VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA:
NEW HANOVER COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2010-2019

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. Data reported in this document are based on the county where the death occurred rather than county of residence. For more information, please visit https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

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

- In New Hanover County, the suicide ratio was 2.8 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 4.5 times higher in males than in females.

- For the years 2010-2019, there were 521 violent deaths from injuries sustained in New Hanover County. Of these 521 deaths, 507 were NC residents (97.3%) and 463 were New Hanover County residents (88.9%).

- There were 351 suicides (67.4%), 134 homicides (25.7%), zero unintentional firearm deaths (0.0%), seven deaths from legal intervention (1.3%), and 29 deaths of undetermined intent (5.6%).

Manner of Death: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2010-2019*

Suicide 67%
Homicide 26%
Unintentional Firearm 0%
Legal Intervention 1%
Undetermined Intent 6%

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

Manner of Death by Sex: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2010-2019*

Suicide
Female 9.7
Male 27.1

Homicide
Female 2.3
Male 10.3

All Violent Deaths
Female 11.7
Male 37.0

*Rate per 100,000, based on the county of injury occurrence.

Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2010-2019*

Suicide
Hispanic 20.7
White NH 7.4
Black NH 2.9
American Indian 29.5
Asian NH 13.7

Homicide
Hispanic 23.4
White NH 5.0
Black NH 5.0
American Indian 13.7
Asian NH 25.7

All Violent Deaths
Hispanic 33.6
White NH 5.0
Black NH 5.0
American Indian 13.7
Asian NH 25.7

*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths.
Chart excludes two deaths of unknown or other race/ethnicity.
Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those aged 15-19 with 11.3 homicides per 100,000, while suicides peaked among those aged 45-54 with 27.9 suicides per 100,000.

Nearly three quarters of homicides (73.1%) and half of suicides (50.1%) were committed using firearms.

Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 24.6% of homicides and 27.6% of suicides.

For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (74.1%) than for male (63.4%) victims.

### Circumstances of Suicides: New Hanover County, NC:  
**NC-VDRS, 2010-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Percent of Suicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depressed Mood</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Mental Health Problem</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Mental Health Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Suicide Attempt(s)</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left a Suicide Note</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosed Intent</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health Problem</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 91.2% of cases had circumstance information. Six females and 25 males were missing circumstance information.

### Circumstances of Homicides: New Hanover County, NC:  
**NC-VDRS, 2010-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Percent of Homicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argument/Conflict</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precipitated by Another Crime</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Involvement</td>
<td>8%†</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 97.8% of cases had circumstance information. One female and two males were missing circumstance information.  
† There were fewer than 5 deaths

• Thirty-two percent (32.2%) of male and 30.1% of female New Hanover County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

• Fifty-eight percent (58.1%) of female and 37.9% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

• Females (29.0%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (11.5%).

• Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (48.1%) than for female homicides (20.0%).

• Thirty-six percent (36.0%) of female homicides and 40.6% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

• Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 52.0% of female homicides, but only 9.4% of male homicides.