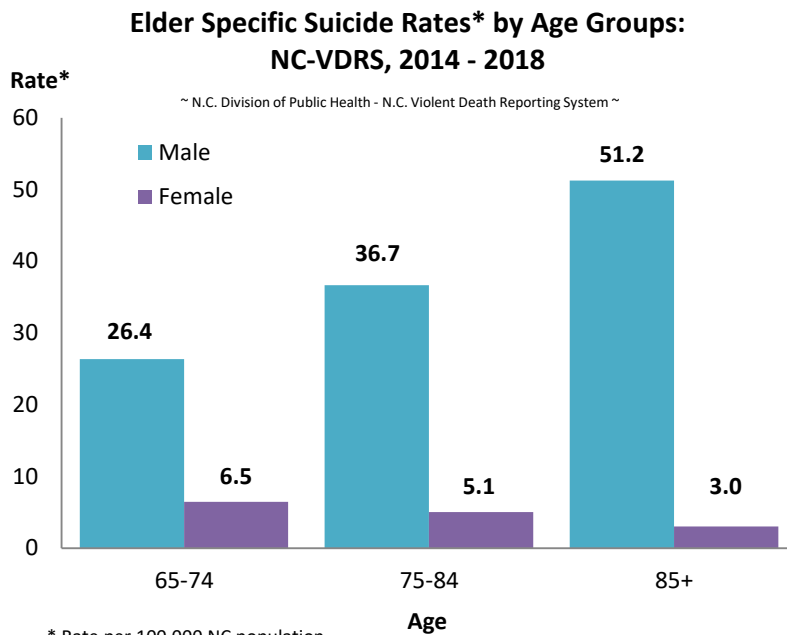


ELDER SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2014 - 2018

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January of 2004. This document summarizes deaths among North Carolina residents ages 65 and older completing suicide for the years 2014 - 2018.

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System



* Rate per 100,000 NC population
 † Indicates fewer than 5 deaths. Rates based on fewer than 5 deaths are considered unstable and should not be used.

- From 2014 to 2018, 1,662 North Carolina residents ages 65 and older died as a result of violence. Of these violent deaths, 1,325 were suicide (79.7%).

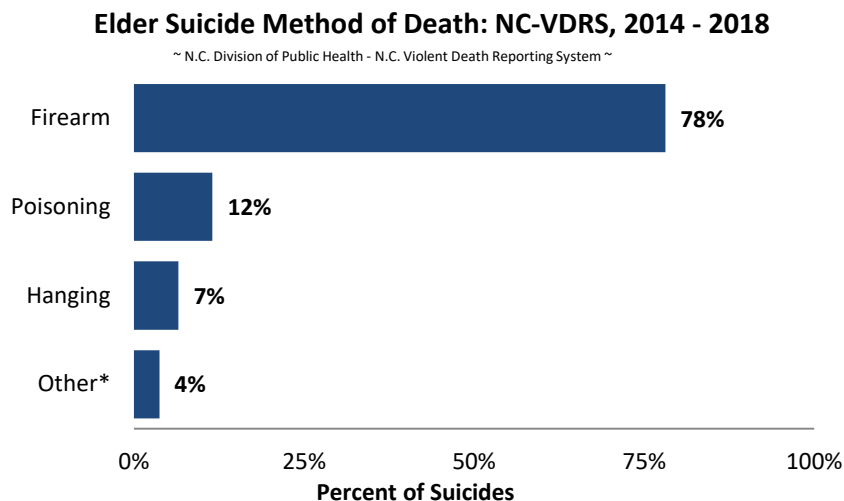
- The elder suicide rate was 16.8 suicides per 100,000 persons.

- Eighty-one percent (81.3%) of elder suicides were among males.

- The suicide rate peaked among males 85 and older, and the suicide rate was consistently higher for males compared to females for all age groups.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked among those ages 65-74.

- Ninety-four (94.3%) percent of elder suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) white. The remaining six (5.7%) percent were identified as NH Black, NH Asian, NH American Indian, or Hispanic.



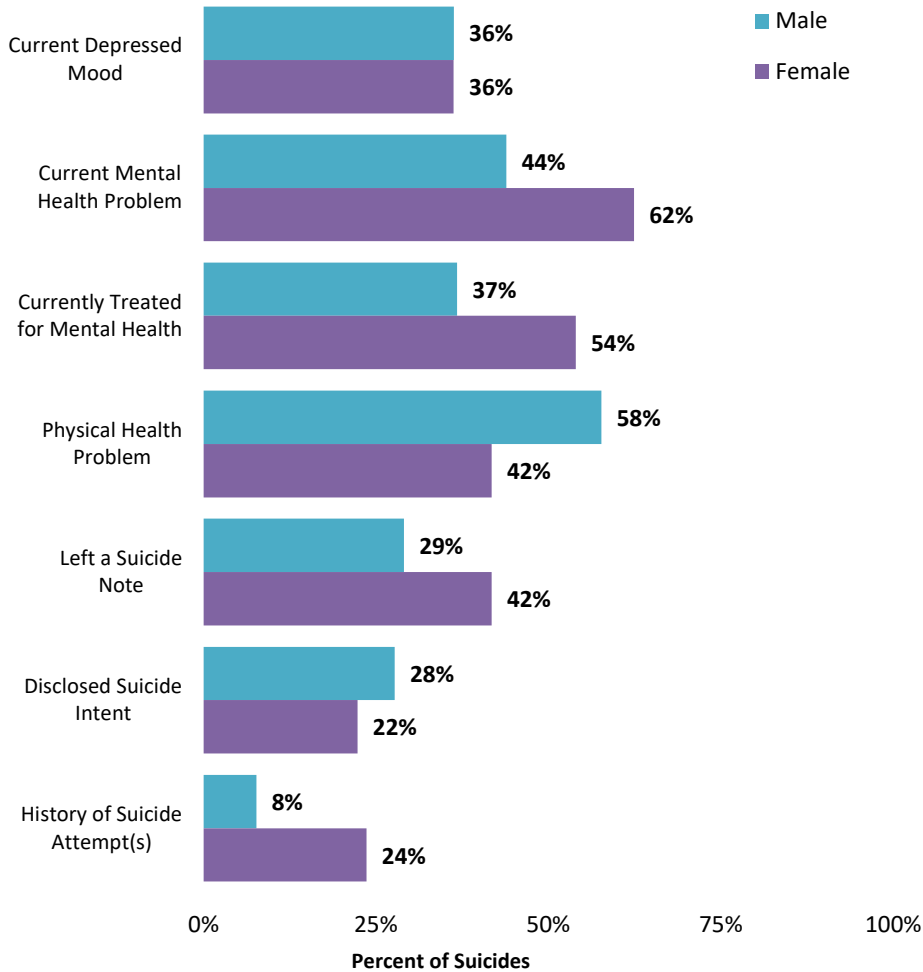
- Overall, the most common method of suicide among elder suicide victims was firearms (78.3%), followed by poisoning (11.6%) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (6.6%).

- Four percent (3.5%) of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, poisoning or hanging.

*Other methods include: sharp instrument, fire/burns, motor vehicle and other.

Elder Suicide Circumstances*: NC-VDRS, 2014 - 2018

~ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System ~



- Over one-third (36.3%) of elder male suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as having a current depressed mood at the time of death compared to 36.3% of females.

- Sixty-three percent (62.5%) of elder female and 43.9% of elder male suicide victims had a current mental health problem when they completed suicide.

- Twenty-four percent (23.6%) of elder females had a history of prior suicide attempts, whereas only 7.7% of elder males had a history of prior suicide attempts.

- Fifty-eight percent (57.7%) of males and 41.8% of females had a physical health problem.

*Circumstances are known for 96% males (n=1038) and 96% females (n=237).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

**N.C. Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas>

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
<https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

North Carolina Mental Health, Substance Use, and Aging Coalition
<https://www.med.unc.edu/aging/cgec/mental-health/>

N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/daas>

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
<http://www.sprc.org/>

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
<https://afsp.org/>

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(for suicide crisis calls) 1-800-273-8255

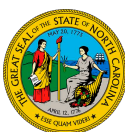
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 8/24 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.
FINAL DATA 2018

Please see the NC-VDRS 2018 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

North Carolina Violent Death
NC VDRS
Reporting System