CHILD VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes child violent deaths among North Carolina residents for the year 2012.



Manner of Child Violent Death (0-17): NC-VDRS, 2012

• In 2012, there were a total of 88 violent deaths among North Carolina children ages 0-17.

• There were 48 homicides (55%), 35 suicides (40%), two unintentional firearm deaths (2%), and three deaths for which the Medical Examiner's Office could not determine the manner of death (3%).

• Most of the child victims were male (73%).



• Whites accounted for the greatest percent of deaths (63%), but black children had a higher *rate* of violent death: 5.1 deaths per 100,000 population vs. 3.5 deaths per 100,000 population for white children.

* Other includes Asian, American Indian, and other races.



• The highest child violent death rate occurred among children ages 15-17 (10.4 deaths per 100,000 population).

• Children less than one year of age had the second highest rate of violent deaths (10.0 deaths per 100,000 population).

• The number of deaths among children ages 5-9 was too small to support a rate calculation.



Method of Child Violent Death: NC-VDRS, 2012

• Firearms were involved in 41% of all child violent deaths. This percentage was propelled by the high number of firearm related deaths (25) among children ages 15-17.

• Hanging was the second most common cause of violent death among children (25%).

• Violent shaking and personal weapons were the most common causes of death among children under the age of one, while hanging, strangulation, or suffocation was the most common method of death among children ages 10-14.

* Other includes other transport vehicle, sharp instrument, fire/burns, and unknown



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