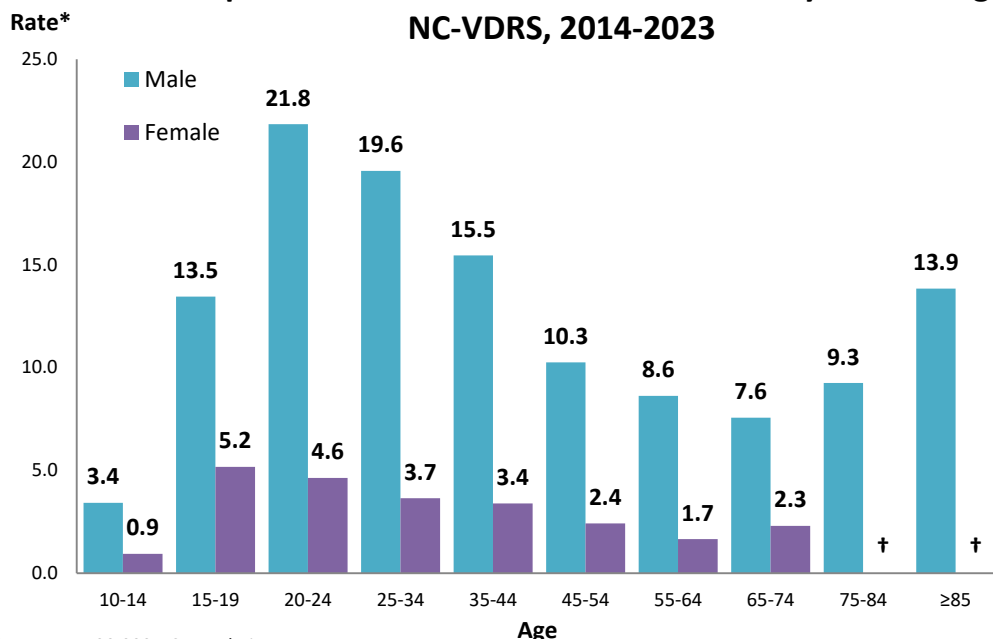


NC Violent Death Reporting System

SUICIDE AMONG NON-HISPANIC AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 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. For more information, please visit <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

Non-Hispanic African American Suicide Rates by Sex and Age:



* Rate per 100,000 NC population

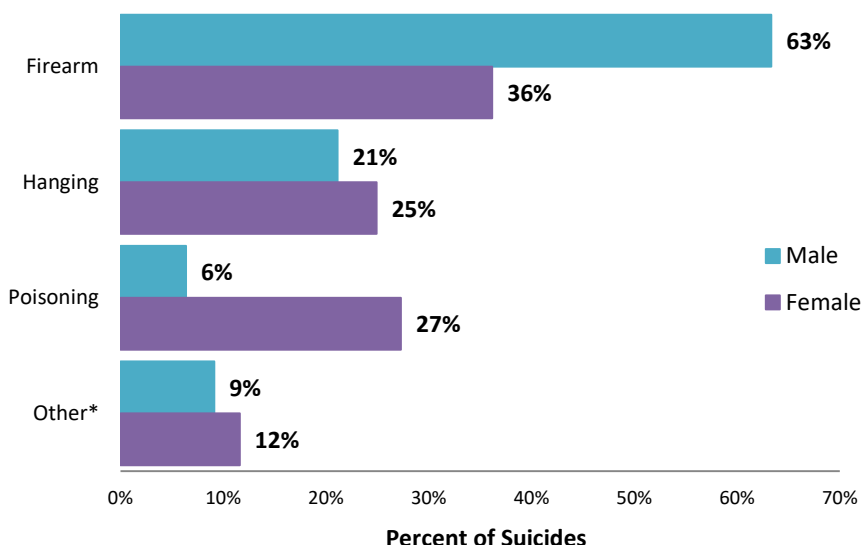
† Rate not calculated for less than five suicides.

- From 2014 to 2023, 6,397 non-Hispanic (NH) African American North Carolina residents died as a result of violence. Of these violent deaths, 1,453 (22.7%) were suicides.

- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men ages 20-24 at a rate of 21.8 per 100,000.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 15-19 at 5.2 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

Method of Suicide Among NH African American



*Other includes falls, motor vehicle, sharp instrument, drowning, fire/burns, unknown and other causes of suicide.

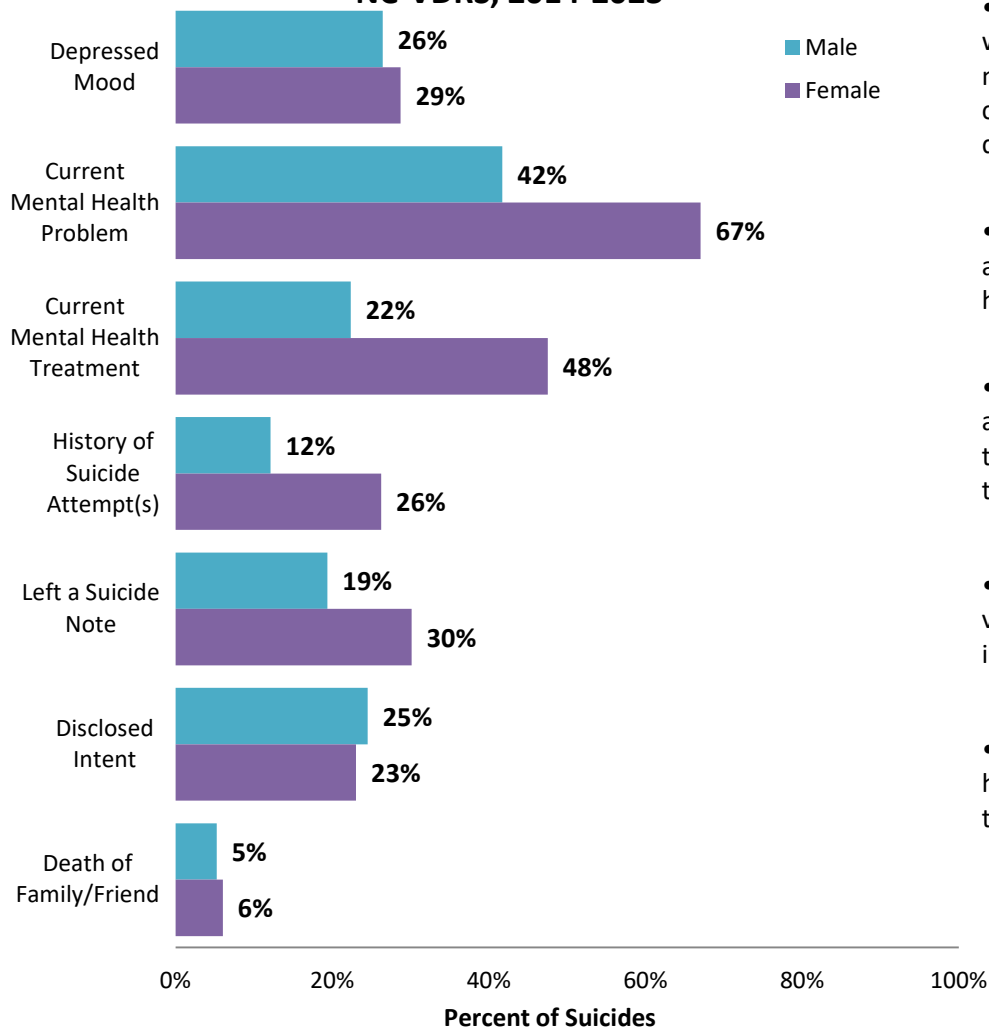
If you or someone you know needs support now,

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

call or text **988**
or chat
988lifeline.org

Suicide Circumstances* Among NH African American Victims:

NC-VDRS, 2014-2023



- Of NH African American suicide victims with circumstance information, 26.4% of males and 28.7% of females were characterized as being currently depressed at the time of death.

- Sixty-seven percent (67.0%) of females and 41.7% of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Forty-eight percent (47.5%) of females and 22.4% of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

- Approximately 24.2% of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.

- Females (26.2%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (12.1%).

*Among those with reported circumstance information. 95.5% of cases had circumstance information. Fifty-four males and eleven females were missing circumstance information.

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

**Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services**
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsus>

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
<https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Suicide Prevention Website
<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/preventionResources/Suicide.htm>

Division of Child and Family Well-being
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/division-child-and-family-well-being>

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
<http://www.sprc.org/>

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
<https://afsp.org/>

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
call or text 988
or chat 988lifeline.org

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NC DHHS Division of Public Health / www.dph.ncdhhs.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

NC DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2023 FINAL DATA 6/16/2025

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

<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



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

