

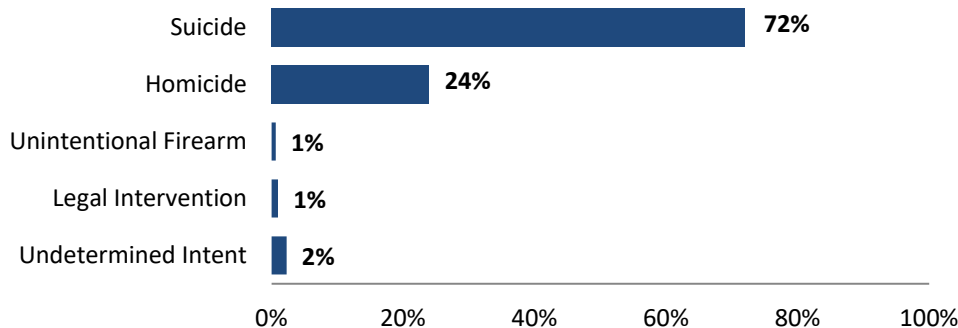
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: UNION 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 residence.¹ For more information, please visit <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

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: Union County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2014-2023***



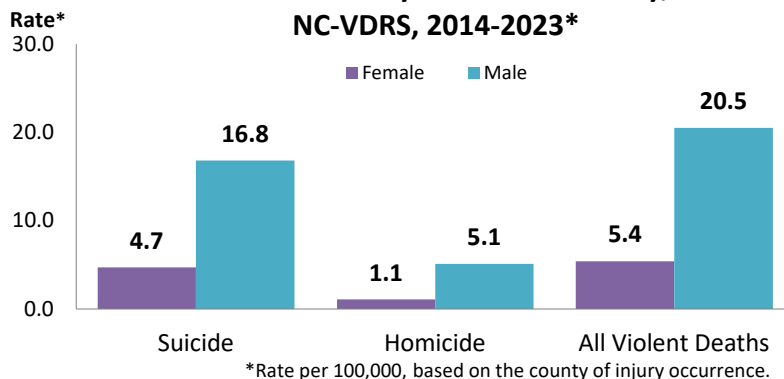
- For the years 2014-2023, there were 304 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Union County. Of these 304 deaths, 289 were NC residents (95.1%) and 272 were Union County residents (89.5%).

- There were 219 suicides (72.0%), 73 homicides (24.0%), two unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%), three deaths from legal intervention (1.0%), and seven deaths of undetermined intent (2.3%).

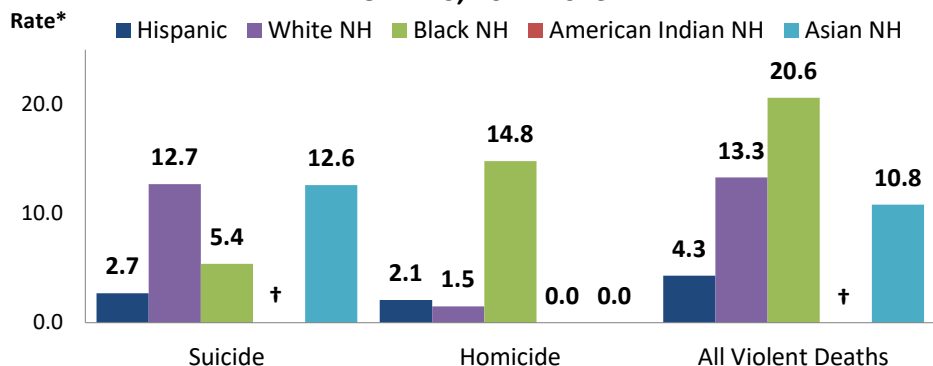
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Union County, the suicide ratio was 3.6 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 4.6 times higher in males than in females.

**Manner of Death by Sex: Union County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2014-2023***



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



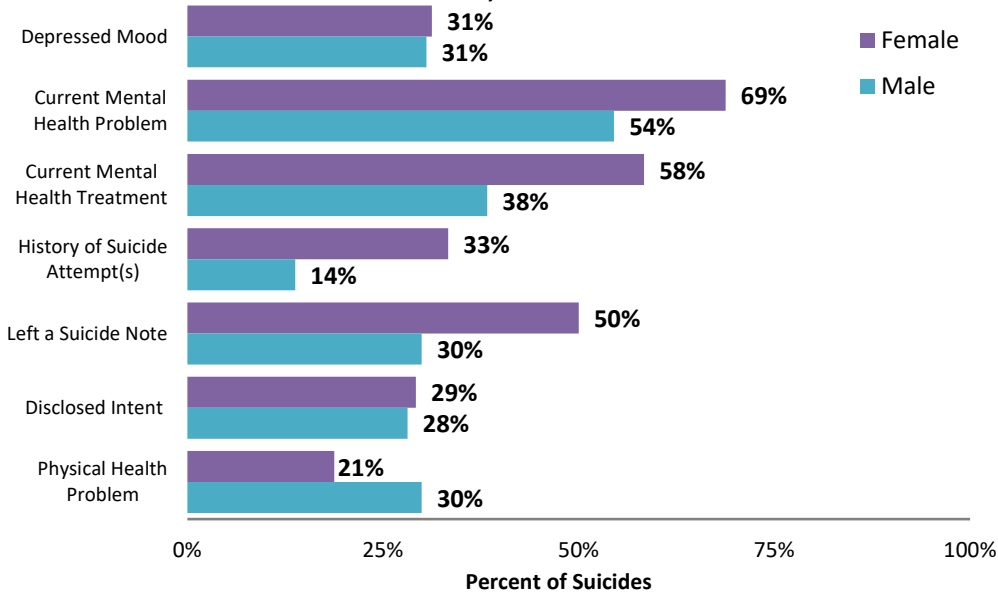
- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (12.7 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Asian victims (12.6 per 100,000).

- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (14.8 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (2.1 per 100,000).

*Rate per 100,000 based on the county of injury occurrence. † Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths. Chart excludes two death of unknown or other race/ethnicity.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 25-34 with 8.2 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 85 and older with 26.3 suicides per 100,000.
- More than two-thirds of homicides (67.1%) and over half of suicides (59.4%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 16.4% of homicides and 20.1% 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 (69.2%) than for male (63.3%) victims.

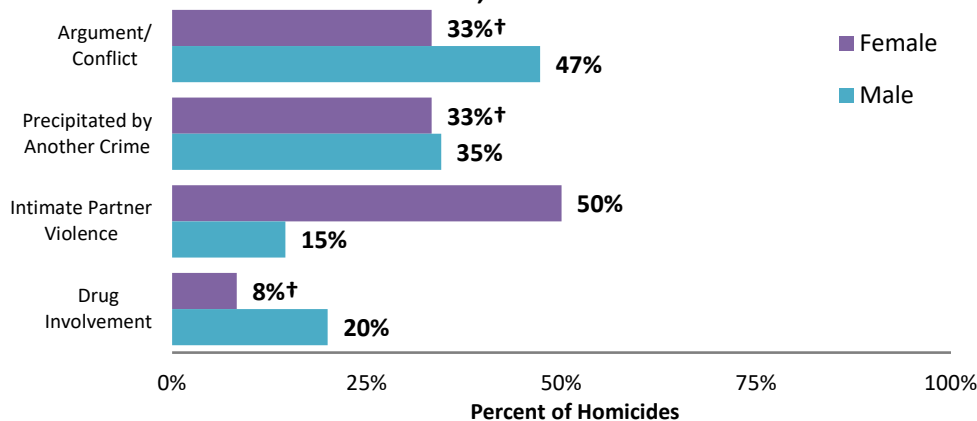
**Circumstances of Suicides: Union County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2014-2023***



- Thirty-one percent (30.5%) of male and 31.3% of female Union County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.
- Sixty-nine percent (68.8%) of female and 54.5% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Females (33.3%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (13.8%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 98.2% of cases had circumstance information. One female and three males were missing circumstance information.

**Circumstances of Homicides: Union County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2014-2023***



- Arguments or conflicts were a contributing factor for male homicides (47.3%), this was similar to female homicides (33.3%).
- Thirty-three percent (33.3%) of female homicides and 34.6% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 50.0% of female homicides, but only 14.6% of male homicides.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 91.8% of cases had circumstance information. One female and five males were missing circumstance information.

† There were fewer than 5 deaths

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).

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

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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.