CHILD VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA, 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.

### Manner of Child Violent Deaths (ages 0-17):
NC-VDRS, 2020

- **Homicide**: 57%
- **Suicide**: 36%
- **Undetermined Intent**: 3%
- **Unintentional firearm**: 4%
- **Legal Intervention**: 0%

- In 2020, there were a total of 157 violent deaths among North Carolina children ages 0-17.

- There were 89 homicides (56.7%), 56 suicides (35.7%), seven unintentional firearm deaths (4.5%), zero deaths resulting from legal intervention (0.0%), and five deaths in which the Medical Examiner’s Office could not determine the manner of death (3.2%).

- Most of the child victims were male (76.4%).

### Percent of Child Violent Deaths by Race/Ethnicity*:
NC-VDRS, 2020

- **Non-Hispanic (NH) Black victims** accounted for the greatest percent of child violent deaths (43.3%), followed by NH white victims (42.7%).

- Rates of child violent death were highest among Black victims (12.1 deaths per 100,000 population) followed by white and Hispanic victims (5.5 and 3.3 per 100,000, respectively).

*Other includes non-Hispanic Asian (N=7) and American Indian (N=2) victims.
The highest child violent death rate occurred among children ages 15-17 (21.5 deaths per 100,000 population).

Children less than one years of age had the second highest rate of violent deaths (11.0 deaths per 100,000 population).

Firearms were involved in 66.2% of all child violent deaths (n=104). This percentage was propelled by the high number of firearm related deaths among children ages 15-17 (n=66).

Hanging was the second most common cause of violent death among children (14.6%).

Personal weapons (fists, feet, and hands) were the most common causes of death among children under the age of five, while firearms were the most common weapon among children ages 5 and older.

More information on child violence prevention can be found at:

**State Resource Partners**
North Carolina Division of Social Services:
Child Protective Services
Contact: (919) 733-4622
https://www.nc.gov/child-protection-services

**National Resources**
Children’s Bureau
Contact: Carlis Williams (404) 562-2900
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb

* Other includes: non-powder gun, blunt instrument, unknown, fall, fire or burns, intentional neglect, (e.g., starving a baby or oneself), and other transport vehicle, (e.g., trains, planes, boats)