

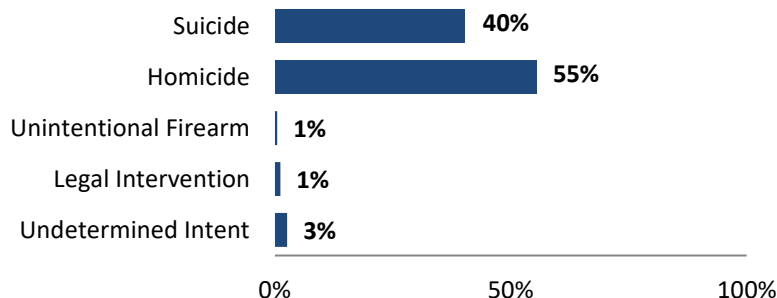
# NC Violent Death Reporting System

## VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: DURHAM COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2014-2023

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.<sup>1</sup> For more information, please visit <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

<sup>1</sup> The 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: Durham County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023\*



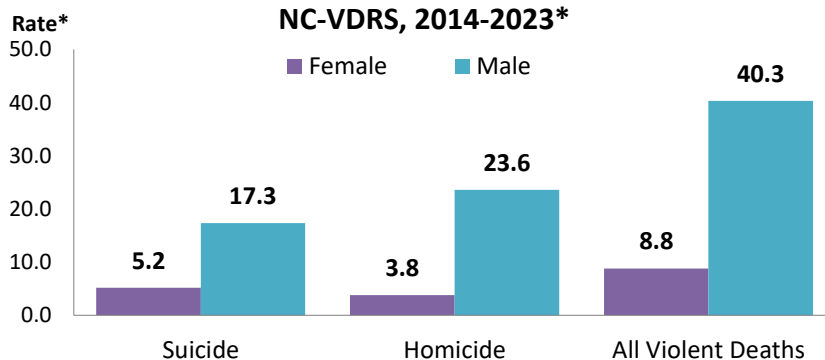
\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- For the years 2014-2023, there were 760 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Durham County. Of these 760 deaths, 741 were NC residents (97.5%) and 640 were Durham County residents (84.2%).

- There were 305 suicides (40.1%), 422 homicides (55.5%), four unintentional firearm deaths (0.5%), nine deaths from legal intervention (1.2%), and 20 deaths of undetermined intent (2.6%).

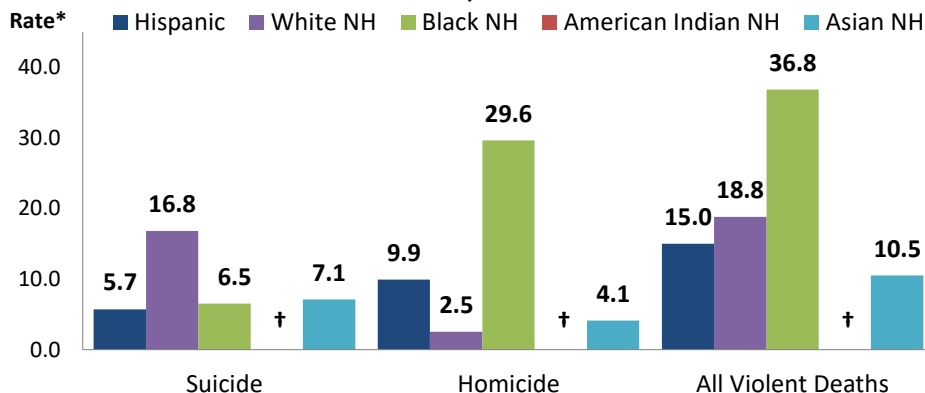
- In Durham County, the suicide ratio was 3.3 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 6.2 times higher in males than in females.

### Manner of Death by Sex: Durham County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023\*



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

### Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: Durham County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023\*



\*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths.

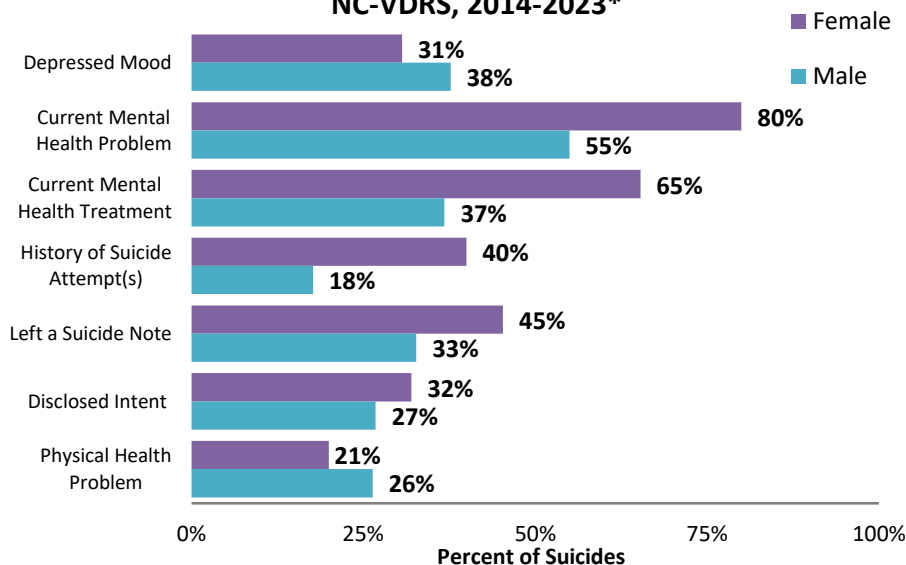
Chart excludes two deaths of unknown or other race/ethnicity.

- The suicide rate was highest among non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (16.8 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Asian victims (7.1 per 100,000).

- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (29.6 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (9.9 per 100,000).

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 20-24 with 35.4 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 85 and older with 19.2 suicides per 100,000.
- More than three quarters of homicides (84.6%) and two fifths of suicides (43.6%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 10.4% of homicides and 17.4% 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 (71.4%) than for male (43.7%) victims.

### Circumstances of Suicides: Durham County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023\*



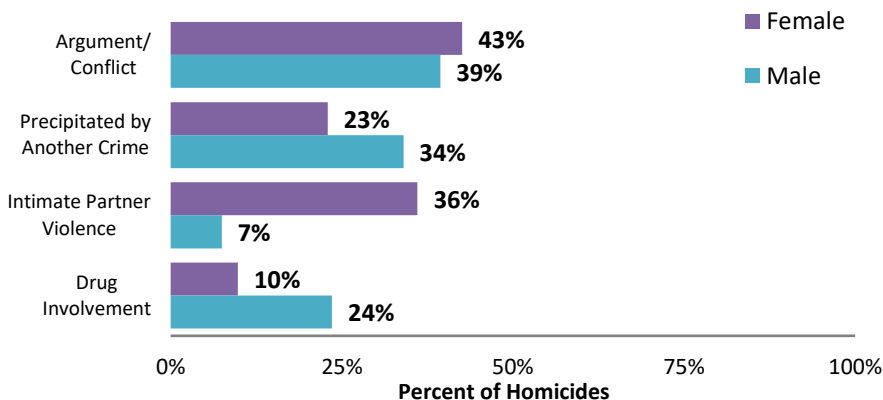
\*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 96.7% of cases had circumstance information. One female and nine males were missing circumstance information.

- Thirty-eight percent (37.7%) of male and 30.7% of female Durham County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.

- Eighty percent (80.0%) of female and 55.0% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (40.0%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (17.7%).

### Circumstances of Homicides: Durham County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023\*



\*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 93.8% of cases had circumstance information. Two females and 24 males were missing circumstance information.

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for female homicides (42.6%) than for male homicides (39.4%).

- Twenty-three percent (23.0%) of female homicides and 34.0% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 36.1% of female homicides, but only 7.5% of male homicides.

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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).

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2023 FINAL DATA 6/16/2025



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



Please see the NC-VDRS 2023 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.