

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death  
Reporting System

Annual Report  
2013

North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
**PREVENTION** Branch

Division of Public Health



North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
**PREVENTION** Branch

North Carolina Violent Death



**Annual Report  
2013**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch  
March 2016

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## Executive Summary

### North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2013

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 2013.

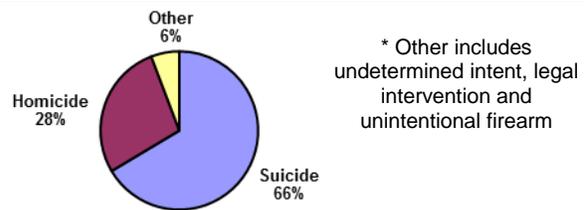
### Overall Violent Deaths

In 2013, 1,914 North Carolina residents (19.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. The leading causes of violent death were suicide (66.5%) and homicide (27.7%) (Figure i). Leading methods of violent death were firearm (62.8%), poisoning (13.5%) and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.8%). The most common firearms involved in violent firearm deaths were handguns (73.0%), shotguns (12.6%) and rifles (9.6%).

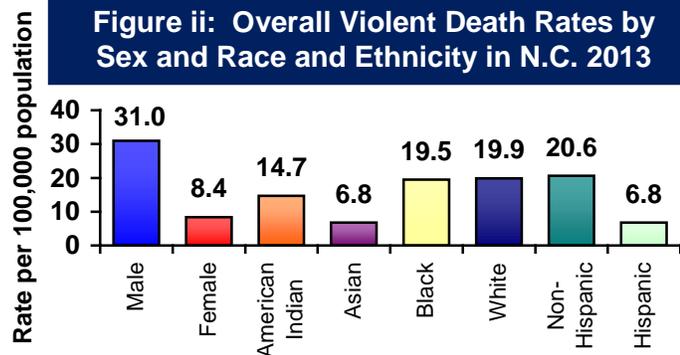
Males were 3.7 times as likely to die from violence as women (31.0 vs. 8.4 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure ii). The violent death rates per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race were white (19.9), black (19.5), American Indian (14.7) and Asian (6.8). Non-Hispanics had a higher death rate than Hispanics (20.6 versus 6.8 per 100,000, respectively).

Adults from ages 20 to 64 years had the highest violent death rates by age per 100,000 as follows: 45 to 54 (27.7), 25 to 34 (26.2), 20 to 24 (25.7), 35 to 44 (24.8) and 55 to 64 (24.3). The violent death rate trend by age differed by sex with males showing higher rates than females across nearly all age groups (Figure iii).

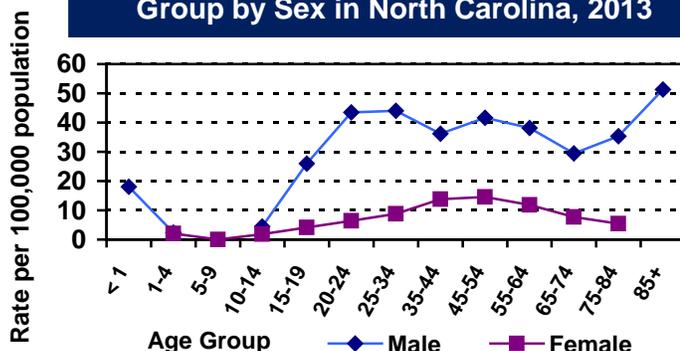
**Figure i: Manner of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2013**



**Figure ii: Overall Violent Death Rates by Sex and Race and Ethnicity in N.C. 2013**



**Figure iii: Overall Violent Death Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for some age and sex groups.

## Suicides

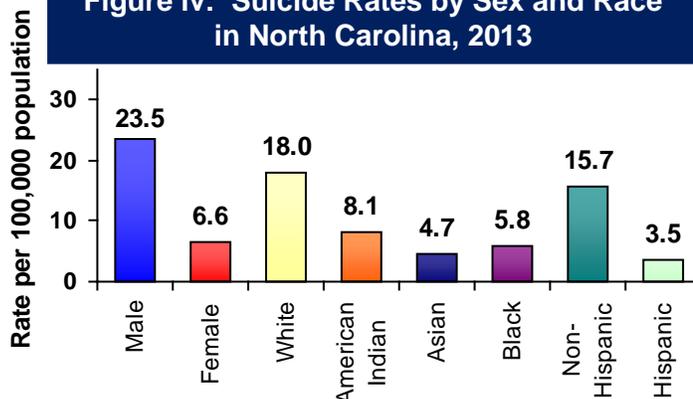
Suicide was the cause of death for 1,272 North Carolinians (14.8 per 100,000) in 2013. Suicides were most commonly completed by a firearm (60.1%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (18.6%) and poisoning (17.0%). A handgun was the most common firearm, involved in 72.8 percent of suicide firearm deaths. Pharmaceuticals were the most common poison, used in 80.6 percent of suicide poisoning deaths.

Men were 3.5 times more likely to die from suicide than women (23.5 versus 6.6 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 76.9 percent were male and 89.4 percent were white. The suicide rate per 100,000 was highest in whites (18.0) and lower in blacks (5.8) American Indians (8.1) and Asians (4.7). The suicide rate was 4.5 times higher in non-Hispanics than in Hispanics (15.7 versus 3.5 per 100,000, respectively).

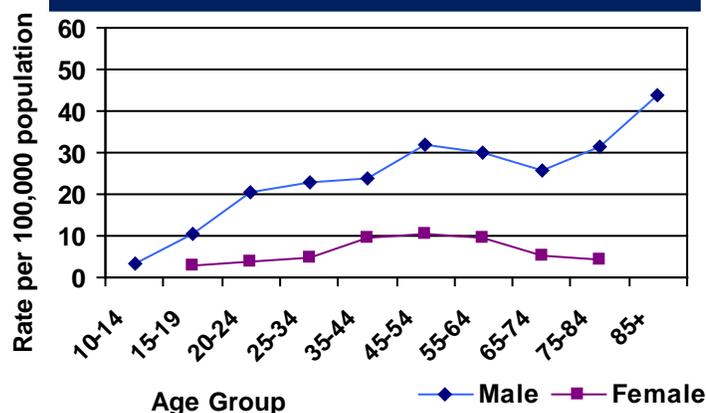
The age group with the highest suicide rate was 45 to 54 years (22.6 per 100,000). Although the suicide rate was higher for men than women for all age groups, men ages 75 to 84 years were 7.6 times more likely to be a suicide victim than women in the same age group (Figure v).

The most common circumstances of suicide were current mental health problem (51.1%), current treatment for mental illness (45.4%), ever treated for mental illness (50.6%) and current depressed mood (31.8%). Most (75.1%) with a current mental health problem had depression. Other common circumstances of suicide were problems with an intimate partner (25.5%), physical health problem (17.2%), other substance abuse problem (15.3%), or an alcohol problem (14.4%). Of the 88.0 percent of suicide victims tested, 29.0 percent had alcohol present at the time of death. Most (75.6%) injuries resulting in suicide occurred in a house or apartment.

**Figure iv: Suicide Rates by Sex and Race in North Carolina, 2013**



**Figure v: Suicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



**Note:** Numbers of suicides for females ages 10-14 and 85+ were too small to support rate calculations.

## Homicides

A total of 531 North Carolinians (5.4 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2013. Firearm (71.8%) and sharp instrument (12.2%) were the most common homicide methods. Handguns accounted for 74.9 percent of firearms used in homicide firearm deaths.

Men accounted for 79.7 percent of homicide victims and were 4.2 times more likely to die from homicide than women (8.8 vs. 2.1 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates per 100,000 were higher in blacks (13.4 per 100,000) and American Indians (7.4 per 100,000) than in Asians (2.9 per 100,000) and whites (2.9 per 100,000). Hispanics were less likely to be a homicide victim compared to non-Hispanics (3.8 versus 5.5 per 100,000, respectively).

Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest in the following age groups: 20 to 24 years (11.7 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (10.9 per 100,000) and infants younger than one (9.2 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 8.5 times greater among males than females.

The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (43.0%), precipitated by another serious crime (38.3%), gang related (33.1%), intimate partner violence related (21.0%) and drug involvement (19.6%). The most common crimes that precipitated homicide were robbery (39.0%), burglary (26.6%) and drug trade (20.3%). Homicides occurred most often in a house or apartment (59.5%), a motor vehicle (11.1%) or a street, road, sidewalk or alley (9.8%).

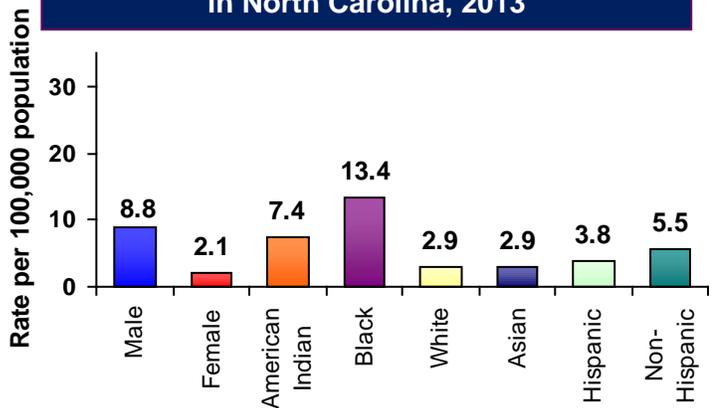
**Legal Intervention**

Thirty North Carolina residents died in 2013 from legal intervention. These victims were killed by police or other law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty. Ninety percent of legal intervention victims were male, and all victims were from 15 to 74 years of age. Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (96.7%), a handgun used most frequently (56.3%).

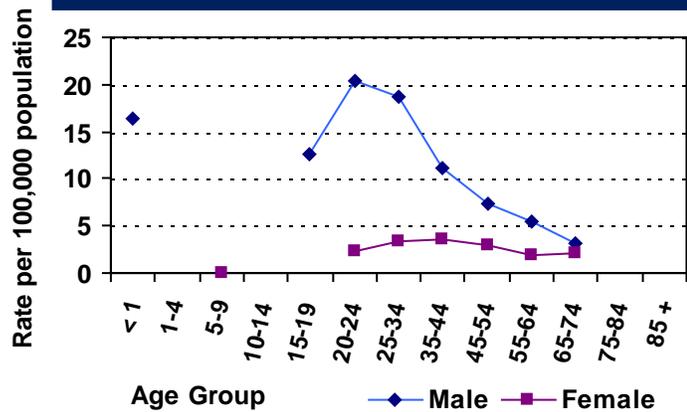
**Unintentional Firearm Deaths**

In 2013, 14 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 handgun (50.0%) followed by a shotgun (35.7%) and a rifle (7.1%).

**Figure vi: Homicide Rates by Sex and Race in North Carolina, 2013**



**Figure vii: Homicide Rates: Age Group by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



**Note:** Numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for males ages 1 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, 75 to 84, and 85 and older. Numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for females younger than 1 year old, and ages 1 to 4, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, 75 to 84, and 85 and older.

### ***Child Violent Deaths***

In North Carolina in 2013, 91 children (4.0 per 100,000) died from violence. Homicide (42.9%) and suicide (42.9%) were the leading causes of child violent death. Firearm (46.2%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (27.5%) and personal weapons (9.9%) were the most common methods of child death.

Male children were 3.9 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (6.3 vs. 1.6 per 100,000, respectively). The violent death rate per 100,000 was 1.5 times higher for black children (5.1) than for white children (3.5).

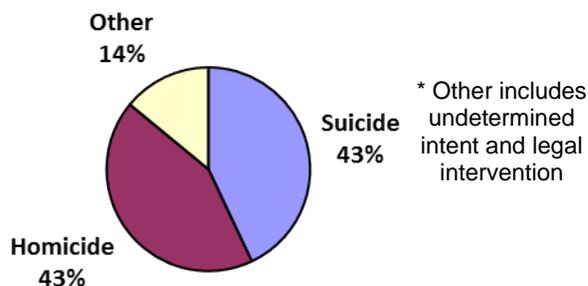
### ***Undetermined Intent***

A total of 67 deaths of undetermined intent (0.7 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2013. The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (59.7%) and firearm (20.9%).

### ***Violent Death over Time***

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained fairly stable from 2004 to 2013, averaging 19.7 per year. The overall violent death rate was 19.6 in 2004, 20.4 in 2008 and 19.4 in 2013.

**Figure viii: Manner of Violent Death among Children in North Carolina, 2013**



## Introduction

Violence-related injuries are among the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2013, there were more than 41,100 suicides and 16,100 homicides nationwide, many of which were preventable. In North Carolina, more than 17,500 residents died from suicide or homicide in the ten-year period from 2004 to 2013. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. In North Carolina in 2013, 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 fifth leading cause of death for children ages one to four. In addition, violent death rates show disparities by sex, race and ethnicity. For males in North Carolina in 2013, suicide was the seventh leading cause of death. Homicide was the ninth leading cause of death in American Indians, and suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in whites in North Carolina in 2013. Among Hispanics in North Carolina, homicide and suicide were respectively the fifth and ninth leading causes of death in 2013.

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, 2013, to December 31, 2013. The 2013 data file used for this report was generated in October 2015. Note that if changes are made to the 2013 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2013 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 2013. 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 2013) 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=1,914).
- **Occurrent deaths** capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent (N=1,957).

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 (fewer 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 fewer 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 5U17CE002613-02. 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	Chatham County Sheriff's Office
Ahoskie Police Department	Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	Cherokee Police Department
Albemarle Police Department	China Grove Police Department
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	Chowan County Sheriff's Office
Alleghany County Sheriff's Office	Clay County Sheriff's Office
Andrews Police Department	Clayton Police Department
Anson County Sheriff's Office	Cleveland County Sheriff's Office
Apex Police Department	Clyde Police Department
Archdale Police Department	Columbus County Sheriff's Office
Ashe County Sheriff's Office	Concord Police Department
Asheboro Police Department	Conover Police Department
Asheville Police Department	Cornelius Police Department
Avery County Sheriff's Office	Craven County Sheriff's Office
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	Creedmoor Police Department
Beulaville Police Department	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Beech Mountain Police Department	Currituck County Sheriff's Office
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	Dare County Sheriff's Office
Blowing Rock Police Department	Davidson Police Department
Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department	Davie County Sheriff's Office
Boone Police Department	Dobson Police Department
Brevard Police Department	Dunn Police Department
Broadway Police Department	Duplin County Sheriff's Office
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	Durham County Sheriff's Office
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office	Durham Police Department
Burke County Sheriff's Office	Eden Police Department
Burlington Police Department	Edgecombe Co Sheriff's Office
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	Elizabeth City Police Department
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	Fairmont Police Department
Camden County Sheriff's Office	Farmville Police Department
Canton Police Department	Fayetteville Police Department
Carolina Beach Police Department	Fletcher Police Department
Carrboro Police Department	Forest City Police Department
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Cary Police Department	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Caswell County Sheriff's Office	Franklin Police Department
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	Fuquay-Varina Police Department
Chadbourn Police Department	Garner Police Department
Chapel Hill Police Department	Gaston County Police Department
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department	Gastonia Police Department

Gibsonville Police Department  
 Goldsboro Police Department  
 Graham County Sheriff's Office  
 Graham Police Department  
 Granville County Sheriff's Office  
 Greene County Sheriff's Office  
 Greensboro Police Department  
 Greenville Police Department  
 Guilford County Sheriff's Office  
 Halifax County Sheriff's Office  
 Hamlet Police Department  
 Harnett County Sheriff's Office  
 Havelock Police Department  
 Haw River Police Department  
 Haywood County Sheriff's Office  
 Henderson County Sheriff's Office  
 Henderson Police Department  
 Hendersonville Police Department  
 Hertford County Sheriff's Office  
 Hickory Police Department  
 High Point Police Department  
 Hoke County Sheriff's Office  
 Holly Ridge Police Department  
 Hope Mills Police Department  
 Hudson Police Department  
 Huntersville Police Department  
 Hyde County Sheriff's Office  
 Iredell County Sheriff's Office  
 Jackson County Sheriff's Office  
 Jacksonville Police Department  
 Johnston County Sheriff's Office  
 Kannapolis Police Department  
 Kernersville Police Department  
 Kill Devil Hills Police Department  
 King Police Department  
 Kings Mountain Police Department  
 Kinston Police Department  
 Knightdale Police Department  
 Lake Lure Police Department  
 Landis Police Department  
 Laurinburg Police Department  
 Lee County Sheriff's Office  
 Leland Police Department  
 Lenoir County Sheriff's Office  
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 Locust Police Department  
 Long View Police Department  
 Louisburg Police Department  
 Lowell Police Department  
 Lumberton Police Department  
 Macon County Sheriff's Office  
 Madison County Sheriff's Office  
 Martin County Sheriff's Office

Matthews Police Department  
 Mayodan Police Department  
 McDowell County Sheriff's Office  
 Mebane Police Department  
 Mint Hill Police Department  
 Mitchell County Sheriff's Office  
 Mocksville Police Department  
 Monroe Police Department  
 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
 Moore County Sheriff's Office  
 Mooresville Police Department  
 Morehead City Police Department  
 Morganton Police Department  
 Mount Airy Police Department  
 Mount Holly Police Department  
 Murfreesboro Police Department  
 Murphy Police Department  
 Nags Head Police Department  
 Nash County Sheriff's Office  
 Nashville Police Department  
 New Bern Police Department  
 New Hanover County Sheriff's Office  
 Newland Police Department  
 Newport Police Department  
 Newton Police Department  
 North Wilkesboro Police Department  
 Northampton County Sheriff's Office  
 Oak Island Police Department  
 Onslow County Sheriff's Office  
 Orange County Sheriff's Office  
 Oxford Police Department  
 Pamlico County Sheriff's Office  
 Pender County Sheriff's Office  
 Perquimans County Sheriff's Office  
 Person County Sheriff's Office  
 Pilot Mountain Police Department  
 Pinehurst Police Department  
 Pitt County Sheriff's Office  
 Polk County Sheriff's Office  
 Raleigh Police Department  
 Randolph County Sheriff's Office  
 Reidsville Police Department  
 Richmond County Sheriff's Office  
 Roanoke Rapids Police Department  
 Robbins Police Department  
 Robeson County Sheriff's Office  
 Rockingham County Sheriff's Office  
 Rockingham Police Department  
 Rockwell Police Department  
 Rocky Mount Police Department  
 Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
 Roxboro Police Department  
 Rutherford County Sheriff's Office  
 St. Paul's Police Department  
 Salisbury Police Department  
 Sampson County Sheriff's Office

Sanford Police Department  
 Scotland County Sheriff's Office  
 Scotland Neck Police Department  
 Shallotte Police Department  
 Shelby Police Department  
 Smithfield Police Department  
 Southern Pines Police Department  
 Spindale Police Department  
 Stanly County Sheriff's Office  
 Statesville Police Department  
 Stokes County Sheriff's Office  
 Sunset Beach Police Department  
 Surry County Sheriff's Office  
 Swain County Sheriff's Office  
 Sylva Police Department  
 Tarboro Police Department  
 Thomasville Police Department  
 Transylvania County Sheriff's Office  
 Trent Woods Police Department  
 Troutman Police Department  
 Union County Sheriff's Office  
 Valdese Police Department  
 Vance County Sheriff's Office

Wadesboro Police Department  
 Wagram Police Department  
 Wake County Sheriff's Office  
 Wake Forest Police Department  
 Warren County Sheriff's Office  
 Washington County Sheriff's Office  
 Washington Police Department  
 Watauga County Sheriff's Office  
 Wayne County Sheriff's Office  
 Waynesville Police Department  
 Weaverville Police Department  
 Whiteville Police Department  
 Wilkes County Sheriff's Office  
 Wilmington Police Department  
 Wilson County Sheriff's Office  
 Wilson Police Department  
 Winston Salem Police Department  
 Woodfin Police Department  
 Yadkin County Sheriff's Office  
 Yadkinville Police Department  
 Yancey County Sheriff's Office  
 Zebulon 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 2013 and the period of the data close-out (2013-2015), 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 2013 by demographic characteristics of sex, race and age. The 2013 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 1,914 North Carolinians (19.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence in 2013.
- Males were 3.7 times as likely to die from violence as females (31.0 versus 8.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- Whites had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (19.9) followed by blacks (19.5), American Indians (14.7) and Asians (6.8).
- Non-Hispanics had a violent death rate of 20.6 per 100,000 and were 3.1 times as likely to die from violence as Hispanics (6.8 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 45 to 54 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (27.7), followed by adults ages: 25-34 (26.2), 20 to 24 (25.7), 35 to 44 (24.8) and 55 to 64 (24.3).
- Among children under the age of 15, children less than one year had the highest violent death rate (10.9 per 100,000).

**Table 2** lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2013. N.C. violent deaths in 2013 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 (66.5%) and homicide (27.7%).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (62.8%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.8%) and poisoning (13.5%).
- The most common firearm involved in violent firearm deaths was a handgun (72.8%).

**Table 4** characterizes adult violent death victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2013 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Most adult victims completed high school with 78.7 percent having 12 or more years of education.
- More than one-third of adult violent death victims were married, in a civil union, or a domestic partnership (35.2%) or never married (36.4%), with fewer victims who were divorced (19.3%) or widowed (5.2%).
- Military veterans accounted for 18.2 percent of North Carolina adult violent death victims in 2013.

**Table 5** and **Figure 5** show the overall violent death rates in 2013 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 79 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 21.0 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 41.2 deaths per 100,000.

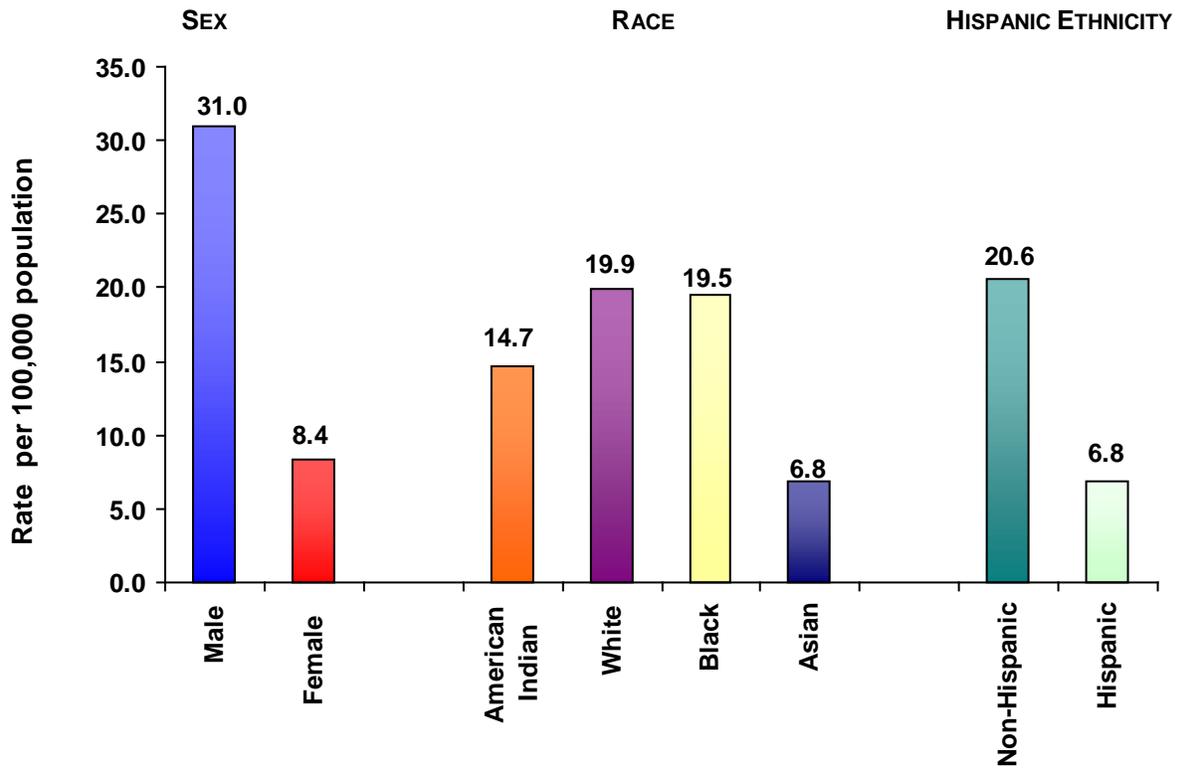
<b>Table 1: Demographics of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2013</b>					
		<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>95% CI</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	426	22.3	8.4	7.6 – 9.2
	Male	1,488	77.7	31.0	29.4 – 32.6
<b>Race</b>					
	White	1,427	74.6	19.9	20.0 – 22.1
	Black	437	22.8	19.5	15.9 – 19.4
	Asian	19	0.99	6.8	6.6 – 14.4
	American Indian	24	1.25	14.7	9.5 – 21.6
	Unknown Race	7	0.37	--	--
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	59	3.1	6.8	5.0 – 8.5
	Non-Hispanic	1,853	96.8	20.6	19.7 – 21.6
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	< 1	13	0.68	10.9	5.0 – 16.8
	1-4	11	0.57	2.2	0.9 – 3.6
	5-9	1	0.05	*	*
	10-14	21	1.1	3.2	1.8 – 4.6
	15 - 19	100	5.2	15.3	12.3 – 18.4
	20 - 24	183	9.6	25.7	22.0 – 29.4
	25 - 34	334	17.5	26.2	23.4 – 29.0
	35 - 44	324	16.9	24.8	22.1 – 27.4
	45 - 54	379	19.8	27.7	24.9 – 30.5
	55 - 64	296	15.5	24.3	21.5 – 27.0
	65 - 74	147	7.7	17.8	14.9 – 20.7
	75 - 84	74	3.9	17.8	13.8 – 21.9
	85 +	31	1.6	18.7	12.1 – 25.3
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>1,914</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.6 – 20.3</b>

Sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

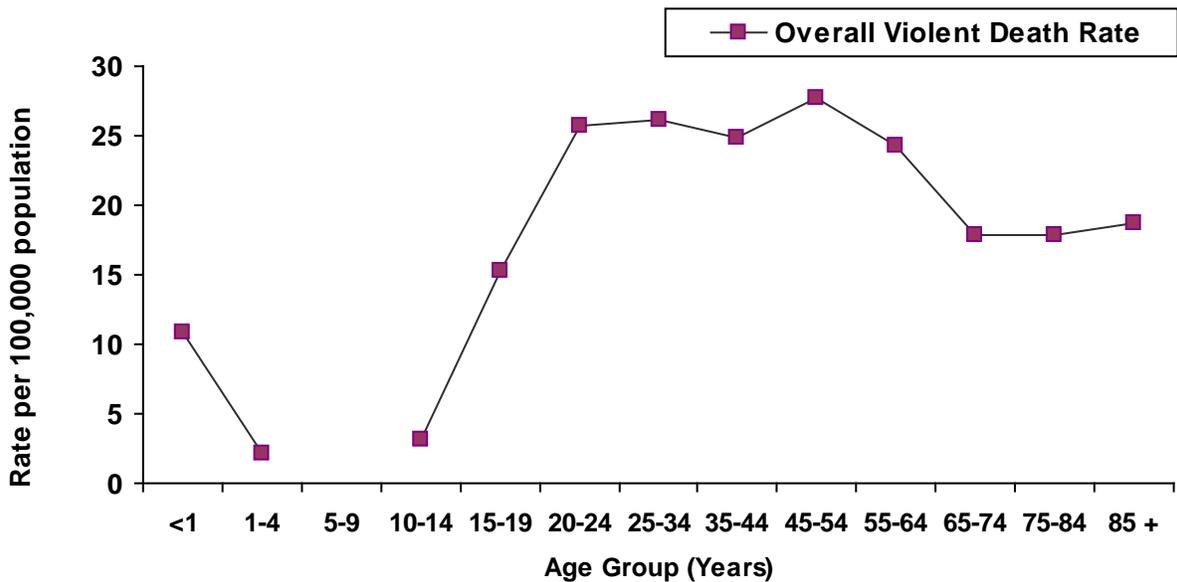
95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

\* 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, 2013**



**Figure 2: Age-Specific Crude Overall Violent Death Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2013**

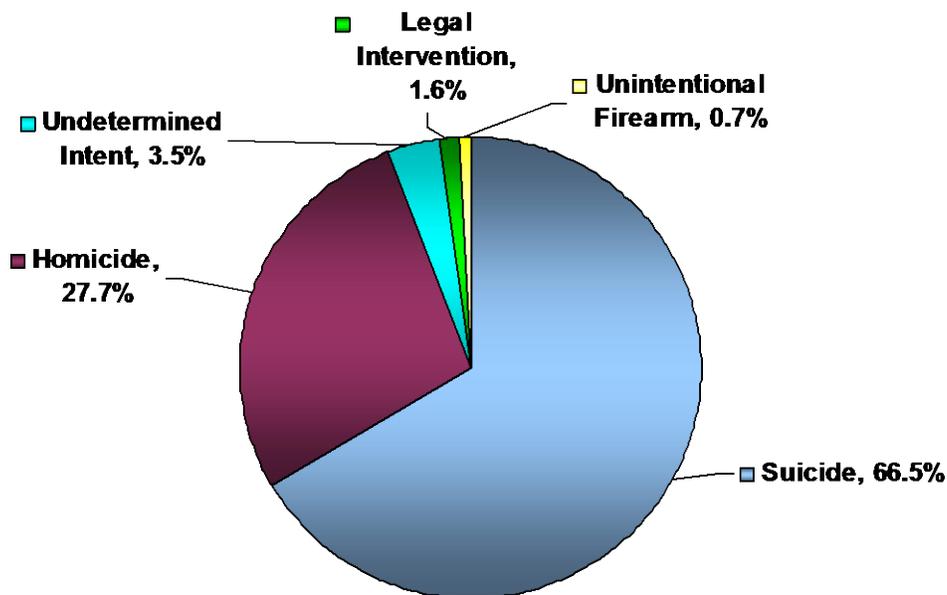


Note: The number of violent deaths for ages 5-9 was too small to support a rate calculation.

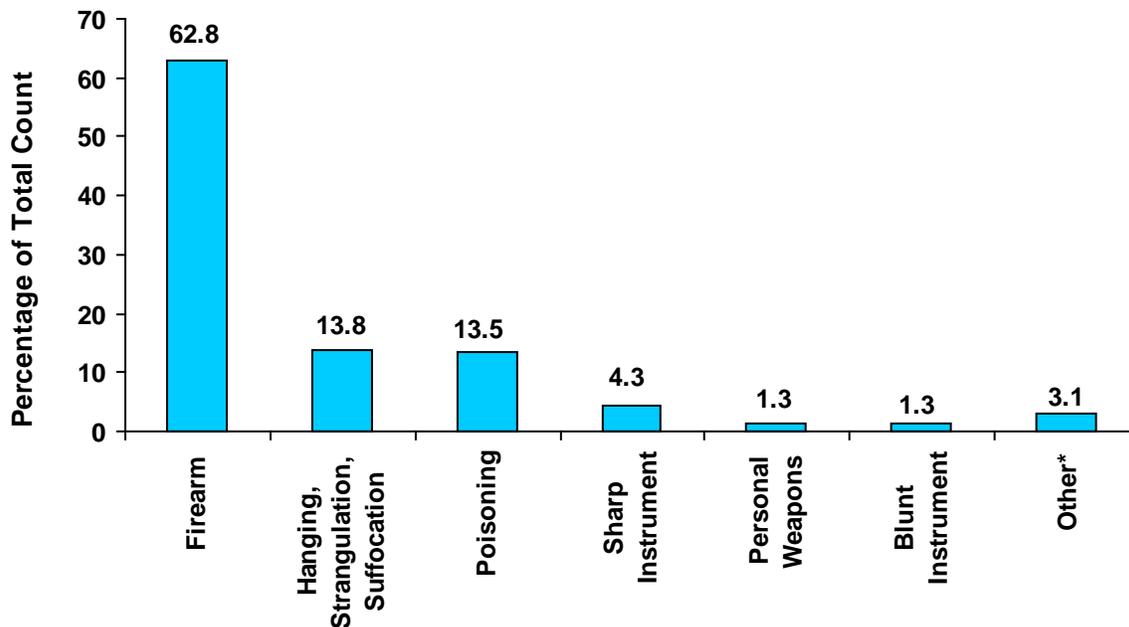
**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death  
in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>			
	Suicide	1,272	66.5
	Homicide	531	27.7
	Undetermined Intent	67	3.5
	Legal Intervention	30	1.6
	Unintentional Firearm	14	0.7
<b>Method of Death</b>			
	Firearm	1,202	62.8
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	263	13.8
	Poisoning	259	13.5
	Sharp Instrument	82	4.3
	Blunt Instrument	25	1.3
	Personal Weapons	24	1.3
	Fall	12	0.6
	Motor Vehicle	10	0.5
	Fire or Burns	8	0.4
	Other Transport Vehicle	8	0.4
	Drowning	6	0.3
	Intentional Neglect	2	0.1
	Violent Shaking	1	0.1
	Other	3	0.2
	Unknown/missing	9	0.5
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>1,914</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 3: Manner of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2013**



**Figure 4: Method of Violent Death in North Carolina, 2013**



\* Other includes: drowning, fall, motor vehicle, fire or burns, other transport vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other/unknown.

		<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Firearm Type</b>			
	Handgun	877	72.8
	Shotgun	151	12.5
	Rifle	115	9.5
	Unknown Type	62	5.2
<b>Total Firearms Involved, All Violent Deaths</b>		<b>1,205</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported for 3 violent deaths in 2013; therefore the total number of firearms exceeds the number of violent firearm deaths (n=1202).

		<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Years of Completed Education</b>			
	0 to 8 Years	70	3.8
	9 to 11 Years	302	16.6
	12 Years	736	40.4
	> 12 Years	698	38.3
	Unknown	17	0.9
<b>Marital Status</b>			
	Never Married	664	36.4
	Married*	642	35.2
	Divorced	351	19.3
	Widowed	94	5.2
	Married, but separated	64	3.5
	Unknown	8	0.4
<b>Veteran Status</b>			
	Non-Veteran	1,444	79.2
	Veteran	332	18.2
	Unknown	47	2.6
<b>Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)</b>		<b>1,823</b>	<b>100</b>

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

**Table 5: Overall Violent Deaths by County of Residence  
in North Carolina, 2013**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	29	18.8	Franklin	15	24.1	Pamlico	4	*
Alexander	9	24.4	Gaston	42	20.1	Pasquotank	8	20.0
Alleghany	2	*	Gates	1	*	Pender	12	21.7
<b>Anson</b>	8	30.6	Graham	1	*	Perquimans	3	*
<b>Ashe</b>	9	33.1	Granville	13	22.3	Person	9	22.9
Avery	2	*	Greene	2	*	Pitt	30	17.2
Beaufort	11	23.2	Guilford	91	18.0	Polk	4	*
Bertie	0	0.0	<b>Halifax</b>	15	28.1	<b>Randolph</b>	38	26.7
Bladen	5	14.4	Harnett	29	23.2	Richmond	12	25.9
Brunswick	27	23.4	Haywood	15	25.3	<b>Robeson</b>	37	27.4
<b>Buncombe</b>	78	31.5	Henderson	27	24.6	Rockingham	15	16.3
<b>Burke</b>	26	28.9	Hertford	3	*	<b>Rowan</b>	38	27.5
Cabarrus	41	21.9	Hoke	9	17.5	<b>Rutherford</b>	19	28.4
<b>Caldwell</b>	22	26.8	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	11	17.1
Camden	2	*	Iredell	30	18.2	Scotland	7	19.4
Carteret	13	19.0	<b>Jackson</b>	13	31.8	<b>Stanly</b>	25	41.2
Caswell	6	25.9	Johnston	23	12.9	Stokes	8	17.2
Catawba	33	21.3	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	13	17.8
Chatham	8	12.0	Lee	13	21.6	Swain	2	*
<b>Cherokee</b>	9	33.1	<b>Lenoir</b>	17	28.9	Transylvania	8	24.3
Chowan	3	*	Lincoln	14	17.6	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	3	*	<b>McDowell</b>	12	26.7	Union	29	13.6
Cleveland	13	13.4	Macon	4	*	<b>Vance</b>	14	31.2
Columbus	13	22.7	<b>Madison</b>	7	33.3	Wake	126	12.9
Craven	14	13.4	Martin	4	*	Warren	1	*
<b>Cumberland</b>	94	28.8	Mecklenburg	138	13.9	Washington	1	*
Currituck	5	20.5	Mitchell	3	*	Watauga	7	13.4
Dare	8	22.8	Montgomery	3	*	Wayne	25	20.1
Davidson	31	19.0	Moore	22	24.0	<b>Wilkes</b>	18	26.1
Davie	10	24.1	Nash	15	15.8	Wilson	19	23.3
Duplin	7	11.7	New Hanover	34	15.9	<b>Yadkin</b>	10	26.3
Durham	59	20.5	Northampton	3	*	Yancey	4	*
Edgecombe	11	19.8	Onslow	48	25.9			
Forsyth	68	18.8	Orange	10	7.1			

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

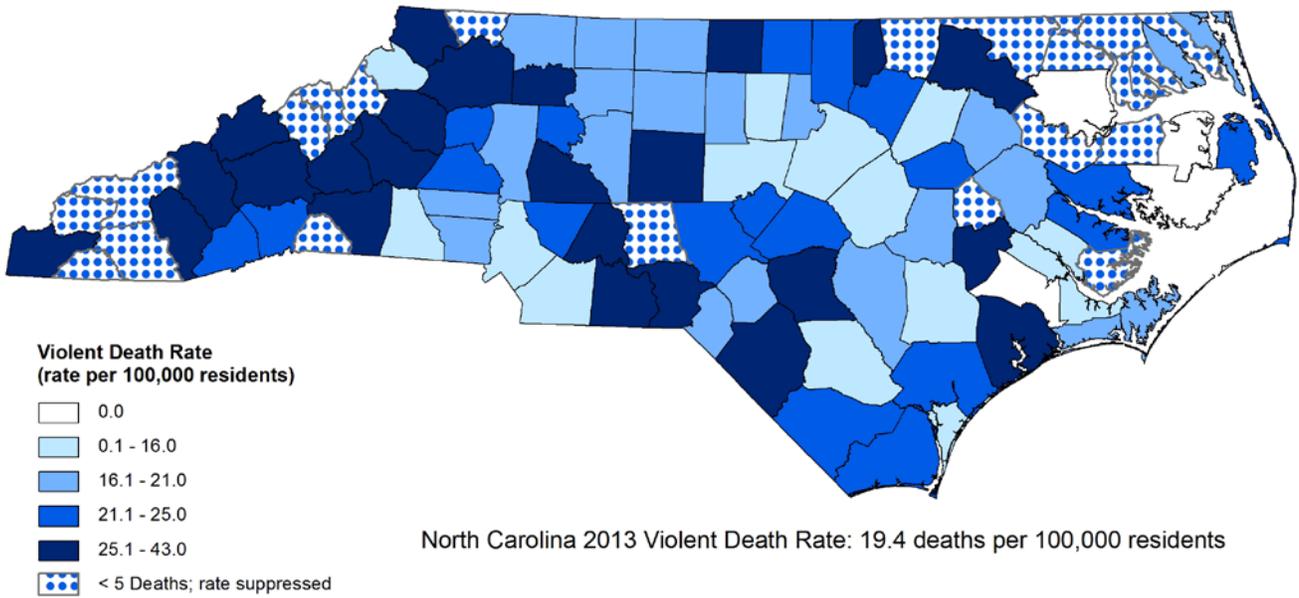
\* The number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

Two deaths had no county of residence reported.

**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, 2013**

Violent Death Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2013



## ***Race and Sex of Violent Death Victims***

**Table 6** and **Figure 6** summarize the characteristics of violent death victims in North Carolina in 2013 stratified by race and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

- Whites (74.6%) and males (77.7%) represented the majority of violent death victims, as shown in Table 1.
- Whites accounted for 72.9 percent of male violent death victims and 80.3 percent of female victims, while blacks comprised 24.6 percent of male victims and 16.7 percent of female victims.
- Among males, black men had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (34.7) followed by white men (30.7), American Indian men (22.2), and Asian men (9.6).
- Among females, white women had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (9.4) followed by American Indian women (7.3), black women (6.0) and Asian women (4.2).
- The violent death rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 5.8 times for blacks, 3.3 times for whites, 3.0 for American Indians and 2.3 times for Asians.

## ***Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims***

**Table 7** stratifies the North Carolina violent death victims in 2013 by age group and sex. **Figure 7** illustrates the 2013 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

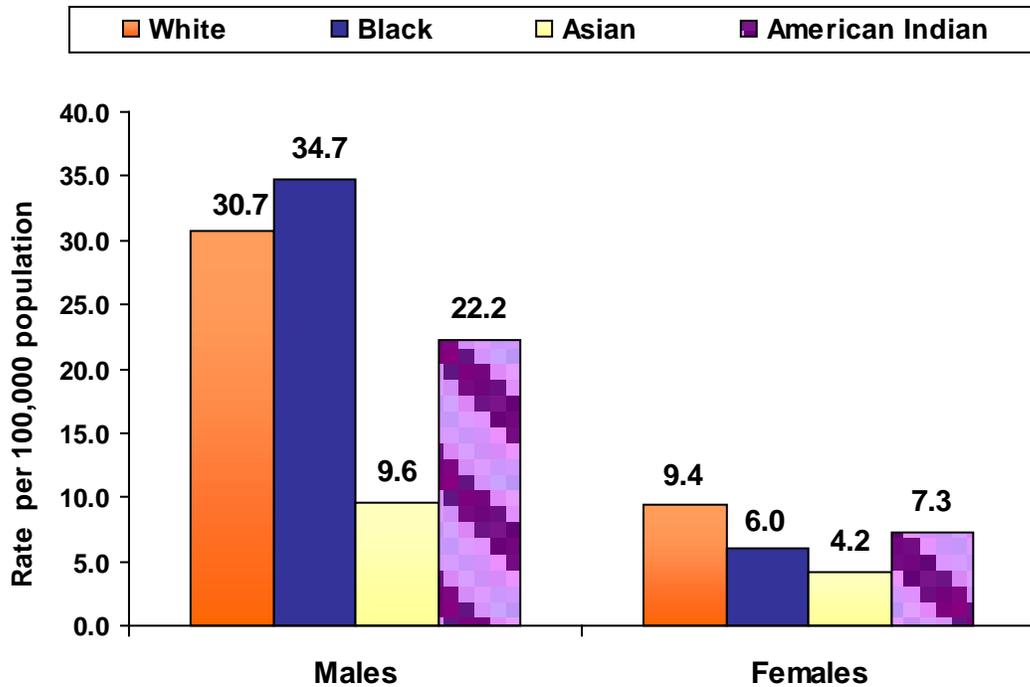
### **Key Findings:**

- Most male violent death victims were ages 25 to 34 (18.6%) and 45 to 54 (18.6%) years followed by males ages 35 to 44 (15.6%), 55 to 64 (14.8%), 20 to 24 (10.8%), 65 to 74 (7.6%) and 15 to 19 (5.8%).
- Among females, the majority of violent death victims were ages 45 to 54 (23.9%) years followed by females ages 35 to 44 (21.6%), 55 to 64 (17.8%), 25 to 34 (13.4%), 65 to 74 (8.0%) and 20 to 24 (5.2%).
- Among men, the violent death rate per 100,000 by age group was highest for ages 85 and older (51.3) followed by ages 25 to 34 years (44.0) and 20 to 24 (43.5).
- For women, the violent death rate trend by age reached a peak of 14.6 per 100,000 for ages 45 to 54 followed by ages 35 to 44 years (13.8) and 55 to 64 (11.8).
- Males were more likely to experience violent death than females by 6.8 times for ages 20 to 24, 6.6 times for ages 75 to 84, 6.3 times for ages 15 to 19 and 5.0 times for ages 25 to 34.

Table 6: Race by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2013						
	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
Race						
White	1085	72.9	30.7	342	80.3	9.4
Black	366	24.6	34.7	71	16.7	6.0
Asian	13	0.9	9.6	6	1.4	4.2
American Indian	18	1.2	22.2	6	1.4	7.3
Other / Unknown	6	0.4	--	1	0.2	--
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.4</b>

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

**Figure 6: Crude Overall Violent Death Rate Stratified by Race and Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



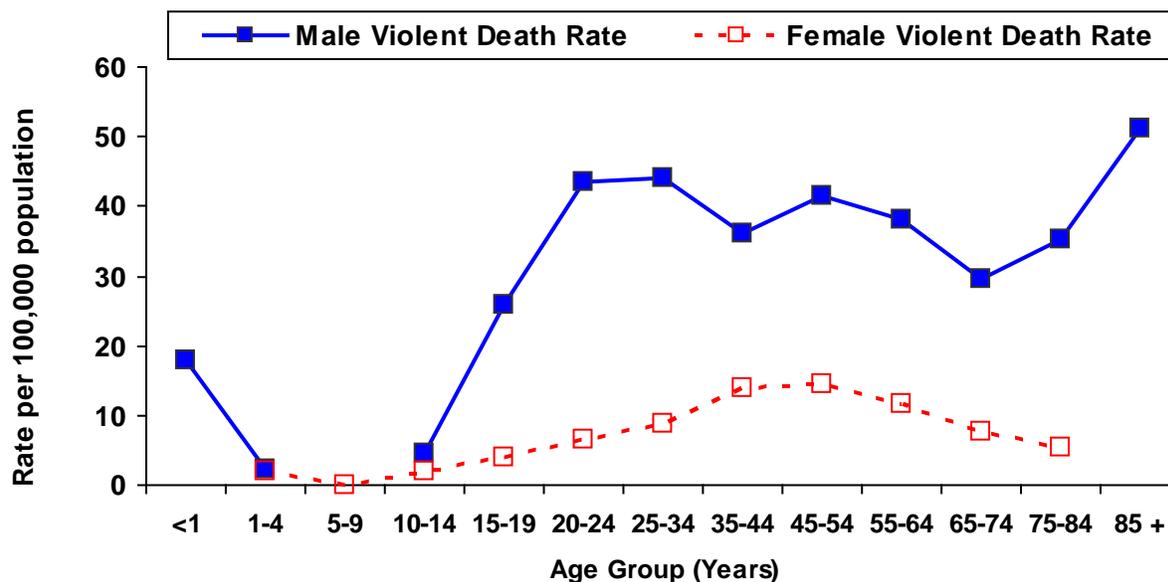
\* Rates for American Indian and Asian males were based on fewer than 20 deaths. Rates for American Indian and Asian females were based on fewer than 10 deaths. These rates should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time.

**Table 7: Age Group by Sex of Violent Death Victims in North Carolina, 2013**

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	11	0.7	18.0	2	0.5	*
1-4	6	0.4	2.4	5	1.2	2.1
5-9	1	0.1	*	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	15	1.0	4.5	6	1.4	1.9
15-19	87	5.8	26.0	13	3.1	4.1
20-24	161	10.8	43.5	22	5.2	6.4
25-34	277	18.6	44.0	57	13.4	8.8
35-44	232	15.6	36.2	92	21.6	13.8
45-54	277	18.6	41.6	102	23.9	14.6
55-64	220	14.8	38.1	76	17.8	11.8
65-74	113	7.6	29.5	34	8.0	7.7
75-84	61	4.1	35.3	13	3.1	5.4
85 +	27	1.8	51.3	4	0.9	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.4</b>

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, 2013**

**Note:** The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females less than 1 year of age, females ages 85 and older, and males ages 5-9.

## Section II: Suicide

### *Basic Characteristics of Suicides*

**Table 8** describes suicides in 2013 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 2013 is illustrated by race and sex in **Figure 8** and by age group in **Figure 9**.

#### **Key Findings:**

- In 2013, a total of 1,272 North Carolinians (14.8 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 3.5 times as likely to die from suicide as females (23.5 vs. 6.6 per 100,000).
- Whites had the highest suicide rate (18.0 per 100,000) followed American Indians (8.1 per 100,000), blacks (5.8 per 100,000), and by Asians (4.7 per 100,000).
- Non-Hispanics were 4.5 as likely to die from suicide as Hispanics (15.7 vs. 3.5 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 45 to 54 had the highest rate of suicide (21.0 per 100,000) followed by ages 55 to 64 (19.0 per 100,000) and 35 to 44 (16.6 per 100,000).

**Table 9** and **Figure 10** summarize the method of death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2013. **Table 10** shows the type of firearm used for suicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2013. **Table 11** lists the types of poisonous substances used for suicide poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2013.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The leading methods of suicide were firearm (60.1%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (18.6%) and poisoning (17.0%).
- Men more often died from suicide by a firearm (66.0%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (19.3%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (10.7%).
- Women more commonly completed suicide by firearm (40.5%) or poisoning (37.8%) compared to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (16.3%).
- Considering only suicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used in 72.8 percent of all deaths, 71.0 percent of male deaths and 82.4 percent of female deaths.
- Pharmaceuticals were the most common poisonous substance identified in 80.6 percent of all suicide poisoning deaths, 73.3 percent of male deaths and 87.4 percent of female deaths.

**Table 12** characterizes the 1,233 adult suicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina in 2013 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The majority (82.9%) of adult suicide victims had 12 or more years of education.
- Suicide victims were most often married, in a civil union or domestic partnership (39.3%) and less frequently never married (28.6%), divorced (21.7%), or widowed (5.8%).
- Military veterans accounted for 22.1 percent of suicide victims

**Table 13** and **Figure 11** show the suicide rates in 2013 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 25 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Furthermore, county suicide rates are influenced by small populations with 13 of the 20 counties with the highest suicide rates having less than 50,000 residents in 2013.

**Key Findings:**

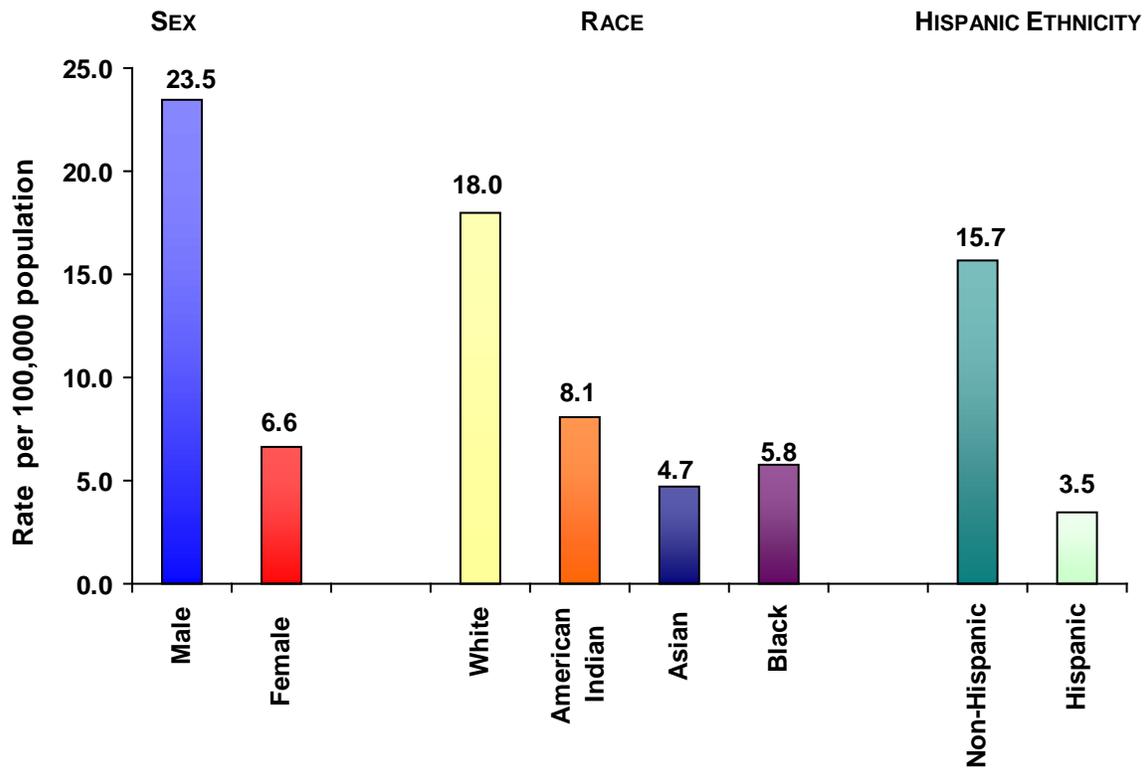
- For the 75 counties where the number of suicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average suicide rate by North Carolina county of residence was 17.0 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 37.4 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 8: Demographics of Suicide Victims (Ages 10 or Older) in North Carolina, 2013**

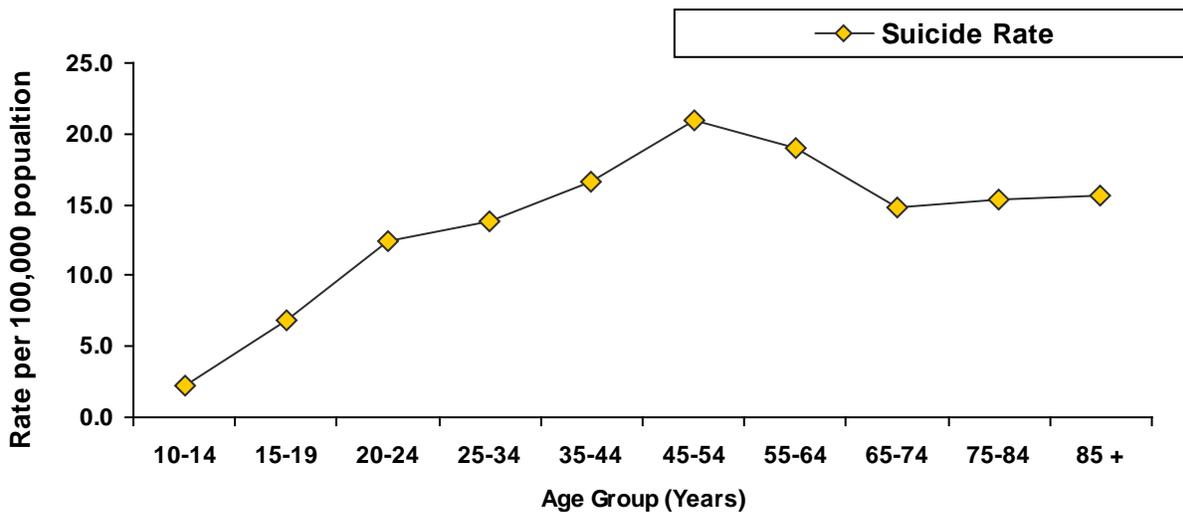
		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	294	23.1	6.6	5.9 – 7.4
	Male	978	76.9	23.5	22.0 – 25.0
<b>Race</b>					
	White	1,137	89.4	18.0	17.0 – 19.1
	Black	111	8.7	5.8	4.7 – 6.9
	Asian	11	0.9	4.7	1.9 – 7.5
	American Indian	11	0.9	8.1	3.3 – 12.9
	Unknown	2	0.2	--	--
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	23	1.8	3.5	2.0 – 4.9
	Non-Hispanic	1,247	98.0	15.7	14.9 – 16.6
	Unknown	2	0.2	--	--
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	10 - 14	15	1.2	2.3	1.1 – 3.5
	15 - 19	44	3.5	6.8	4.8 – 8.7
	20 - 24	89	7.0	12.5	9.9 – 15.1
	25 - 34	176	13.8	13.8	11.8 – 15.8
	35 - 44	217	17.1	16.6	14.4 – 18.8
	45 - 54	287	22.6	21.0	18.6 – 23.4
	55 - 64	232	18.2	19.0	16.6 – 21.5
	65 - 74	122	9.6	14.8	12.1 – 17.4
	75 - 84	64	5.0	15.4	11.7 – 19.2
	85 +	26	2.0	15.7	9.7 – 21.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>1,272</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>14.0 – 15.6</b>

Sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population. 95% CI = 95 Percent confidence interval for the rate.

**Figure 8: Crude Suicide Rates by Sex, Race and Hispanic Ethnicity for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**



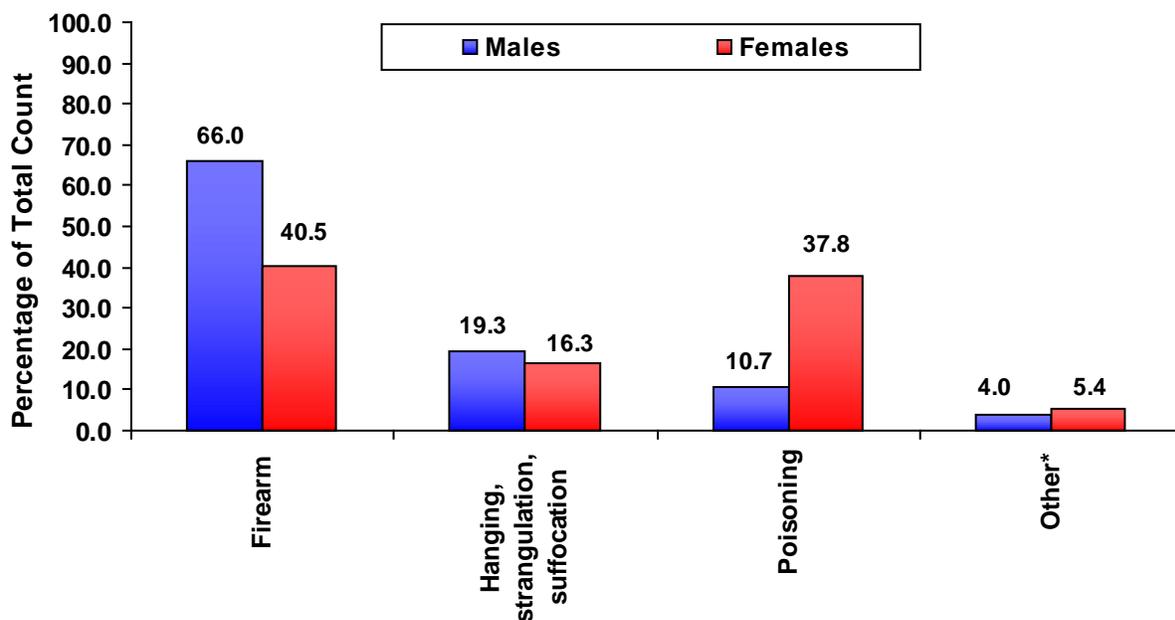
**Figure 9: Age-Specific Crude Suicide Rate by Age Group for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**



**Table 9: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	645	66.0	119	40.5	764	60.1
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	189	19.3	48	16.3	237	18.6
Poisoning	105	10.7	111	37.8	216	17.0
Sharp Instrument	13	1.3	4	1.4	17	1.3
Fall	7	0.7	3	1.0	10	0.8
Motor Vehicle	5	0.5	4	1.4	9	0.7
Other Transport Vehicle	4	0.4	3	1.0	7	0.6
Drowning	4	0.4	1	0.3	5	0.4
Fire or Burns	4	0.4	1	0.3	5	0.4
Other	2	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 10: Method of Death for Suicide Victims by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**



\* 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, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Firearm Type*</b>						
Handgun	458	71.0	98	82.4	556	72.8
Shotgun	112	17.4	11	9.2	123	16.1
Rifle	71	11.0	8	6.7	79	10.3
Unknown Type	4	0.6	2	1.7	6	0.8
<b>Total Firearms Involved, Suicides</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were not reported for any suicide fatalities in 2013; therefore the total number of firearms equals the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=764).

**Table 11: Poisonous Substances with Positive Test Results for Suicide Poisoning Deaths by Sex for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Single Poison Type</b>						
Pharmaceuticals	51	48.6	59	53.2	110	50.9
Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	12	11.4	2	1.8	14	6.5
<b>Multiple Poison Types</b>						
Pharmaceuticals and Alcohol	16	15.2	20	18.0	36	16.7
Pharmaceuticals and Street / Recreational Drugs	2	1.9	11	9.9	13	6.0
Pharmaceuticals and Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	2	1.9	1	0.9	3	1.4
Alcohol and Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	4	3.8	4	3.6	8	3.7
Pharmaceuticals, Alcohol, and Street / Recreational Drugs	5	4.8	5	4.5	10	4.6
Pharmaceuticals, Alcohol, and Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	1	1.0	1	0.9	2	0.9
<b>Unknown Substances</b>						
	12	11.4	8	7.2	20	9.3
<b>Total Poisoning Deaths</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Specific types of poisons were not reported for 14 individuals who died from suicide poisoning in 2013. An additional 6 suicide poison fatalities had toxicology results coded as “not present”, “not applicable” or “unknown”.

**Table 12: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Suicide Victims (Ages 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Years of Completed Education</b>			
	0 to 8 Years	46	3.7
	9 to 11 Years	158	12.8
	12 Years	468	38.0
	> 12 Years	554	44.9
	Unknown	7	0.6
<b>Marital Status</b>			
	Never Married	353	28.6
	Married*	484	39.3
	Divorced	267	21.7
	Married, but Separated	54	4.4
	Widowed	71	5.8
	Unknown	4	0.3
<b>Veteran Status</b>			
	Non-Veteran	934	75.8
	Veteran	272	22.1
	Unknown	17	2.2
<b>Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)</b>		<b>1,233</b>	<b>100</b>

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

**Table 13: Suicides by County of Residence  
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	23	17.0	Franklin	11	20.2	Pamlico	3	*
<b>Alexander</b>	7	21.3	Gaston	26	14.2	Pasquotank	6	17.1
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	1	*	Pender	10	20.5
Anson	2	*	Graham	1	*	Perquimans	2	*
<b>Ashe</b>	9	36.8	Granville	10	19.3	<b>Person</b>	9	25.9
Avery	1	*	Greene	0	0.0	Pitt	18	11.8
<b>Beaufort</b>	9	21.4	Guilford	51	11.5	Polk	4	*
Bertie	0	0.0	Halifax	6	12.7	Randolph	25	20.0
Bladen	1	*	Harnett	19	18.0	Richmond	8	19.8
Brunswick	20	19.2	<b>Haywood</b>	13	24.3	Robeson	16	13.9
<b>Buncombe</b>	59	26.7	Henderson	20	20.4	Rockingham	8	9.8
<b>Burke</b>	23	28.6	Hertford	3	*	<b>Rowan</b>	25	20.6
Cabarrus	25	15.6	Hoke	2	*	<b>Rutherford</b>	15	25.2
Caldwell	15	20.6	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	6	10.8
Camden	2	*	Iredell	22	15.3	Scotland	2	*
Carteret	12	19.4	<b>Jackson</b>	11	29.8	<b>Stanly</b>	20	37.4
<b>Caswell</b>	5	24.0	Johnston	16	10.5	Stokes	7	16.7
Catawba	23	16.9	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	11	17.0
Chatham	7	11.8	Lee	5	9.7	Swain	1	*
<b>Cherokee</b>	9	36.6	Lenoir	9	17.4	<b>Transylvania</b>	8	26.6
Chowan	2	*	Lincoln	12	17.0	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	2	*	<b>McDowell</b>	9	22.5	Union	22	12.1
Cleveland	9	10.5	Macon	4	*	Vance	8	20.6
Columbus	4	*	<b>Madison</b>	5	26.3	Wake	90	10.7
Craven	11	12.2	Martin	2	*	Warren	0	0.0
Cumberland	54	19.6	Mecklenburg	75	8.8	Washington	1	*
<b>Currituck</b>	5	23.1	Mitchell	3	*	Watauga	7	14.4
Dare	6	19.3	Montgomery	3	*	Wayne	18	16.7
Davidson	24	16.7	Moore	10	12.3	Wilkes	12	19.5
<b>Davie</b>	9	24.4	Nash	11	13.2	Wilson	13	18.3
Duplin	4	*	New Hanover	20	10.5	<b>Yadkin</b>	8	23.8
Durham	24	9.6	Northampton	2	*	Yancey	2	*
Edgecombe	7	14.5	<b>Onslow</b>	37	24.0			
Forsyth	43	13.7	Orange	9	7.2			

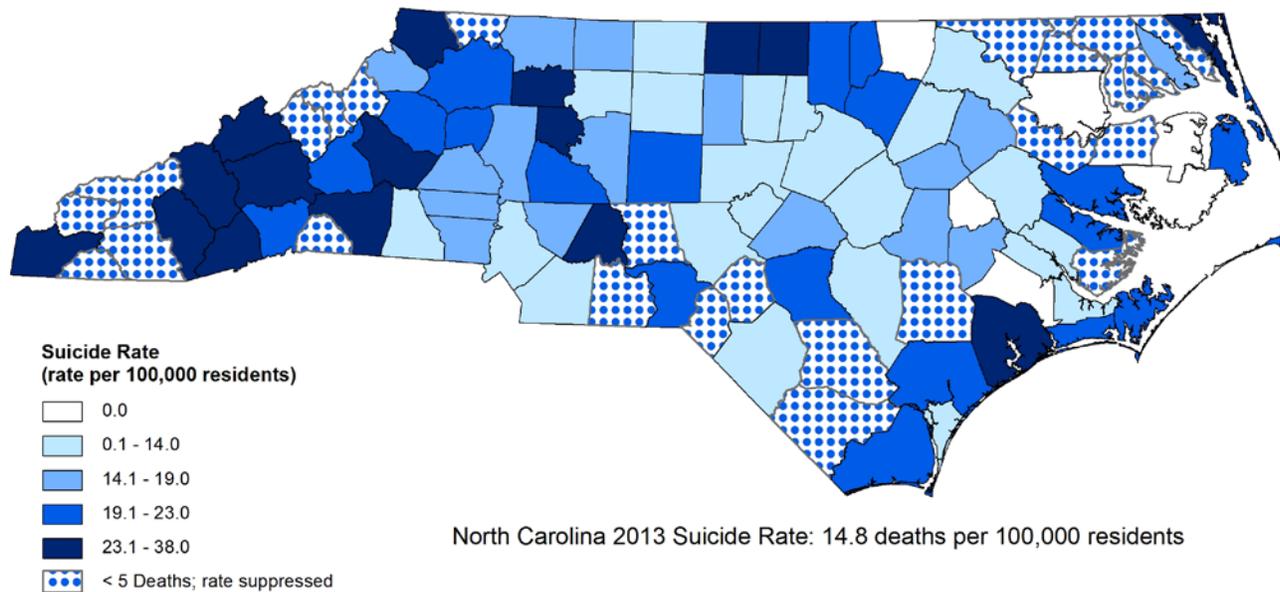
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

\* 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 11: Map of Suicide Rates  
by County of Residence for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

Suicide Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2013



## ***Race and Sex of Suicide Victims***

**Table 14** and **Figure 12** describe suicide victims in North Carolina in 2013 by race and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

- Of all suicide victims, 89.4 percent were white and 76.9 percent were male, as shown in Table 8.
- The majority of male suicide victims were white (89.4%) as compared to black (9.0%). Similarly, the majority of female suicide victims were white (89.5%) as compared to black (7.8%).
- For men, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race was white men (28.3), American Indian men (11.9), black men (9.9) and Asian men (6.2).
- The suicide rate per 100,000 for females was higher for white women (8.2) than black women (2.2). The numbers of suicide deaths were too small to calculate rates for Asian women and American Indian women.
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 3.5 times for whites, and 4.4 times for blacks. There were eight suicide deaths among American Indian men and three among American Indian women. There were seven suicide deaths among Asian men and four among Asian women.

## ***Age and Sex of Suicide Victims***

**Table 15** portrays the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2013 by age group and sex. **Figure 13** plots the 2013 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 ages: 45 to 54 (21.7%), 55 to 64 (17.6%), 35 to 44 (15.5%) and 25 to 34 (14.8%).
- Similarly among females, the majority of suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by ages: 45 to 54 (25.5%), 35 to 44 (22.1%), 55 to 64 (20.4%) and 25 to 34 (10.5%).
- For men, the suicide rate increased by age and peaked among those 85 years and older (43.7 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate by age for women peaked at 45 to 54 (10.7 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 7.6 times higher in men than women (31.3 versus 4.1 per 100,000, respectively).

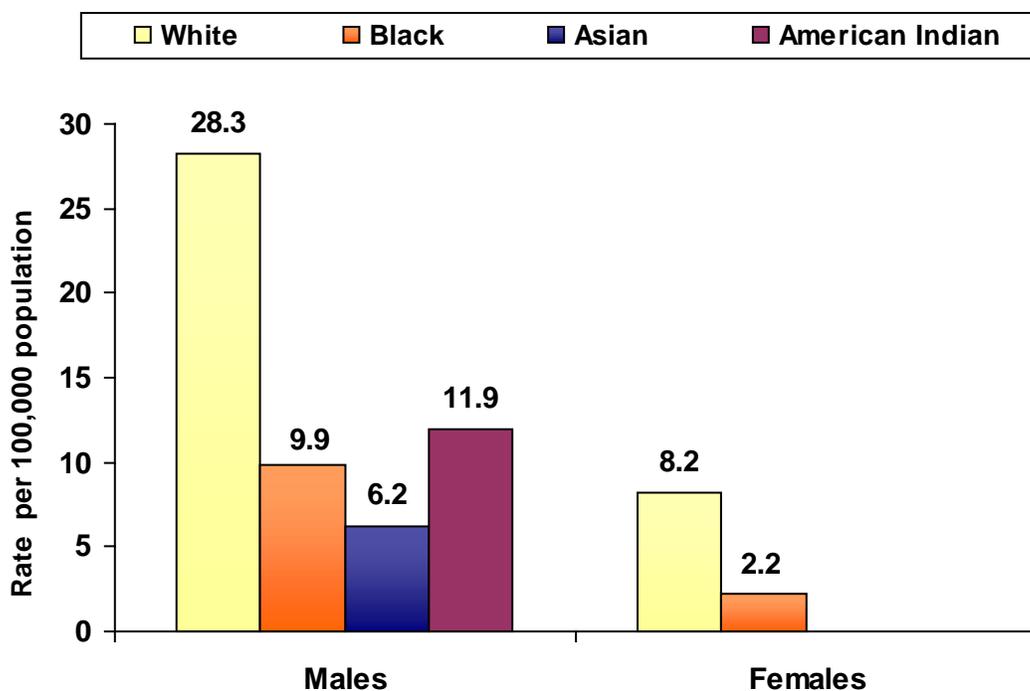
**Table 14: Race by Sex of Suicide Victims  
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

Race	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White	874	89.4	28.3	263	89.5	8.2
Black	88	9.0	9.9	23	7.8	2.2
Asian	7	0.7	6.2	4	1.4	*
American Indian	8	0.8	11.9	3	1.0	*
Other	1	0.1	*	1	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.6</b>

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, 2013**



\* The numbers of suicide deaths among Asian females and American Indian females were too small to support calculation of rates.

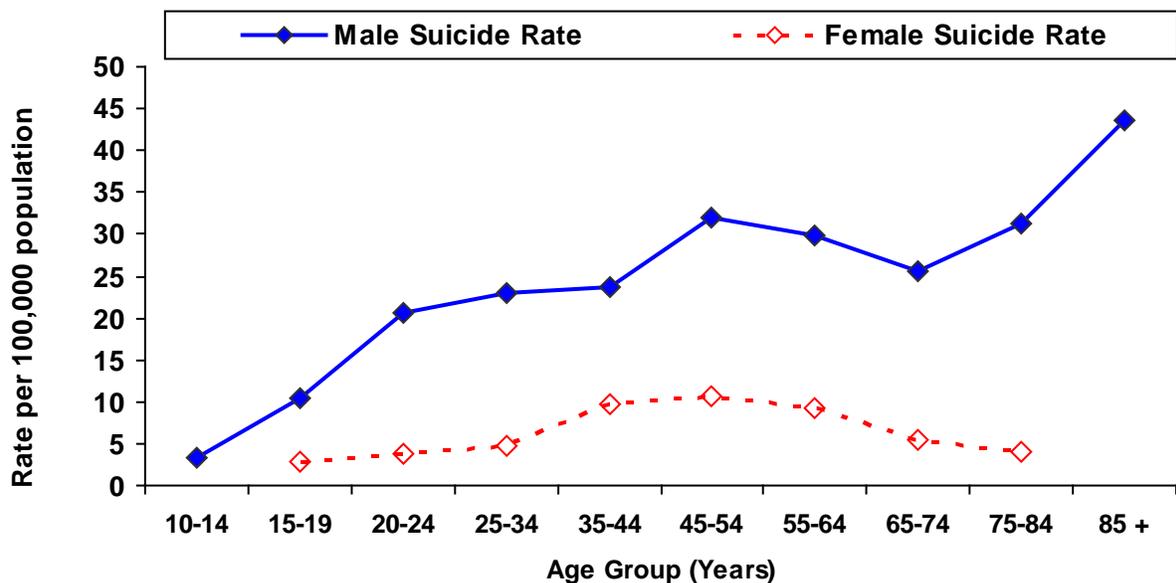
**Table 15: Age Group by Sex of Suicide Victims  
for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
10-14	11	1.1	3.3	4	1.4	*
15-19	35	3.6	10.5	9	3.1	2.8
20-24	76	7.8	20.6	13	4.4	3.8
25-34	145	14.8	23.0	31	10.5	4.8
35-44	152	15.5	23.7	65	22.1	9.7
45-54	212	21.7	31.9	75	25.5	10.7
55-64	172	17.6	29.8	60	20.4	9.3
65-74	98	10.0	25.6	24	8.2	5.4
75-84	54	5.5	31.3	10	3.4	4.1
85 +	23	2.4	43.7	3	1.0	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.6</b>

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, 2013**



**Note:** The numbers of suicide deaths for females ages 10-14 and females ages 85+ were too small to support rate calculations.

## ***Circumstances, Toxicology Testing and Injury Location for Suicide Victims***

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding suicides. In 2013, 92.7 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 2013. **Table 17** lists the mental health problem at the time of the suicide for both men and women in 2013.

### **Key Findings:**

- The most common circumstances of suicide for male victims were current mental health problem (46.8%), current treatment for mental illness (41.6%), ever treated for mental health illness (46.5%), current depressed mood (30.9%) and intimate partner problem (26.9%).
- The most common circumstances of suicide for female victims were current mental health problem (64.6%), current treatment for mental illness (57.5%), ever treated for mental health illness (63.9%), current depressed mood (34.6%) and intimate partner problem (21.1%).
- A suicide note was left by 31.2 percent of male victims and 43.2 percent of female victims. Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 29.1 percent of men and 27.1 percent of women. A total of 12.6 percent of male and 21.8 percent of female victims reported a history of suicide attempts and 38.4 percent of male and 43.2 percent of female victims had a history of suicidal thoughts.

Other common circumstances of suicide for men and women, respectively, were other substance problem (14.4% and 18.2%), alcohol problem (15.7% and 10.4%), recent criminal-related legal problem (7.0% and 5.0%), job problem (9.7% and 5.7%) and financial problem (5.9% and 3.6%).

At the time of suicide, the most common mental health problems were depression or dysthymia (75.1%), bipolar disorder (10.3%), anxiety disorder (7.8%), post-traumatic stress disorder (3.8%) and schizophrenia (2.7%).

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 2013 is shown by sex in **Table 18** and by age and race in **Table 19**.

### **Key Findings:**

- Alcohol was tested in 88.0 percent of all suicides. Testing was relatively infrequent for other substances. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 29.0 percent of all suicide victims, 29.9 percent of male victims and 26.0 percent of female victims.
- Ages 20 to 54 had the highest percentage of suicide victims with alcohol present, with a range from 30.4 percent to 39.6 percent of those age groups testing positive for alcohol. Alcohol was present in those victims tested by race as follows: whites (30.3%), blacks (14.9%), Asians (30.0%) and American Indians (30.0%).

**Table 20** lists the location of the injury resulting in death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2013.

### **Key Findings:**

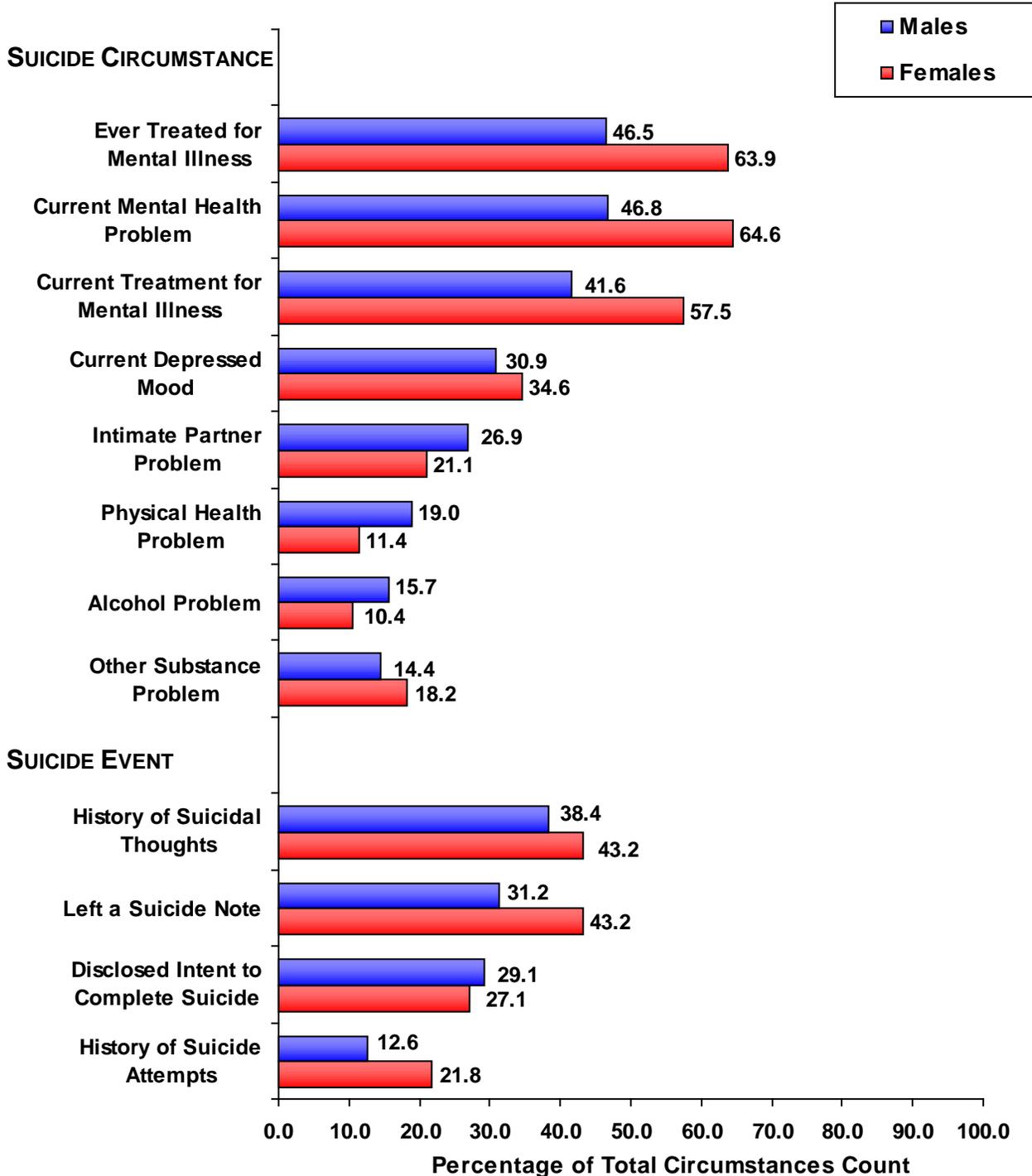
- The majority (75.6%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment.

**Table 16: Circumstances of Suicide Victims  
for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**

Circumstance**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Mental Health</b>						
Ever Treated for Mental Illness	418	46.5	179	63.9	597	50.6
Current Mental Health Problem	421	46.8	181	64.6	602	51.1
Current Depressed Mood	278	30.9	97	34.6	375	31.8
Current Treatment for Mental Illness	374	41.6	161	57.5	535	45.4
<b>Substance Abuse/ Addiction</b>						
Alcohol Problem	141	15.7	29	10.4	170	14.4
Other Substance Problem	129	14.4	51	18.2	180	15.3
Other Addiction (gambling, sexual, etc.)	5	0.6	0	0.0	5	0.4
<b>Interpersonal</b>						
Intimate Partner Problem	242	26.9	59	21.1	301	25.5
Other Relationship Problem	31	3.5	6	2.1	37	3.1
Perpetrator of Interpersonal Violence in Past Month	56	6.2	4	1.4	60	5.1
Other Death of Friend/Family	37	4.1	17	6.1	54	4.6
Suicide of Friend/Family in Past 5 Years	17	1.9	12	4.3	29	2.5
<b>Life Stressor</b>						
Physical Health Problem	171	19.0	32	11.4	203	17.2
Job Problem	87	9.7	16	5.7	103	8.7
Recent Criminal Related Legal Problem	63	7.0	14	5.0	77	6.5
Financial Problem	53	5.9	10	3.6	63	5.3
Other Legal Problems	21	2.3	4	1.4	25	2.1
School Problem	15	1.7	4	1.4	19	1.6
<b>Suicide Event</b>						
Left a Suicide Note	280	31.2	121	43.2	401	34.0
Disclosed Intent to Complete Suicide	262	29.1	76	27.1	338	28.7
History of Suicide Attempts	113	12.6	61	21.8	174	14.8
History of Suicidal Thoughts	345	38.4	121	43.2	466	39.5

\*\* Circumstances were available for 91.9 percent (899/978) of male victims, 95.2 percent (280/294) of female victims, and 92.7 percent (1,179/1,272) of all suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2013.

**Figure 14: Circumstances of Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



**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, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Current Mental Health Problem *</b>						
Depression / Dysthymia	307	72.9	145	80.1	452	75.1
Bipolar Disorder	33	7.8	29	16.0	62	10.3
Schizophrenia	13	3.1	3	1.7	16	2.7
Anxiety Disorder	27	6.4	20	11.0	47	7.8
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	20	4.8	3	1.7	23	3.8
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	11	2.6	4	2.2	15	2.5
Eating Disorder	0	0.0	3	1.7	3	0.5
Other	14	3.3	9	5.0	23	3.8
Unknown	17	4.0	2	1.1	19	3.2

\* For 421 males, 181 females, and 602 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, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Tested with Results	846	86.5	273	92.9	1,119	88.0
Alcohol Present in Those Tested	253	29.9	71	26.0	324	29.0
<b>Amphetamines</b>						
Tested with Results	2	0.2	5	1.7	7	0.6
Amphetamines Present in Those Tested	2	100	5	100	7	100
<b>Antidepressant</b>						
Tested with Results	49	5.0	67	22.8	116	9.1
Antidepressant Present in Those Tested	48	98.0	67	100	115	99.1
<b>Cocaine</b>						
Tested with Results	87	8.9	94	32.0	181	14.2
Cocaine Present in Those Tested	9	10.3	9	9.6	18	9.9
<b>Marijuana</b>						
Tested with Results	1	0.1	1	0.3	2	0.2
Marijuana Present in Those Tested	1	100	0	0.0	1	50.0
<b>Opiates</b>						
Tested with Results	82	8.4	98	33.3	180	14.2
Opiates Present in Those Tested	41	50.0	58	59.2	99	55.0
<b>Other substances*</b>						
Tested with Results	106	10.8	101	34.4	207	16.3
Other drugs Present in Those Tested	70	66.0	65	64.4	135	65.2

\*Other substances include carbon monoxide, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines.

**Table 19: Alcohol Toxicology Testing and Results for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older) by Age Group and Race in North Carolina, 2013**

	Alcohol tested with results		Alcohol present in those tested	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
10-14	13	86.7	0	0.0
15-19	38	86.4	5	13.2
20-24	78	87.6	27	34.6
25-34	154	87.5	61	39.6
35-44	193	88.9	73	37.8
45-54	257	89.5	78	30.4
55-64	205	88.4	53	25.9
65-74	103	84.4	17	16.5
75-84	54	84.4	7	13.0
85 +	24	92.3	3	12.5
<b>Race</b>				
American Indian	10	90.9	3	30.0
Asian	10	90.9	3	30.0
Black	94	84.7	14	14.9
White	1,003	88.2	304	30.3
Other	2	100	0	0.0

**Table 20: Injury Location for Suicide Victims for Ages 10 or Older in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number	%
<b>Injury Location</b>		
House, Apartment	962	75.6
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	88	6.9
Natural Area (e.g., Field, River, Beach, Woods)	65	5.1
Hotel/Motel	20	1.6
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	12	0.9
Park, Playground, Public Use Area	12	0.9
Other Commercial Establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	11	0.9
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	11	0.9
Parking Lot/Public Parking Garage	10	0.8
Highway/Freeway	7	0.6
Railroad Tracks (i.e., other than public transportation)	6	0.5
Hospital or Medical Facility	4	0.3
Synagogue, Church, Temple	4	0.3
Other Specified*	26	2.0
Unknown	34	2.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Other Specified includes office building, industrial/construction area, abandoned house or building, college/university, bar/nightclub, sports area, farm, public transportation or station, supervised residential facility, or other specified locations not mentioned.

## Section III: Homicide

### *Basic Characteristics of Homicides*

**Table 21** characterizes the homicides in 2013 for North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race and age. The homicide rate in 2013 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 2013, 531 North Carolinians (5.4 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were more than four times as likely to be victims of a homicide as females (8.8 versus 2.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- Blacks (13.4 per 100,000) and American Indians (7.4 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than Asians (2.9 per 100,000) and whites (2.9 per 100,000).
- Hispanics were less likely to be victims of homicide than non-Hispanics (3.8 vs. 5.5 per 100,000, respectively).
- Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest for adults ages 20 to 24 years (11.7 per 100,000) and 25 to 34 years (10.9 per 100,000). Among children younger than 14, the rate was highest in children younger than one year old (9.2 per 100,000) for age groups where rates could be calculated.

The method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2013 is shown in **Table 22** and **Figure 17**. The type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2013 is listed in **Table 23**.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The leading methods of homicide were firearm (71.8%), sharp instrument (12.2%), blunt instrument (4.7%), hanging, strangulation and suffocation (4.3%) and personal weapons (4.1%).
- Most male homicide victims died by a firearm (75.7%) or sharp instrument (11.1%).
- The majority of female homicide victims died by a firearm (56.5%) or sharp instrument (16.7%).
- Considering only homicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used (74.9%).

**Table 24** describes adult homicide victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2013 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Among adult homicide victims, 68.9 percent had 12 or more years of education and 29.7 percent had less than 12 years of education.
- More than half of homicide victims were never married (56.5%) as compared to married, civil union, or domestic partnership (25.2%), divorced (13.2%), widowed (3.7%) or married but separated (1.0%).
- Military veterans accounted for 9.4 percent of adult homicide victims.

**Table 25** and **Figure 18** display the homicide rates in 2013 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 38 counties was too small to support a rate calculation and two of the 20 counties with the highest rates had less than 50,000 residents in 2013.

**Key Findings:**

- For the 62 counties where the number of homicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average homicide rate by North Carolina County of residence was 4.7 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 22.9 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 21: Demographics of Homicide Victims  
in North Carolina, 2013**

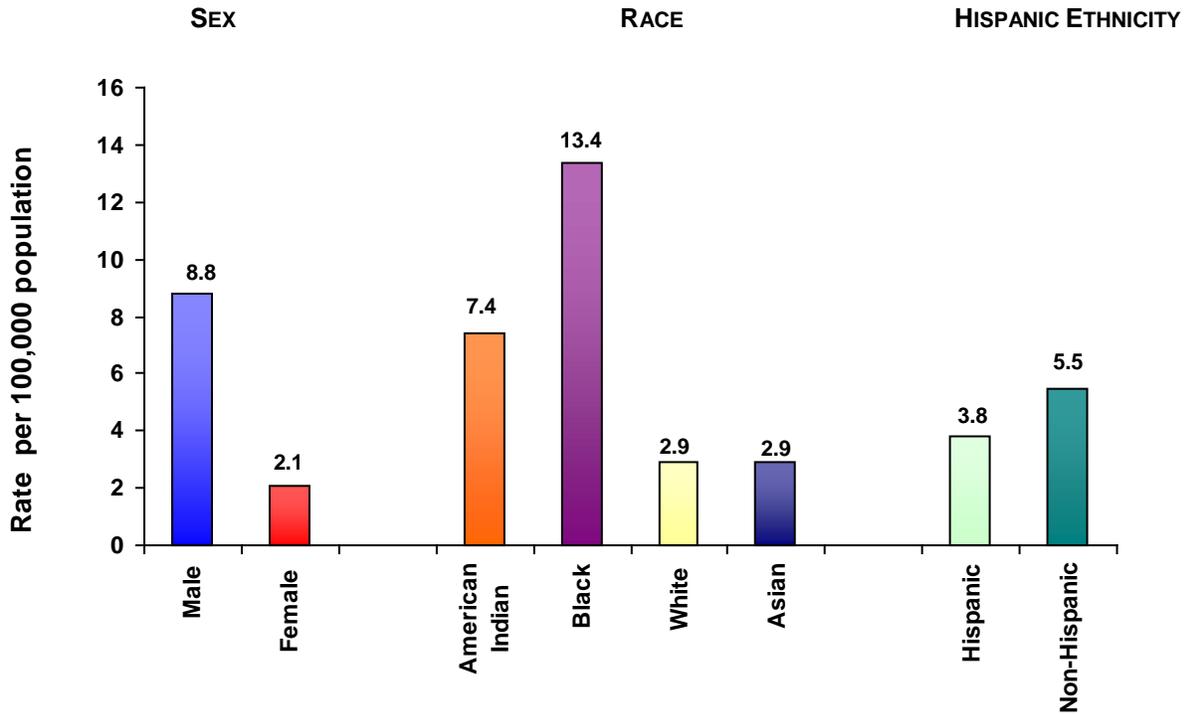
		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	108	20.3	2.1	1.7 – 2.5
	Male	423	79.7	8.8	8.0 – 9.7
<b>Race</b>					
	White	207	39.0	2.9	2.5 – 3.3
	Black	300	56.5	13.4	11.9 – 14.9
	Asian	8	1.5	2.9	0.9 – 4.8
	American Indian	12	2.3	7.4	3.2 – 11.5
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	33	6.2	3.8	2.5 – 5.1
	Non-Hispanic	498	93.8	5.5	5.1 – 6.0
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	< 1	11	2.1	9.2	3.8 – 14.6
	1 - 4	7	1.3	1.4	0.4 – 2.5
	5 - 9	1	0.2	*	*
	10 - 14	4	0.8	*	*
	15 - 19	46	8.7	7.1	5.0 – 9.1
	20 - 24	83	15.6	11.7	9.2 – 14.2
	25 – 34	139	26.2	10.9	9.1 – 12.7
	35 – 44	96	18.1	7.3	5.9 – 8.8
	45 – 54	69	13.0	5.0	3.9 – 6.2
	55 – 64	44	8.3	3.6	2.5 – 4.7
	65 - 74	21	4.0	2.5	1.5 – 3.6
	75 - 84	5	0.9	1.2	0.1 – 2.3
	85 +	5	0.9	3.0	0.4 – 5.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>531</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.9 – 5.9</b>

Sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 N.C. population

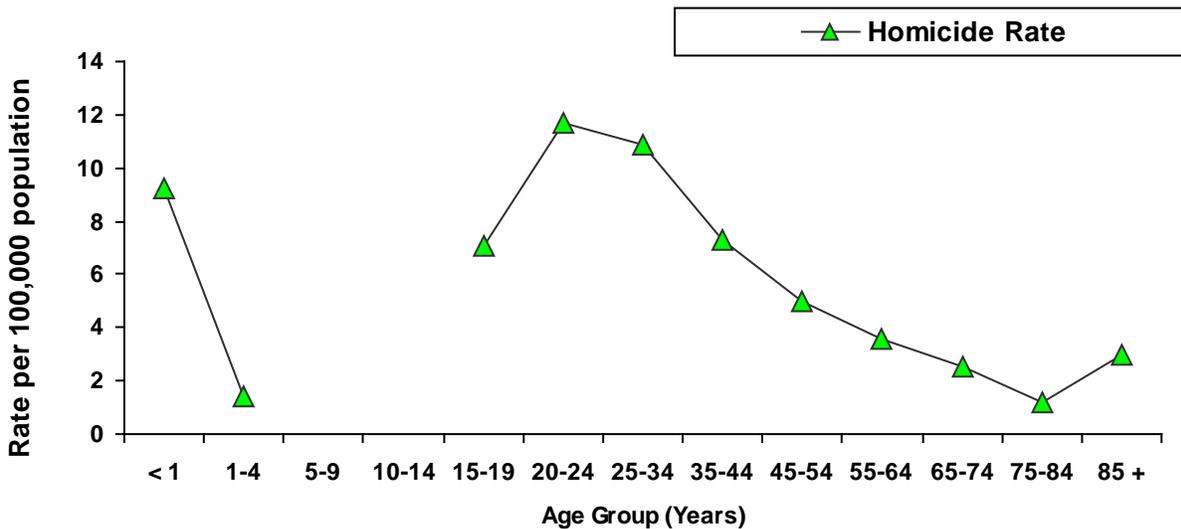
95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

\* 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, 2013**



**Figure 16: Age-Specific Crude Homicide Rate by Age Group in North Carolina, 2013**



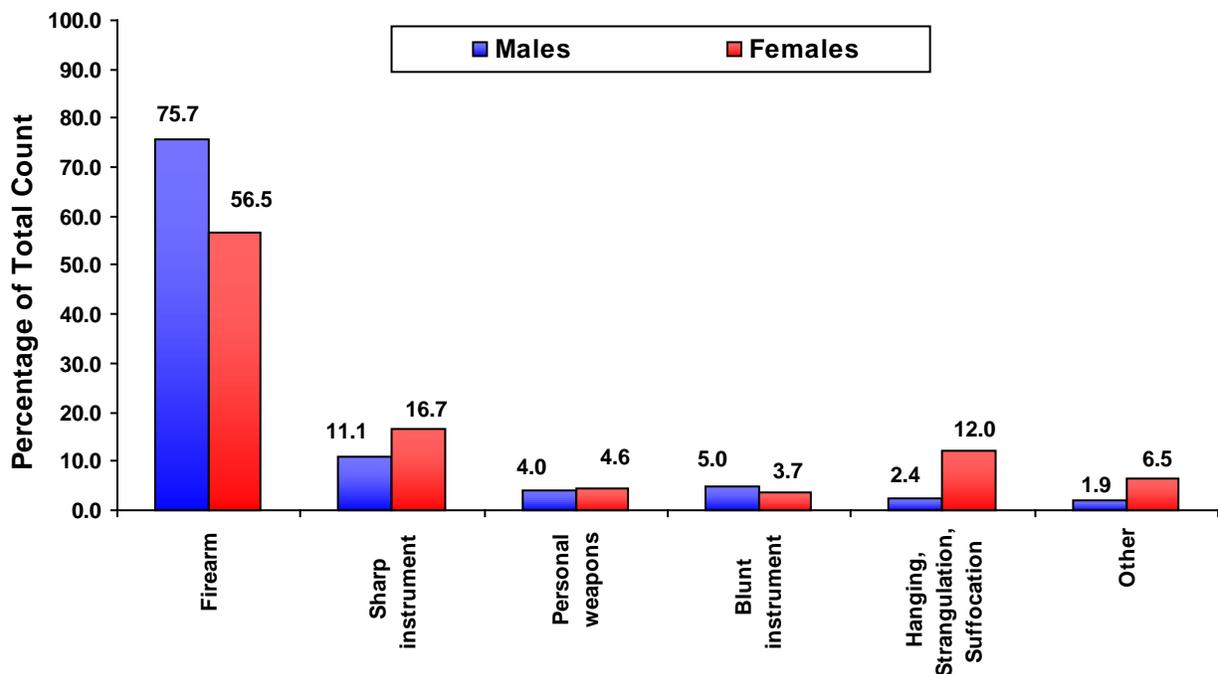
**Note:** The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for the 5-9 and 10-14 year age groups.

**Table 22: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	320	75.7	61	56.5	381	71.8
Sharp instrument	47	11.1	18	16.7	65	12.2
Blunt instrument	21	5.0	4	3.7	25	4.7
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	10	2.4	13	12.0	23	4.3
Personal weapons	17	4.0	5	4.6	22	4.1
Poisoning	2	0.5	1	0.9	3	0.6
Fire or burns	1	0.2	1	0.9	2	0.4
Intentional Neglect (e.g., starvation)	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.4
Violent Shaking	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Other*	1	0.2	2	1.9	3	0.6
Unknown	1	0.2	3	2.8	4	0.8
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes: motor vehicle, falls, and drowning.

**Figure 17: Method of Death for Homicide Victims by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**



**Table 23: Type of Firearm Involved in Homicide Firearm Deaths by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Firearm Type*</b>						
Handgun	242	75.4	45	72.6	286	74.9
Rifle	21	6.5	6	9.7	27	7.0
Shotgun	15	4.7	5	8.1	20	5.2
Unknown Type	43	13.4	6	9.7	49	12.8
<b>Total Firearms Involved, Homicides</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported for one male and one female homicide death; therefore the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=381).

**Table 24: Completed Education, Marital Status and Veteran Status of Adult Homicide Victims (Age 18 or Older) in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Years of Completed Education</b>			
	0 to 8 Years	20	4.1
	9 to 11 Years	126	25.6
	12 Years	224	45.5
	> 12 Years	115	23.4
	Unknown	7	1.4
<b>Marital Status</b>			
	Never Married	278	56.5
	Married	124	25.2
	Divorced	65	13.2
	Widowed	18	3.7
	Married, Separated	5	1.0
	Unknown	2	0.4
<b>Veteran Status</b>			
	Non-Veteran	432	87.8
	Veteran	46	9.4
	Unknown	14	2.8
<b>Total Adult Deaths (Ages 18 or Older)</b>		<b>492</b>	<b>100</b>

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

**Table 25: Homicides by County of Residence  
in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number	Rate		Number	Rate		Number	Rate
County			County			County		
Alamance	4	*	Franklin	3	*	Pamlico	1	*
Alexander	2	*	<b>Gaston</b>	16	7.6	Pasquotank	2	*
Alleghany	0	0.0	Gates	0	0.0	Pender	2	*
<b>Anson</b>	6	22.9	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	0	0.0
Ashe	0	0.0	Granville	3	*	Person	0	0.0
Avery	1	*	Greene	2	*	Pitt	9	5.2
Beaufort	2	*	Guilford	32	6.3	Polk	0	0.0
Bertie	0	0.0	<b>Halifax</b>	6	11.2	Randolph	5	3.5
Bladen	3	*	<b>Harnett</b>	9	7.2	Richmond	4	*
Brunswick	5	4.3	Haywood	2	*	<b>Robeson</b>	19	14.1
Buncombe	13	5.2	Henderson	5	4.6	<b>Rockingham</b>	7	7.6
Burke	3	*	Hertford	0	0.0	<b>Rowan</b>	11	8.0
<b>Cabarrus</b>	12	6.4	<b>Hoke</b>	7	13.6	Rutherford	3	*
<b>Caldwell</b>	6	7.3	Hyde	0	0.0	<b>Sampson</b>	5	7.8
Camden	0	0.0	Iredell	5	3.0	Scotland	3	*
Carteret	0	0.0	Jackson	2	*	Stanly	3	*
Caswell	1	*	Johnston	6	3.4	Stokes	1	*
Catawba	7	4.5	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	0	0.0
Chatham	1	*	<b>Lee</b>	8	13.3	Swain	1	*
Cherokee	0	0.0	<b>Lenoir</b>	8	13.6	Transylvania	0	0.0
Chowan	1	*	Lincoln	2	*	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	1	*	Union	6	2.8
Cleveland	2	*	Macon	0	0.0	<b>Vance</b>	6	13.4
<b>Columbus</b>	8	14.0	Madison	2	*	Wake	29	3.0
Craven	3	*	Martin	1	*	Warren	1	*
<b>Cumberland</b>	34	10.4	Mecklenburg	59	6.0	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	0	0.0	Mitchell	0	0.0	Watauga	0	0.0
Dare	2	*	Montgomery	0	0.0	Wayne	7	5.6
Davidson	7	4.3	<b>Moore</b>	9	9.8	<b>Wilkes</b>	6	8.7
Davie	0	0.0	Nash	3	*	<b>Wilson</b>	6	7.3
Duplin	2	*	New Hanover	11	5.2	Yadkin	1	*
<b>Durham</b>	30	10.4	Northampton	0	0.0	Yancey	2	*
Edgecombe	4	*	Onslow	10	5.4			
Forsyth	18	5.0	Orange	1	*			

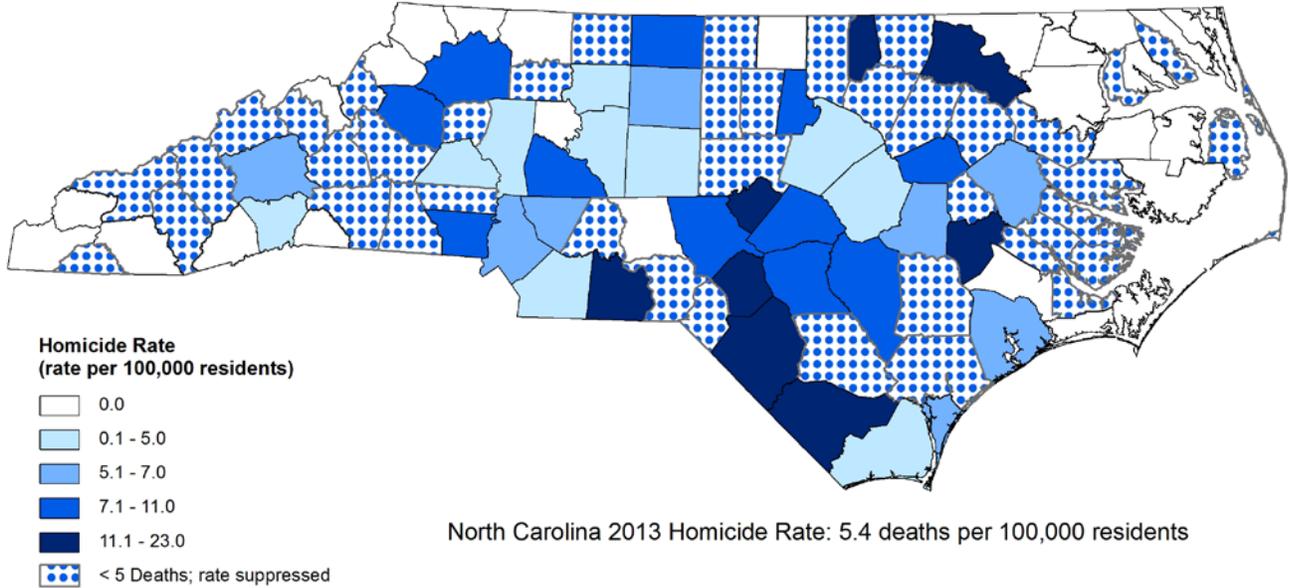
Crude rate per 100,000 population in N.C. county

\* 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, 2013**

Homicide Rate per 100,000 by County of Residence: NC-VDRS 2013



## ***Race and Sex of Homicide Victims***

**Table 26** and **Figure 19** describe the 2013 North Carolina homicide victims by sex and race.

### **Key Findings:**

- Of all homicide victims, 79.7 percent were male, 56.5 percent were black, and 39.0 percent were white as shown in Table 19.
- The majority of male homicide victims were black (60.3%) as compared to white (35.2%), American Indian (2.1%) and Asian (1.4%). Conversely, more than half of female homicide victims were white (53.7%) as compared to black (41.7%), American Indian (2.8%) and Asian (1.9%).
- The homicide rates per 100,000 were 5.7 times higher for black males (24.2) and 2.6 times higher for American Indian males (11.1), both in comparison to white males (4.2).
- Black females were 2.4 times as likely to be homicide victims as white females (3.8 versus 1.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- The homicide rate was 6.4 times higher for black males than for black females. The homicide rate was 2.6 times higher for white males than white females.

## ***Age and Sex of Homicide Victims***

The age and sex of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2013 are categorized in **Table 27**. The 2013 homicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina are stratified by age group and sex in **Figure 20**.

### **Key Findings:**

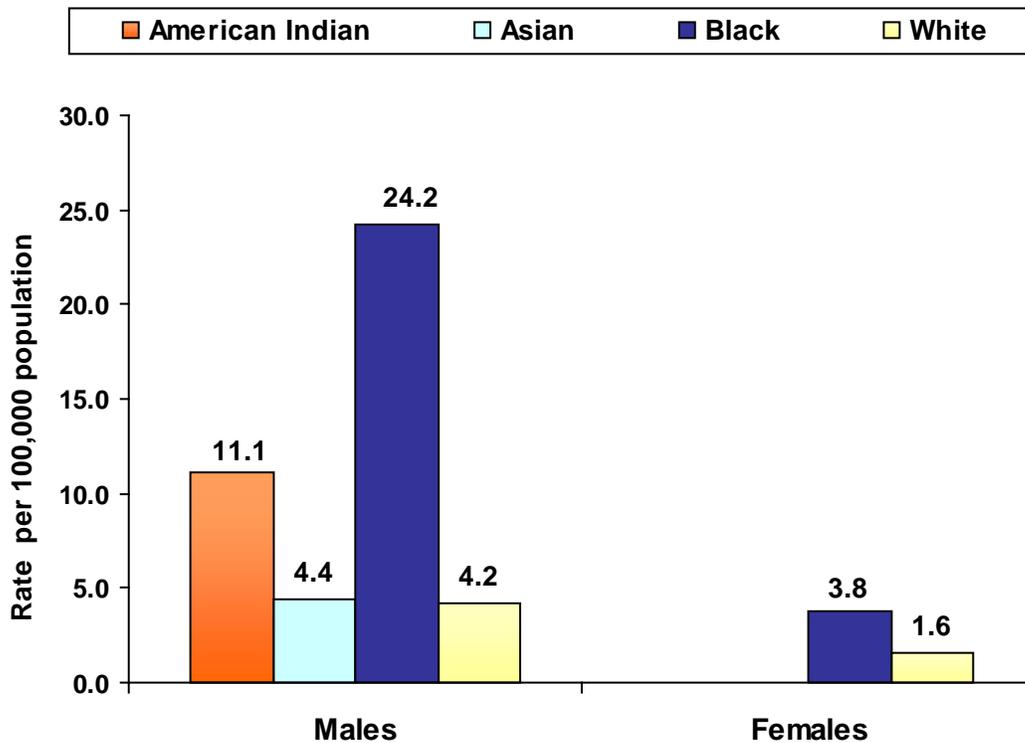
- Most male homicide victims were ages 15 to 64 years with a rank order by ages: 25 to 34 (27.9%), 20 to 24 (17.7%), 35 to 44 (17.0%), 45 to 54 (11.6%), 15 to 19 (9.9%) and 55 to 64 (7.6%).
- Among females, the majority of homicide victims were ages 20 to 74 years with a rank order by age group of: 35 to 44 (22.2%), 25 to 34 (19.4%), 45 to 54 (18.5%), 55 to 64 (11.1%), 65 to 74 (8.3%) and 20 to 24 (7.4%).
- Adult males ages 20 to 54 had higher homicide rates than females across all age groups for 2013.
- Males were more likely to die of homicide than females by more than 8.5 times in ages 20 to 24 years and nearly 6 times in ages 25 to 34 years.
- The homicide rate by age for males peaked in ages 20 to 24 years (20.3 per 100,000) and then declined to 3.1 per 100,000 for ages 65 to 74.
- For females, the largest peak in the homicide rate by age was at ages 35 to 44 years (3.6 per 100,000).

**Table 26: Race by Sex of Homicide Victims in North Carolina, 2013**

Race	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
American Indian	9	2.1	11.1	3	2.8	*
Asian	6	1.4	4.4	2	1.9	*
Black	255	60.3	24.2	45	41.7	3.8
White	149	35.2	4.2	58	53.7	1.6
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.1</b>

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, 2013**

**Note:** The numbers of homicides for American Indian females and Asian females were too small to support rate calculations.

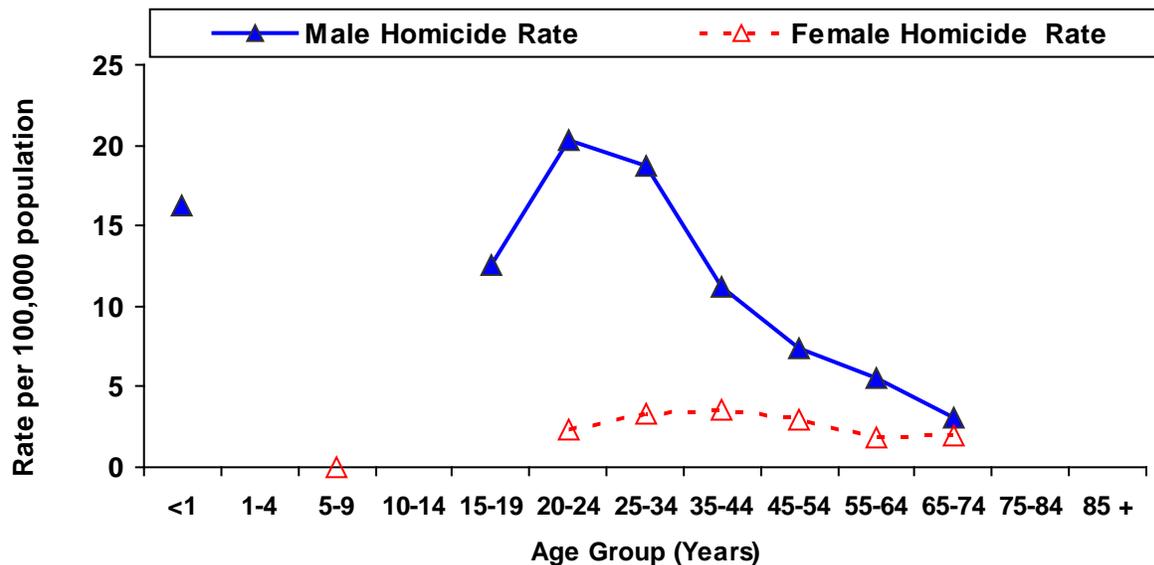
**Table 27: Age Group by Sex of Homicide Victims  
in North Carolina, 2013**

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	10	2.4	16.3	1	0.9	*
1-4	3	0.7	*	4	3.7	*
5-9	1	0.2	*	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	3	0.7	*	1	0.9	*
15-19	42	9.9	12.6	4	3.7	*
20-24	75	17.7	20.3	8	7.4	2.3
25-34	118	27.9	18.7	21	19.4	3.3
35-44	72	17.0	11.2	24	22.2	3.6
45-54	49	11.6	7.4	20	18.5	2.9
55-64	32	7.6	5.5	12	11.1	1.9
65-74	12	2.8	3.1	9	8.3	2.0
75-84	2	0.5	*	3	2.8	*
85 +	4	0.9	*	1	0.9	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.1</b>

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, 2013**



**Note:** The numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for males ages 1 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, 75 to 84, and 85 and older. The numbers of deaths were too small to support rate calculations for females younger than 1 year old and ages 1 to 4, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, 75 to 84, and 85 and older.

## ***Circumstances and Injury Location for Homicide Victims***

NC-VDRS collects data on the event and victim circumstances involving homicides to understand the underlying causes of violent death. However, circumstance data were not available for all homicides. In 2013, 91.5 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 2013. **Table 29** lists the crimes that precipitated the homicide in 2013 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 2013.

### **Key Findings:**

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides for males were an argument, abuse or conflict (46.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (39.4%), gang related (34.7%) drug involvement (22.7%) and intimate partner violence-related (12.0%).
- For females, the most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were intimate partner violence-related (54.4%), precipitated by another serious crime (34.0%), an argument, abuse or conflict (30.1%), gang related (27.2%) and drug involvement (7.8%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for male victims were robbery (42.3%), burglary (25.0%) and drug trade (24.0%).
- For female victims, the most common crimes that precipitated homicide included burglary (33.3%) and robbery (24.4%).
- Common victim circumstances surrounding homicides were the victim used a weapon (9.3%), the homicide was justifiable self-defense (3.7%), and the victim was a bystander (1.4%).

**Table 30** summarizes the location of the injury resulting in death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2013.

### **Key Findings:**

- The majority (59.5%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment.
- Other common locations where injuries resulting in death occurred were a motor vehicle (11.1%), a street, road, sidewalk or alley (9.8%), other commercial establishments such as a grocery store or laundromat (4.1%), bars/nightclubs (3.6%), parking lot or garage (2.6%) and natural areas (2.4%).

**Table 28: Circumstances of Homicide Victims by Sex  
in North Carolina, 2013**

Circumstance**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Event</b>						
Other Argument, Abuse, Conflict	178	46.5	31	30.1	209	43.0
Precipitated by Another Serious Crime	151	39.4	35	34.0	186	38.3
Drug Involvement	87	22.7	8	7.8	95	19.6
Intimate Partner Violence-Related	46	12.0	56	54.4	102	21.0
Jealousy (Lovers' Triangle)	13	3.4	6	5.8	19	3.9
Gang Related	133	34.7	28	27.2	161	33.1
Brawl (Mutual Physical Fight)	3	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.6
Mercy Killing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Victim</b>						
Victim Used a Weapon	44	11.5	1	1.0	45	9.3
Victim was a Bystander	5	1.3	2	1.9	7	1.4
Justifiable Self-Defense	18	4.7	0	0.0	18	3.7
Intervener Assisting Crime Victim	3	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.6

\*\* Circumstances were available for 90.5 percent (383/423) of male victims, 95.4 percent (103/108) of female victims and 91.5 percent (486/531) of all homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2013.

**Table 29: Crimes Precipitating Homicide by Sex  
in North Carolina, 2013**

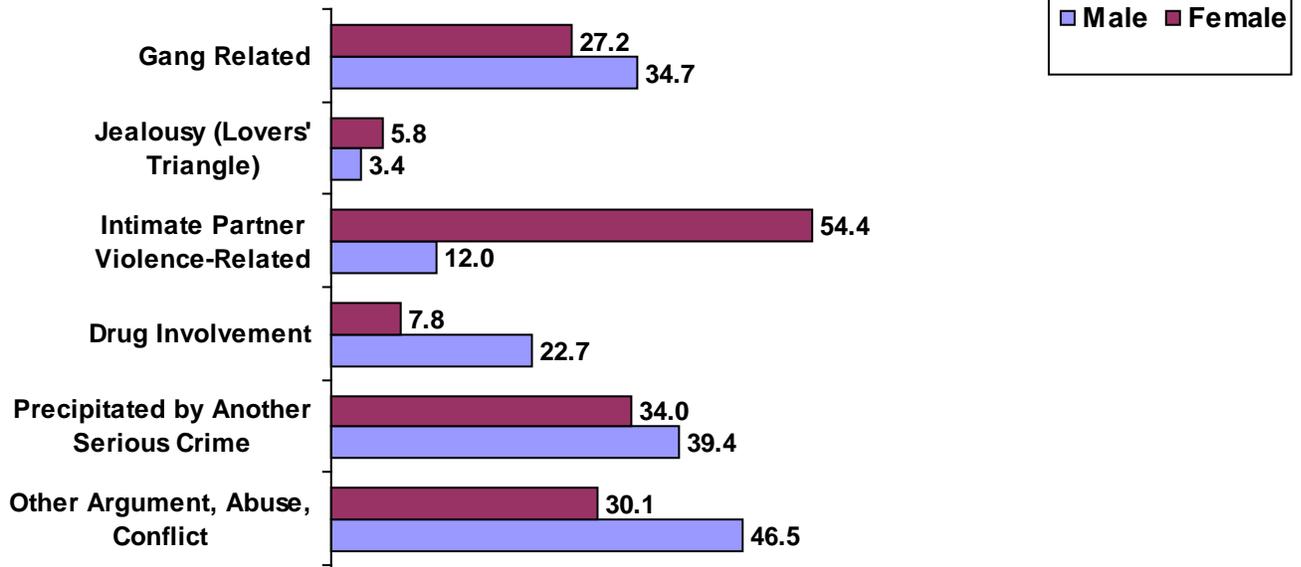
Crime**	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Robbery	83	42.3	11	24.4	94	39.0
Burglary	49	25.0	15	33.3	64	26.6
Drug trade	47	24.0	2	4.4	49	20.3
Motor vehicle theft	6	3.1	6	13.3	12	5.0
Assault, homicide	6	3.1	1	2.2	7	2.9
Rape, sexual assault	1	0.5	5	11.1	6	2.5
Arson	0	0.0	3	6.7	3	1.2
Witness intimidation/elimination	1	0.5	1	2.2	2	0.8
Other (specify in narrative)	3	1.5	1	2.2	4	1.7

\*\* For 151 males, 35 females and 186 victims whose homicide was precipitated by another serious crime.

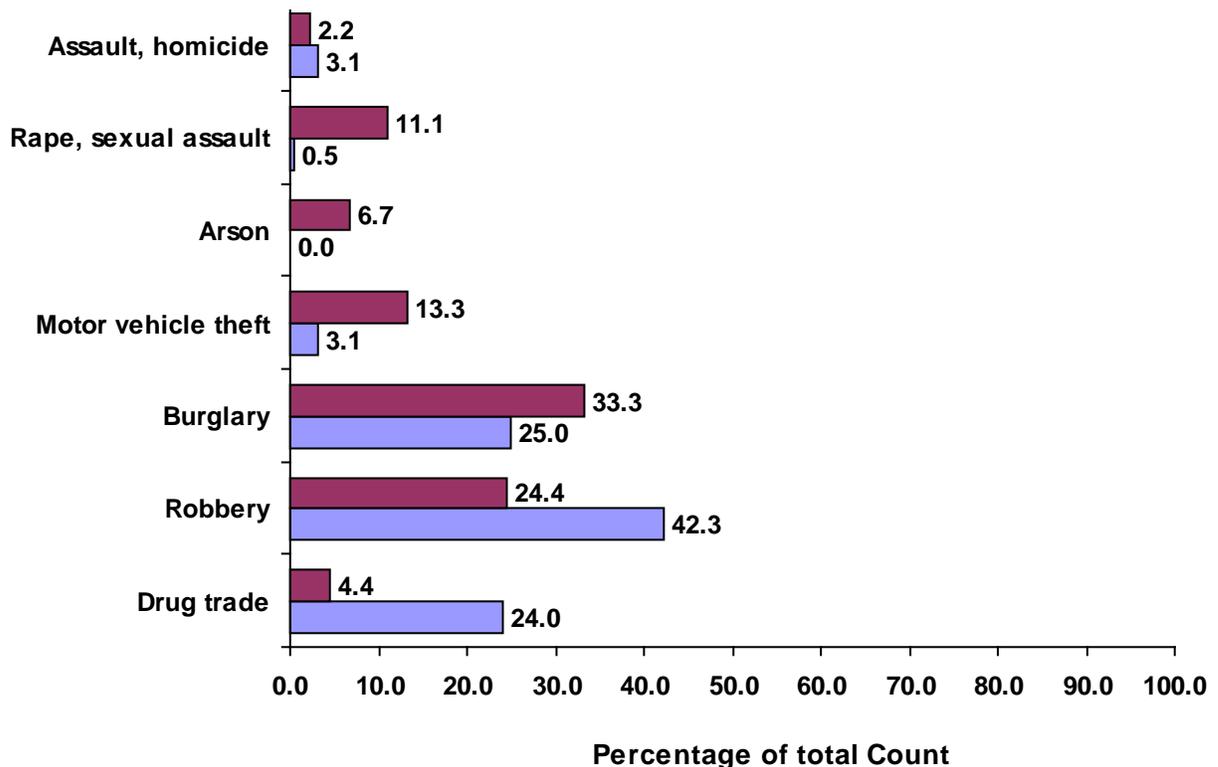
**Note:** Each victim may have more than one circumstance and a homicide may be precipitated by more than one crime. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides, or responses may exceed 100 percent

**Figure 21: Circumstances of Homicide Victims and Crimes Precipitating Homicide by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**

**HOMICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES**



**CRIMES PRECIPITATING HOMICIDE**



**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, 2013**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Injury Location</b>		
House, Apartment	316	59.5
Motor Vehicle (Excluding School Bus and Public Transportation)	59	11.1
Street/road, Sidewalk, Alley	52	9.8
Other Commercial Establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	22	4.1
Bar, Nightclub	19	3.6
Parking Lot/Public Parking Garage	14	2.6
Natural Area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	13	2.4
Hotel/Motel	8	1.5
Park, Playground, Public Use Area	8	1.5
Hospital or Medical Facility	1	0.2
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	1	0.2
Service Station	1	0.2
Unknown	16	3.0
Other	1	0.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>100</b>

## 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 2013. 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 2013. **Table 33** lists the number of legal intervention deaths in 2013 by North Carolina county of residence.

### Key Findings:

- In 2013, 30 residents of North Carolina (0.3 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- Nearly all of the victims were male (90.0%) and most were from 20 to 64 years of age (83.3%).
- Most legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (96.7%), a handgun used most frequently (56.3%).

**Table 31: Demographics of Legal Intervention Death Victims in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	3	10.0	*	
	Male	27	90.0	0.6	0.4 – 0.8
<b>Race</b>					
	Black	15	50.0	0.7	0.3 – 1.0
	White	15	50.0	0.2	0.1 – 0.3
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	1	3.3	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	29	96.7	0.3	0.2 – 0.4
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	15 - 19	4	13.3	*	*
	20 - 24	6	20.0	0.8	0.2 – 1.5
	25 - 34	7	23.3	0.5	0.1 – 1.0
	35 - 44	3	10.0	*	*
	45 - 54	5	16.7	0.4	0.0 – 0.7
	55 - 64	4	13.3	*	*
	65 - 74	1	3.3	*	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2 – 0.4</b>

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, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Weapon Type*</b>			
	Handgun	18	56.3
	Rifle	7	21.9
	Shotgun	2	6.3
	Unknown firearm type	4	12.5
	Other, non-firearm weapon	1	3.1
<b>Total Weapons Involved, Legal Intervention</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported for one legal intervention fatality in 2013; therefore the total number of weapons exceeds the number of legal intervention deaths (n=30).

**Table 33: Legal Intervention Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number		Number
<b>County</b>		<b>County</b>	
Alleghany	1	Franklin	1
Brunswick	1	Guilford	1
Buncombe	2	Halifax	2
Cabarrus	1	Mecklenburg	3
Caldwell	1	New Hanover	2
Carteret	1	Pitt	1
Catawba	1	Rowan	1
Cumberland	3	Union	1
Durham	3	Wake	3
Forsyth	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 2013 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 2013. **Table 36** provides the number of unintentional firearm deaths in 2013 by North Carolina County of residence.

### Key Findings:

- In 2013, 14 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Unintentional firearm victims were 85.7 percent male, 64.3 percent white, 28.6 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 handgun (50.0%) followed by a shotgun (35.7%) and a rifle (7.1%).

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 2013.

### Key Findings:

- The most common circumstance among mechanisms of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death was that the shooter unintentionally pulled the trigger (15.4%). Another common circumstance was that the gun discharged when it was dropped (11.5%).
- Among contexts of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death, the most common contexts were that the injury occurred while playing with a gun (15.4%).

**Table 34: Demographics of Unintentional Firearm Death Victims  
in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	2	14.3	*	*
	Male	12	85.7	0.2	0.1 – 0.4
<b>Race</b>					
	American Indian	1	7.1	*	*
	Black	4	28.6	*	*
	White	9	64.3	0.1	0.0 – 0.2
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	Non-Hispanic	14	100	0.2	0.1 – 0.2
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	< 1	2	14.3	*	*
	1 – 4	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	5 – 9	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	10 - 14	1	7.1	*	*
	15 - 19	2	14.3	*	*
	20 - 24	1	7.1	*	*
	25 - 34	1	7.1	*	*
	35 - 44	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	45 - 54	1	7.1	*	*
	55 - 64	4	28.6	*	*
	65 - 74	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	75 - 84	2	14.3	*	*
	85 +	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1 – 0.3</b>

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, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Firearm Type</b>			
	Handgun	7	50.0
	Shotgun	5	35.7
	Rifle	1	7.1
	Unknown	1	7.1
<b>Total Firearms Involved, Unintentional Firearm</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were not reported for any unintentional firearm fatalities in 2013; therefore the total number of firearms equals the number of unintentional firearm deaths (n=14).

**Table 36: Unintentional Firearm Deaths by County of Residence in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number		Number
<b>County</b>		<b>County</b>	
Buncombe	1	Iredell	1
Cleveland	2	Northampton	1
Columbus	1	Onslow	1
Cumberland	3	Robeson	2
Guilford	1	Stanly	1

**Table 37: Circumstances of Unintentional Firearm Deaths  
in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number	%
<b>Context</b>		
Occurred While Playing with a Gun	4	15.4
Occurred While Showing Gun to Others	1	3.8
Occurred While Target Shooting	1	3.8
Occurred While on a Hunting Trip	2	7.7
Shooter Thought Gun was a Toy	2	7.7
Other Context	3	11.5
<b>Mechanism</b>		
Shooter Unintentionally Pulled Trigger	4	15.4
Shooter Thought Magazine was Unloaded	1	3.8
Occurred While Cleaning a Gun	1	3.8
Shooter Thought Gun was Unloaded, Unspecified Reason	2	7.7
Gun Discharged While Operating the Safety/Lock	1	3.8
Gun Discharged When it was Dropped	3	11.5
Other Mechanism	1	3.8

\*\* Circumstances were available for 12 of 14 (85.7%) of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2013.

**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 2013 by sex, race and age.

### Key Findings:

- In 2013, 91 children in North Carolina (4.0 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 3.9 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (6.3 vs. 1.6 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 3.0 times higher for Non-Hispanic children (4.4) than for Hispanic children (1.5).
- The highest death rate was for children ages 15 to 17 (11.9 per 100,000). The lowest rate was for ages one to four (2.2 per 100,000).

Manner of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2013 is displayed in **Figure 22**, and it is shown stratified by sex in **Table 39**, by race in **Table 40** and by age group in **Table 41**.

### Key Findings:

- The most common causes of violent death for all child victims were homicide (42.9%) and suicide (42.9%).
- Homicide was the cause of violent death in the majority of black children (64.5%).
- Homicide was the leading cause of violent death for infants less than one year (84.6%) and for children ages one to four (63.6%) and ages five to nine (100%).
- Suicide was the cause of violent death in the majority white children (57.4%).
- Suicide was the leading cause of violent death for children ages 10 to 14 (71.4%) and ages 15 to 17 (53.3%).

Method of child violent death in North Carolina in 2013 is provided stratified by sex in **Table 42**, by race in **Table 43** and by age group in **Table 44**.

### Key Findings:

- The most common methods of violent death for all child victims were firearm (46.2%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (27.5%) and personal weapons (i.e., abuse by a caretaker) (9.9%).
- Firearm was the leading method of child violent death for males (53.4%), blacks (51.6%) and whites (40.7%).
- Personal weapons (53.8%), poisoning (15.4%) and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (15.4%) were the leading methods of violent death in infants less than one year. For children ages one to four, personal weapons (18.2%), firearm (18.2%) and hanging, strangulation or suffocation (18.2%) were the leading methods of death. There was one child death for ages five to nine, attributed to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (100%). Hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (52.4%) and firearm (38.1%) were the top causes of violent child death for ages 10 to 14. Firearm was the leading method of violent child death for ages 15 to 17 (71.1%).

**Table 38: Demographics of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Deaths in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	18	19.8	1.6	0.9 – 2.4
	Male	73	80.2	6.3	4.8 – 7.7
<b>Race</b>					
	American Indian	4	4.4	*	*
	Black	31	34.1	5.1	3.3 – 7.0
	White	54	59.3	3.5	2.5 – 4.4
	Asian	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Unknown	2	2.2	--	--
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	5	5.5	1.5	0.2 – 2.8
	Non-Hispanic	86	94.5	4.4	3.5 – 5.4
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	<1	13	14.3	10.9	5.0 – 16.8
	1 - 4	11	12.1	2.2	0.9 – 3.6
	5 - 9	1	1.1	*	*
	10 - 14	21	23.1	3.2	1.8 – 4.6
	15 - 17	45	49.5	11.9	8.4 – 15.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.2 – 4.8</b>

Sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity or age-specific crude rate per 100,000 North Carolina population

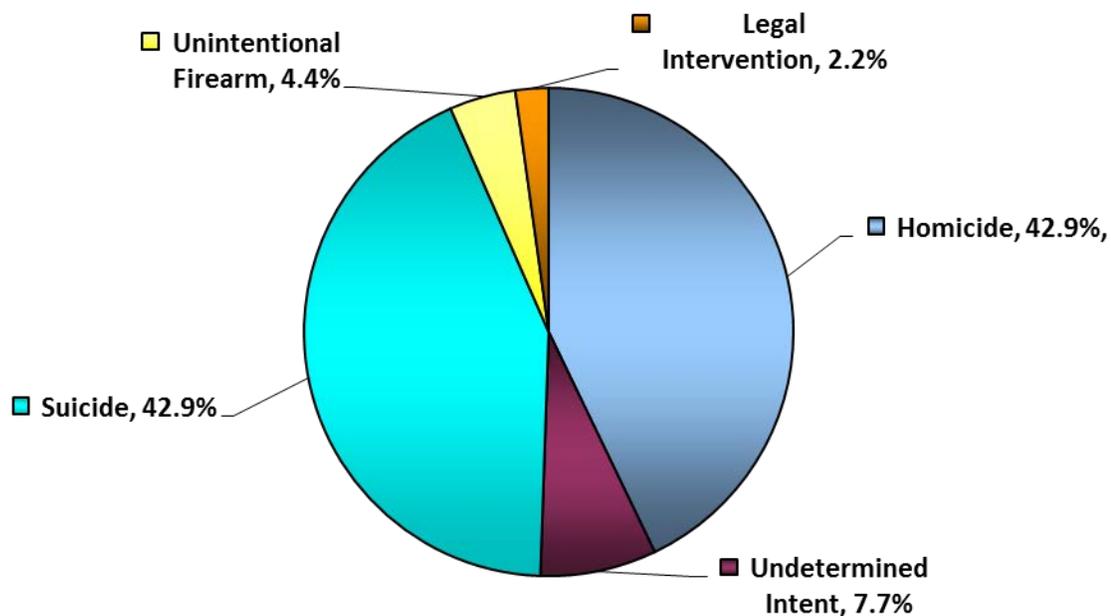
95% CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

\* 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, 2013**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>						
Homicide	32	43.8	7	38.9	39	42.9
Suicide	31	42.5	8	44.4	39	42.9
Undetermined Intent	5	6.8	2	11.1	7	7.7
Unintentional Firearm	3	4.1	1	5.6	4	4.4
Legal Intervention	2	2.7	0	0	2	2.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 22: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death in North Carolina, 2013**



**Table 40: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race in North Carolina, 2013**

Race*	American Indian		Black		White		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>								
Homicide	1	25.0	20	64.5	16	29.6	0	0.0
Suicide	2	50.0	6	19.4	31	57.4	0	0.0
Undetermined Intent	0	0.0	2	6.5	5	9.3	0	0.0
Unintentional Firearm	1	25.0	1	3.2	2	3.7	0	0.0
Legal Intervention	0	0	2	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Race was unknown for 2 child violent deaths in 2013.

**Table 41: Manner of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group in North Carolina, 2013**

Age Group	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15 to 17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>										
Homicide	11	84.6	7	63.6	1	100	4	19.0	16	35.6
Suicide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	71.4	24	53.3
Undetermined Intent	2	15.4	2	18.2	0	0.0	1	4.8	2	4.4
Unintentional Firearm	0	0.0	0	18.2	0	0.0	1	4.8	1	2.2
Legal Intervention	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 42: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Sex in North Carolina, 2013**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	39	53.4	3	16.7	42	46.2
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	15	20.5	10	55.6	25	27.5
Personal Weapons	6	8.2	3	16.7	9	9.9
Poisoning	3	4.1	0	0.0	3	3.3
Blunt Instrument	1	1.4	1	5.6	2	2.2
Sharp Instrument	2	2.7	0	0.0	2	2.2
Drowning	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Fire or Burns	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Intentional Neglect	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Motor Vehicle	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other Transport	0	0.0	1	5.6	1	1.1
Violent Shaking	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Unknown	2	2.7	0	0.0	2	2.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 43: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Race in North Carolina, 2013**

Race*	American Indian		Black		White		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Method of Death</b>								
Firearm	3	75.0	16	51.6	22	40.7	0	0.0
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	1	25.0	7	22.6	17	31.5	0	0.0
Personal Weapons	0	0.0	4	12.9	4	7.4	0	0.0
Poisoning	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.6	0	0.0
Blunt Instrument	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	1.9	0	0.0
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	1.9	0	0.0
Drowning	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0
Fire or Burns	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0
Other Transport	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	0	0.0
Violent Shaking	0	0.0	1	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	1	3.2	1	1.9	0	0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Race was unknown for 2 child violent deaths in 2013.

**Table 44: Method of Child (Under Age 18) Violent Death by Age Group  
in North Carolina, 2013**

Age Group	< 1 year		1-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15 to 17 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Method of Death</b>										
Firearm	0	0.0	2	18.2	0	0.0	8	38.1	32	71.1
Sharp Instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.8	1	2.2
Blunt Instrument	1	7.7	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poisoning	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.2
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	2	15.4	2	18.2	1	100	11	52.4	9	20
Personal Weapons	7	53.8	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drowning	0	0.0	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fire or Burns	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.2
Violent Shaking	0	0.0	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.8	0	0.0
Other Transport	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.2
Intentional Neglect	0	0.0	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	1	7.7	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

## 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 45** provides the characteristics of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2013 by sex, race and age.

### Key Findings:

- In 2013, 67 undetermined intent deaths (0.7 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Males had an undetermined death rate of 2.7 times that of females (1.0 versus 0.4 per 100,000).
- Whites accounted for 88.1 percent of undetermined intent victims.
- The majority (97.0%) of undetermined intent death victims were non-Hispanic.
- The majority (71.6%) of undetermined intent death victims was among those ages 25 to 64, and the highest undetermined intent death rate by age group was among those 45 to 54 years (1.2 per 100,000).

**Table 46** summarizes the method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2013. **Table 47** shows the type of poisoning for undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2013. **Table 48** shows the type of firearm involved in undetermined intent firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2013.

### Key Findings:

- The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (59.7%) and firearm (20.9%).
- Most (72.5%) undetermined intent poisoning deaths involved pharmaceuticals.
- A handgun was involved in 71.4 percent of undetermined intent firearm deaths, a rifle was involved in one of these deaths, a shotgun was involved in one of these deaths and type of firearm involved was unknown in the remaining two deaths.

**Table 49** provides the number of undetermined intent deaths in 2013 by North Carolina County of residence.

**Table 45: Demographics of Undetermined Intent Death Victims  
in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>					
	Female	19	28.4	0.4	0.2 – 0.5
	Male	48	71.6	1.0	0.7 – 1.3
<b>Race</b>					
	Black	7	10.4	0.3	0.1 – 0.5
	White	59	88.1	0.8	0.6 – 1.0
	Unknown	1	1.5	--	--
<b>Hispanic</b>					
	Hispanic	2	3.0	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	65	97.0	0.7	0.5 – 0.9
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>					
	<1	2	3.0	*	*
	1 - 4	2	3.0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
	10 - 14	1	1.5	*	*
	15 - 19	4	6.0	*	*
	20 - 24	4	6.0	*	*
	25 - 34	11	16.4	0.9	0.4 – 1.4
	35 - 44	8	11.9	0.6	0.2 – 1.0
	45 - 54	17	25.4	1.2	0.7 – 1.8
	55 - 64	12	17.9	1.0	0.4 – 1.5
	65 - 74	3	4.5	*	*
	75 - 84	3	4.5	*	*
	85+	0	0.0	0.0	0.0 – 0.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.5 – 0.8</b>

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 46: Method of Undetermined Intent Deaths  
in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Method of Death</b>			
	Poisoning	40	59.7
	Firearm	14	20.9
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	3	4.5
	Personal weapons	2	3.0
	Fall	1	1.5
	Fire or Burns	1	1.5
	Other Transport	1	1.5
	Unknown	5	7.5
<b>Total Deaths</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 47: Poisonous Substances with Positive Test Results for Undetermined Intent  
Poisoning Deaths in North Carolina, 2013**

	Substance Type	Number	%
<b>Single Poison Type</b>			
	Pharmaceuticals	17	42.5
	Street/recreational drugs	1	2.5
	Carbon monoxide or other gas, vapor	1	2.5
<b>Multiple Poison Types</b>			
	Pharmaceuticals and Alcohol	7	17.5
	Pharmaceuticals and Street/recreational drugs	5	12.5
	Alcohol and Street / Recreational Drugs	1	2.5
	Alcohol and Carbon Monoxide or Other Gas	1	2.5
<b>Unknown Substances</b>			
		7	17.5
<b>Total Poisoning Deaths</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 48: Type of Firearm for Undetermined Intent Firearm Deaths  
in North Carolina, 2013**

		Number	%
<b>Firearm Type</b>			
	Handgun	10	71.4
	Rifle	1	7.1
	Shotgun	1	7.1
	Unknown	2	14.3
<b>Total Firearms Involved, Undetermined Intent</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were not reported for any undetermined intent fatalities in 2013; therefore the total number of firearms equals the number of undetermined intent firearm

**Table 49: Undetermined Intent Deaths by County of Residence  
in North Carolina, 2013**

	Number		Number		Number
<b>County</b>		<b>County</b>		<b>County</b>	
Alamance	2	Halifax	1	Perquimans	1
Bladen	1	Harnett	1	Pitt	2
Brunswick	1	Henderson	2	Randolph	8
Buncombe	3	Iredell	2	Rowan	1
Cabarrus	3	Johnston	1	Rutherford	1
Catawba	2	Martin	1	Scotland	2
Davie	1	McDowell	2	Stanly	1
Duplin	1	Mecklenburg	1	Surry	2
Durham	2	Moore	3	Wake	4
Forsyth	6	Nash	1	Yadkin	1
Guilford	6	New Hanover	1		

deaths  
(n=14)

## Section VIII: Violent Death Trend Over Time

**Table 50** shows the number and the rate of violent deaths over time in North Carolina from 2004 to 2013 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 2013.

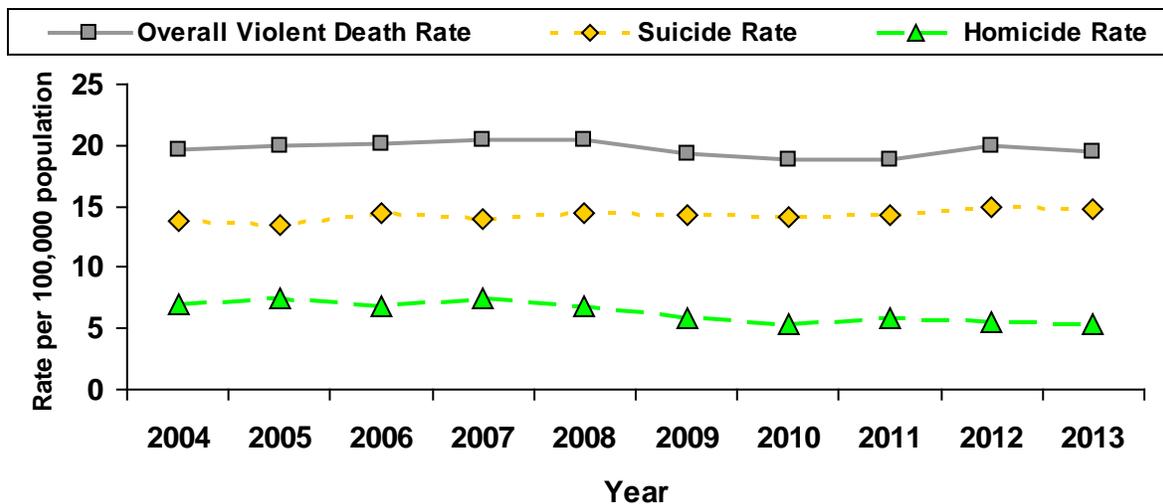
### Key Findings:

- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina has remained fairly stable from 2004 (19.6 per 100,000) to 2013 (19.4 per 100,000), with a slight peak during 2007 and 2008 (20.4 per 100,000).
- From 2004 to 2013 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 50: Trend in Violent Deaths Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2013**

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
2013	1,914	19.4	1,272	14.8	531	5.4

**Figure 23: Trend in Violent Death Rate Over Time in North Carolina, 2004-2013**



## Appendix A: Population Data for Rate Calculations

Appendix A: North Carolina Population Data in 2013 for Rate Calculations			
	Number of Total Population	Number of People Ages 10 or Older (for Suicide Rates)	Number of Children (Age Less than 18)
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	5,047,448	4,431,901	1,118,526
Male	4,800,612	4,158,471	1,167,079
<b>Race</b>			
American Indian	163,239	135,706	49,264
Asian	279,871	234,580	76,825
Black	2,244,173	1,913,028	602,209
White	7,160,777	6,307,058	1,557,307
<b>Hispanic</b>			
Hispanic	872,805	663,477	338,629
Non-Hispanic	8,975,255	7,926,895	1,946,976
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>			
< 1	119,697	--	119,697
1 - 4	492,598	--	492,598
5 - 9	645,393	--	645,393
10 - 14	650,173	650,173	650,173
15 - 19	651,495	651,495	377,744 (age 15 - 17)
20 - 24	711,634	711,634	--
25 - 34	1,274,545	1,274,545	--
35 - 44	1,308,964	1,308,964	--
45 - 54	1,366,545	1,366,545	--
55 - 64	1,219,917	1,219,917	--
65 - 74	826,883	826,883	--
75 - 84	414,665	414,665	--
85 +	165,551	165,551	--
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>9,848,060</b>	<b>8,590,372</b>	<b>2,285,605</b>

**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*

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*N.C. Office of Chief Medical Examiner*

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Megan Davies, MD

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Phillip Graham, DrPH, MPH

*Public Health Researcher, RTI International*

Peggy Goodman, MD

*Associate Professor, the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University*

Gayle Harris

*Director, Durham County Department of Public Health*

Elizabeth Hudgins

*Executive Director, Child Fatality Task Force*

Amy Ising

*Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*

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Larry Smith  
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Jane Miller  
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Beth Moracco, PhD, MPH  
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Marcia Owen  
*Community Volunteer*, Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham

Timothy Parker  
N.C. State Bureau of Investigation

Deborah Radisch, MD  
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## 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 • Rick Brajer, Secretary  
Division of Public Health • Randall Williams, M.D., State Health Director  
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) • [www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov)

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North Carolina Violent Death



Reporting System

North Carolina Division of Public Health

VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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