

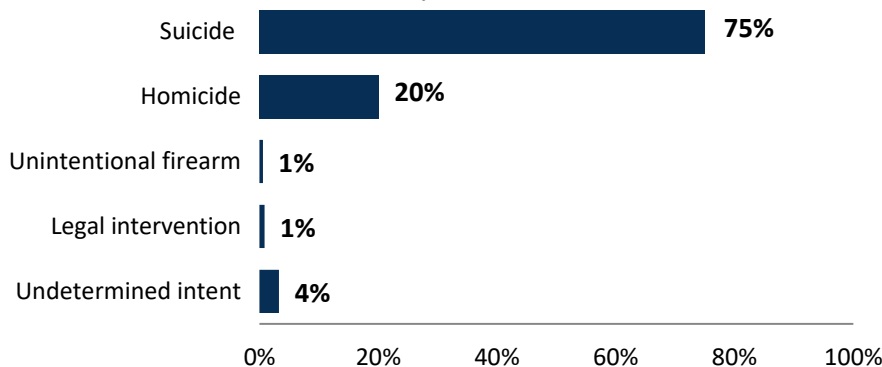
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: BUNCOMBE COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2015-2024

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 uses information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. Data reported in this document are based on the county where the death occurred rather than county of residence.¹ Visit the [NC-VDRS page](#) within the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website for more information.

¹The 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: Buncombe County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*

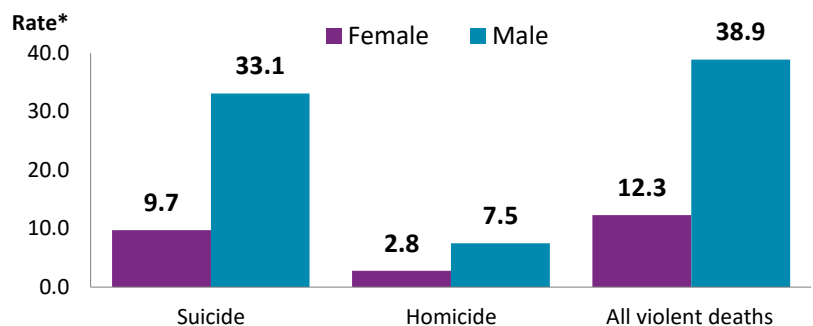


- For the years 2015-2024, there were 666 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Buncombe County. Of these 666 deaths, 645 were NC residents (96.8%) and 602 were Buncombe County residents (90.4%).

- There were 500 suicides (75.1%), 134 homicides (20.1%), four unintentional firearm deaths (0.6%), six deaths from legal intervention (0.9%), and 22 deaths of undetermined intent (3.3%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

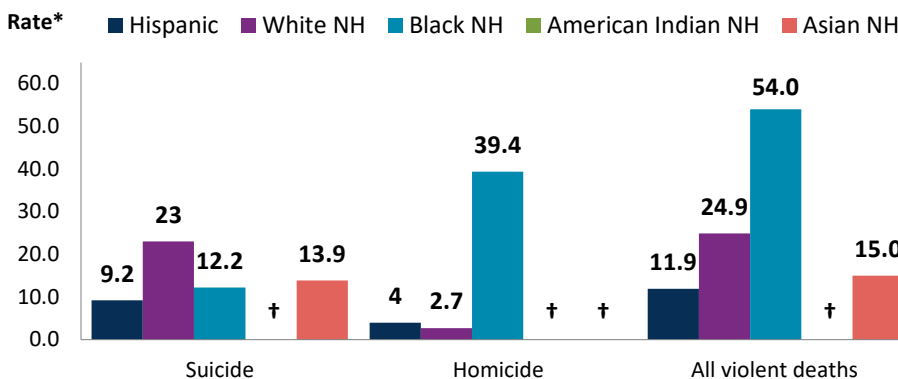
Manner of Death by Sex: Buncombe County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



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

- In Buncombe County, the suicide ratio was 3.4 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 2.7 times higher in males than in females.

Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: Buncombe County, NC:



*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths. There were no deaths of unknown or other race/ethnicity.

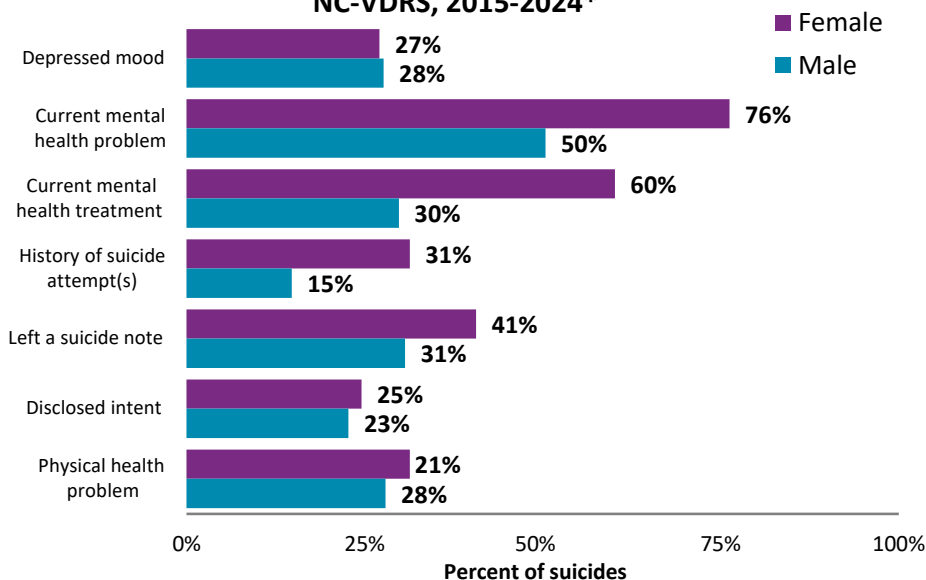
- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (23.0 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Asian victims (13.9 per 100,000).

- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (39.4 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (4.0 per 100,000).

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 20-24 with 15.7 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 45-54 with 30.2 suicides per 100,000.
- More than two-thirds of homicides (70.9%) and over half of suicides (53.0%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 12.7% of homicides and in 15.8% 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 (63.2%) than for male (52.1%) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*

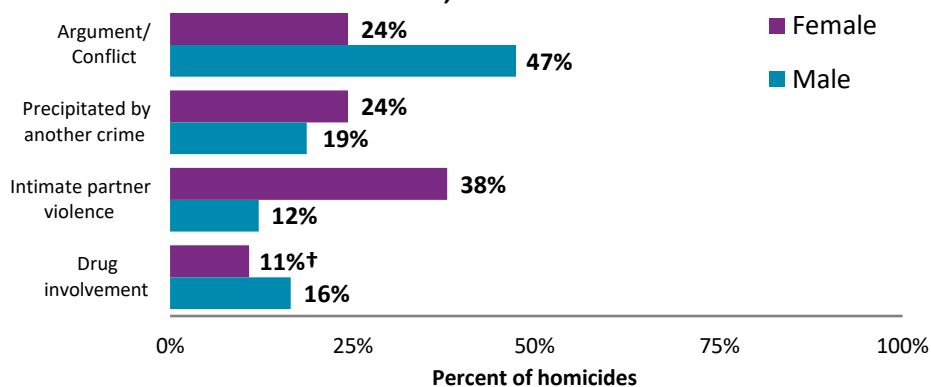


*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 96.6% of cases had circumstance information. Three females and 14 males were missing circumstance information.

- Twenty-eight percent (27.7%) of male and 27.1% of female Buncombe County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.
- Seventy-six percent (76.3%) of female and 50.4% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Females (31.4%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (14.8%).

Circumstances of Homicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 95.5% of cases had circumstance information. One female and five males were missing circumstance information.

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (47.3%) than for female homicides (24.3%).
- Twenty-four percent (24.3%) of female homicides and 18.7% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 37.8% of female homicides, but only 12.1% of male homicides.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE924955-02-00 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH
NC VDRS
REPORTING SYSTEM

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State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services
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2024 FINAL DATA 7/21/2026

Please see the [NC-VDRS 2024 Annual Report](#) for additional data and technical information.