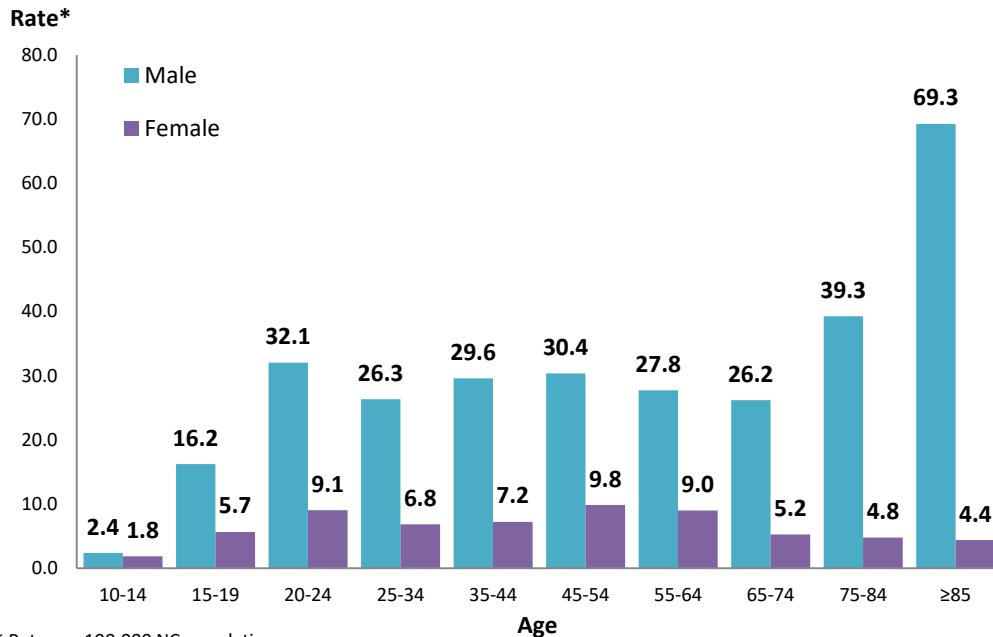


# NC Violent Death Reporting System

## SUICIDE 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>.

### Sex-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Of the 2,647 violent deaths in North Carolina in 2023, 1,593 were suicides (60.2%).

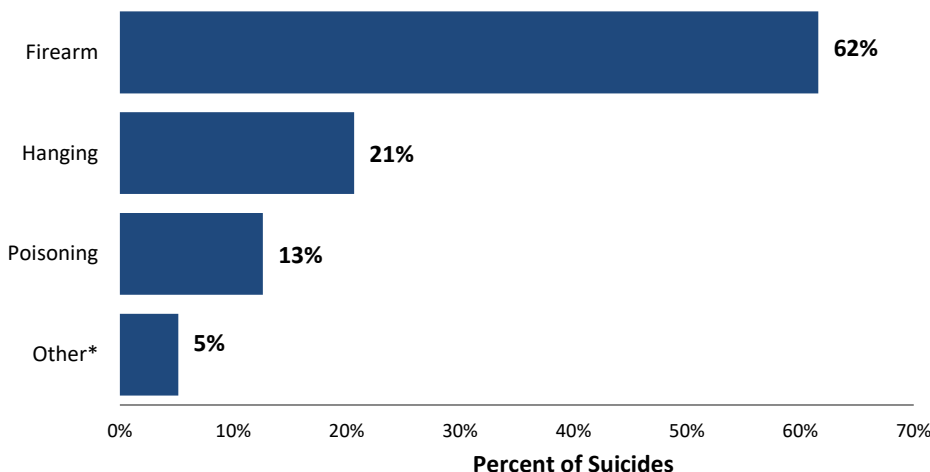
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men ages 85 years and older at a rate of 69.3 per 100,000.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45-54 at 9.8 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

\* Rate per 100,000 NC population

- Seventy-eight percent (78.5%) of all suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) White residents.
- NH White males had higher suicide rates than other racial/ethnic groups in North Carolina (27.6 per 100,000).

### Method of Death\*: NC-VDRS, 2023



- After firearms (61.6%), hanging (20.7%) and poisoning (12.6%) were the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.

- Five percent (5.1%) of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

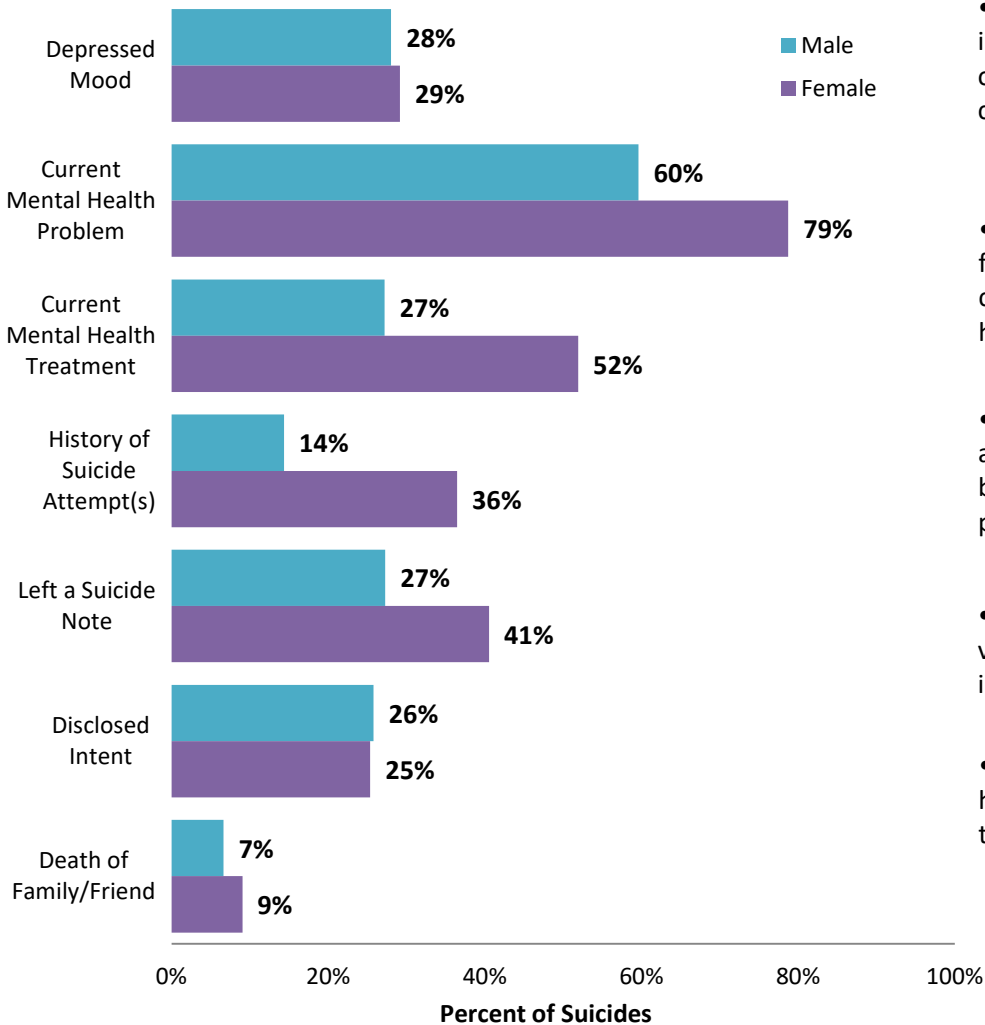
\*Other includes falls, motor vehicle, sharp instrument, drowning, fire/burns, unknown and other causes of suicide.

If you or someone you know needs support now,



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

## Suicide Circumstances\*: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Of suicide victims with circumstance information, 28.0% of males and 29.2% of females were characterized as being currently depressed at the time of death.

- Seventy-nine percent (78.7%) of females and 59.6% of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Fifty-two percent (51.9%) of females and 27.2% of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

- Approximately 25.7% of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.

- Females (36.4%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (14.3%).

\*Among those with reported circumstance information. 97.2% of cases had circumstance information. Forty-three males and one female 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).

NCDHHS Division of Public Health / [www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/](http://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](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)  
 NCDHHS 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

