VIOLENT DEATHS AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN RESIDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2011-2020

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

**Violent Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity: NC-VDRS, 2011-2020**

- For the year 2020, there were 124,338 non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian residents living in North Carolina, accounting for 1.2% of the state's population.
- NH American Indian victims had the highest rate of violent death by race in North Carolina for the years 2011-2020 (28.1 per 100,000 population).

**Manner of Death Among NH American Indian Victims:**

**NC-VDRS, 2011-2020**

- Male NH American Indian residents were more likely to die by violence than females from 2011 to 2020 (79.4% versus 20.6%).

**Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: NC-VDRS, 2011-2020**

- NH American Indian victims accounted for 3.1% of all homicides and 0.9% of all suicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2011 to 2020.
- In contrast, 58.9% of all homicides were NH Black victims and 85.7% of all suicides were NH white victims from 2011 to 2020.

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* Non-Hispanic
** Rate per 100,000 population
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE002613-05-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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2020 FINAL DATA 6/20/2022
Please see the NC-VDRS 2020 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:
https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm

Method of Death Among NH American Indian Victims:
NC-VDRS, 2011-2020

- The majority of homicides (75.4%) and suicides (54.7%) among NH American Indians victims involved firearms.
- The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (10.8%).
- The second most common method of suicide was hanging, strangulation or suffocation (25.0%).

*Other includes fire/burns, falls, intentional neglect, personal weapons and other methods

- Of all homicides among NH American Indian victims with known circumstance information, more than half (55.0%) involved an argument or conflict.
- Another serious crime (e.g., robbery, burglary) precipitated 37.3% of homicides among NH American Indians.
- Of these homicides, 13.6% were suspected to have been related to drug dealing, trade, or use.

Homicide Circumstances* Among NH American Indian Victims: NC-VDRS, 2011-2020

- Eighty-seven percent (86.7%) of homicide cases had circumstance information.

Suicide Circumstances* Among NH American Indian Victims:
NC-VDRS, 2011-2020

- Ninety percent (89.8%) of suicide cases had circumstance information.

- Among NH American Indian suicide victims with known circumstance information, 41.4% experienced a recent crisis.
- Almost a quarter (22.7%) of victims were characterized as being depressed at the time of suicide.
- Twenty-nine percent (28.9%) of victims were receiving treatment for a mental health problem.
- Thirty percent (29.7%) of suicide victims experienced an intimate partner problem, and (14.8%) percent experienced some substance use problem other than alcohol.

* Ninety percent (89.8%) of suicide cases had circumstance information.