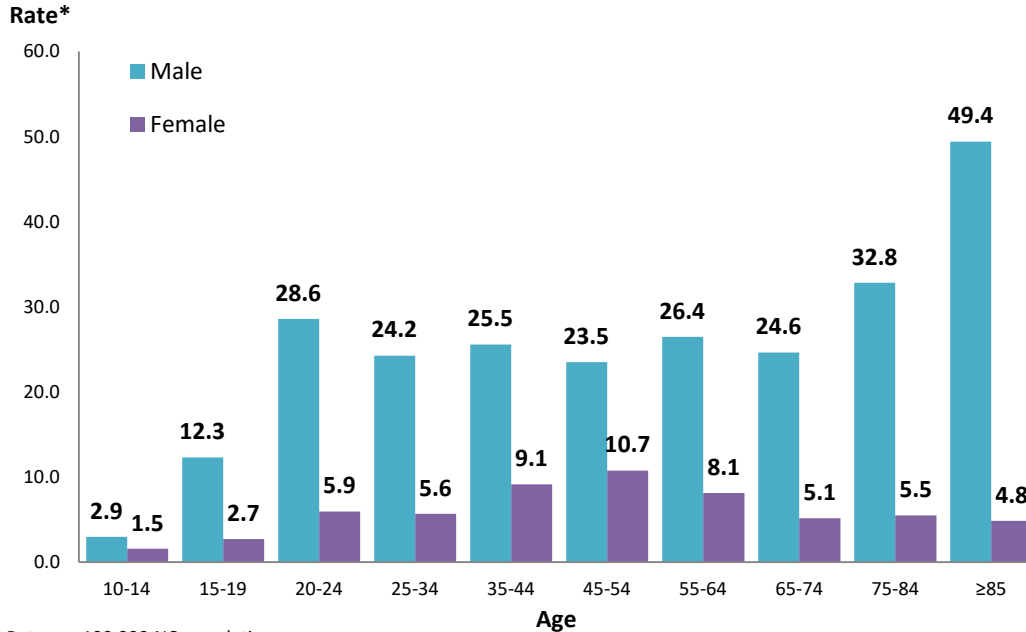


# NC Violent Death Reporting System

## SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 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 deaths. For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

### Sex-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: NC-VDRS, 2019



- Of the 2,186 violent deaths in North Carolina in 2019, 1,358 were suicides (62.1%).

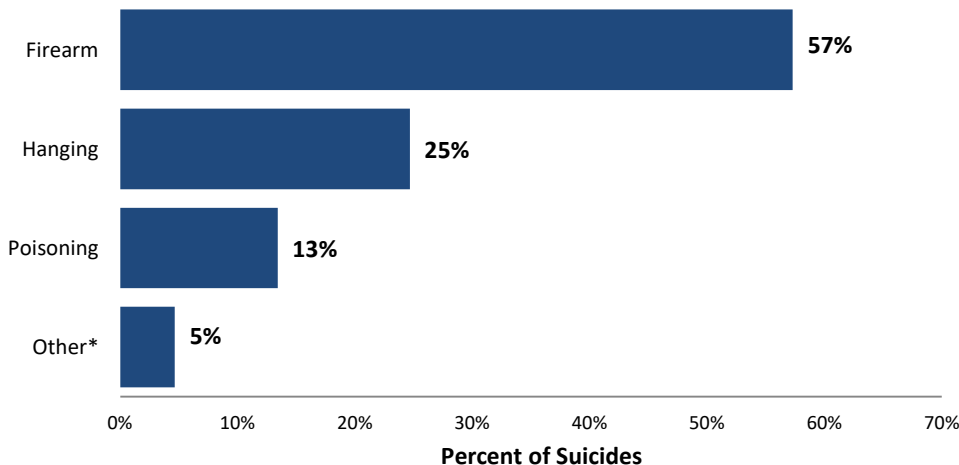
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men ages 85 years and older at a rate of 49.4 per 100,000.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45-54 at 10.7 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

\* Rate per 100,000 NC population

- Eighty-three percent (83.1%) of all suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) white residents.
- NH white males had higher suicide rates than other racial/ethnic groups in North Carolina (26.1 per 100,000).

### Method of Death\*: NC-VDRS, 2019

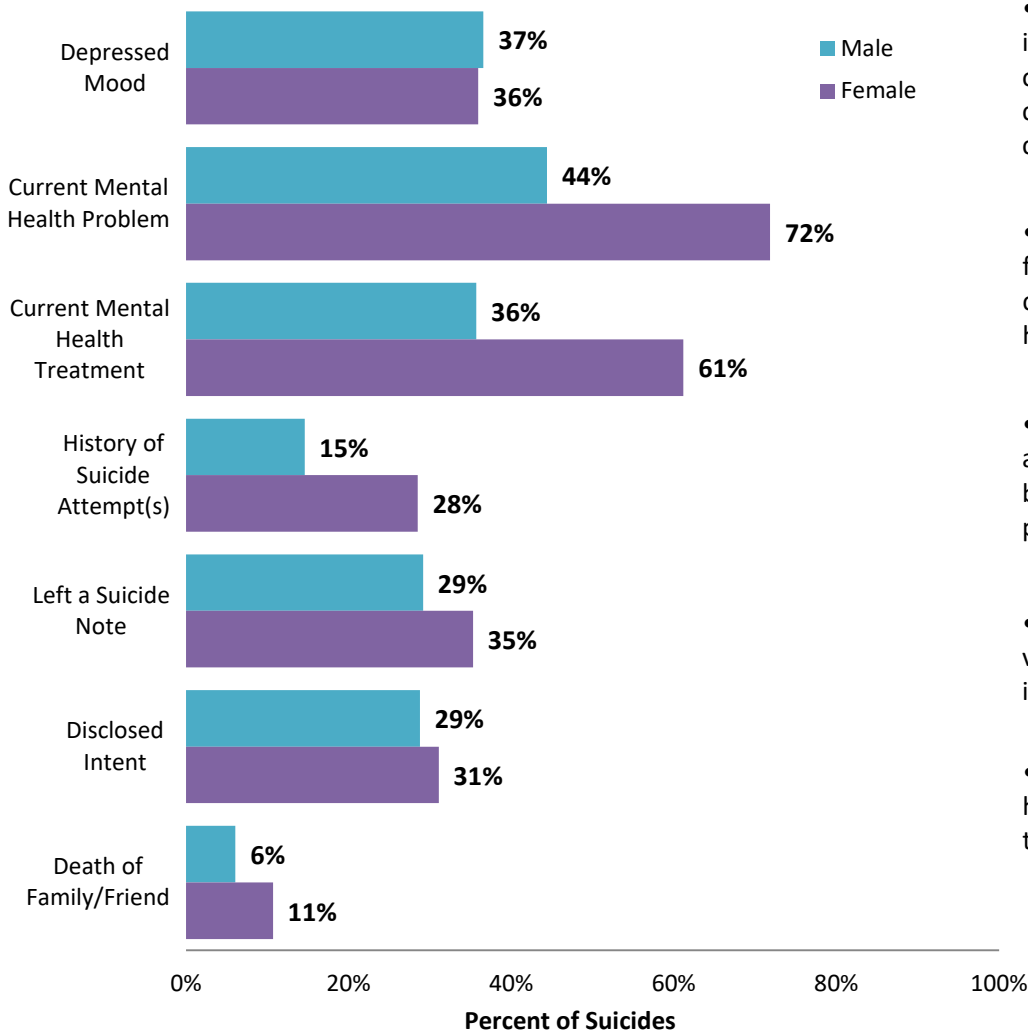


- After firearms (57.3%), hanging (24.7%) and poisoning (13.4%) were the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.

- Five percent (4.6%) of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

\*Other includes falls, motor vehicle, sharp instrument, drawing, fire/burns, unknown and other causes of suicide.

## Suicide Circumstances\*: NC-VDRS, 2019



- Of suicide victims with circumstance information, 36.6% of males and 35.9% of females were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- Seventy-two percent (71.8%) of females and 44.4% of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Sixty-one percent (61.2%) of females and 35.7% of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

- Approximately 29.3% of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.

- Females (28.5%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (14.6%).

\*Among those with reported circumstance information. 97.1% of cases had circumstance information. Thirty males and ten females were missing circumstance information.

### 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/>

**N.C. Injury and Violence Prevention's Youth Suicide  
Prevention Website**  
<https://www.itsok2ask.com/>

#### 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

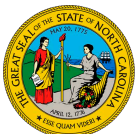
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://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](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)  
N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2019 FINAL DATA 8/16/2021

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

