

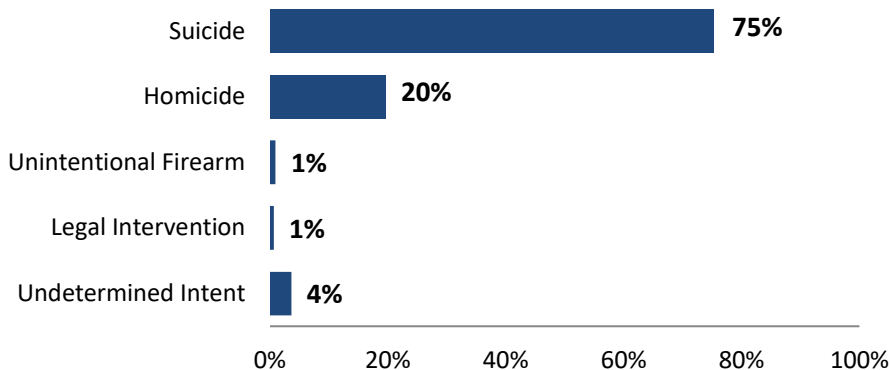
NC Violent Death Reporting System

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: BUNCOMBE COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2012-2021

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 triangulates 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://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

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: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***

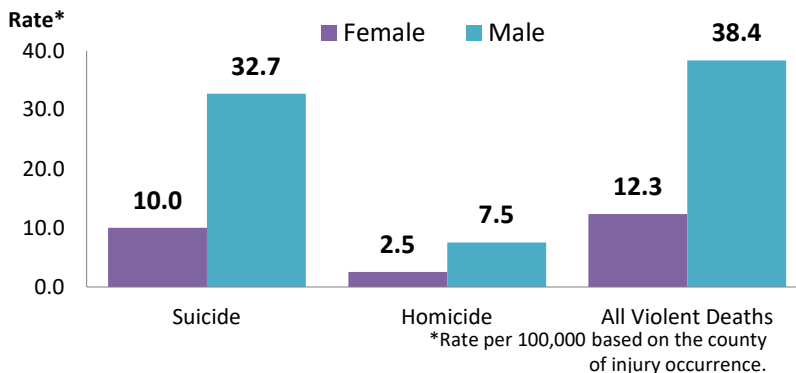


- For the years 2012-2021, there were 638 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Buncombe County. Of these 638 deaths, 615 were NC residents (96.4%) and 578 were Buncombe County residents (90.6%).

- There were 480 suicides (75.2%), 125 homicides (19.6%), six unintentional firearm deaths (0.9%), four deaths from legal intervention (0.6%), and 23 deaths of undetermined intent (3.6%).

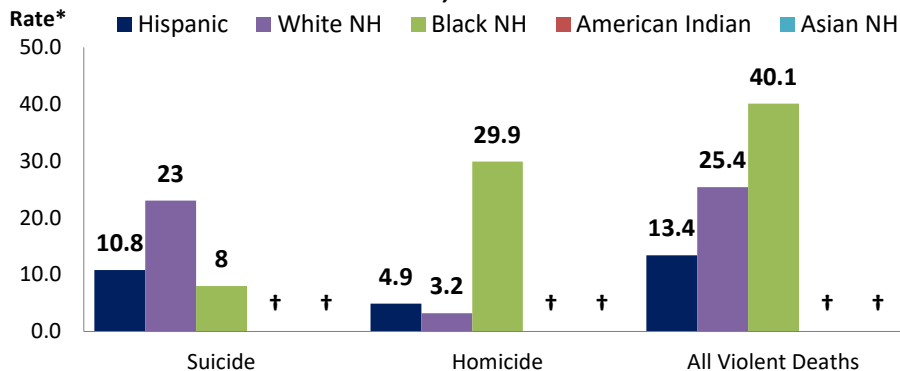
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

**Manner of Death by Sex: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***



- In Buncombe County, the suicide ratio was 3.3 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 3.0 times higher in males than in females.

**Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity: Buncombe County, NC:
NC-VDRS, 2012-2021***



- The suicide rate was highest for non-Hispanic (NH) white victims (23.0 suicides per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (10.8 per 100,000).

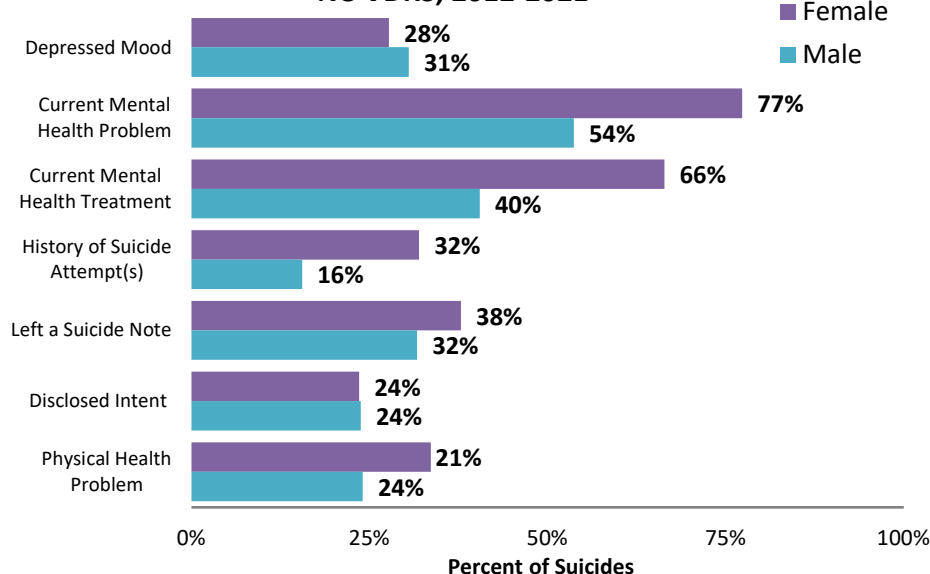
- In contrast, the homicide rate was highest among NH Black victims (29.9 per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic victims (4.9 per 100,000).

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

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicide rates peaked among those aged 20-24 with 10.2 homicides per 100,000, while suicide rates peaked among those aged 45-54 with 31.9 suicides per 100,000.
- More than half of homicides (65.6%) and almost half of suicides (48.1%) involved firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 24.0% of homicides and in 22.1% 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 (72.7%) than for male (60.9%) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2012-2021*



- Thirty-one percent (30.5%) of male and 27.7% of female Buncombe County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they died by suicide.

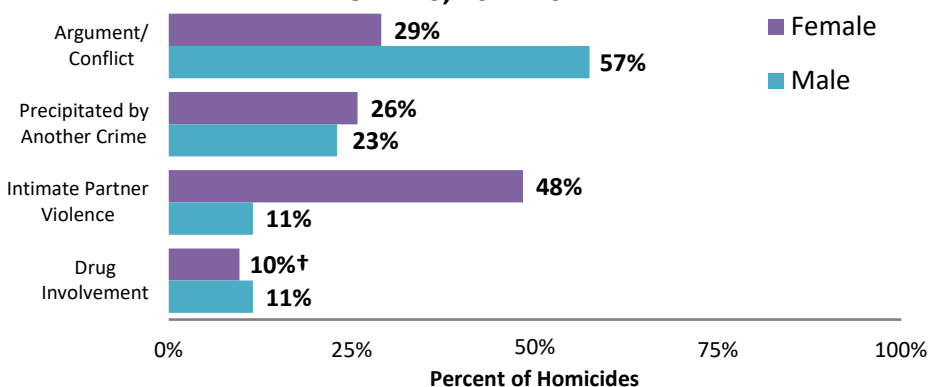
- Seventy-seven percent (77.3%) of female and 53.7% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (31.9%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (15.5%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 95.8% of cases had circumstance information. Two females and 18 males were missing circumstance information.

Circumstances of Homicides: Buncombe County, NC:

NC-VDRS, 2012-2021*



- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (57.5%) than for female homicides (29.0%).

- Twenty-six percent (25.8%) of female homicides and 23.0% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 48.4% of female homicides, but only 11.5% of male homicides.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence, 94.4% of cases had circumstance information. Two females 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 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



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



Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425 NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

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2021 FINAL DATA 8/14/2023

Please see the NC-VDRS 2021 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.