

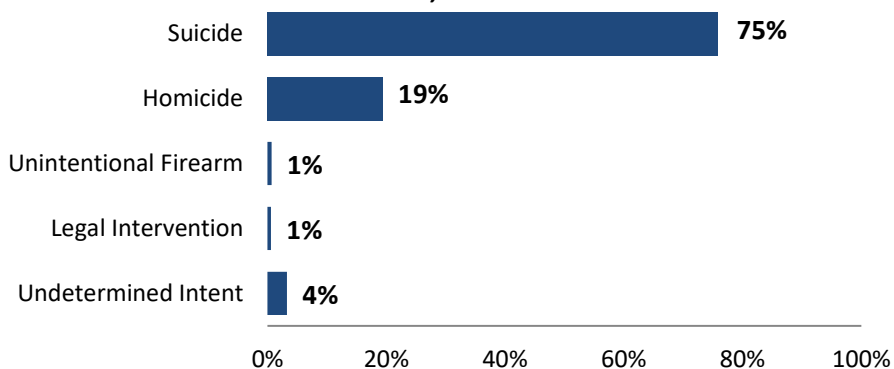
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: BUNCOMBE COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2013-2022

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina, including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS triangulates information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. Data reported in this document are based on the county where the death occurred rather than county of residence.¹ For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

¹ The occurrent ratio is used instead of the rate. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in the region.

**Manner of Death: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2013-2022***

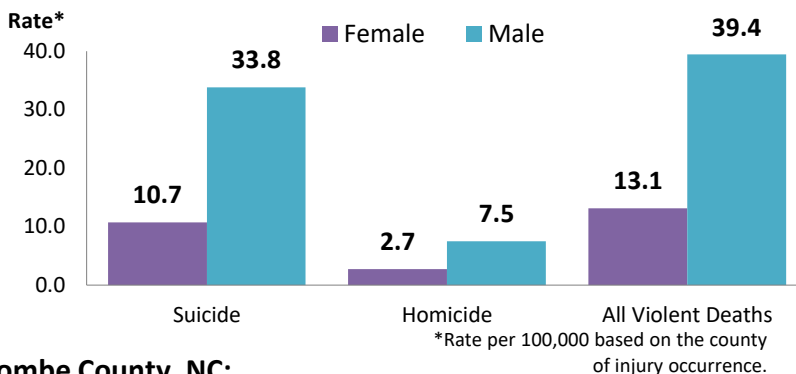


- For the years 2013-2022, there were 669 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Buncombe County. Of these 669 deaths, 646 were NC residents (96.6%) and 600 were Buncombe County residents (89.7%).

- There were 508 suicides (75.9%), 130 homicides (19.4%), five unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%), four deaths from legal intervention (0.6%), and 22 deaths of undetermined intent (3.3%).

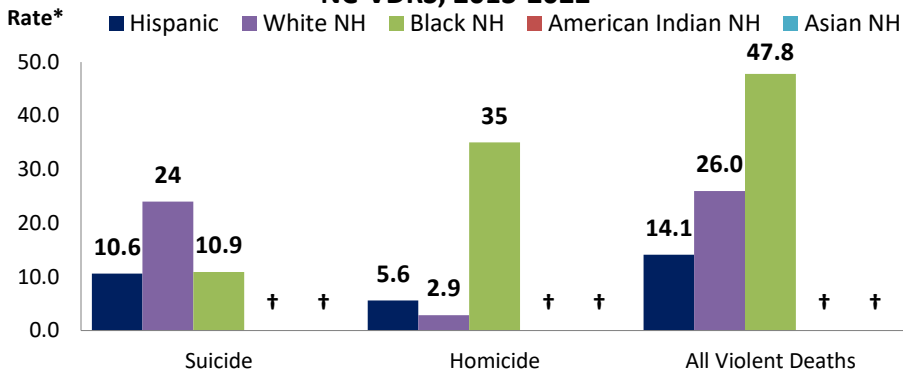
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

**Manner of Death by Sex: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2013-2022***



- In Buncombe County, the suicide ratio was 3.2 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 2.8 times higher in males than in females.

**Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2013-2022***



- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (24.0 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Black victims (10.9 per 100,000).

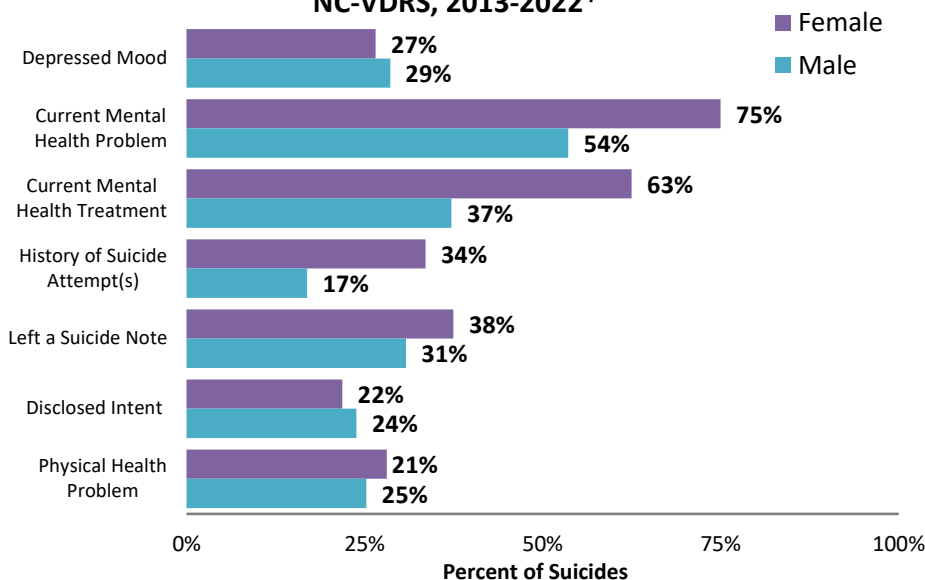
- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (35.0 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (5.6 per 100,000).

*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths. Chart excludes zero deaths of unknown or other race/ethnicity.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 20-24 with 13.7 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 45-54 with 32.4 suicides per 100,000.
- More than half of homicides (68.5%) and almost half of suicides (48.4%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 18.5% of homicides and in 19.1% of suicides.
- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (67.6%) than for male (54.8%) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2013-2022*



- Twenty-nine percent (28.6%) of male and 26.6% of female Buncombe County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.

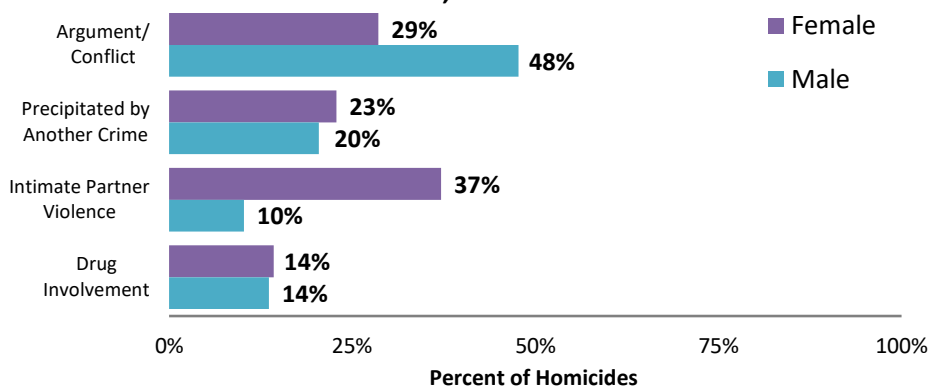
- Seventy-five percent (75.0%) of female and 53.6% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (33.6%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (16.9%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 96.1% of cases had circumstance information. Three females and 17 males were missing circumstance information.

Circumstances of Homicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2013-2022*



- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (47.7%) than for female homicides (28.6%).

- Twenty-three percent (22.9%) of female homicides and 20.5% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 37.1% of female homicides, but only 10.2% of male homicides.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 94.6% of cases had circumstance information. Two females and five males were missing circumstance information.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE924955-02-00 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NCDHHS Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

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2022 FINAL DATA 7/11/2024



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch



Please see the NC-VDRS 2022 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.