

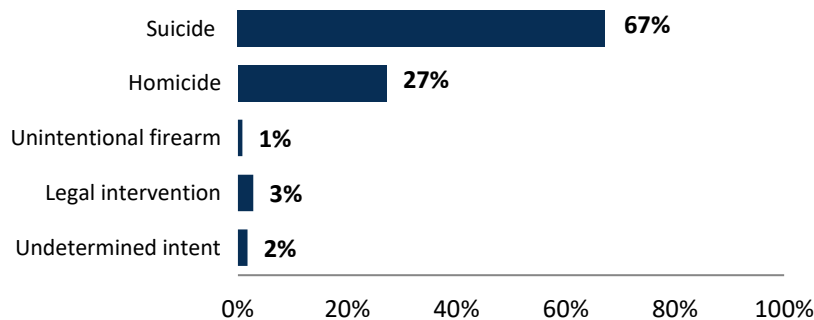
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: GASTON 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.

¹ 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: Gaston County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



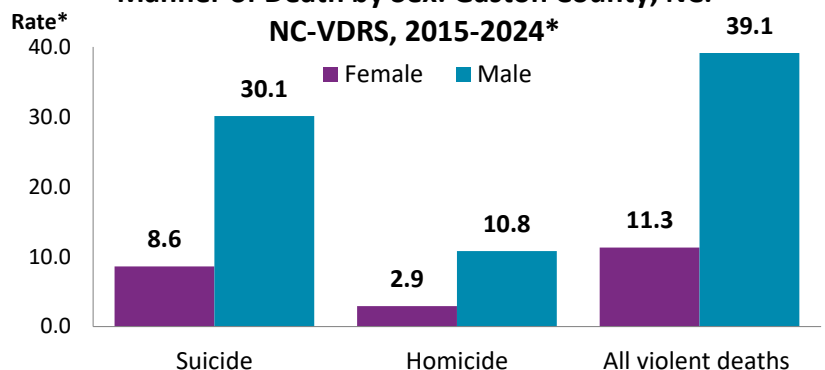
- For the years 2015-2024, there were 561 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Gaston County. Of these 561 deaths, 550 were NC residents (98.0%) and 502 were Gaston County residents (89.5%).

- There were 377 suicides (67.2%), 153 homicides (27.3%), five unintentional firearm deaths (0.9%), 16 deaths from legal intervention (2.9%), and 10 deaths of undetermined intent (1.8%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

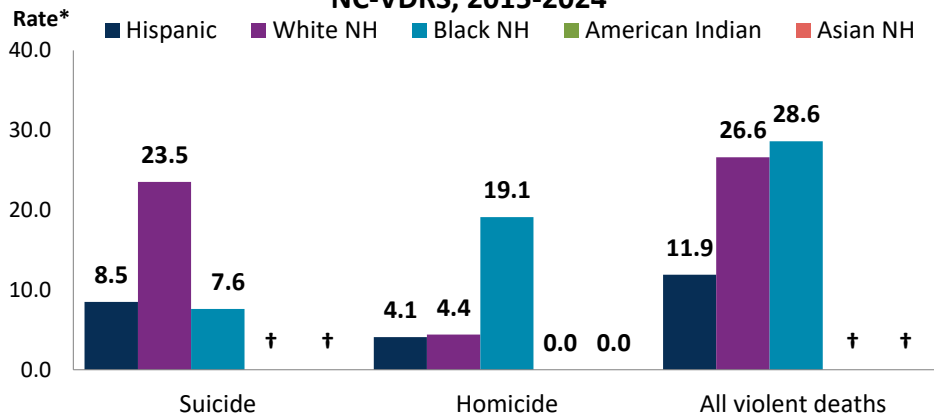
- In Gaston County, the suicide ratio was 3.5 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 3.7 times higher in males than in females.

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



*Rate per 100,00 based on the county of injury occurrence.

Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: Gaston County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



- The suicide rate was highest among non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (23.5 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (8.5 per 100,000).

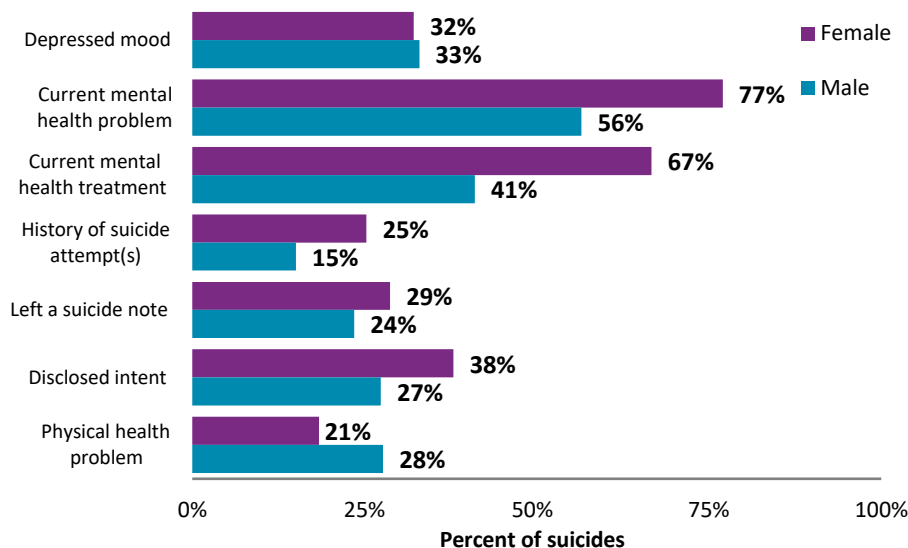
- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (19.1 per 100,000 population) followed by NH White victims (4.4 per 100,000).

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

Chart excludes zero death of unknown or other race/ethnicity.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those aged 20-24 with 12.9 homicides per 100,000, while suicides peaked among those aged 75-84 with 27.5 suicides per 100,000.
- Three quarters of homicides (77.8%) and more than three in five of suicides (62.1%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 10.5% of homicides and 19.9% 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 (70.6%) than male (68.9%) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Gaston County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



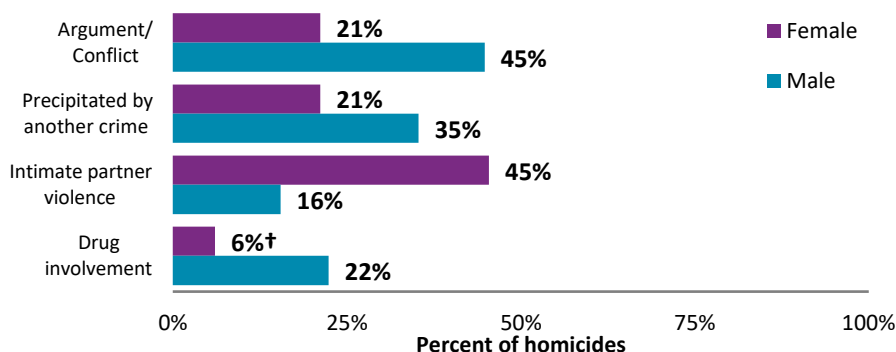
*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 98.7% of cases had circumstance information. Two females and three males were missing circumstance information.

- Thirty-three percent (33.0%) of male and 32.2% of female Gaston County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.

- Seventy-seven percent (77.0%) of female and 56.5% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (25.3%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (15.1%).

Circumstances of Homicides: Gaston County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2015-2024*



*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 97.4% of cases had circumstance information. One female and three males were missing circumstance information.

† There were fewer than 5 deaths

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (44.8%) than for female homicides (21.2%).

- Twenty-one percent (21.2%) of female homicides and 35.3% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 45.5% of female homicides, but only 15.5% of male homicides.

