YOUTH HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2009-2018

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January of 2004. This document summarizes youth homicides (ages 0 - 24) among North Carolina residents for the years 2009-2018.

- Of the 5,315 violent deaths in North Carolina among youth aged 0-24, there were 2,690 homicides (50.6%).

Manner of Death among Youth: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018

- Homicide: 51%
- Suicide: 43%
- Unintentional Firearm: 2%
- Legal Intervention: 1%
- Undetermined Intent: 3%

Homicides by Age Group and Sex: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018

- For every age group, there were more youth homicides among males than females. Homicides among males and females both peaked among those aged 20-24, with a rate of 34.8 and 6.8 per 100,000 respectively. The rate of homicides was approximately 3.7 times greater for males than females overall, and the rate for 15- to 24 year-olds was 5.0 times greater for males than females.

- Youth homicide patterns differed by race. Although non-Hispanic (NH) whites composed more than half (56.8%) of the total population, they accounted for 21.0% of youth homicides, while NH Black homicide victims accounted for 25.1% of the total population but, 65.8% of youth homicides. The rate of homicides for NH Blacks was 21.7 per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 20.6, 5.5, and 3.0 per 100,000 population for NH American Indians, Hispanics, and NH whites respectively.
Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018

- Firearms were used in 75.5% of youth homicides, while sharp instruments were used in 7.1% of all homicides.

- Personal weapons were used in 7.5% of youth homicides. The remaining methods were each used 10% of the time or less.

Circumstances of Homicide: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018

- Argument, abuse or conflict unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV) was noted as a contributing factor in 49.3% of youth homicides with reported circumstances.

- Of youth homicides, 28.7% were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 11.3% of homicides overall, 4.5% of male homicides, and 36.4% of female homicides.

- Drug involvement was identified as a contributing factor in 15.5% of all youth homicides, 17.6% of male youth homicides and 7.8% of female youth homicides.