

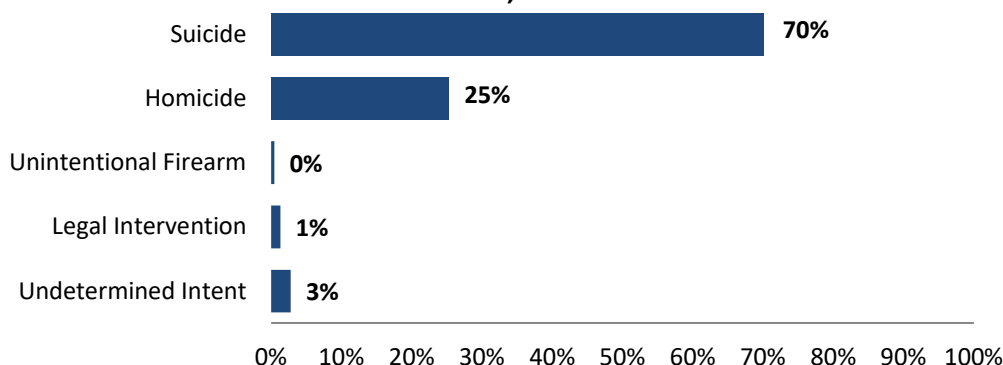
NC Violent Death Reporting System

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

¹ The occurrence 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: Wake County, NC: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023*



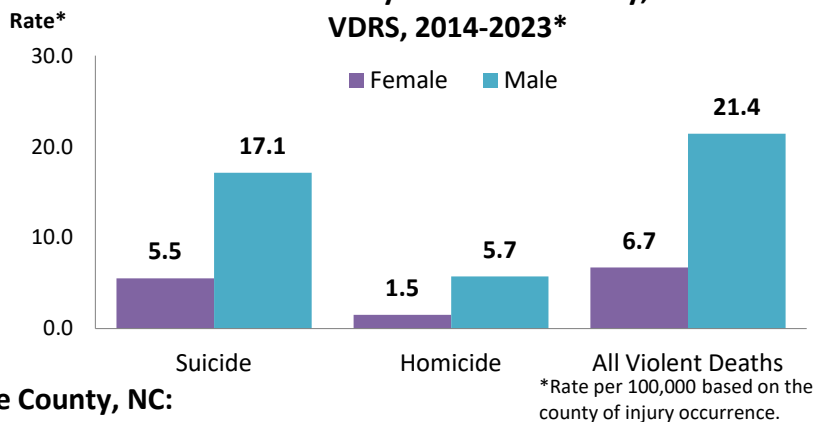
- For the years 2014-2023, there were 1521 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Wake County. Of these 1521 deaths, 1483 were NC residents (97.5%) and 1336 were Wake County residents (87.8%).

- There were 1067 suicides (70.2%), 385 homicides (25.3%), seven unintentional firearm deaths (0.4%), 20 deaths from legal intervention (1.3%), and 42 deaths of undetermined intent (2.8%).

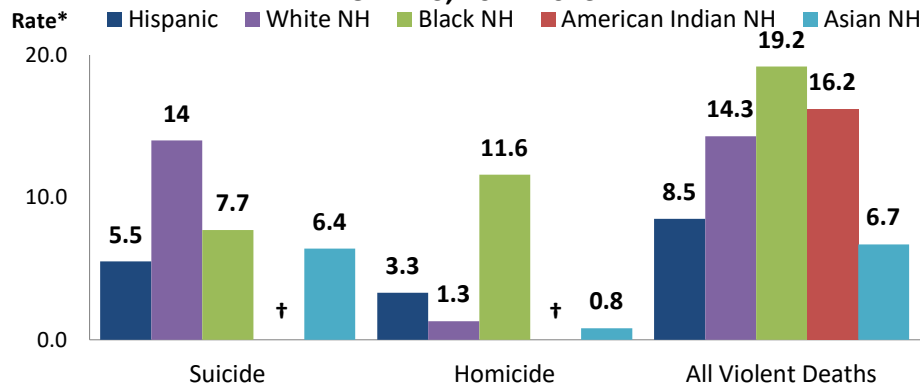
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Wake County, the suicide ratio was 3.1 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 3.8 times higher in males than in females.

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



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

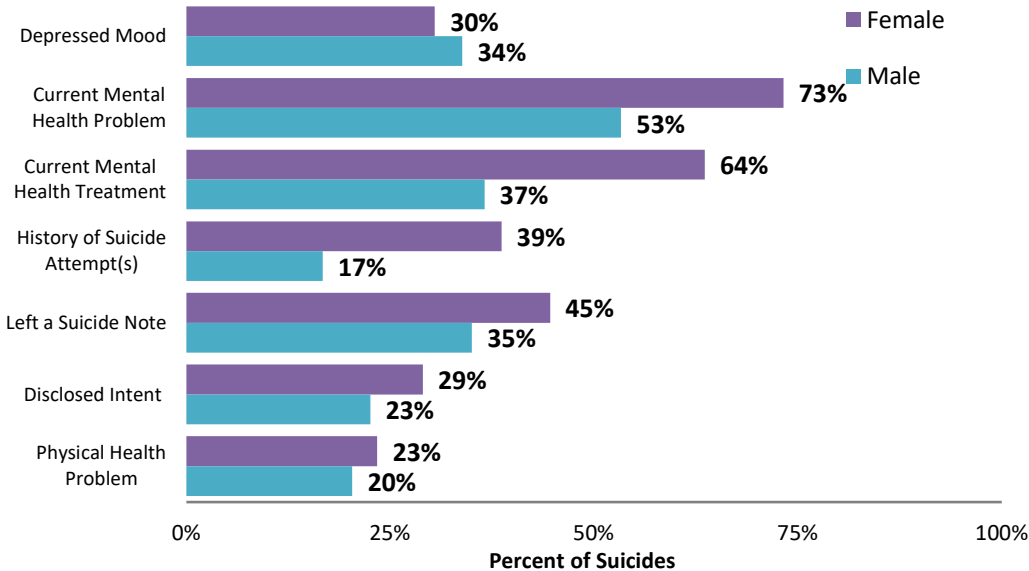


- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) White victims (14.0 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by NH Black victims (7.7 per 100,000).

- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (11.6 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (3.3 per 100,000).

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 20-24 with 9.9 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 85 and older with 17.4 suicides per 100,000.
- Nearly three quarters of homicides (74.0%) and almost half of suicides (45.5%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 18.2% of homicides and 20.9% 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 (81.7%) than for male (53.8%) victims.

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



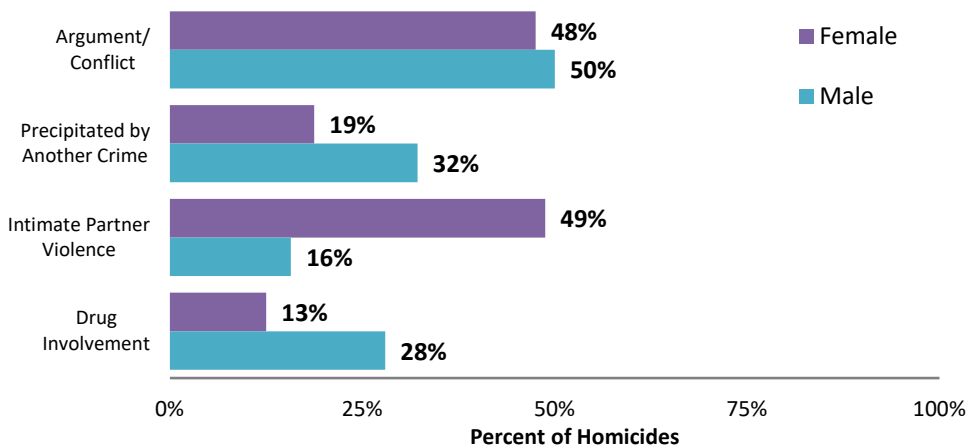
*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 97.5% of cases had circumstance information. Five females and 22 males were missing circumstance information.

- Thirty-four percent (33.9%) of male and 30.5% of female Wake County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.

- Seventy-three percent (73.2%) of female and 53.3% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (38.7%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (16.7%).

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



*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 95.1% of cases had circumstance information. Two females and 17 males were missing circumstance information.

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (50.0%) than for female homicides (47.5%).

- Nineteen percent (18.8%) of female homicides and 32.2% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 48.8% of female homicides, but only in 15.7% of male homicides.

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.