VIOLENT DEATHS 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.

Manner of Death: NC-VDRS, 2019

- In 2019, 2,186 North Carolina residents died by violence.
- There were 1,358 suicides (62.1%), 716 homicides (32.8%), 37 deaths from legal interventions (1.7%), 15 unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%), and 60 deaths of undetermined intent (2.7%) in 2019.

- The majority of suicide and homicide victims were male. Males accounted for 76.5% of suicide victims and 80.7% of homicide victims.
- Patterns of suicides and homicides differed by race. Most suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white residents (83.1%), while 10.8% were NH Black residents.
- In contrast, 64.1% of homicide victims were NH Black residents, and 24.3% were NH white residents.

Violent Deaths by Sex and Race: NC-VDRS, 2019

* Non-Hispanic

- Male
- Female
Suicide rates rose steadily from 10 to 54 years of age. Suicide rates peaked among those ages 85 and older.

Homicide rates peaked in the 20 to 24 year age group.

Suicide and homicide rates displayed different patterns by age.

The majority of homicides (75.8%) and suicides (57.3%) were committed using firearms.

The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (11.7%).

The second and third most common methods of suicide were hanging (24.7%) and poisoning (13.4%).