

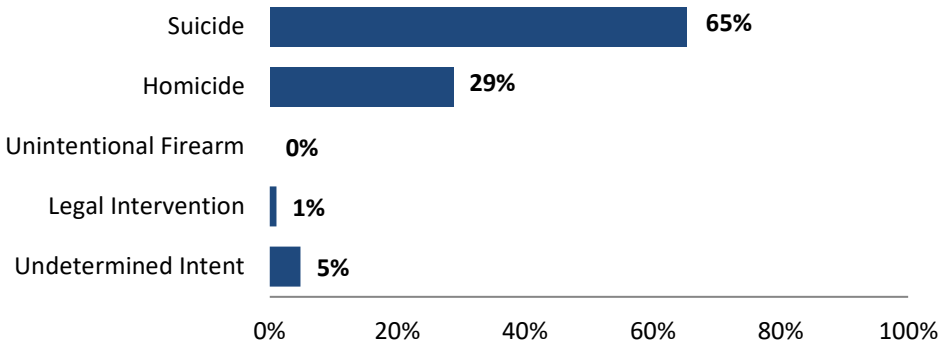
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: NEW HANOVER COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2012-2021

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.¹ For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

¹ The occurrent 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.

**Manner of Death: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***



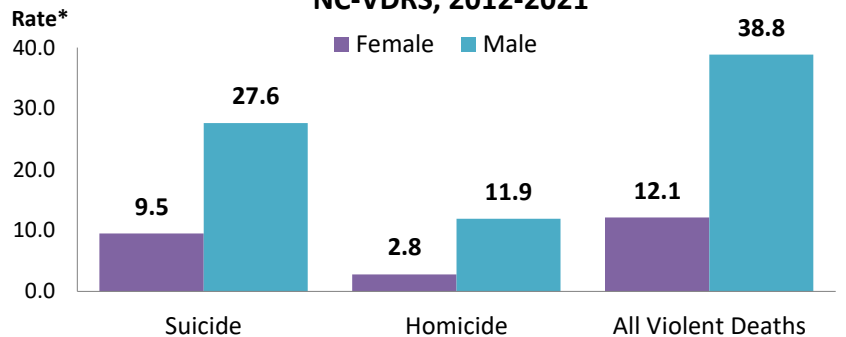
- For the years 2012-2021, there were 556 violent deaths from injuries sustained in New Hanover County. Of these 556 deaths, 544 were NC residents (97.8%) and 492 were New Hanover County residents (88.5%).

- There were 363 suicides (65.3%), 160 homicides (28.8%), zero unintentional firearm deaths (0.0%), six deaths from legal intervention (1.1%), and 27 deaths of undetermined intent (4.9%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

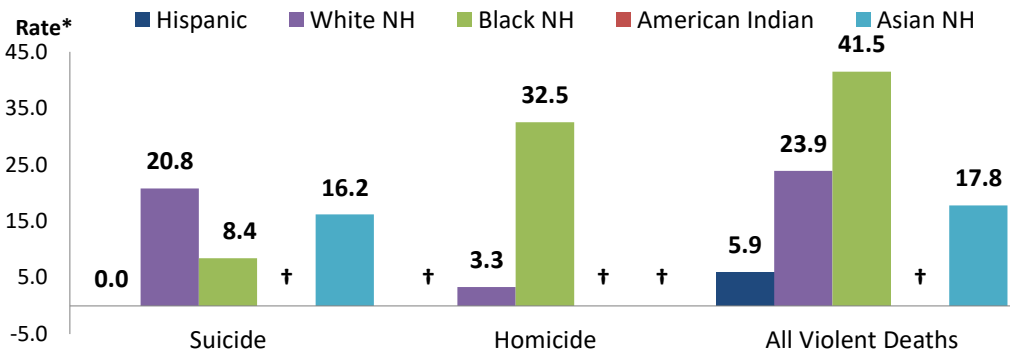
- In New Hanover County, the suicide ratio was 2.9 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 4.3 times higher in males than in females.

**Manner of Death by Sex: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***



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

**Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: New Hanover County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***



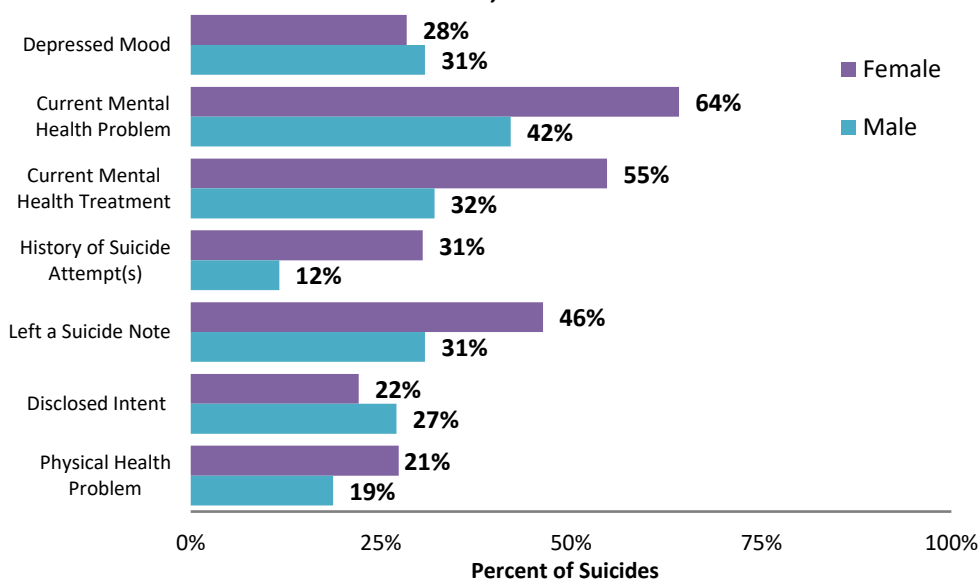
*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths.

- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) white victims (20.8 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Asian victims (16.2 per 100,000).

- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (32.5 per 100,000 population) followed by NH white victims (3.3 per 100,000).

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 25-34 with 13.7 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 45-54 with 27.8 suicides per 100,000.
- Nearly three quarters of homicides (76.3%) and half of suicides (49.6%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 17.5% of homicides and 26.7% 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 (60.6%) than for male (55.9%) victims.

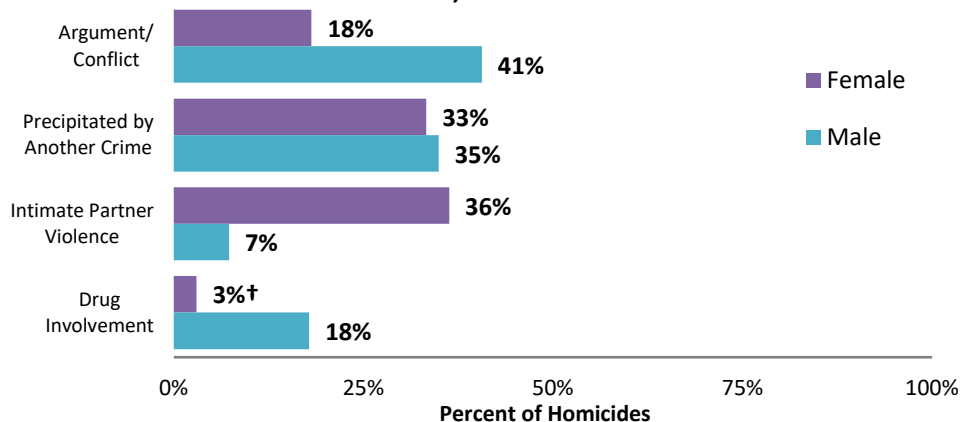
Circumstances of Suicides: New Hanover County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2012-2021*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 92.3% of cases had circumstance information. Five females and 23 males were missing circumstance information.

- Thirty-one percent (30.8%) of male and 28.4% of female New Hanover County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died of suicide.
- Sixty-four percent (64.2%) of female and 42.1% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Females (30.5%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (11.7%).

Circumstances of Homicides: New Hanover County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2012-2021*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 97.5% of cases had circumstance information. Zero females and four males were missing circumstance information.

† There were fewer than 5 deaths

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (40.7%) than for female homicides (18.2%).
- Thirty-three percent (33.3%) of female homicides and 35.0% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 36.4% of female homicides, but only 7.3% of male homicides.

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



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



NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
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2021 FINAL DATA 8/14/2023

Please see the NC-VDRS 2021 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.