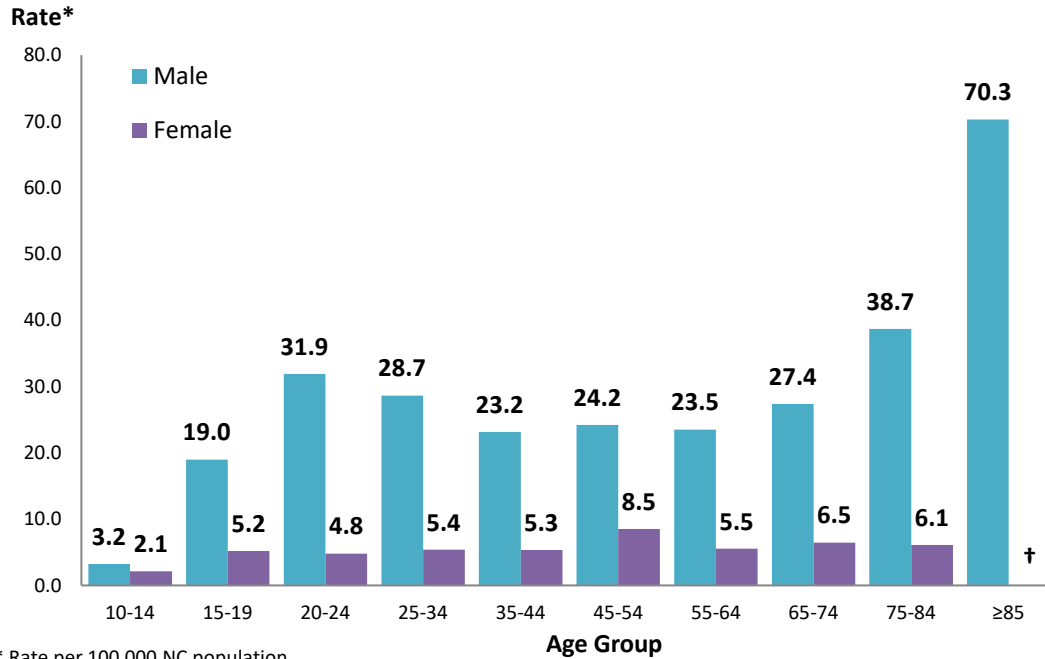


NC Violent Death Reporting System

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

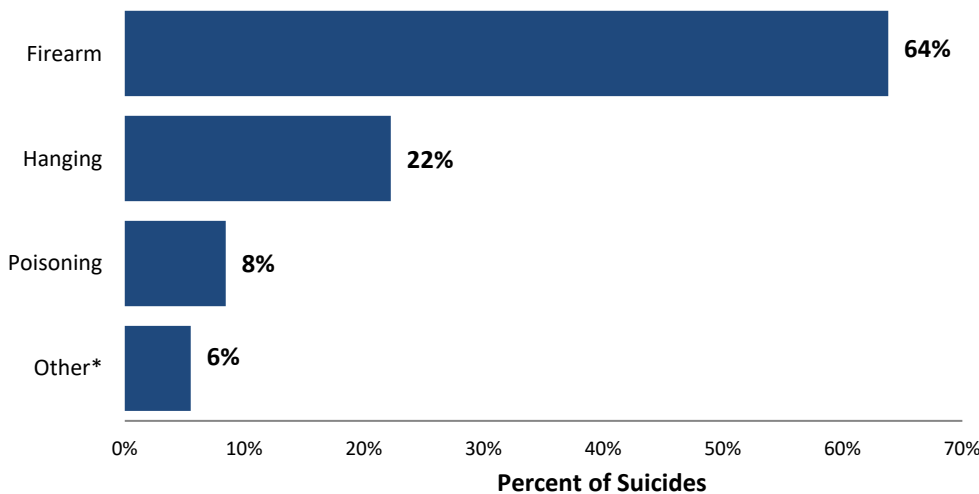
Sex-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: NC-VDRS, 2021



- Of the 2,537 violent deaths in North Carolina in 2021, 1,412 were suicides (55.7%).
- 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 70.3 per 100,000.
- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45-54 at 8.5 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

- Seventy-nine percent (78.5%) 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 (27.8 per 100,000).

Method of Death*: NC-VDRS, 2021

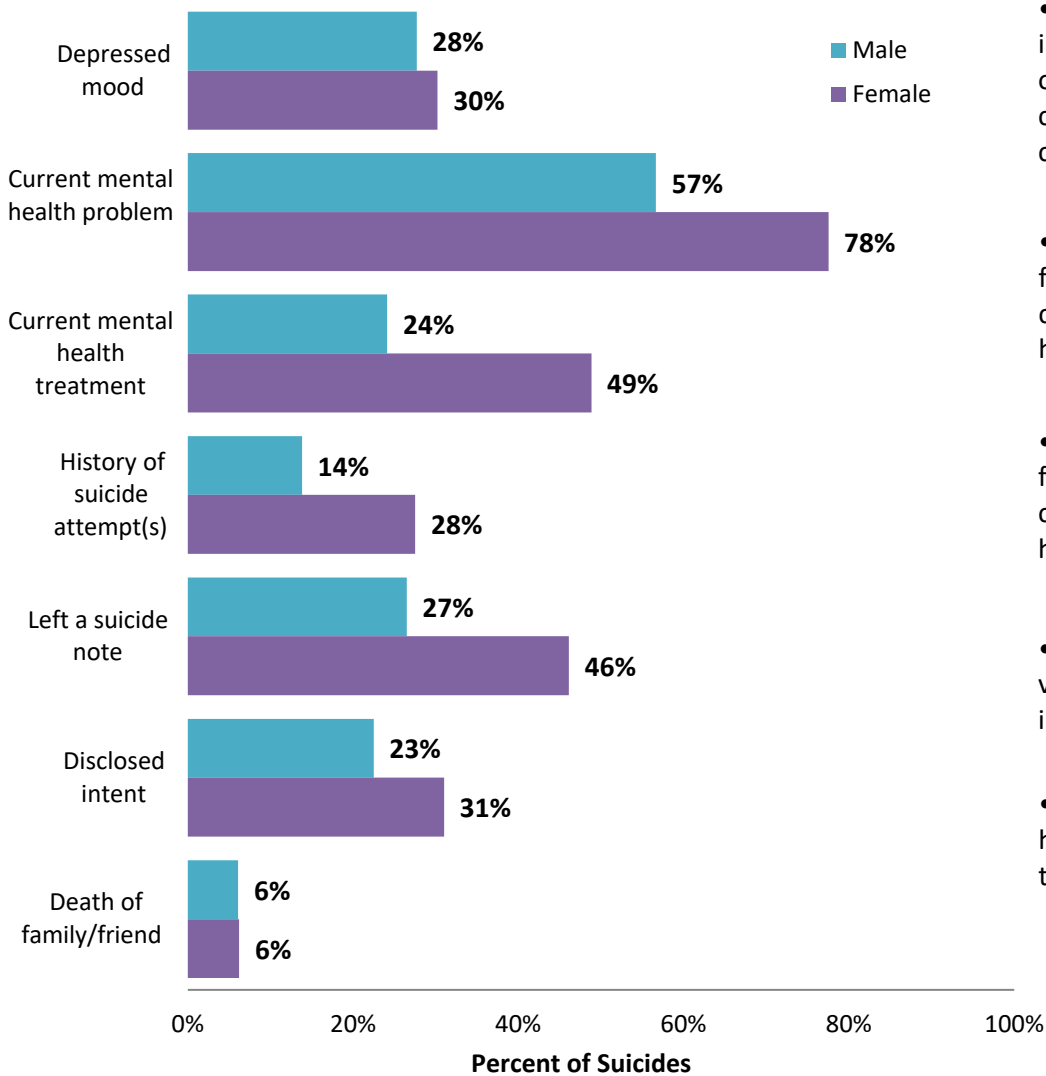


- After firearms (63.8%), hanging (22.2%) and poisoning (8.4%) were the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.
- Almost six percent (5.5%) of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

If you or someone you know needs support now,

call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

Suicide Circumstances*: NC-VDRS, 2021



- Of suicide victims with circumstance information, 27.7% of males and 30.2% of females were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.
- Seventy-eight percent (77.5%) of females and 56.7% of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Forty-nine percent (48.8%) of females and 24.1% of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.
- Approximately 24.1% of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.
- Females (27.5%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (13.8%).

*Among those with reported circumstance information. 96.0% of cases had circumstance information. Forty-three males and thirteen females were missing circumstance information.

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners
**NC Division of Mental Health,
 Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services**
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsus>

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

NC Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Website
<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/preventionResources/Suicide.htm>

NC Division of Child and Family Wellbeing

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
 call or text 988
 or chat 988lifeline.org

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

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
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2021 FINAL DATA 8/14/2023

Please see the NC-VDRS 2021 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
 Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

