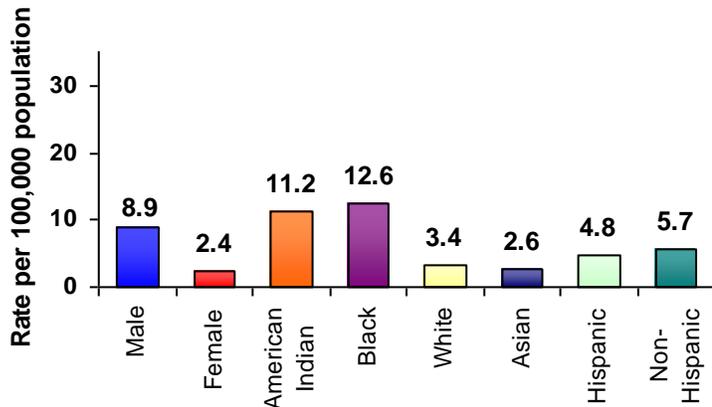
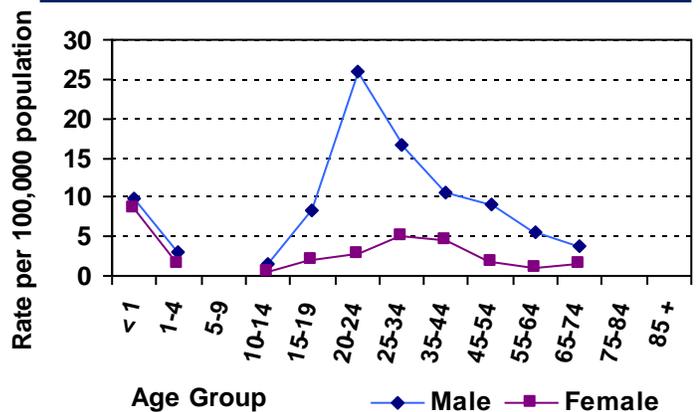


Figure vii: Homicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



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

Child Violent Deaths

In North Carolina in 2012, 88 children (3.8 per 100,000) died from violence. Homicide (54.6%) and suicide (39.8%) were the leading causes of child violent death. Firearm (40.9%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (25.0%), and personal weapons (18.2%) were common methods of child death.

Male children were 2.6 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (5.5 vs. 2.1 per 100,000, respectively). The violent death rate per 100,000 was 1.5 times higher for black children (5.1) as for white children (3.5).

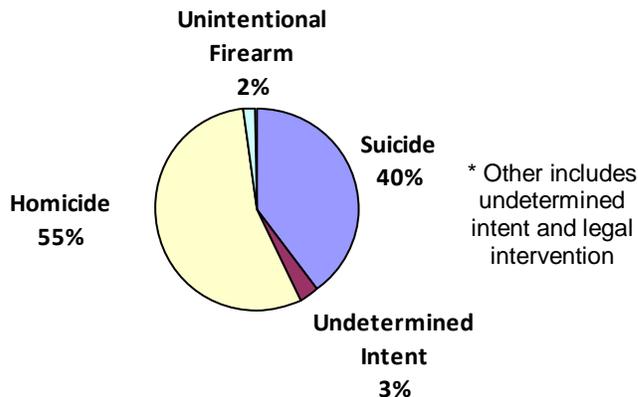
Undetermined Intent

A total of 74 deaths of undetermined intent (0.8 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2012. The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (46.0%) and firearm (13.5%).

Violent Death Over Time

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained fairly stable from 2004 to 2012, averaging 19.7 per year. The overall violent death rate was 19.6 in 2004, 20.4 in 2008, and 19.9 in 2012.

Figure viii: Manner of Violent Death among Children in North Carolina, 2012



Introduction

Violence-related injuries are among the leading causes of death in the United States. Each year, there are more than 40,600 suicides and 16,688 homicides nationwide, many of which are preventable. In North Carolina, more than 15,432 residents died from suicide or homicide in the nine-year period from 2004 to 2012. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state’s 11th and 15th leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. In North Carolina in 2012, suicide was the second leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 14 and for adults ages 25 to 34. Suicide was the third leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death for adults ages 35 to 54. Homicide was the state’s second leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 24, the third leading cause of death from adults ages 25 to 34, and the fourth leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4 and ages 10 to 14. In addition, violent death rates show disparities by sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity. For males in North Carolina in 2012, suicide was the seventh leading cause of death. Homicide was the ninth leading cause of death in American Indians, and suicide was the ninth leading cause of death in whites in North Carolina in 2012. Among Hispanics in North Carolina, homicide was the fifth leading cause of death in 2012.

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 2014, the CDC awarded funding to expand the NVDRS system from 18 to 32 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, 2012, to December 31, 2012. The 2012 data file used for this report was generated in October 2014. Note that if changes are made to the 2012 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2012 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 2012. 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, Hispanic/non-Hispanic ethnicity, years of completed education, marital status and North Carolina county. Note that since race and Hispanic/non-Hispanic ethnicity are separate demographic characteristics, race categories include both Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

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 2012) 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=1,819).
- **Occurrent deaths** capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent (N=1,859).

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 (less 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 less 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.

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 5U17CE423098-10. 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:

Aberdeen Police Department	Iredell County Sheriff	Burlington Police Department
Conway Police Department	Avery County Sheriff	Franklin Police Department
Henderson County Sheriff	Durham County Sheriff	Lillington Police Department
Ahoskie Police Department	Jacksonville Police Department	Butner Public Safety
Cornelius Police Department	Beaufort Police Department	Fuquay-Varina Police Dept.
Henderson Police Department	Durham Police Department	Lincoln County Sheriff
Alamance County Sheriff	Johnston County Sheriff	Cabarrus County Sheriff
Craven County Sheriff	Beaufort County Sheriff	Garner Police Department
Hendersonville Police Dept.	Eden Police Department	Lincolnton Police Department
Albemarle Police Department	Kannapolis Police Department	Caldwell County Sheriff
Cumberland County Sheriff	Benson Police Department	Gaston Co Police Department
Hertford County Sheriff	Edgecombe County Sheriff	Louisburg Police Department
Alexander County Sheriff	Kernersville Police Department	Carolina Beach Police Dept.
Currituck County Sheriff	Beulaville Police Department	Gaston County Sheriff
Hickory Police Department	Elizabeth City Police Dept.	Lumberton Police Department
Alleghany County Sheriff	Kings Mountain Police Dept.	Carrboro Police Department
Dare County Sheriff	Bischoe Police Department	Gastonia Police Department
High Point Police Department	Elizabethtown Police Dept.	Macon County Sheriff
Anson County Sheriff	Kings Police Department	Carteret County Sheriff
Davidson County Sheriff	Bladen County Sheriff	Gates County Sheriff
Highlands Police Department	Fairmont Police Department	Madison County Sheriff
Archdale Police Department	Kinston Public Safety	Caswell County Sheriff
Davie County Sheriff	Boone Police Department	Glen Alpine Police Department
Hillsborough Police Department	Farmville Police Department	Marion Police Department
Ashe County Sheriff	Laurinburg Police Department	Catawba County Sheriff
Dobson Police Department	Brevard Police Department	Goldsboro Police Department
Hoke County Sheriff	Fayetteville Police Department	Martin County Sheriff
Asheboro Police Department	Lee County Sheriff	Chadbourn Police Department
Drexel Police Department	Brunswick County Sheriff	Graham County Sheriff
Holden Beach Police Dept.	Forest City Police Department	Matthews Police Department
Asheville Police Department	Lenoir County Sheriff	Chapel Hill Police Department
Dunn Police Department	Buncombe County Sheriff	Granite Falls Police Department
Huntersville Police Department	Forsyth County Sheriff	Maxton Police Department
Atlantic Beach Police Dept.	Lenoir Police Department	Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Dept.
Duplin County Sheriff	Burke County Sheriff	Granville County Sheriff
	Franklin County Sheriff	McDowell County Sheriff
	Lexington Police Department	Chatham County Sheriff

Greene County Sheriff
 Mebane Police Department
 Cherokee County Sheriff
 Greensboro Police Department
 Mint Hill Police Department
 Cherryville Police Department
 Greenville Police Department
 Mitchell County Sheriff
 Chowan County Sheriff
 Guilford County Sheriff
 Mocksville Police Department
 Cleveland County Sheriff
 Halifax County Sheriff
 Monroe Police Department
 Clinton Police Department
 Harnett County Sheriff
 Montgomery County Sheriff
 Columbus County Sheriff
 Havelock Police Department
 Moore County Sheriff
 Concord Police Department
 Haywood County Sheriff
 Mooresville Police Department
 Morganton Police Department
 Robersonville Police Dept.
 Tabor City Police Department
 Morrisville Police Department
 Robeson County Sheriff
 Taylorsville Police Department
 Mount Airy Police Department
 Rockingham County Sheriff
 Thomasville Police Department
 Mount Olive Police Department
 Rockingham Police Department
 Transylvania Co SD
 Murphy Police Department
 Rockwell City Police Dept.
 Transylvania Police Department
 Nash Co Police Department
 Rocky Mount Police Dept.
 Trent Woods Police Department
 New Bern Police Department
 Rolesville Police Department
 Tryon Police Department
 New Hanover County Sheriff
 Rowan County Sheriff
 Union County Sheriff
 Newland Police Department
 Rowland Police Department
 Valdese Police Department

Newport Police Department
 Roxboro Police Department
 Vance County Sheriff
 North Wilkesboro Police Dept.
 Rutherford County Sheriff
 Wadesboro Police Department
 Northampton County Sheriff
 Salisbury Police Department
 Wake County Sheriff
 Oak Island Police Department
 Sampson County Sheriff
 Wallace Police Department
 Onslow County Sheriff
 Sanford Police Department
 Warren County Sheriff
 Orange County Sheriff
 Scotland County Sheriff
 Washington Police Department
 Oxford Police Department
 Selma Police Department
 Watauga County Sheriff
 Pamlico County Sheriff
 Sharpsburg Police Department
 Wayne County Sheriff
 Pasquotank County Sheriff
 Shelby Police Department
 Waynesville Police Department
 Pender County Sheriff
 Siler City Police Department
 Weaverville Police Department
 Perquimans County Sheriff
 Southern Pines Police Dept.
 West Jefferson Police Dept.
 Person County Sheriff
 Southport Police Department
 White Lake Police Department
 Pikeville Police Department
 Sparta Police Department
 Whiteville Police Department
 Pine Knoll Shores Police Dept.
 Spencer Police Department
 Wilkes County Sheriff
 Pineville Police Department
 Spindale Police Department
 Wilkesboro Police Department
 Pitt County Sheriff
 Stallings Police Department
 Williamston Police Department
 Polk County Sheriff
 Stanfield Police Department
 Wilmington Police Department
 Raleigh Police Department

Stanly County Sheriff
 Wilson County Sheriff
 Randolph County Sheriff
 Statesville Police Department
 Wilson Police Department
 Red Springs Police Department
 Stokes County Sheriff
 Winston Salem Police Dept.
 Richmond County Sheriff
 Sunset Beach Police Dept.
 Yadkin County Sheriff
 Roanoke Rapids Police Dept.
 Surry County Sheriff
 Yancey County Sheriff
 Robbins Police Department
 Swain County Sheriff
 Youngsville Police Department
 Camden Sheriff
 Cary Police Department
 Cherokee Indian Police Dept.
 Clay County Sheriff
 Columbus Police Department
 Duke University Police Dept.
 Elkin Police Department
 Graham Co Schools Special Police
 Graham Police Department
 Holly Ridge Police Department
 Holly Springs Police Department
 Knightdale Police Department
 Nash County Sheriff
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Cumberland
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Wake
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Guilford
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Union
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Pitt
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Catawba
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Buncombe
 N.C. State Highway Patrol-Stanly
 Oakboro Police Department
 Pilot Mountain Police Dept.
 Randleman Police Department
 Richlands Police Department
 Swansboro Police Department
 Troutman Police Department
 Warsaw 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 abstractor Susan Autry 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 2012 and the period of the data close-out (2012-2014), 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 2012 by demographic characteristics of sex, race, and age. The 2012 overall rate of violent deaths per 100,000 people in North Carolina is displayed in **Figure 1** by sex and race and in **Figure 2** by age group.

Key Findings:

- A total of 1,941 North Carolinians (19.9 per 100,000) died as a result of violence in 2012.
- Males were 3.1 times as likely to die from violence as females (30.5 vs. 9.8 per 100,000, respectively).
- Whites had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (21.0) followed by blacks (17.7), American Indians (15.6) and Asians (10.5).
- Non-Hispanics had a violent death rate of 21.0 per 100,000 and were 2.6 times as likely to die from violence as Hispanics (8.1 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 20 to 24 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (30.0), followed by adults ages 45 to 54 (29.2), ages 25 to 34 (28.5), ages 55 to 64 (23.3), and ages 35 to 44 (23.2).
- Among children under the age of 15, children less than one year had the highest violent death rate (10.0 per 100,000).

Table 2 lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2012. N.C. violent deaths in 2012 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 (65.8%) and homicide (28.2%).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (58.8%), poisoning (15.1%), and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.8%).
- The most common firearm involved in violent firearm deaths was a handgun (71.5%).

Table 4 characterizes adult violent death victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2012 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Most adult victims completed high school with 76.7 percent having 12 or more years of education.
- Adult violent death victims were most commonly married, in a civil union, or a domestic partnership (37.1%) or never married (35.0%) as compared to divorced (20.7%) or widowed (6.8%).
- Military veterans accounted for 16.4 percent of North Carolina adult violent death victims in 2012.

Table 5 and **Figure 5** show the overall violent death rates in 2012 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 11 counties was too small to support a rate calculation (greater than zero, but less than 5).

Key Findings:

- For the 89 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 20.0 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 80.5 deaths per 100,000.

Table 1: Demographics of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2012					
		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	489	25.2	9.8	8.9 – 10.6
	Male	1,452	74.8	30.5	29.0 – 32.1
Race					
	White	1,495	77.0	21.0	20.0 – 22.1
	Black	392	20.2	17.7	15.9 – 19.4
	Asian	28	1.4	10.5	6.6 – 14.4
	American Indian	25	1.3	15.6	9.5 – 21.6
	Other	1	0.05	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	69	3.6	8.1	6.2 – 10.0
	Non-Hispanic	1,871	96.4	21.0	20.1 – 22.0
Age Group (Years)					
	< 1	12	0.6	10.0	4.3 – 15.6
	1-4	12	0.6	2.4	1.0 – 3.8
	5-9	2	0.1	*	*
	10-14	23	1.2	3.5	2.1 – 5.0
	15 - 19	80	4.1	12.3	9.6 – 15.0
	20 - 24	209	10.8	30.0	25.9 – 34.0
	25 - 34	361	18.6	28.5	25.5 – 31.4
	35 - 44	304	15.7	23.2	20.6 – 25.8
	45 - 54	399	20.6	29.2	26.3 – 32.1
	55 - 64	280	14.4	23.3	20.6 – 26.1
	65 - 74	152	7.8	19.4	16.3 – 22.5
	75 - 84	71	3.7	17.5	13.4 – 21.6
	85 +	36	1.9	22.5	15.2 – 29.9
Total Deaths		1,941	100	19.9	19.0 – 20.8

Sex, race, Hispanic 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.

Figure 1: Crude Overall Violent Death Rates by Sex, Race and Hispanic Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2012

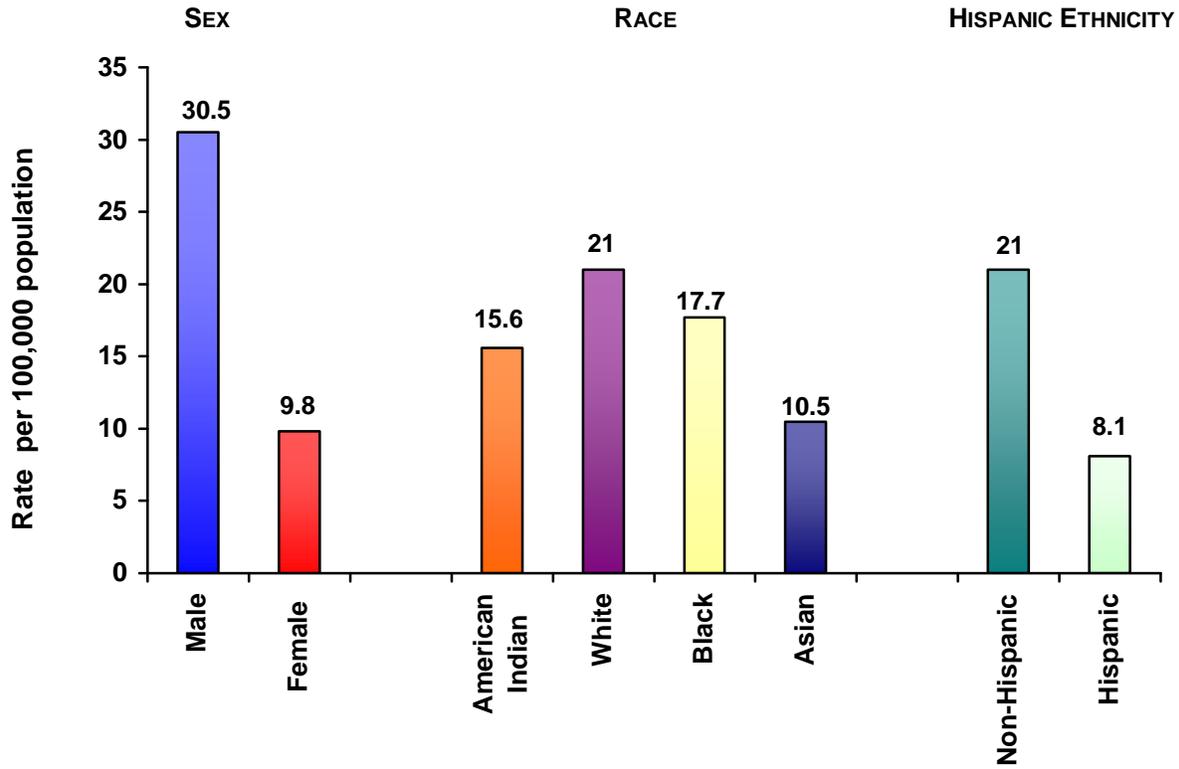
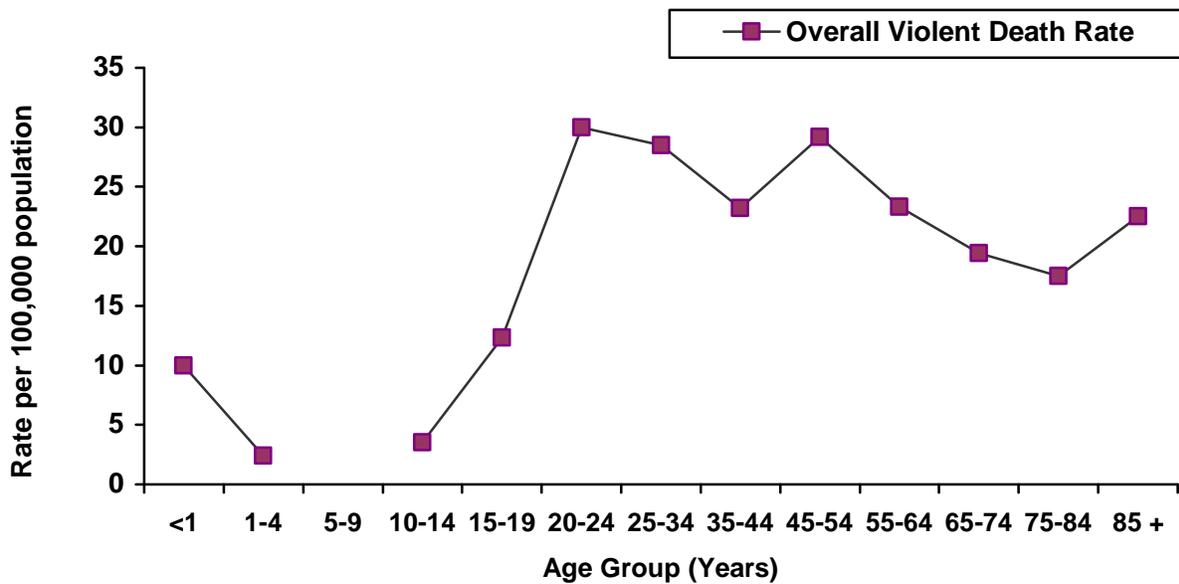


Figure 2: Age-Specific Crude Overall Violent Death Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2012



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, 2012**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	1,277	65.8
	Homicide	547	28.2
	Undetermined Intent	74	4.0
	Legal Intervention	22	1.1
	Unintentional Firearm	18	0.9
Method of Death			
	Firearm	1,142	58.8
	Poisoning	293	15.1
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	268	13.8
	Sharp Instrument	70	3.6
	Personal Weapons	37	1.9
	Blunt Instrument	29	1.5
	Drowning	16	0.8
	Fall	15	0.8
	Motor Vehicle	13	0.7
	Fire or Burns	11	0.6
	Other Transport Vehicle	8	0.4
	Violent Shaking	3	0.2
	Intentional Neglect	1	0.1
	Other	1	0.1
	Unknown/missing	34	1.8
Total Deaths		1,941	100

Figure 3: Manner of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2012

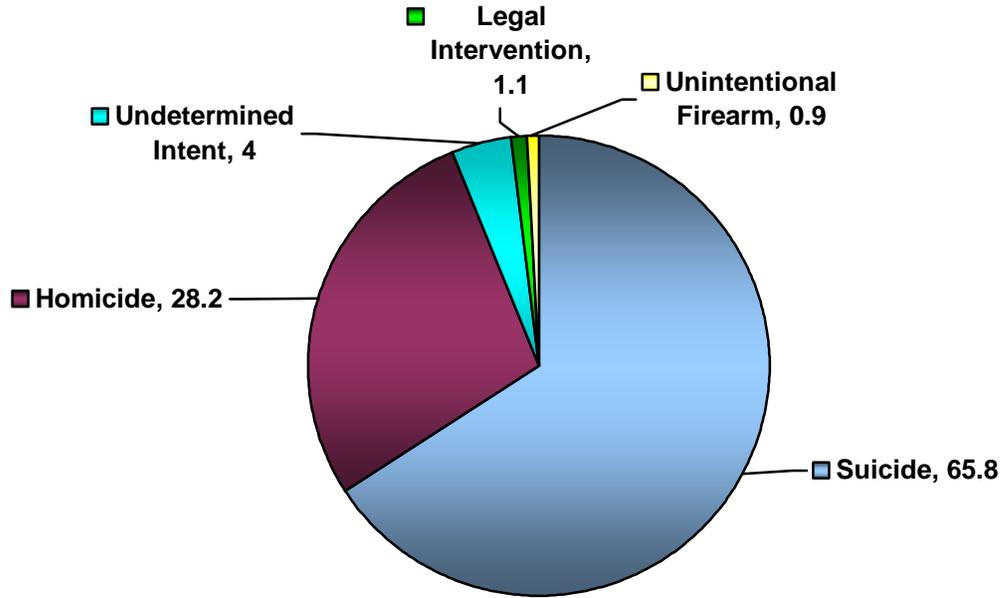
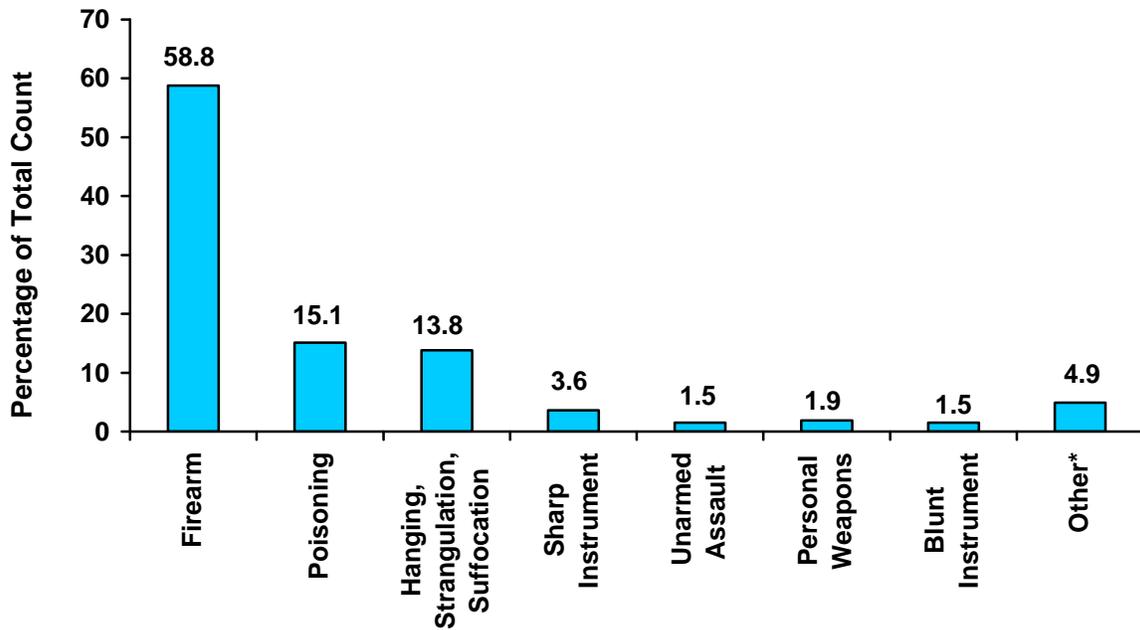


Figure 4: Method of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2012



* 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, 2012

		Number	%
Firearm Type			
	Handgun	815	71.5
	Shotgun	176	15.4
	Rifle	100	8.8
	Other	48	4.2
	Unknown Type	2	0.1
Total Firearm Deaths		1,142	100

Table 4: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Violent Death Victims (Ages 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%
Years of Completed Education			
	0 to 8 Years	97	5.2
	9 to 11 Years	311	16.8
	12 Years	753	40.6
	> 12 Years	669	36.1
	Unknown	23	1.2
Marital Status			
	Never Married	649	35.0
	Married*	687	37.1
	Divorced	384	20.7
	Widowed	125	6.8
	Married, but separated	3	0.2
	Unknown	5	0.3
Veteran Status			
	Non-Veteran	1,527	82.41
	Veteran	303	16.35
	Unknown	23	1.24
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)		1,853	100

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

Table 5: Overall Violent Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2012

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	34	22.1	Franklin	12	19.5	Pamlico	0	0.0
Alexander	12	32.6	Gaston	42	20.2	Pasquotank	3	*
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	1	*	Pender	10	18.5
Anson	6	22.8	Graham	7	80.5	Perquimans	6	44.2
Ashe	3	*	Granville	9	14.9	Person	5	12.7
Avery	6	34.0	Greene	4	*	Pitt	28	16.2
Beaufort	10	21.0	Guilford	95	19.0	Polk	3	*
Bertie	3	*	Halifax	10	18.5	Randolph	40	28.1
Bladen	7	20.0	Harnett	21	17.2	Richmond	14	30.0
Brunswick	28	24.9	Haywood	16	27.2	Robeson	51	37.6
Buncombe	53	21.7	Henderson	30	27.7	Rockingham	24	25.9
Burke	20	22.1	Hertford	7	28.6	Rowan	28	20.3
Cabarrus	36	19.5	Hoke	13	25.7	Rutherford	15	22.3
Caldwell	14	17.1	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	14	21.9
Camden	4	*	Iredell	20	12.3	Scotland	8	22.2
Carteret	19	28.1	Jackson	5	12.4	Stanly	16	26.4
Caswell	7	30.2	Johnston	24	13.7	Stokes	13	27.8
Catawba	49	31.7	Jones	3	*	Surry	17	23.1
Chatham	12	18.2	Lee	10	16.7	Swain	7	49.5
Cherokee	10	37.0	Lenoir	10	16.9	Transylvania	9	27.4
Chowan	0	0.0	Lincoln	19	24.0	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	2	*	Macon	13	38.4	Union	42	20.1
Cleveland	25	25.6	Madison	6	28.9	Vance	20	44.3
Columbus	14	24.3	Martin	6	25.0	Wake	108	11.3
Craven	22	21.0	McDowell	10	22.2	Warren	7	34.0
Cumberland	90	27.8	Mecklenburg	145	15.0	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	6	24.9	Mitchell	1	*	Watauga	10	19.3
Dare	9	26.0	Montgomery	5	18.1	Wayne	29	23.3
Davidson	25	15.3	Moore	24	26.6	Wilkes	11	15.9
Davie	10	24.1	Nash	23	24.0	Wilson	14	17.1
Duplin	13	21.7	New Hanover	55	26.3	Yadkin	8	21.0
Durham	46	16.4	Northampton	6	28.0	Yancey	5	28.4
Edgecombe	14	25.0	Onslow	39	21.3			
Forsyth	52	14.5	Orange	23	16.7			

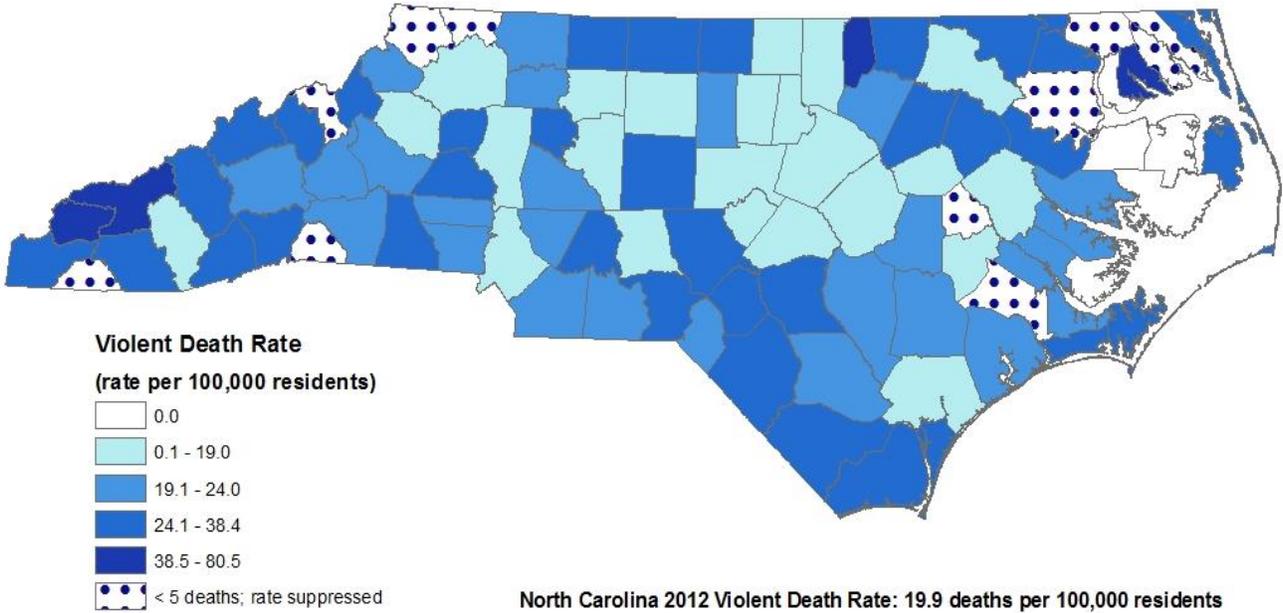
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

* 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 5: Map of Overall Violent Death Rates by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2012

Violent Death Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2012



Race and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 6 and **Figure 6** summarize the characteristics of violent death victims in North Carolina in 2012 stratified by race and sex.

Key Findings:

- Whites (77.0%) and males (74.8%) represented the majority of violent death victims, as shown in Table 1.
- Whites accounted for 74.2 percent of male violent death victims and 85.3 percent of female victims, while blacks comprised 23.0 percent of male victims and 4.9 percent of female victims.
- Among males, black men had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (32.0) followed by white men (30.8), Asian men (14.1), and American Indian men (14.6).
- Among females, white women had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (11.6) followed by Asian women (7.3) and black women (4.9).
- The violent death rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 6.5 times for blacks, 2.7 times for whites, and 1.9 times for Asians.

Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 7 stratifies the North Carolina violent death victims in 2012 by age group and sex. **Figure 7** illustrates the 2012 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

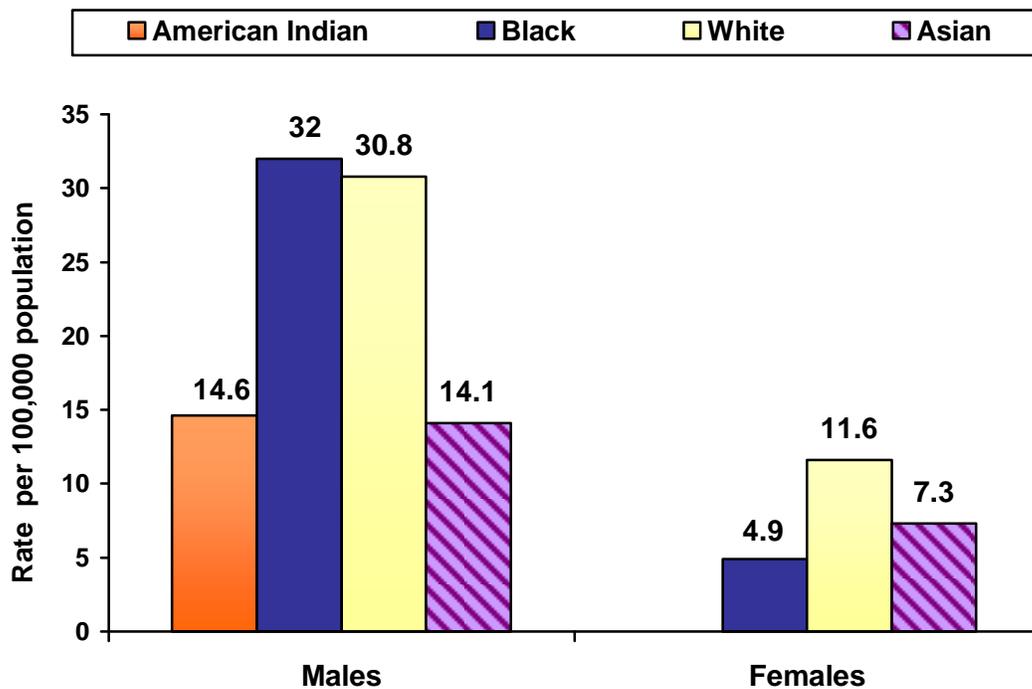
- Most male violent death victims were ages 45 to 54 (19.4%) years followed by males ages 25 to 34 (18.9%), 35 to 44 (14.5%), 55 to 64 (13.8%), 20 to 24 (12.7%), and 65 to 74 (8.2%).
- Among females, the majority of violent death victims were ages 45 to 54 (23.9%) years followed by females ages 35 to 44 (19.2%), 25 to 34 (17.8%), 55 to 64 (16.4%), 65 to 74 (6.7%), and 20 to 24 (4.9%).
- Among men, the violent death rate per 100,000 by age group was highest for ages 85 plus (60.3) followed by ages 20 to 24 years (51.6) and ages 25 to 34 years (43.7).
- For women, the violent death rate trend by age reached a peak of 16.7 per 100,000 for ages 45 to 54.
- Males were more likely to experience violent death than females by 11.1 times for ages 85 and older, 7.3 times for ages 20 to 24, 4.9 times for ages 75 to 84, and 4.2 times for ages 65 to 74.

Table 6: Race by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2012						
Race	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White	1,078	74.2	30.8	417	85.3	11.6
Black	334	23.0	32.0	58	11.9	4.9
Asian	18	1.2	14.1	10	2.0	7.3
American Indian	21	1.4	14.6	4	0.8	*
Other	1	0.1	*	0	0.0	*
Total Deaths	1,452	100	30.1	435	100	9.8

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.

Figure 6: Crude Overall Violent Death Rate Stratified by Race and Sex in North Carolina, 2012



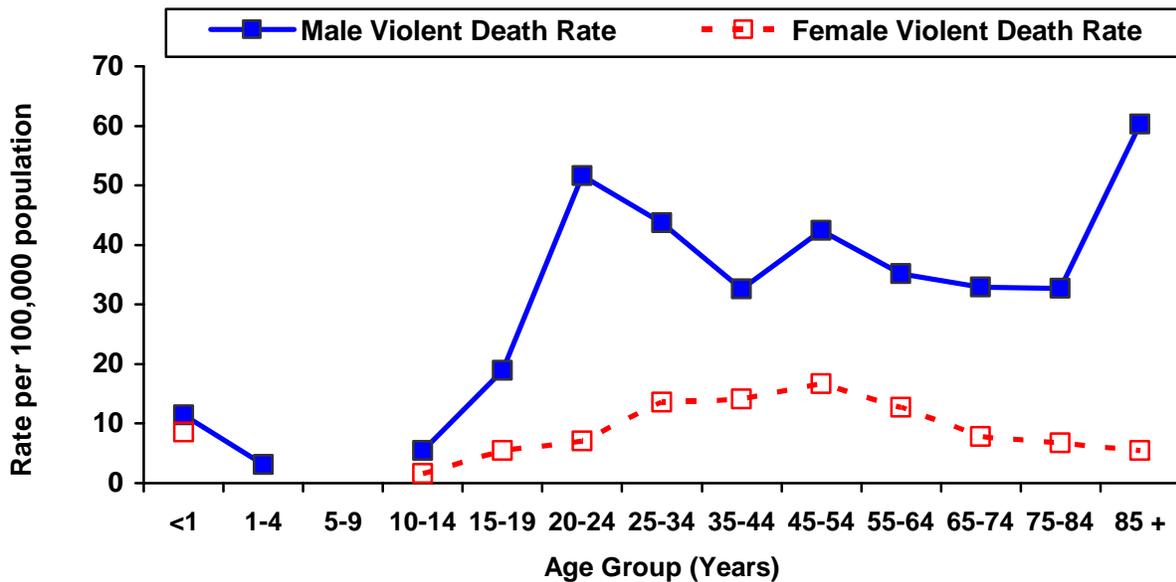
* The number of deaths for American Indian females was too small to support calculation of a rate.

Table 7: Age Group by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2012

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	7	0.5	11.4	5	1.0	8.5
1-4	8	0.6	3.1	4	0.8	*
5-9	1	0.1	*	1	0.2	*
10-14	18	1.2	5.4	5	1.0	1.6
15-19	63	4.3	18.9	17	3.5	5.4
20-24	185	12.7	51.6	24	4.9	7.1
25-34	274	18.9	43.7	87	17.8	13.6
35-44	210	14.5	32.6	94	19.2	14.1
45-54	282	19.4	42.4	117	23.9	16.7
55-64	200	13.8	35.2	80	16.4	12.7
65-74	119	8.2	32.9	33	6.7	7.8
75-84	55	3.8	32.7	16	3.3	6.7
85 +	30	2.1	60.3	6	1.2	5.4
Total Deaths	1,452	100	30.5	489	100	9.8

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 7: Age-Specific Crude Overall Violent Death Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex in North Carolina, 2012

Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females ages 1-4 and males and females ages 5-9.

Section II: Suicide

Basic Characteristics of Suicides

Table 8 describes suicides in 2012 for North Carolinians age 10 or older by demographic characteristics of sex, race, and age. The rate of suicide in North Carolina per 100,000 population in 2012 is illustrated by race and sex in **Figure 8** and by age group in **Figure 9**.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, a total of 1,277 North Carolinians (15.0 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 3.0 times as likely to die from suicide as females (23.0 vs. 7.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- Whites had the highest suicide rate (18.7 per 100,000) followed by Asians (9.0 per 100,000), American Indians (5.2 per 100,000), and blacks (4.4 per 100,000).
- Non-Hispanics were 4.5 as likely to die from suicide as Hispanics (16 vs. 3.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- Adults age 45 to 54 had the highest rate of suicide (22.5 per 100,000) followed by adults ages 85 or older (18.8 per 100,000) and adults ages 55 to 64 (18.4 per 100,000).

Table 9 and **Figure 10** summarize the method of death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 10** shows the type of firearm used for suicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 11** lists the type of poison used for suicide poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of suicide were firearm (55.0%), poisoning (20.3%), and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (20.1%).
- Men more often died from suicide by a firearm (62.6%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (21.9%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (11.5%).
- Women more commonly completed suicide by poisoning (45.2%) or firearm (33.5%) compared to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (15%).
- Considering only suicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used in 72.1 percent of all deaths, 69.0 percent of male deaths and 88.4 percent of female deaths.
- For suicide poisoning deaths only, prescription pharmaceuticals were the most common poison in 50.3 percent of all deaths, 32.5 percent of male deaths and 71.3 percent of female deaths.

Table 12 characterizes adult suicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina in 2012 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- The majority (81.2%) of adult suicide victims had 12 or more years of education.
- Suicide victims were most often married, in a civil union or domestic partnership (42.2%) and less frequently never married (26.5%), divorced (23.4%), or widowed (7.4%).

- Military veterans accounted for 19.7 percent of suicide victims

Table 13 and **Figure 11** show the suicide rates in 2012 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 26 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Furthermore, county suicide rates are influenced by small populations with 10 of the 20 counties with the highest suicide rates having less than 50,000 residents in 2012.

Key Findings:

- For the 74 counties where the number of suicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average suicide rate by North Carolina county of residence was 15.3 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 64.9 deaths per 100,000.

Table 8: Demographics of Suicide Victims (Ages 10 or Older) in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	334	26.1	7.6	6.8 – 8.4
	Male	943	73.8	23.0	21.5 – 24.4
Race					
	White	1,166	91.3	18.7	17.6 – 19.7
	Black	83	6.5	4.4	3.5 – 5.3
	Asian	20	1.6	9.0	5.0 – 12.9
	American Indian	7	0.6	5.2	1.4 – 9.1
	Other	1	0.1	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	23	1.8	3.6	2.1 – 5.0
	Non-Hispanic	1,254	98.2	16	15.1 – 16.9
Age Group (Years)					
	10 - 14	15	1.2	2.3	1.1 – 3.5
	15 - 19	40	3.1	6.1	4.2 – 8.1
	20 - 24	96	7.5	13.8	11.0 – 16.5
	25 - 34	201	15.7	15.9	13.7 – 18.1
	35 - 44	180	14.1	13.7	11.7 – 15.7
	45 - 54	307	24.0	22.5	20.0 – 25.0
	55 - 64	221	17.3	18.4	16.0 – 20.9
	65 - 74	127	10.0	16.2	13.4 – 19.1
	75 - 84	60	4.7	14.8	11.0 – 18.5
	85 +	30	2.4	18.8	12.1 – 25.5
Total Deaths		1,277	100	15.0	15.0 – 15.0

Sex, race, Hispanic 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

Figure 8: Crude Suicide Rates by Sex, Race and Hispanic Ethnicity for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

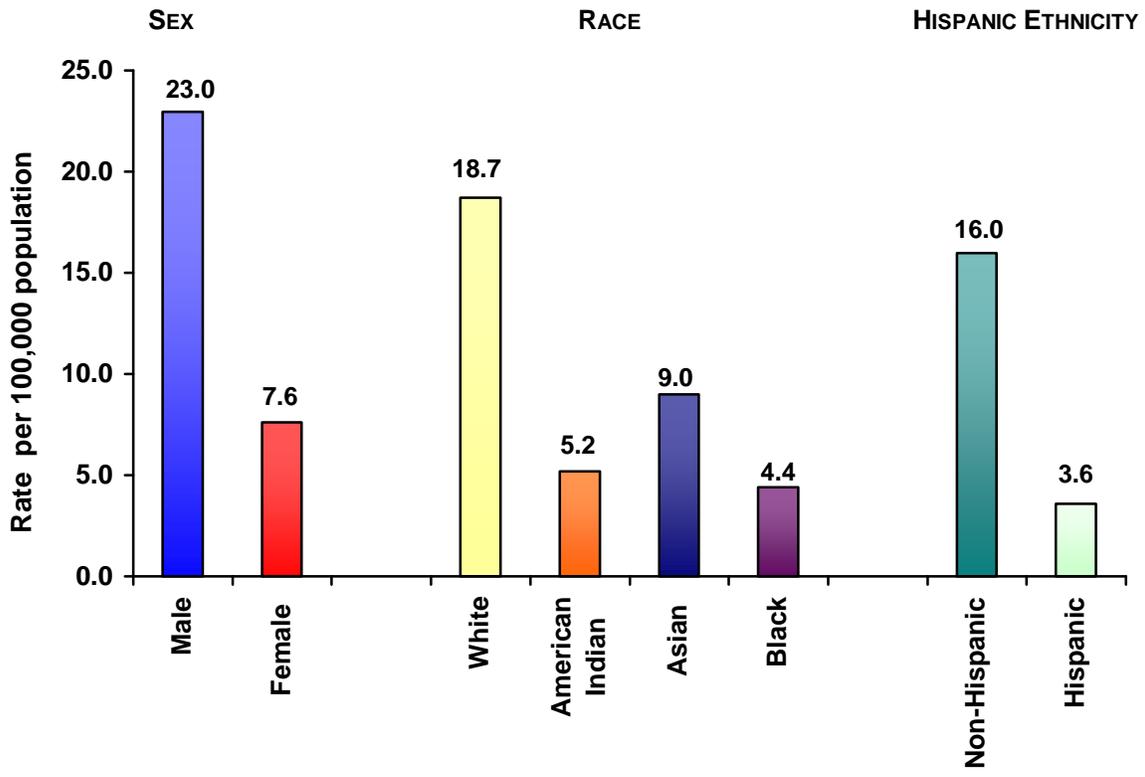


Figure 9: Age-Specific Crude Suicide Rate by Age Group for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

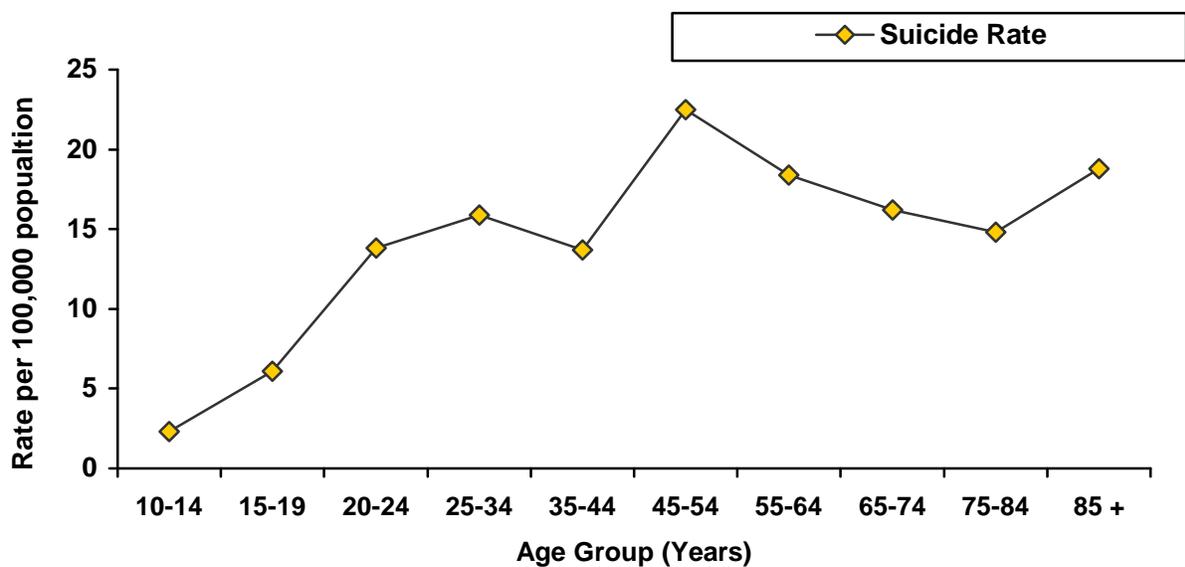
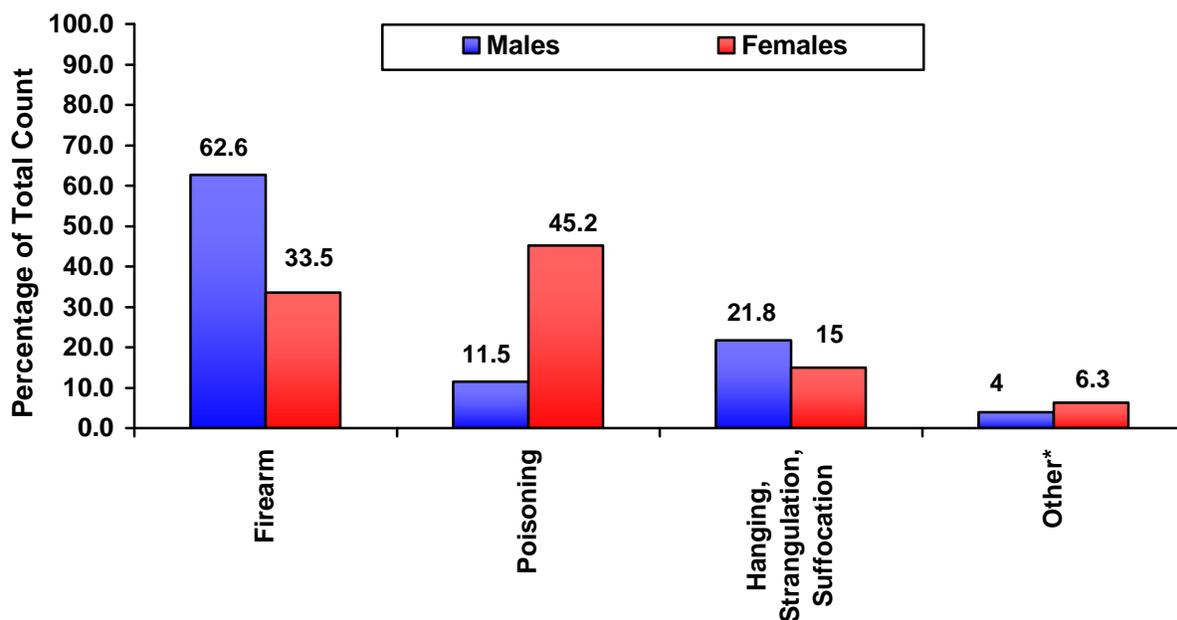


Table 9: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	590	62.6	112	33.5	702	55.0
Poisoning	108	11.5	151	45.2	259	20.3
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	206	21.8	50	15.0	256	20.0
Drowning	6	0.6	8	2.4	14	1.1
Fall	8	0.8	3	0.9	11	0.9
Sharp Instrument	9	1.0	2	0.6	11	0.9
Other Transport Vehicle	5	0.5	2	0.6	7	0.5
Fire or Burns	6	0.6	1	0.3	7	0.5
Motor Vehicle	2	0.2	1	0.3	3	0.1
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.1
Other	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Unknown/missing	2	0.2	3	0.9	5	0.4
Total Deaths	943	100	334	100	1,277	100

Figure 10: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012



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

Table 10: Type of Firearm Involved in Suicide Firearm Deaths by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm Type						
Handgun	407	69.0	99	88.4	506	72.08
Shotgun	117	19.8	8	7.1	125	17.81
Rifle	60	10.2	5	4.5	65	9.26
Unknown Type	5	0.8	0	0.0	5	0.71
Other	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.14
Total Firearm Deaths	590	100	112	100	702	100

Table 11: Type of Poison Involved in Suicide Poisoning Deaths by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Poison Type						
Pharmaceuticals	64	32.5	119	71.3	183	50.3
Alcohol	93	47.2	27	16.2	120	33.0
Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	27	13.7	11	6.6	38	10.4
Street / Recreational Drugs	12	6.1	10	6.0	22	6.0
Other (e.g., Rat Poison, Insecticide, Lye)	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.3
Total Poisoning Deaths	197	100	167	71.3	364	100

Table 12: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Suicide Victims (Ages 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%
Years of Completed Education			
	0 to 8 Years	55	4.4
	9 to 11 Years	167	13.5
	12 Years	500	40.3
	> 12 Years	508	40.9
	Unknown	12	1.0
Marital Status			
	Never Married	329	26.5
	Married*	524	42.2
	Divorced	292	23.5
	Married, but Separated	3	0.2
	Widowed	92	7.4
	Unknown	2	0.2
Veteran Status			
	Non-Veteran	989	79.63
	Veteran	244	19.65
	Unknown	9	0.64
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)		1,242	100

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

**Table 13: Suicides by County of Residence
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	24	1.4	Franklin	11	20.5	Pamlico	0	0.0
Alexander	9	27.6	Gaston	31	17.1	Pasquotank	2	*
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	1	*	Pender	8	16.7
Anson	3	*	Graham	5	64.9	Perquimans	1	*
Ashe	2	*	Granville	9	16.8	Person	4	*
Avery	6	37.1	Greene	3	*	Pitt	15	10.0
Beaufort	7	16.7	Guilford	60	13.7	Polk	2	*
Bertie	3	*	Halifax	4	*	Randolph	31	24.9
Bladen	5	16.2	Harnett	12	11.7	Richmond	4	*
Brunswick	23	22.8	Haywood	12	22.6	Robeson	15	13.0
Buncombe	37	17.0	Henderson	23	23.9	Rockingham	15	18.2
Burke	17	21.1	Hertford	5	23.1	Rowan	21	17.4
Cabarrus	28	17.8	Hoke	7	16.9	Rutherford	10	16.8
Caldwell	12	16.5	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	6	10.9
Camden	3	*	Iredell	16	11.3	Scotland	1	*
Carteret	14	22.9	Jackson	4	*	Stanly	12	22.5
Caswell	6	28.7	Johnston	20	13.4	Stokes	10	23.9
Catawba	33	24.4	Jones	2	*	Surry	11	17.0
Chatham	10	17.2	Lee	4	*	Swain	6	48.5
Cherokee	6	24.5	Lenoir	5	9.7	Transylvania	8	26.7
Chowan	0	0.0	Lincoln	16	22.9	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	2	*	McDowell	8	20.0	Union	27	15.3
Cleveland	18	21.0	Macon	11	36.1	Vance	8	20.5
Columbus	4	*	Madison	4	*	Wake	78	9.6
Craven	15	16.5	Martin	5	23.5	Warren	4	*
Cumberland	49	17.9	Mecklenburg	82	9.9	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	3	*	Mitchell	1	*	Watauga	7	14.6
Dare	9	29.3	Montgomery	1	*	Wayne	11	10.3
Davidson	22	15.3	Moore	18	22.5	Wilkes	10	16.2
Davie	8	21.8	Nash	10	11.9	Wilson	7	9.9
Duplin	9	17.5	New Hanover	39	21.0	Yadkin	7	20.8
Durham	20	8.3	Northampton	4	*	Yancey	4	*
Edgecombe	5	10.3	Onslow	30	19.6			
Forsyth	37	11.9	Orange	19	15.4			

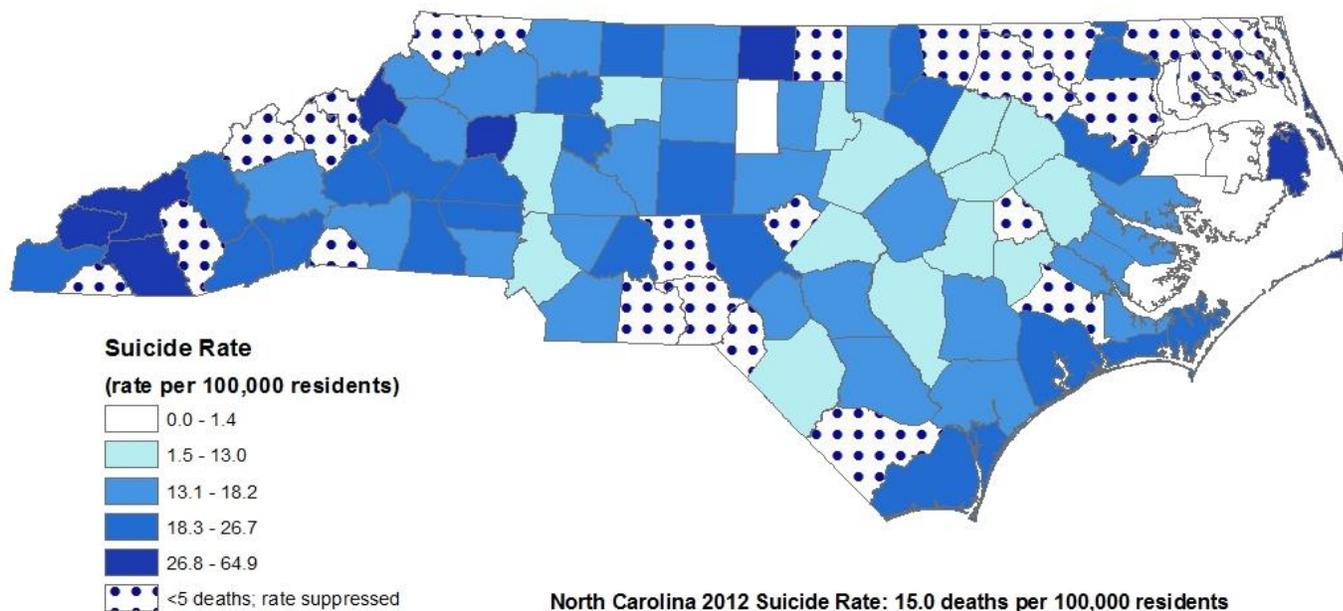
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

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

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

**Figure 11: Map of Suicide Rates
by County of Residence for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012**

Suicide Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2012



Race and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 14 and **Figure 12** describe suicide victims in North Carolina in 2012 by race and sex.

Key Findings:

- Of all suicide victims, 91.3 percent were white and 73.8 percent were male, as shown in Table 8.
- The majority of male suicide victims were white (90.7%) as compared to black (7.1%). Similarly, the majority of female suicide victims were white (93.1%) as compared to black (4.8%).
- For men, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race was white men (27.9), American Indian men (26.0), Asian men (9.1), and black men (7.7).
- The suicide rate per 100,000 for females was highest for white women (9.8) followed by Asian women (5.2) and black women (1.6).
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 5.0 times for Asians, 2.9 times for whites, and 4.8 times for blacks. There were six suicide deaths among American Indian men and one among American Indian women.

Age and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 15 portrays the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2012 by age group and sex. **Figure 13** plots the 2012 suicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

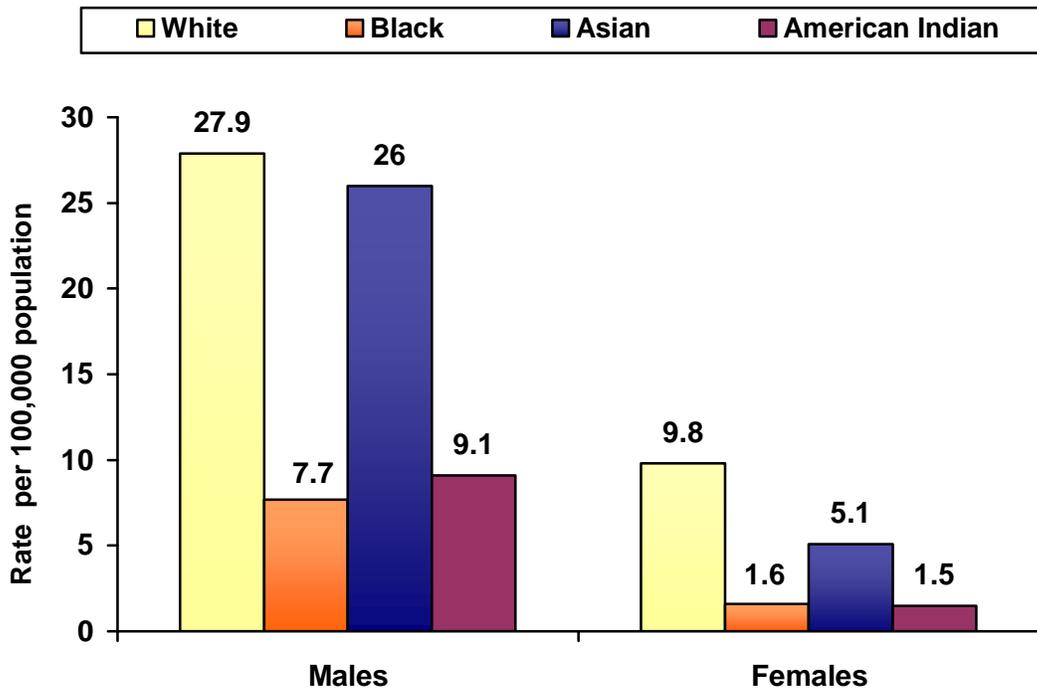
- Among males, the majority of suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 45 to 54 (22.2%), 55 to 64 (16.3%), 25 to 34 (15.9%), and 35 to 44 (13.4%).
- Similarly among females, the majority of suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 45 to 54 (29.3%), 55 to 64 (20.1%), 35 to 44 (16.2%) and 25 to 34 (15.3%).
- For men, the suicide rate increased by age and peaked among those 85 years and older (58.3 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate by age for women peaked at 45 to 54 (14.0 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 75 to 84 with the rate being 7.1 times higher in men than women (29.8 vs. 4.2 per 100,000, respectively).

Table 14: Race by Sex of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012						
Race	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White	855	90.7	27.9	311	93.1	9.8
Black	67	7.1	7.6	16	4.8	1.6
Asian	14	1.5	26.0	6	1.8	5.1
American Indian	6	0.6	9.1	1	0.3	*
Other	1	0.1	*	0	0.0	0.0
Total Deaths	943	100	23.3	334	100	7.6

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.

Figure 12: Crude Suicide Rate Stratified by Race and Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012



* The number of suicide deaths among American Indian females was too small to support calculation of a rate.

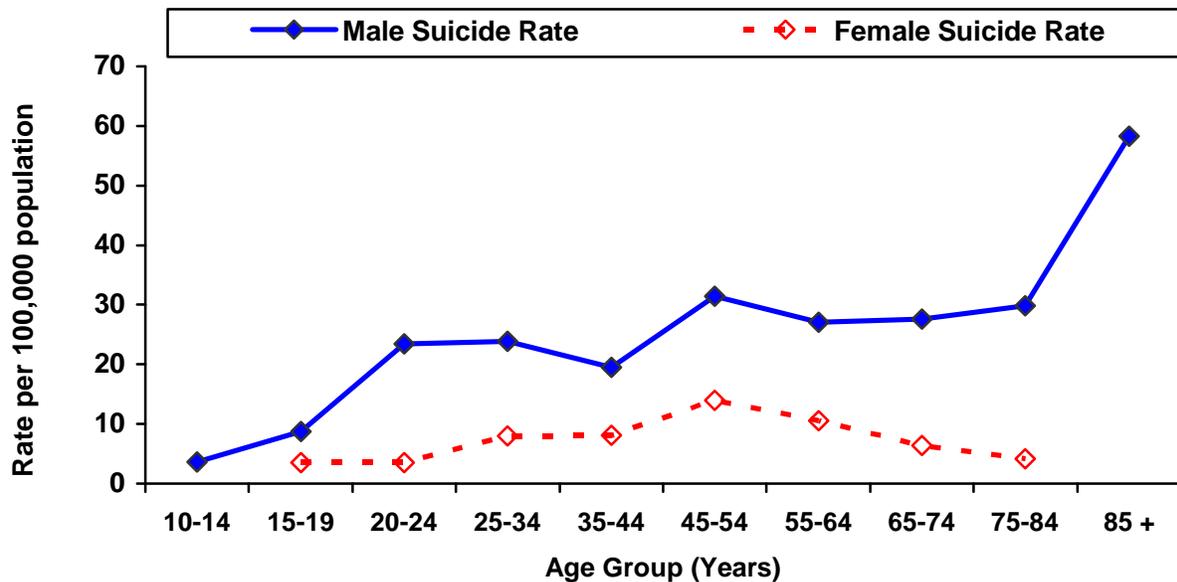
**Table 15: Age Group by Sex of Suicide Victims
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012**

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
10-14	12	1.3	3.6	3	0.9	*
15-19	29	3.1	8.7	11	3.3	3.5
20-24	84	8.9	23.4	12	3.6	3.5
25-34	150	15.9	23.9	51	15.3	8.0
35-44	126	13.4	19.5	54	16.2	8.1
45-54	209	22.2	31.4	98	29.3	14.0
55-64	154	16.3	27.1	67	20.1	10.6
65-74	100	10.6	27.6	27	8.1	6.4
75-84	50	5.3	29.8	10	3.0	4.2
85 +	29	3.1	58.3	1	0.3	*
Total Deaths	943	100	23.0	334	100	7.6

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 13: Age-Specific Suicide Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012**



Note: The number of suicides for females ages 10-14 and females ages 85+ was too small to support a rate calculation.

Circumstances, Toxicology Testing and Injury Location for Suicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding suicides. In 2012, 95.3 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 16** 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 2012. **Table 17** lists the mental health problem at the time of the suicide for both men and women in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstances of suicide for male victims were current mental health problem (48.8%), current treatment for mental illness (43.7%), ever treated for mental health illness (48.7%), current depressed mood (31.8%), and intimate partner problem (27.7%).
- The most common circumstances of suicide for female victims were current mental health problem (69.9%), current treatment for mental illness (68.1%), ever treated for mental health illness (69.9%), current depressed mood (32.2%), and physical health problem (26.8%).
- A suicide note was left by 26.9 percent of male victims and 36.8 percent of female victims. Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 28.8 percent of men and 25.2 percent of women. A total of 11.5 percent of male and 28.9 percent of female victims reported a history of suicide attempts and 17.3 percent of male and 24.6 percent of female victims had a history of suicidal thoughts.

Other common circumstances of suicide for men and women, respectively, were other substance problem (15.0% and 24.3%), alcohol problem (17.3% and 10.9%), recent criminal-related legal problem (11.2% and 1.8%), job problem (9.0% and 4.6%), and financial problem (6.3% and 6.1%).

At the time of suicide, the most common mental health problems were depression or dysthymia (80.8%), bipolar disorder (9.7%), anxiety disorder (8.0%), schizophrenia (2.6%), 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 2012 is shown by sex in **Table 18** and by age and race in **Table 20**.

Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 86.7 percent of all suicides. Testing was relatively infrequent for other substances. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 29.5 percent of all suicide victims, 31.6 percent of male victims and 23.8 percent of female victims.
- Ages 20 to 54 had the highest percentage of suicide victims with alcohol present, ranging from 33.3 percent to 37.6 percent of those tested by age group. Alcohol was present in those victims tested by race as follows: whites (30.4%), blacks (20.3%), Asians (20.0%), and American Indians (28.6%).

Table 19 lists the location of the injury resulting in death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

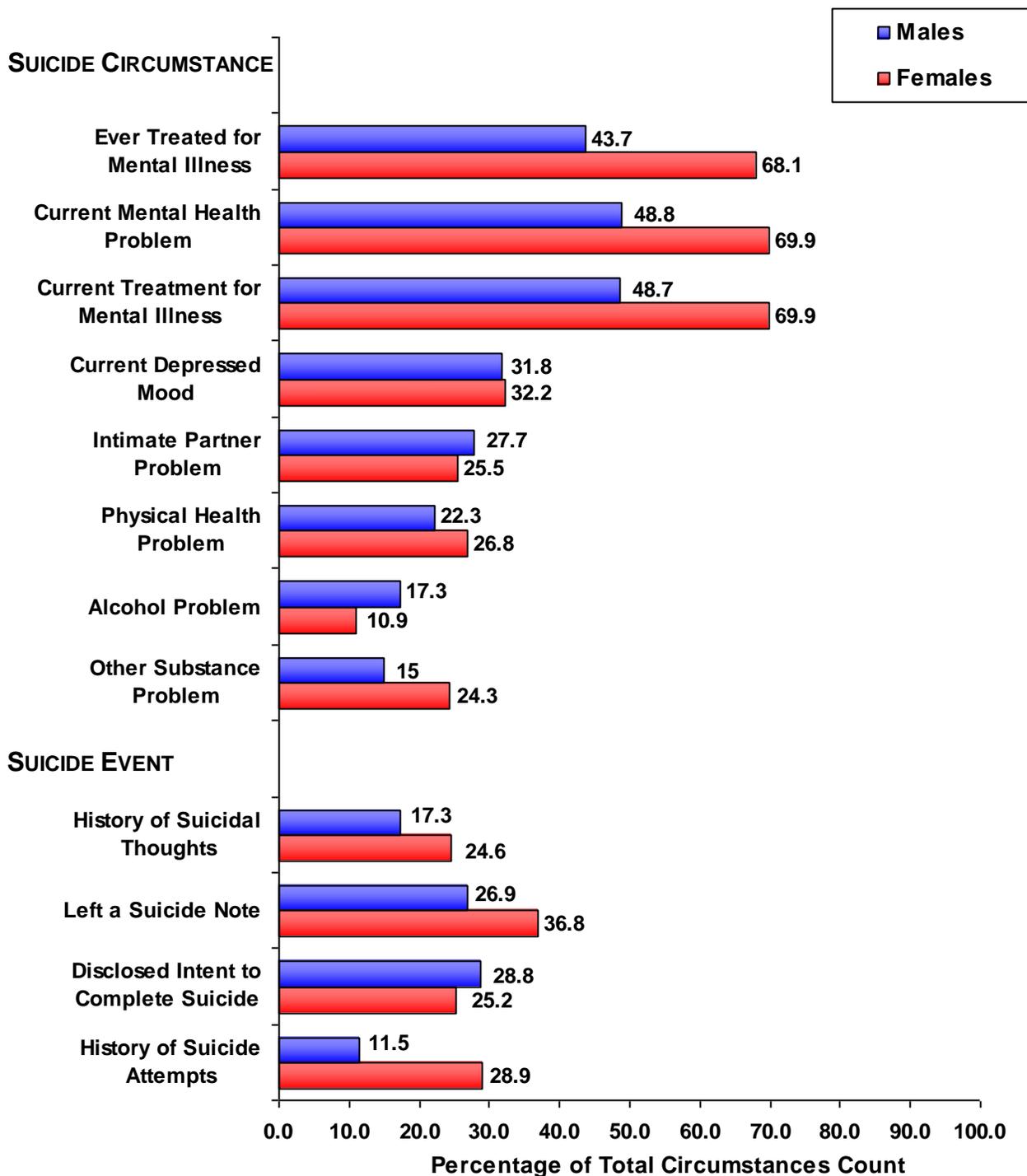
- The majority (80.4%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment.

**Table 16: Circumstances of Suicide Victims
for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2012**

Circumstance**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mental Health						
Ever Treated for Mental Illness	432	48.7	230	69.9	662	54.3
Current Mental Health Problem	433	48.8	230	69.9	663	54.5
Current Depressed Mood	282	31.8	106	32.2	388	31.9
Current Treatment for Mental Illness	388	43.7	224	68.1	612	50.3
Substance Abuse/ Addiction						
Alcohol Problem	154	17.3	36	10.9	190	15.6
Other Substance Problem	133	15.0	80	24.3	213	17.5
Other Addiction (gambling, sexual, etc.)	5	0.6	0	0	5	0.4
Interpersonal						
Intimate Partner Problem	246	27.7	84	25.5	330	27.1
Other Relationship Problem	29	3.3	12	3.7	41	3.4
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence in Past Month	57	6.4	5	1.5	62	5.1
Other Death of Friend/Family	47	5.3	19	5.8	66	5.4
Suicide of Friend/Family in Past 5 Years	12	1.4	7	2.1	19	1.6
Life Stressor						
Physical Health Problem	198	22.3	88	26.8	286	23.5
Job Problem	80	9.0	15	4.6	95	7.8
Recent Criminal Related Legal Problem	99	11.2	6	1.8	105	8.6
Financial Problem	56	6.3	20	6.1	76	6.2
Other Legal Problems	22	2.5	9	2.7	31	2.5
School Problem	6	0.7	2	0.6	8	0.7
Suicide Event						
Left a Suicide Note	239	26.9	121	36.8	360	29.6
Disclosed Intent to Complete Suicide	256	28.8	83	25.2	339	27.9
History of Suicide Attempts	102	11.5	95	28.9	197	16.2
History of Suicidal Thoughts	154	17.3	81	24.6	235	19.3

** Circumstances were available for 95.3 percent (888/943) of male victims, 94.2 percent (329/334) of female victims, and 98.5 percent (1,217/1,277) of all suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2012.

Figure 14: Circumstances of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



Note: For Table 16 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 17: Current Mental Health Problem at the Time of Suicide by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Current Mental Health Problem *						
Depression / Dysthymia	345	79.7	191	83.0	536	80.8
Bipolar Disorder	32	7.4	32	13.9	64	9.7
Schizophrenia	14	3.2	3	1.3	17	2.6
Anxiety Disorder	23	5.3	30	13.0	53	8.0
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	14	3.2	3	1.3	17	2.6
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	2	0.5	1	0.4	3	0.5
Eating Disorder	0	0.0	3	1.3	3	0.5
Other	22	5.1	2	0.9	8	1.2
Unknown	16	3.7	3	1.3	19	2.9

* For 433 males, 230 females, and 663 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 18: Toxicology Testing and Results for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2012

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alcohol						
Tested with Results	809	85.8	298	89.2	1,107	86.7
Alcohol Present in Those Tested	256	31.6	71	23.8	327	29.5
Amphetamines						
Tested with Results	5	0.5	8	2.4	13	1.0
Amphetamines Present in Those Tested	4	80.0	4	50.0	8	61.5
Antidepressant						
Tested with Results	40	4.2	97	29.0	137	10.7
Antidepressant Present in Those Tested	39	97.5	95	97.9	134	97.8
Cocaine						
Tested with Results	80	8.5	136	40.7	216	16.9
Cocaine Present in Those Tested	5	6.3	11	8.1	16	7.4
Marijuana						
Tested with Results	2	0.2	4	1.2	6	0.5
Marijuana Present in Those Tested	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	16.7
Opiates						
Tested with Results	78	8.3	135	40.4	213	16.7
Opiates Present in Those Tested	36	46.2	85	63.0	121	56.8
Other substances*						
Tested with Results	65	6.9	106	31.7	171	13.4
Other drugs Present in Those Tested	63	96.9	105	99.1	168	98.3

Table 19: Injury Location for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2012

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, Apartment	1,027	80.4
Natural Area (e.g., Field, River, Beach, Woods)	65	5.1
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	41	3.2
Hotel/Motel	26	2.0
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	25	2.0
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	13	1.0
Highway/Freeway	10	0.8
Parking Lot/Public Garage	8	0.6
Railroad tracks (i.e., other than public transportation or station)	8	0.6
Other Commercial Establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	7	0.6
Farm	6	0.5
Other Specified *	32	2.5
Unknown	9	0.7
Total Deaths	1,277	100

*Other substances includes carbon monoxide, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and muscle relaxants.

Table 20: Alcohol Toxicology Testing and Results for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older) by Age Group and Race in North Carolina, 2012

	Alcohol tested with results		Alcohol present in those tested	
	Number	%	Number	%
Age Group (Years)				
10-14	13	86.7	0	0.0
15-19	34	85.0	3	8.8
20-24	90	93.8	30	33.3
25-34	180	89.6	63	35.0
35-44	157	87.2	59	37.6
45-54	263	85.7	98	37.3
55-64	188	85.1	50	26.6
65-74	104	81.9	19	18.3
75-84	51	85.0	4	7.8
85 +	27	90.0	1	3.7
Race				
American Indian	7	100.0	2	28.6
Asian	15	75.0	3	20.0
Black	74	89.2	15	20.3
White	1,010	86.6	307	30.4
Other	1	100.0	0	0.0

* Other Specified includes office building, park/playground, industrial/construction area, abandoned house or building, college/university, high school, hospital or medical facility, school bus, sports area, synagogue or church or temple, unspecified school, or other specified locations not mentioned.

Section III: Homicide

Basic Characteristics of Homicides

Table 21 characterizes the homicides in 2012 for North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race, and age. The homicide rate in 2012 in North Carolina per 100,000 people is displayed by race and sex in **Figure 15** and by age group in **Figure 16**.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, 547 North Carolinians (5.6 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were more than three times as likely to be victims of a homicide as females (8.9 vs. 2.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- Blacks (12.6 per 100,000) and American Indians (11.2 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than Asians (2.6 per 100,000) and whites (3.4 per 100,000).
- Hispanics were less likely to be victims of homicide than non-Hispanics (4.8 vs. 5.7 per 100,000, respectively).
- Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest for adults ages 20 to 24 years (14.6 per 100,000) and 25 to 34 years (10.7 per 100,000). Among children younger than 14, the rate was highest in children younger than one year old (9.1 per 100,000) for age groups where rates could be calculated.

The method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2012 is shown in **Table 22** and **Figure 17**. The type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012 is listed in **Table 23**.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of homicide were firearm (71.3%), sharp instrument (10.8%), personal weapons (6.8%), and blunt instrument (5.1%).
- Most male homicide victims died by a firearm (75.7%) or sharp instrument (10.6%).
- The majority of female homicide victims died by a firearm (56.6%) or sharp instrument (11.5%).
- Considering only homicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used (72.6%).

Table 24 describes adult homicide victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2012 by the number of years of completed education, marital status, and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Among adult homicide victims, 66.8 percent had 12 or more years of education and 31.4 percent had less than 12 years of education.
- More than half of homicide victims were never married (55.3%) as compared to married, civil union, or domestic partnership (24.8%), divorced (14.0%), or widowed (5.2%).

- Military veterans accounted for 9.2 percent of adult homicide victims.

Table 25 and **Figure 18** display the homicide rates in 2012 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 44 counties was too small to support a rate calculation and 3 of the 20 counties with the highest rates had less than 50,000 residents in 2012.

Key Findings:

- For the 66 counties where the number of homicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average homicide rate by North Carolina County of residence was 6.1 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 26.6 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 21: Demographics of Homicide Victims
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	122	22.3	2.4	2.0 – 2.9
	Male	425	77.7	8.9	8.1 – 9.8
Race					
	White	242	44.2	3.4	3.0 – 3.8
	Black	280	51.2	12.6	11.1 – 14.1
	Asian	7	1.3	2.6	0.7 – 4.6
	American Indian	18	3.3	11.2	6.0 – 16.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	41	7.5	4.8	3.3 – 6.3
	Non-Hispanic	505	92.3	5.7	5.2 – 6.2
	Unknown	1	0.2	*	*
Age Group (Years)					
	< 1	11	2.0	9.1	3.7 – 14.5
	1 - 4	12	2.2	2.4	1.0 – 3.8
	5 - 9	2	0.4	*	*
	10 - 14	7	1.3	1.1	0.3 – 1.9
	15 - 19	34	6.2	5.2	3.5 – 7.0
	20 - 24	102	18.6	14.6	11.8 – 17.5
	25 – 34	136	24.9	10.7	8.9 – 12.5
	35 – 44	99	18.1	7.5	6.1 – 9.0
	45 – 54	72	13.2	5.3	4.1 – 6.5
	55 – 64	39	7.1	3.3	2.2 – 4.3
	65 - 74	20	3.7	2.6	1.4 – 3.6
	75 - 84	9	1.6	2.2	0.1 – 5.0
	85 +	4	0.7	*	*
Total Deaths		547	100	5.6	5.1 – 6.1

Sex, race, Hispanic 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.

Figure 15: Crude Homicide Rates by Sex, Race and Hispanic Ethnicity in North Carolina, 2012

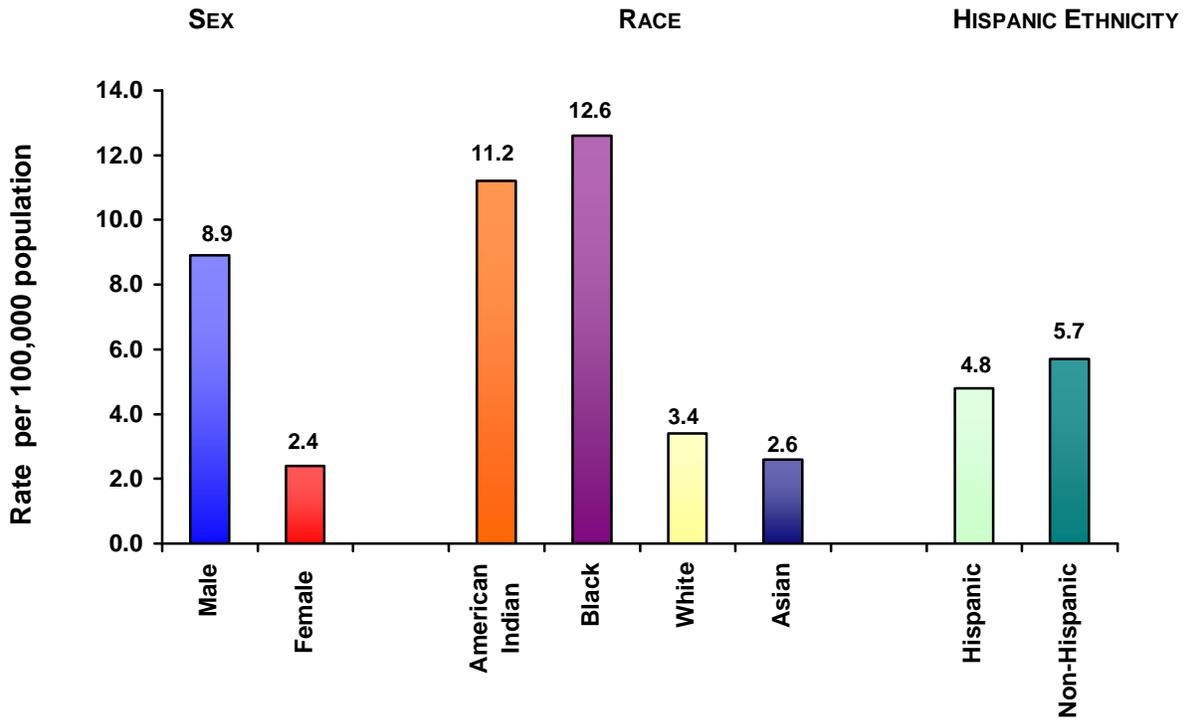
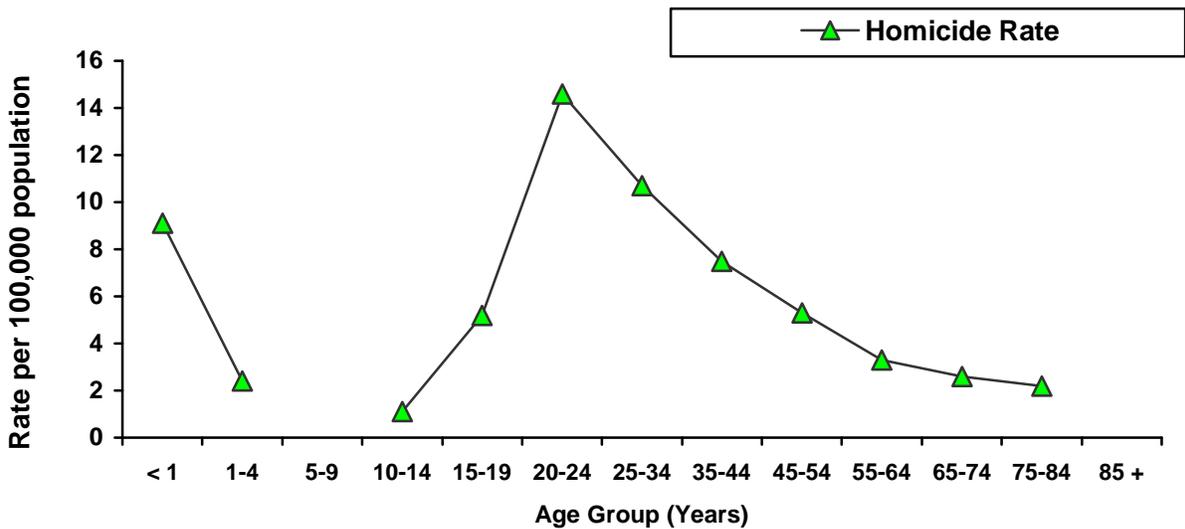


Figure 16: Age-Specific Crude Homicide Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2012

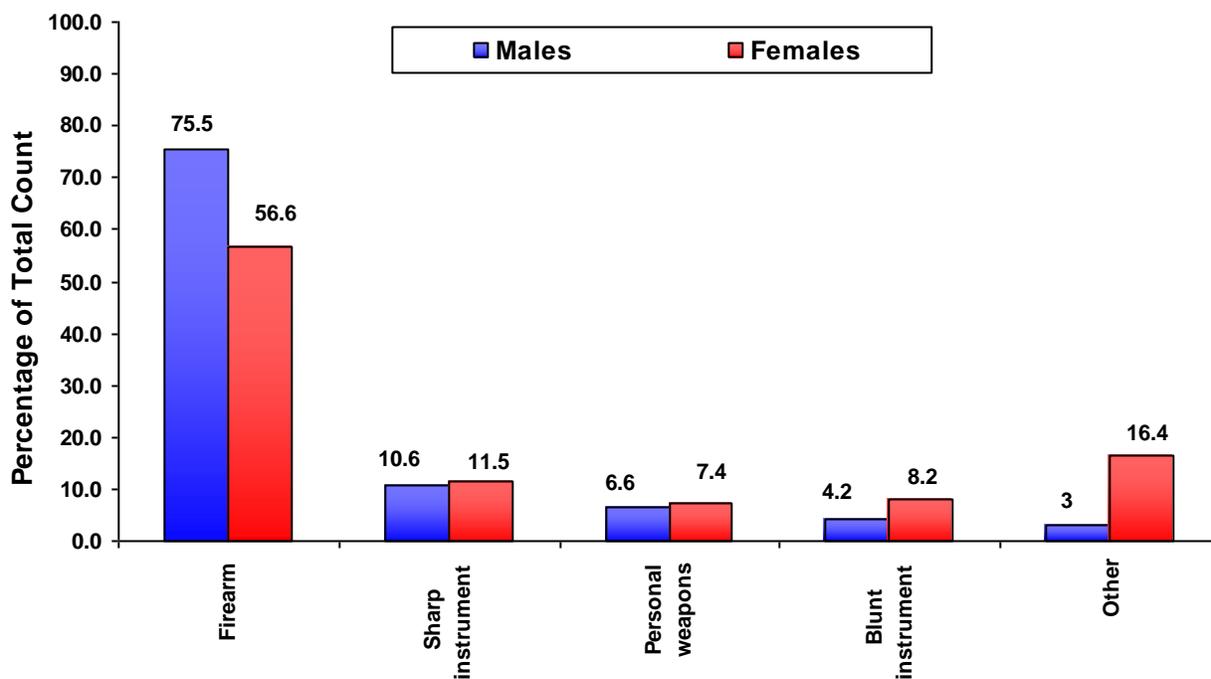


Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for the 5-9 and 85+ year age group.

Table 22: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2012

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	321	75.5	69	56.6	390	71.3
Sharp instrument	45	10.6	14	11.5	59	10.8
Personal Weapons	28	6.6	9	7.4	37	6.8
Blunt Instrument	18	4.2	10	8.2	28	5.1
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	4	0.9	6	4.9	10	1.8
Motor Vehicle	5	1.2	5	4.2	10	1.8
Violent Shaking	2	0.5	1	0.8	3	0.5
Fire or burns	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.2
Unknown	2	0.4	7	5.7	9	1.6
Total Deaths	425	100	122	100	547	100

Figure 17: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



* Other includes: hanging/strangulation or suffocation, motor vehicle, violent shaking, fire or burns, and unknown.

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm Type						
Handgun	233	72.6	50	50.0	283	72.6
Rifle	20	6.2	4	4.0	24	6.2
Shotgun	33	10.3	11	11.0	44	11.3
Unknown Type	35	10.9	4	4.0	39	10.0
Total Deaths	321	100	59	100	390	100

		Number	%
Years of Completed Education			
	0 to 8 Years	35	7.0
	9 to 11 Years	122	24.4
	12 Years	206	41.3
	> 12 Years	127	25.5
	Unknown	9	1.8
Marital Status			
	Never Married	276	55.3
	Married	124	24.8
	Divorced	70	14.0
	Widowed	26	5.2
	Unknown	3	0.6
Veteran Status			
	Non-Veteran	445	89.2
	Veteran	46	9.2
	Unknown	8	1.6
Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)		499	100

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

**Table 25: Homicides by County of Residence
in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	7	0.8	Franklin	0	0.0	Pamlico	0	0.0
Alexander	1	*	Gaston	6	2.9	Pasquotank	1	*
Alleghany	0	0.0	Gates	0	*	Pender	2	*
Anson	3	*	Graham	2	*	Perquimans	4	*
Ashe	0	0.0	Granville	0	0.0	Person	0	0.0
Avery	0	0.0	Greene	1	*	Pitt	12	7.0
Beaufort	3	*	Guilford	28	5.6	Polk	0	0.0
Bertie	0	0.0	Halifax	5	9.3	Randolph	9	6.3
Bladen	2	*	Harnett	7	5.7	Richmond	10	21.4
Brunswick	3	*	Haywood	2	*	Robeson	35	25.8
Buncombe	10	4.1	Henderson	7	6.5	Rockingham	7	7.5
Burke	2	*	Hertford	2	*	Rowan	3	*
Cabarrus	8	4.3	Hoke	6	11.9	Rutherford	4	*
Caldwell	1	*	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	7	10.9
Camden	3	*	Iredell	3	*	Scotland	7	19.4
Carteret	0	0.0	Jackson	0	0.0	Stanly	3	*
Caswell	1	*	Johnston	2	*	Stokes	2	*
Catawba	14	9.1	Jones	1	*	Surry	3	*
Chatham	1	*	Lee	6	10.0	Swain	1	*
Cherokee	3	*	Lenoir	4	*	Transylvania	0	0.0
Chowan	0	0.0	Lincoln	3	*	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0	McDowell	2	*	Union	11	5.3
Cleveland	6	6.2	Macon	2	*	Vance	12	26.6
Columbus	10	17.3	Madison	1	*	Wake	25	2.6
Craven	4	*	Martin	2	*	Warren	2	*
Cumberland	37	11.4	Mecklenburg	57	5.9	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	0	0.0	Mitchell	0	0.0	Watauga	2	*
Dare	0	0.0	Montgomery	4	*	Wayne	18	14.5
Davidson	1	*	Moore	5	5.5	Wilkes	1	*
Davie	2	*	Nash	11	11.5	Wilson	7	8.6
Duplin	4	*	New Hanover	8	3.8	Yadkin	1	*
Durham	25	8.9	Northampton	1	*	Yancey	0	0.0
Edgecombe	7	12.5	Onslow	8	4.4			
Forsyth	10	2.8	Orange	4	*			

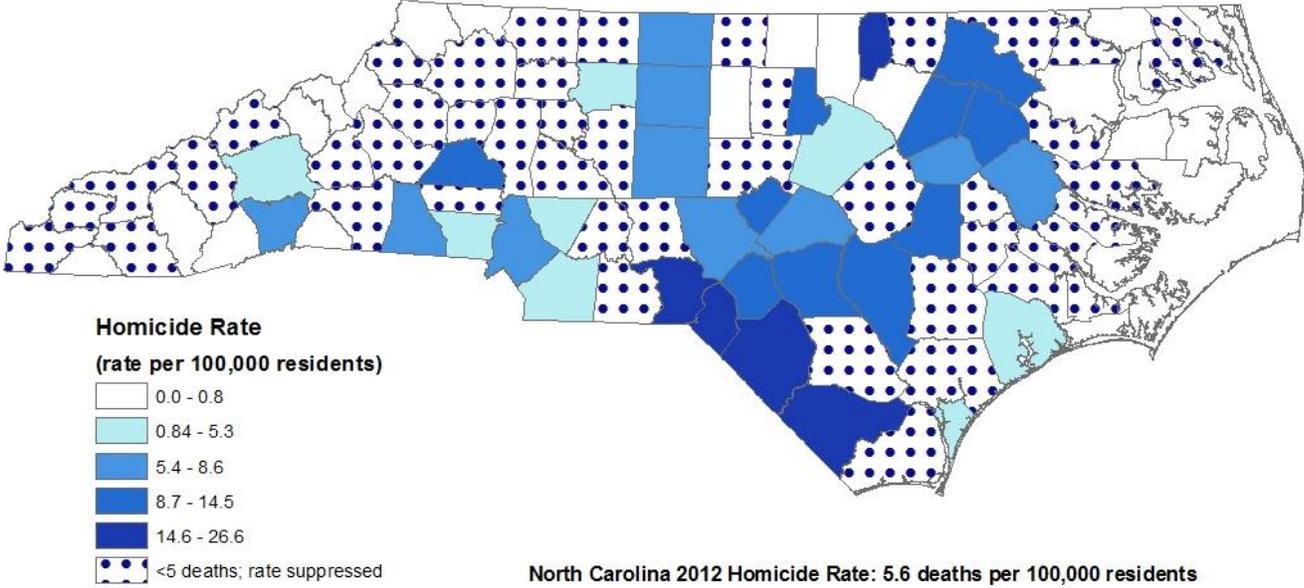
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

* Number of deaths was zero or 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, 2012

Homicide Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2012



Race and Sex of Homicide Victims

Table 26 and **Figure 19** describe the 2012 North Carolina homicide victims by sex and race.

Key Findings:

- Of all homicide victims, 77.7 percent were male, 51.2 percent were black, and 44.2 percent were white, as shown in Table 21.
- The majority of male homicide victims were black (57.2%) as compared to white (38.6%) and American Indian (3.5%). Conversely, the majority of female homicide victims were white (63.9%) as compared to black (30.3%) and Asian (2.5%).
- The homicide rate per 100,000 was 5.0 times higher for black males (23.3) and 4.0 times higher for American Indian males (18.7) as compared to white males (4.7).
- Black females were 1.5 times as likely to be homicide victims as white females (3.1 vs. 2.2 per 100,000, respectively).
- The homicide rate was 7.0 times higher for black males than for black females.

Age and Sex of Homicide Victims

The age and sex of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2012 are categorized in **Table 27**. The 2012 homicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina are stratified by age group and sex in **Figure 20**.

Key Findings:

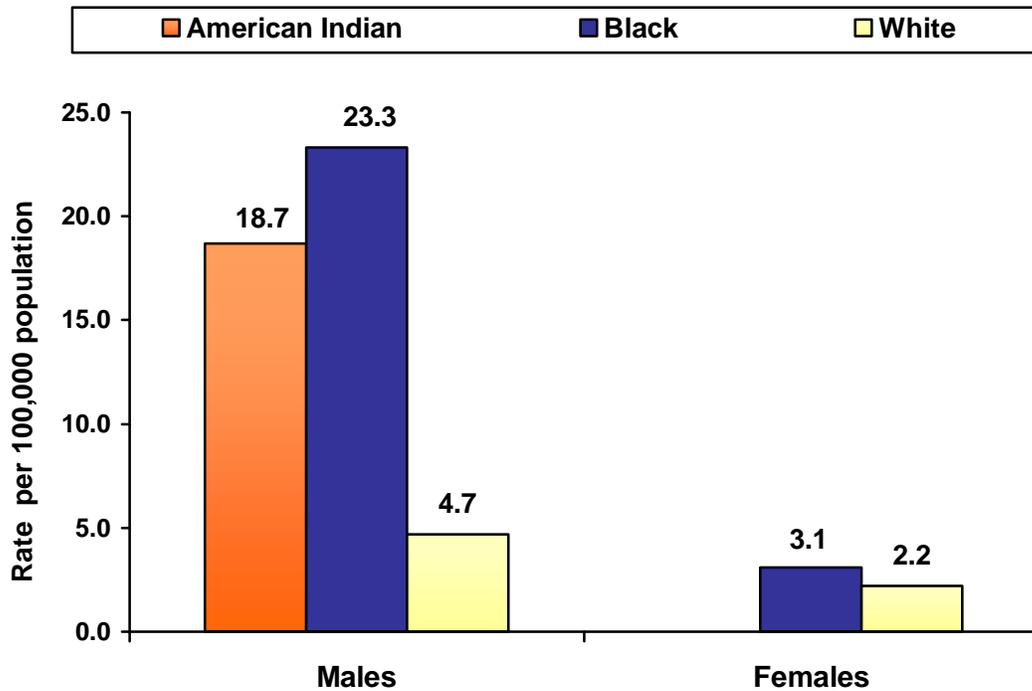
- Most male homicide victims were ages 15 to 54 years with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (24.5%), 20 to 24 (21.9%), 35 to 44 (16.2%), 45 to 54 (14.1%) and 55 to 64 (7.5%).
- Among females, the majority of homicide victims were ages 20 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (26.2%), 35 to 44 (24.6%), 45 to 54 (9.8%), 20 to 24 (7.4%), and 55 to 64 (5.7%).
- Adult males ages 20 to 54 had higher homicide rates than females across all age groups for 2012.
- Males were more likely to die of homicide than females by more than 9 times in ages 20 to 24 years and more than 5 times in ages 45 to 54 years.
- The homicide rate by age for males peaked in ages 20 to 24 years (26.0 per 100,000) and then declined to 3.9 per 100,000 for ages 65 to 74.
- For females, the largest peak in the homicide rate by age was at ages 20 to 24 (14.6 per 100,000). The rate then declined to 2.2 per 100,000 for ages 75 to 84.

Table 26: Race by Sex of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2012

	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
Race						
American Indian	15	3.5	18.7	3	2.5	*
Asian	3	0.7	*	4	3.3	*
Black	243	57.2	23.3	37	30.3	3.1
White	164	38.6	4.7	78	63.9	2.2
Total Deaths	425	100	8.9	122	100	2.4

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.

Figure 19: Crude Homicide Rate Stratified by Race and Sex in North Carolina, 2012

Note: The number of homicides for American Indian females and Asian males and females was too small to support a rate calculation.

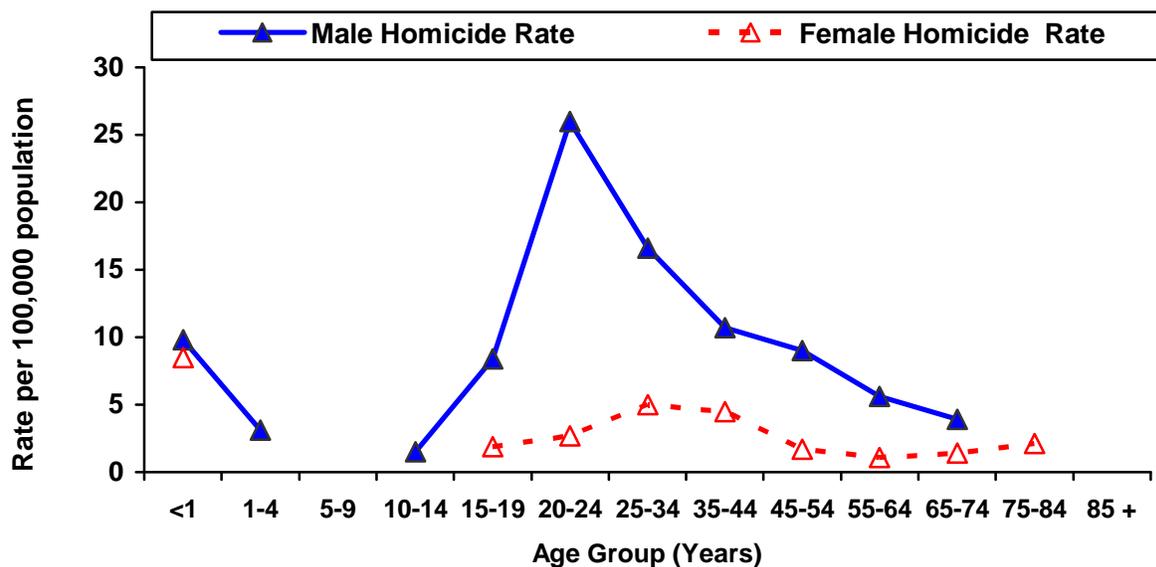
Table 27: Age Group by Sex of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2012

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	6	1.4	9.8	5	4.1	8.5
1-4	8	1.9	3.1	4	3.3	*
5-9	1	0.2	*	1	0.8	*
10-14	5	1.2	1.5	2	1.6	*
15-19	28	6.6	8.4	6	4.9	1.9
20-24	93	21.9	26.0	9	7.4	2.7
25-34	104	24.5	16.6	32	26.2	5.0
35-44	69	16.2	10.7	30	24.6	4.5
45-54	60	14.1	9.0	12	9.8	1.7
55-64	32	7.5	5.6	7	5.7	1.1
65-74	14	3.3	3.9	6	4.9	1.4
75-84	4	0.9	*	5	4.1	2.1
85 +	1	0.2	*	3	2.5	*
Total Deaths	425	100.0	8.9	122	100.0	2.4

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

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

Figure 20: Age-Specific Crude Homicide Rate Stratified by Age Group and Sex in North Carolina, 2012



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 5 to 9, 75 to 84, and 85+, and for females ages 1 to 4, 5 to 9, 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 help understand the underlying causes of violent death. However, circumstance data were not available for all homicides. In 2012, 88.5 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 28 describes the circumstances for homicide victims stratified by sex based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 29** lists the crimes that precipitated the homicide in 2012 in North Carolina for both men and women. **Figure 21** illustrates the most common homicide event circumstances and precipitating crimes for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides for males were an argument, abuse or conflict (51.2%), precipitated by another serious crime (41.2%), gang related (32.0%) drug involvement (17.3%), and intimate partner violence-related (10.3%).
- For females, the most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were intimate partner violence-related (55.7%), an argument, abuse or conflict (31.3%), gang related (20.0%) precipitation by another serious crime (14.8%), and drug involvement (4.3%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for male victims were robbery (46.7%), burglary (34.2%) and drug trade (19.7%).
- For female victims, the most common crimes that precipitated homicide included robbery (47.1%) and burglary (41.2%).
- Common victim circumstances surrounding homicides were the victim used a weapon (7.2%), the homicide was justifiable self-defense (2.7%), and the victim was a bystander (1.0%).

Table 30 summarizes the location of the injury resulting in death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The majority (60.1%) 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 (9.5%), motor vehicle (5.5%), other commercial establishments such as a grocery store or laundromat (5.5%), parking lot or garage (4.8%), bars/nightclubs (3.5%), and natural areas (2.2 %).

**Table 28: Circumstances of Homicide Victims by Sex
in North Carolina, 2012**

Circumstance**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Event						
Other Argument, Abuse, Conflict	189	51.2	36	31.3	225	46.5
Precipitated by Another Serious Crime	152	41.2	17	14.8	169	34.9
Drug Involvement	64	17.3	5	4.3	69	14.3
Intimate Partner Violence-Related	38	10.3	64	55.7	102	21.1
Jealousy (Lovers' Triangle)	13	3.5	2	1.7	15	3.1
Gang Related	118	32.0	23	20.0	141	29.1
Brawl (Mutual Physical Fight)	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.2
Mercy Killing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim						
Victim Used a Weapon	34	9.2	1	0.9	35	7.2
Victim was a Bystander	5	1.2	0	0.0	5	1.0
Justifiable Self-Defense	13	3.5	0	0.0	13	2.7
Intervener Assisting Crime Victim	0	0.0	1	0.9	1	0.2

** Circumstances were available for 86.8 percent (369/425) of male victims, 94.3 percent (115/122) of female victims and 88.5 percent (484/547) of all homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2012.

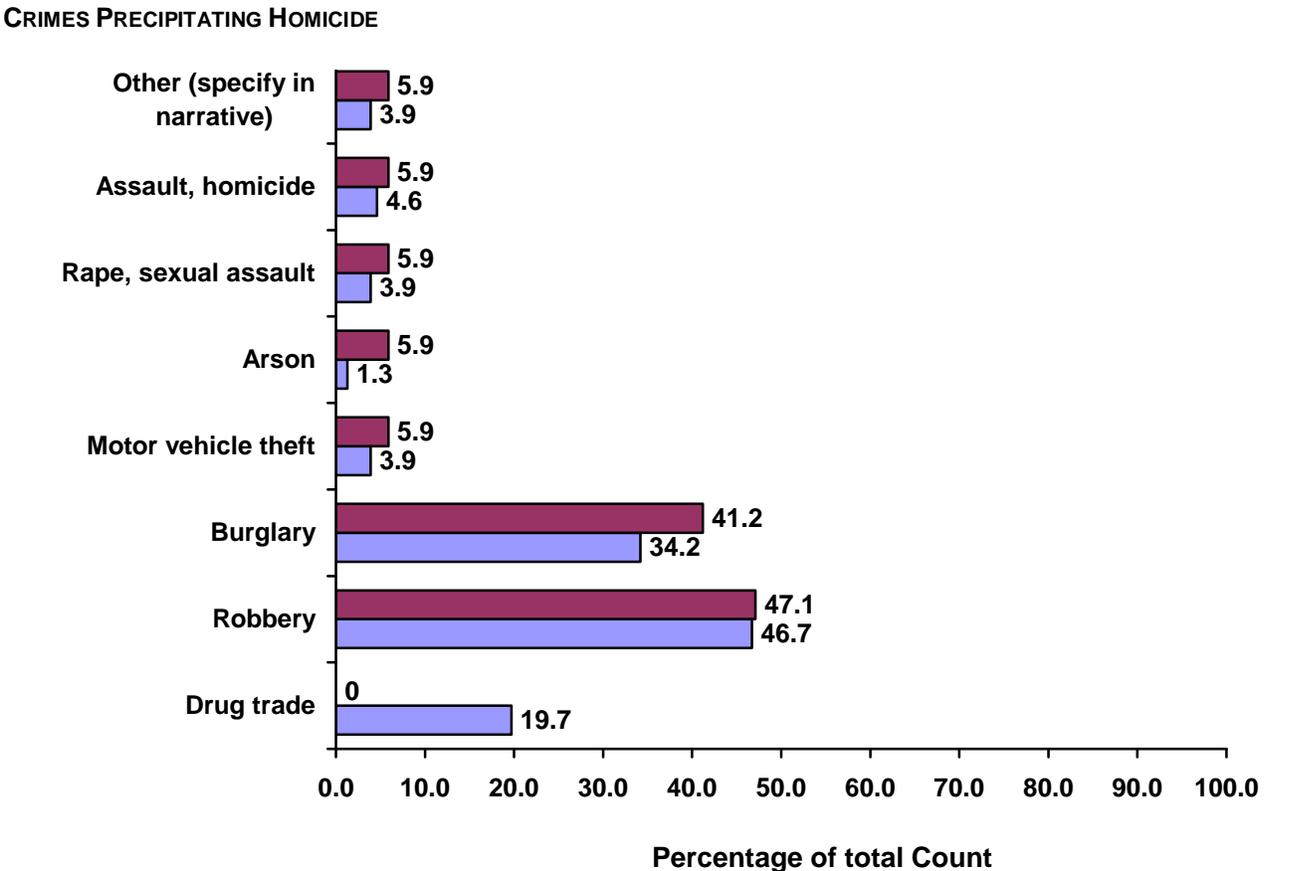
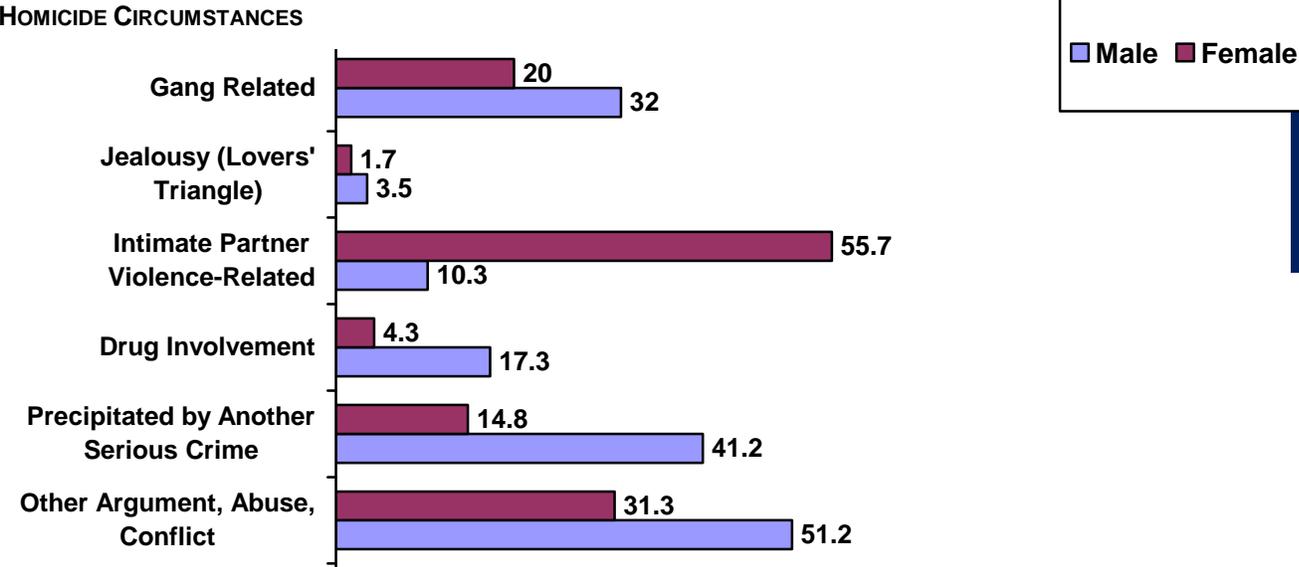
**Table 29: Crimes Precipitating Homicide by Sex
in North Carolina, 2012**

Crime**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Robbery	71	46.7	8	47.1	79	46.7
Burglary	52	34.2	7	41.2	59	34.9
Drug Trade	30	19.7	0	0.0	30	17.8
Assault, Homicide	7	4.6	1	5.9	8	4.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	3.9	1	5.9	7	4.1
Rape, sexual assault	6	3.9	1	5.9	7	4.1
Arson	2	1.3	1	5.9	3	1.8
Witness Intimidation / Elimination	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.6
Other	7	4.6	1	5.9	8	4.7

** For 152 males, 17 females and 169 victims whose homicide was precipitated by another serious crime.

Note: Each victim may have more than one circumstance and a homicide may be precipitated by more than one crime. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides, or responses may exceed 100 percent

Figure 21: Circumstances of Homicide Victims and Crimes Precipitating Homicide by Sex in North Carolina, 2012



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 30: Injury Location for Homicide Victims
in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, Apartment	329	60.1
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	52	9.5
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	30	5.5
Other commercial establishment (e.g grocery store, retail outlet, Laundromat)	30	5.5
Parking lot/Public Parking Garage	26	4.8
Bar/Nightclub	19	3.5
Natural Area (e.g., Field, River, Beaches, Woods)	12	2.2
Hotel/Motel	10	1.8
Abandoned building or warehouse	4	0.7
Highway, Freeway	4	0.7
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	3	0.5
Elementary school, middle school	2	0.4
Park, playground, or public use area	2	0.4
Hospital or medical facility	1	0.2
Jail, prison, detention facility	1	0.2
Office building	1	0.2
Public transportation or station (e.g., bus, train, plane, airport, depot, taxi)	1	0.2
Railroad tracks (i.e., other than [21] Public transportation or station)	1	0.2
Service station	1	0.2
Sports or athletic area (e.g., stadium, baseball field, gymnasium, recreation center)	1	0.2
Synagogue, church, temple	1	0.2
Unknown	14	2.6
Other	2	0.4
Total Deaths	547	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 31** summarizes the demographics of legal intervention victims in North Carolina in 2012. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of legal intervention deaths. **Table 32** shows the type of weapon used in legal intervention deaths of North Carolina residents in 2012. **Table 33** lists the number of legal intervention deaths in 2012 by North Carolina county of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, 22 residents of North Carolina (0.2 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- All of the victims were male (100.0%) and were from 20 to 64 years of age (100.0%).
- Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (90.9%), primarily a handgun (72.7%).

Table 31: Demographics of Legal Intervention Death Victims in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	Male	22	100.0	0.5	0.3 – 0.8
Race					
	Black	8	36.4	0.4	0.1 – 0.6
	White	14	63.6	5.3	2.5 – 8.0
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	2	9.1	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	20	90.9	0.2	0.1 – 0.3
Age Group (Years)					
	20 - 24	1	4.5	*	*
	25 - 34	10	45.5	0.8	0.3 – 1.3
	35 - 44	1	4.5	*	*
	45 - 54	7	31.8	0.5	0.1 – 0.9
	55 - 64	3	13.6	*	*
Total Deaths		22	100	0.2	0.1 – 0.3

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.

**Table 32: Type of Weapon for Legal Intervention Deaths
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%
Weapon Type			
	Handgun	16	72.7
	Rifle	3	13.6
	Shotgun	1	4.5
	Other	2	9.1
Total Deaths		22	100

**Table 33: Legal Intervention Deaths by County of Residence
in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number		Number
County		County	
Alexander	1	Iredell	1
Ashe	1	Johnston	1
Catawba	1	Lenoir	1
Cumberland	3	Mecklenburg	2
Davidson	1	Northampton	1
Gaston	1	Surry	1
Guilford	2	Wake	2
Harnett	1	Watauga	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 34** describes the unintentional firearm injury victims in North Carolina in 2012 by sex, race, and age. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of unintentional firearm deaths. **Table 35** displays the type of firearm for unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 36** provides the number of unintentional firearm deaths in 2012 by North Carolina County of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, 18 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Unintentional firearm victims were 83.3 percent male, 72.2 percent white, 27.8 percent black, and 100.0 percent non-Hispanic.
- Deaths from an unintentional firearm injury occurred in ages 10 to 84.
- The most common firearm involved in unintentional firearm deaths was a shotgun (33.3%) followed by a handgun (27.8%) and a rifle (27.8%).

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths to help understand the underlying causes of death. All 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 37** summarizes the circumstances of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstance among mechanisms of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death was that the shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger (33.3%). Other common circumstances were that the shooter thought the magazine was unloaded (13.3%) and that the injury occurred while cleaning a gun (13.3%).
- Among contexts of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death, the most common contexts were that the injury occurred while playing with a gun (13.3%), the injury occurred while target shooting (13.3%), the injury occurred while showing the gun to others (13.3%), and the injury occurred while on a hunting trip (13.3%).

**Table 34: Demographics of Unintentional Firearm Death Victims
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	3	16.7	*	*
	Male	15	83.3	0.3	0.2 – 0.5
Race					
	American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	Black	5	27.8	0.2	0.0 – 0.4
	White	13	72.2	4.9	2.2 – 7.5
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	Non-Hispanic	18	100.0	0.2	0.1 – 0.3
Age Group (Years)					
	10 - 14	1	5.6	*	*
	15 - 19	3	16.7	*	*
	20 - 24	5	27.8	0.7	0.1 – 1.3
	25 - 34	2	11.1	*	*
	35 - 44	2	11.1	*	*
	45 - 54	1	5.6	*	*
	55 - 64	1	5.6	*	*
	65 - 74	2	11.1	*	*
	75 - 84	1	5.6	*	*
Total Deaths		18	100	0.2	0.1 – 0.3

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.

**Table 35: Type of Firearm for Unintentional Firearm Deaths
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%
Firearm Type			
	Handgun	5	27.8
	Shotgun	6	33.3
	Rifle	5	27.8
	Other	2	11.1
Total Deaths		18	100.0

**Table 36: Unintentional Firearm Deaths by County of Residence
in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number		Number
County		County	
Brunswick	1	Jackson	1
Buncombe	1	Johnston	1
Currituck	1	Mecklenburg	1
Davidson	1	Moore	1
Edgecombe	1	Nash	1
Gaston	1	Perquimans	1
Halifax	1	Rutherford	1
Harnett	1	Transylvania	1
Haywood	1	Warren	1

**Table 37: Circumstances of Unintentional Firearm Deaths
in North Carolina, 2012**

	Number	%
Context		
Occurred While Playing with a Gun	2	13.3
Occurred While Showing Gun to Others	2	13.3
Occurred While Target Shooting	2	13.3
Occurred While on a Hunting Trip	2	13.3
Other Context	6	40.0
Mechanism		
Shooter Unintentionally Pulled Trigger	5	33.3
Shooter Thought Magazine was Unloaded	2	13.3
Occurred While Cleaning a Gun	2	13.3
Shooter Thought Gun was Unloaded	1	6.7
Gun Had a Defect or Malfunctioned	1	6.7
Gun Discharged When it was Dropped	1	6.7
Other Mechanism	3	20.0

** Circumstances were available for 100 percent of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012.

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 38 characterizes violent deaths for children under the age of 18 years in North Carolina in 2012 by sex, race, and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, 88 children in North Carolina (3.8 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 2.6 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (5.5 vs. 2.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- The violent death rate for children per 100,000 was 1.5 times higher for blacks (5.1) than for whites (3.5) and 1.3 times higher for Non-Hispanic children (4.0) than for Hispanic children (3.0).
- The highest death rate was for children ages 15 to 17 (10.4 per 100,000). The lowest rate was for ages 1 to 4 (2.4 per 100,000).

Manner of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2012 is displayed in **Figure 22**, and it is shown stratified by sex in **Table 39**, by race and by age group in **Table 40**.

Key Findings:

- The most common causes of violent death for all child victims were homicide (54.5%) and suicide (39.8%).
- Homicide was the cause of violent death in the majority of black children (83.9%).
- Homicide was the leading cause of violent death for infants less than 1 year (91.7%) and for children age 1-4 (100.0%) and age 5-9 (100.0%).
- Suicide was the cause of violent death in the majority white children (56.4%).
- Suicide was the leading cause of violent death for children age 10-14 (65.2%) and age 15-17 (51.3%).

Method of child violent death in North Carolina in 2012 is provided stratified by sex in **Table 41**, by race in **Table 42** and by age group in **Table 43**.

Key Findings:

- The most common methods of violent death for all child victims were firearm (40.9%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (25.0%), and personal weapons (18.2%).
- Firearm was the leading method of child violent death for males (46.9%), blacks (45.2%), and whites (40.0%).
- Personal weapons (41.7%) and violent shaking (25.0%) were the leading methods of violent death in infants less than 1 year. For children ages 1 to 4, personal weapons (i.e., child abuse by a parent or caretaker) was the leading method of death (75.0%). There were 2 child deaths for ages 5-9, one attributable to personal weapons (50.0%) and the other attributable to motor vehicle (50.0%). Hanging, strangulation, or suffocation was the top cause of violent child death for ages 10 to 14 (47.8%). Firearm was the top cause of violent child death for ages 15 to 17 (64.1%).

Table 38: Demographics of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Deaths in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	24	27.3	2.1	1.3 – 3.0
	Male	64	72.7	5.5	4.1 – 6.8
Race					
	American Indian	1	1.14	*	*
	Black	31	35.23	5.1	3.3 – 7.0
	White	55	62.5	3.5	2.6 – 4.5
	Asian	1	1.14	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	10	11.36	3.0	1.2 – 4.9
	Non-Hispanic	78	88.64	4.0	3.1 – 4.9
Age Group (Years)					
	<1	12	13.64	10.0	4.3 – 15.6
	1 - 4	12	13.64	2.4	1.0 – 3.8
	5 - 9	2	2.27	*	*
	10 - 14	23	26.14	3.5	2.1 – 5.0
	15 - 17	39	44.32	10.4	7.1 – 13.6
Total Deaths		88	100	3.8	3.0 – 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.

Table 39: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Sex in North Carolina, 2012

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death						
Homicide	34	53.1	14	58.3	48	54.6
Suicide	25	39.1	10	41.7	35	39.8
Undetermined Intent	3	4.7	0	0.0	3	3.4
Unintentional Firearm	2	3.1	0	0.0	2	2.3
Total Deaths	64	100	24	100	88	100

Figure 22: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death in North Carolina, 2012

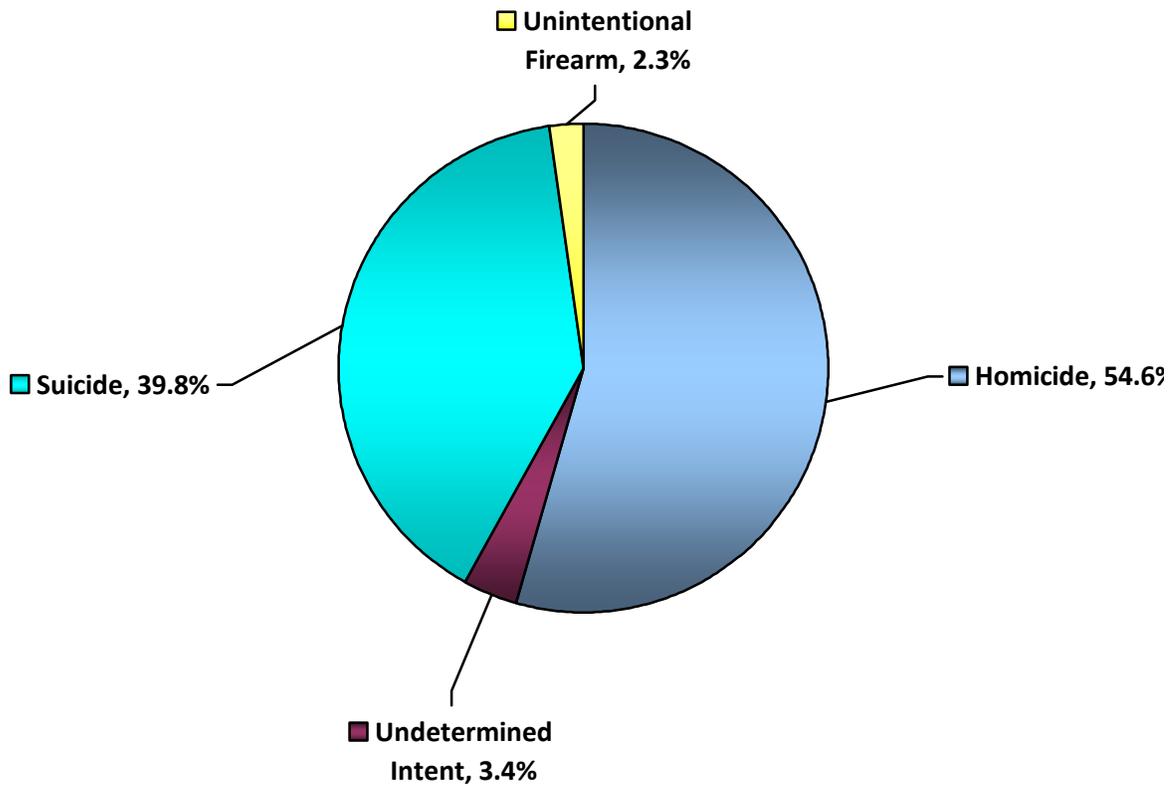


Table 40: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race in North Carolina, 2012

Race	American Indian		Black		White		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death								
Homicide	1	100.0	26	83.9	21	38.2	0	0
Suicide	0	0.0	3	9.7	31	56.4	1	100.0
Undetermined Intent	0	0.0	2	6.5	1	1.8	0	0.0
Unintentional Firearm	0	0.0	0	0	2	3.6	0	0.0
Total Deaths	1	100	31	100	55	100	1	100

Table 40: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group in North Carolina, 2012

Age Group	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15 to 17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death										
Homicide	11	91.7	12	100.	2	100	7	30.4	16	41.0
Suicide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	65.2	20	51.3
Undetermined Intent	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	2	5.1
Unintentional Firearm	1	8.3	0	0	0	0.0	1	4.3	1	2.6
Total Deaths	12	100	12	100	2	100	23	100	39	100

Table 41: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Sex in North Carolina, 2012

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	30	46.9%	6	25.0%	36	40.9%
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	16	25.0%	6	25.0%	22	25.0%
Personal Weapons	11	17.2%	5	20.8%	16	18.2%
Violent Shaking	2	3.1%	1	4.2%	3	3.4%
Drowning	1	1.6%	1	4.2%	2	2.3%
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0%	2	8.3%	2	2.3%
Poisoning	1	1.6%	1	4.2%	2	2.3%
Blunt Instrument	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Fire or Burns	0	0.0%	1	4.2%	1	1.1%
Other Transport	0	0.0%	1	4.2%	1	1.1%
Sharp Instrument	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Unknown	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Total Deaths	64	100	24	100	88	100

Table 42: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race in North Carolina, 2012

Race	American	Black	White	Asian
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	Indian							
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death								
Firearm	0	0	14	45.2	22	40.0	0	0
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	0	0	4	12.9	17	30.9	1	100.0
Personal weapons	1	100.0	9	29.0	6	10.9	0	0
Violent Shaking	0	0	1	3.2	2	3.6	0	0
Drowning	0	0	0	0.0	2	3.6	0	0
Motor Vehicle	0	0	1	3.2	1	1.8	0	0
Poisoning	0	0	0	0.0	2	3.6	0	0
Blunt instrument	0	0	1	3.2	0	0.0	0	0
Fire or burns	0	0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0
Other transport	0	0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0
Sharp instrument	0	0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	3.2	0	0.0	0	0
Total Deaths	1	100	31	100	55	100	1	100

Table 43: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group in North Carolina, 2012

Age Group	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15 to 17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death										
Firearm	0	0.0	1	8.3	0	0.0	10	43.5	25	64.1
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	1	8.3	2	16.7	0	0.0	11	47.8	8	20.5
Personal weapons	5	41.7	9	75.0	1	50.0	1	4.3	0	0.0
Violent Shaking	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drowning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.1
Motor Vehicle	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.1
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.3	0	0.0
Fire or burns	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other transport	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.6
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.6
Unknown	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Deaths	12	100	12	100	2	100	23	100	39	100

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 44** provides the characteristics of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2012 by sex, race, and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2012, 74 undetermined intent deaths (0.8 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Males had an undetermined death rate of 1.6 times that of females (0.9 versus 0.6 per 100,000).
- Whites accounted for 78.4 percent of undetermined intent victims.
- The majority (95.9%) of undetermined intent death victims were non-Hispanic.
- The majority (81.1%) of undetermined intent death victims were between the ages of 25 and 64, and the highest undetermined intent death rate by age group was among those 35 to 44 years (1.6 per 100,000).

Table 45 summarizes the method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 46** shows the type of poisoning for undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2012. **Table 47** shows the type of firearm involved in undetermined intent firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2012.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (46.0%) and firearm (13.5%).
- Most (59.6%) undetermined intent poisoning deaths involved pharmaceuticals.
- A handgun was involved in 50.0 percent of undetermined intent firearm deaths, a rifle was involved in 30.0 percent of these deaths, and the remaining 20 percent were unknown.

Table 48 provides the number of undetermined intent deaths in 2012 by North Carolina County of residence.

**Table 44: Demographics of Undetermined Intent Death Victims
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex					
	Female	29	39.2	0.6	0.4 – 0.8
	Male	45	60.8	0.9	0.7 – 1.2
Race					
	Asian	1	1.4	*	*
	Black	15	20.3	0.7	0.3 – 1.0
	White	58	78.4	0.8	0.6 – 1.0
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	3	4.1	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	71	95.9	0.8	0.6 – 1.0
Age Group (Years)					
	<1	1	1.4	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	5 - 9	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	10 - 14	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	15 - 19	3	4.1	*	*
	20 - 24	5	6.8	0.7	0.1 – 1.3
	25 - 34	12	16.2	0.9	0.4 – 1.5
	35 - 44	21	28.4	1.6	0.9 – 2.3
	45 - 54	12	16.2	0.9	0.4 – 1.4
	55 - 64	15	20.3	1.3	0.6 – 1.9
	65 - 74	2	2.7	*	*
	75 - 84	1	1.4	*	*
	85+	2	2.7	*	*
Total Deaths		74	100	0.8	0.6 – 0.9

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.

**Table 45: Method of Undetermined Intent Deaths
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%
Method of Death			
	Poisoning	34	46.0
	Firearm	10	13.5
	Fall	3	4.1
	Fire or burns	3	4.1
	Drowning	2	2.7
	Hanging, strangling, suffocation	2	2.7
	Blunt Instrument	1	1.4
	Other transport vehicle	1	1.4
	Unknown	18	24.3
Total Deaths		74	100

**Table 46: Type of Poison for Undetermined Intent Poisoning Deaths
in North Carolina, 2012**

		Number	%
Poison Type			
	Pharmaceuticals	28	59.6
	Alcohol	11	23.4
	Street/recreational drugs	6	12.8
	Carbon monoxide or other gas, vapor	2	4.3
Total Poisoning Deaths		47	100

Table 47: Type of Firearm for Undetermined Intent Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2012

		Number	%
Firearm Type			
	Handgun	5	6.76
	Rifle	3	4.05
	Unknown	2	2.7
Total Firearm Deaths		10	100

Table 48: Undetermined Intent Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2012

	Number		Number		Number
County		County		County	
Alamance	3	Currituck	2	Polk	1
Alexander	1	Durham	1	Robeson	1
Brunswick	1	Edgecombe	1	Rockingham	2
Buncombe	5	Forsyth	5	Rowan	4
Burke	1	Franklin	1	Sampson	1
Caldwell	1	Gaston	3	Stanly	1
Camden	1	Guilford	5	Stokes	1
Carteret	2	Mecklenburg	3	Surry	1
Catawba	1	Nash	1	Union	4
Chatham	1	New Hanover	8	Wake	2
Cleveland	1	Onslow	1	Yancey	1
Craven	3	Person	1		
Cumberland	1	Pitt	1		

Section VIII: Violent Death Trend Over Time

Table 49 shows the number and the rate of violent deaths over time in North Carolina from 2004 to 2012 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 2012.

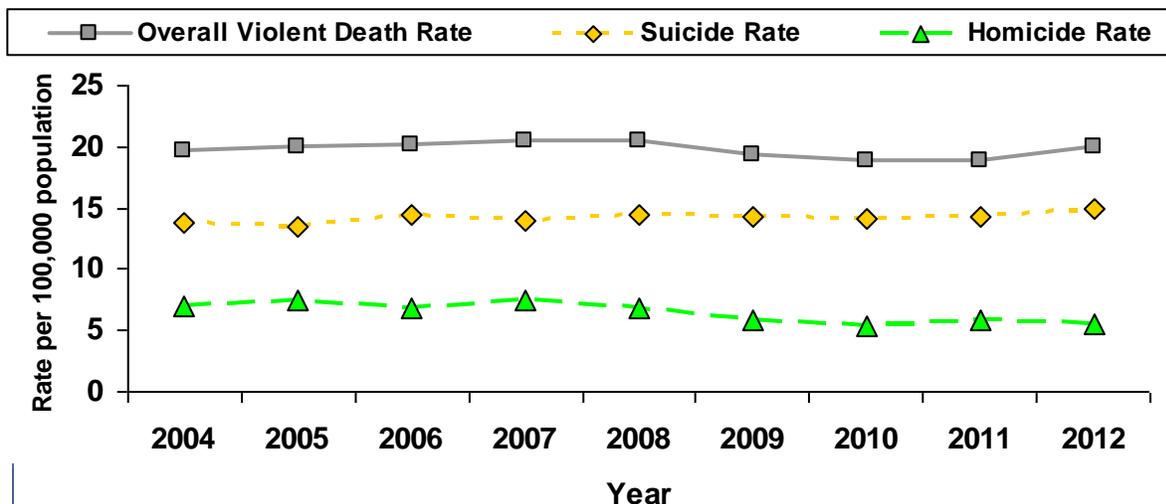
Key Findings:

- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina has remained fairly stable from 2004 (19.6 per 100,000) to 2012 (19.9 per 100,000), with a slight peak during 2007 and 2008 (20.4 per 100,000).
- From 2004 to 2012 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 49: Trend in Violent Deaths Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2012

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

Figure 23: Trend in Violent Death Rate Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2012



Appendix A: Population Data for Rate Calculations

Appendix A: North Carolina Population Data in 2012 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	4,999,175	4,381,493	1,118,234
Male	4,752,898	4,108,290	1,168,294
Race			
American Indian	160,771	133,506	48,901
Asian	265,858	222,712	73,437
Black	2,217,811	1,888,006	602,504
White	7,107,633	6,245,559	1,561,686
Hispanic			
Hispanic	850,853	643,946	329,913
Non-Hispanic	8,901,220	7,845,837	1,956,615
Age Group (Years)			
< 1	120,328	--	120,328
1 - 4	499,612	--	499,612
5 - 9	642,350	--	642,350
10 - 14	648,512	648512	648,512
15 - 19	650,661	650661	375,726 (age 15 - 17)
20 - 24	697,227	697227	--
25 - 34	1,267,434	1267434	--
35 - 44	1,312,404	1312404	--
45 - 54	1,366,362	1366362	--
55 - 64	1,199,314	1199314	--
65 - 74	782,121	782121	--
75 - 84	405,876	405876	--
85 +	159,872	159872	--
Total Population	9,752,073	8,489,783	2,286,528

Note: Race categories include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic ethnicity.

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 (2010-2013).

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

Associate Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Health Behavior/Health Education, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

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Megan Davies, MD

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Phillip Graham, DrPH, MPH

Public Health Researcher, RTI International

Peggy Goodman, MD

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Elizabeth Hudgins

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Marcia Owen
Community Volunteer, Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham

Timothy Parker
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Deborah Radisch, MD
Chief Medical Examiner, Office of Chief Medical Examiner
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Rebecca Reyes
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Kristen Rosselli
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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.



State of North Carolina • Pat McCrory, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services • Aldona Z. Wos, M.D., Secretary
Division of Public Health • Robin Cummings, M.D., Acting State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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North Carolina Violent Death



Reporting System

North Carolina Division of Public Health

VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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