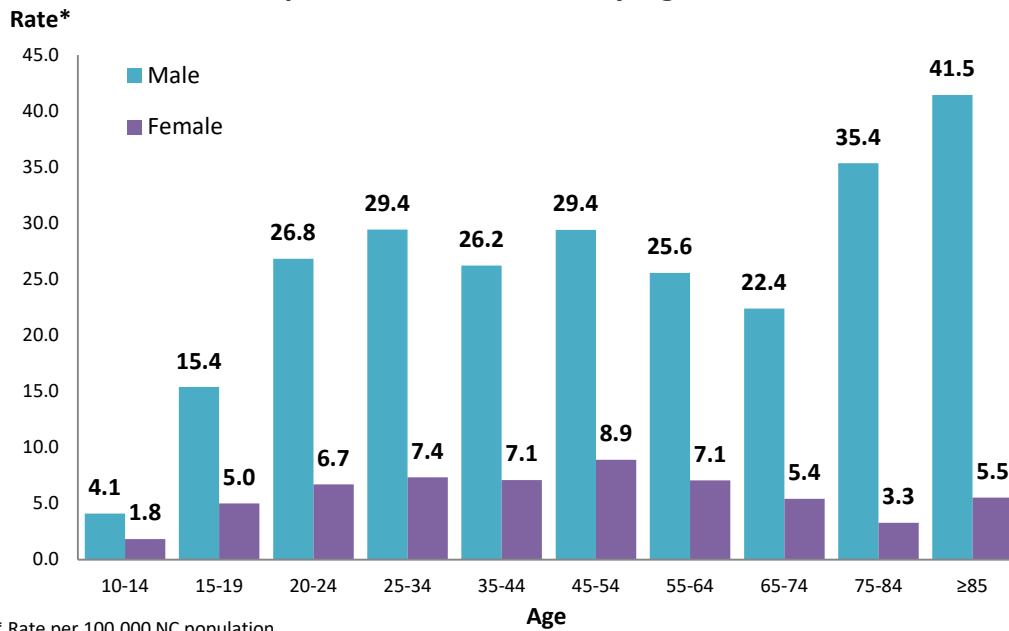


NC Violent Death Reporting System

SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2020

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. For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

Sex-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: NC-VDRS, 2020



- Of the 2,423 violent deaths in North Carolina in 2020, 1,436 were suicides (59.3%).

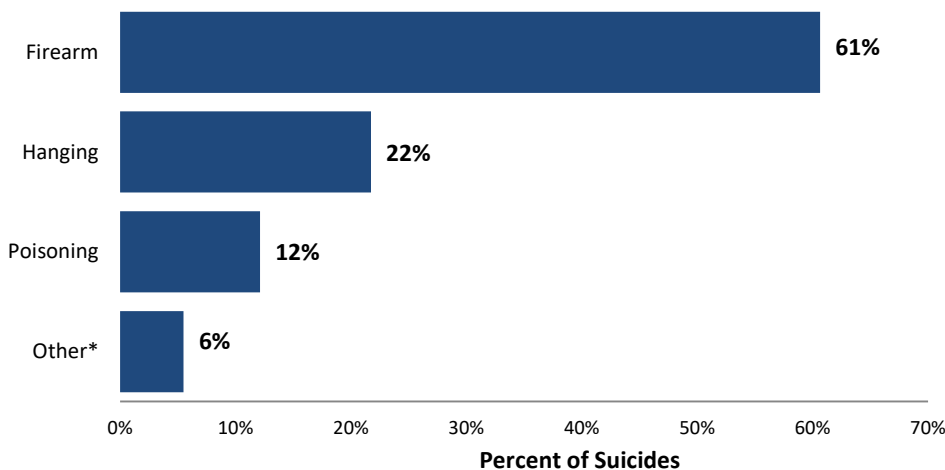
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men ages 85 years and older at a rate of 41.5 per 100,000.

- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45-54 at 8.9 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

* Rate per 100,000 NC population

- Eighty-three percent (82.9%) 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 (28.3 per 100,000).

Method of Death*: NC-VDRS, 2020



*Other includes falls, motor vehicle, sharp instrument, drawing, fire/burns, unknown and other

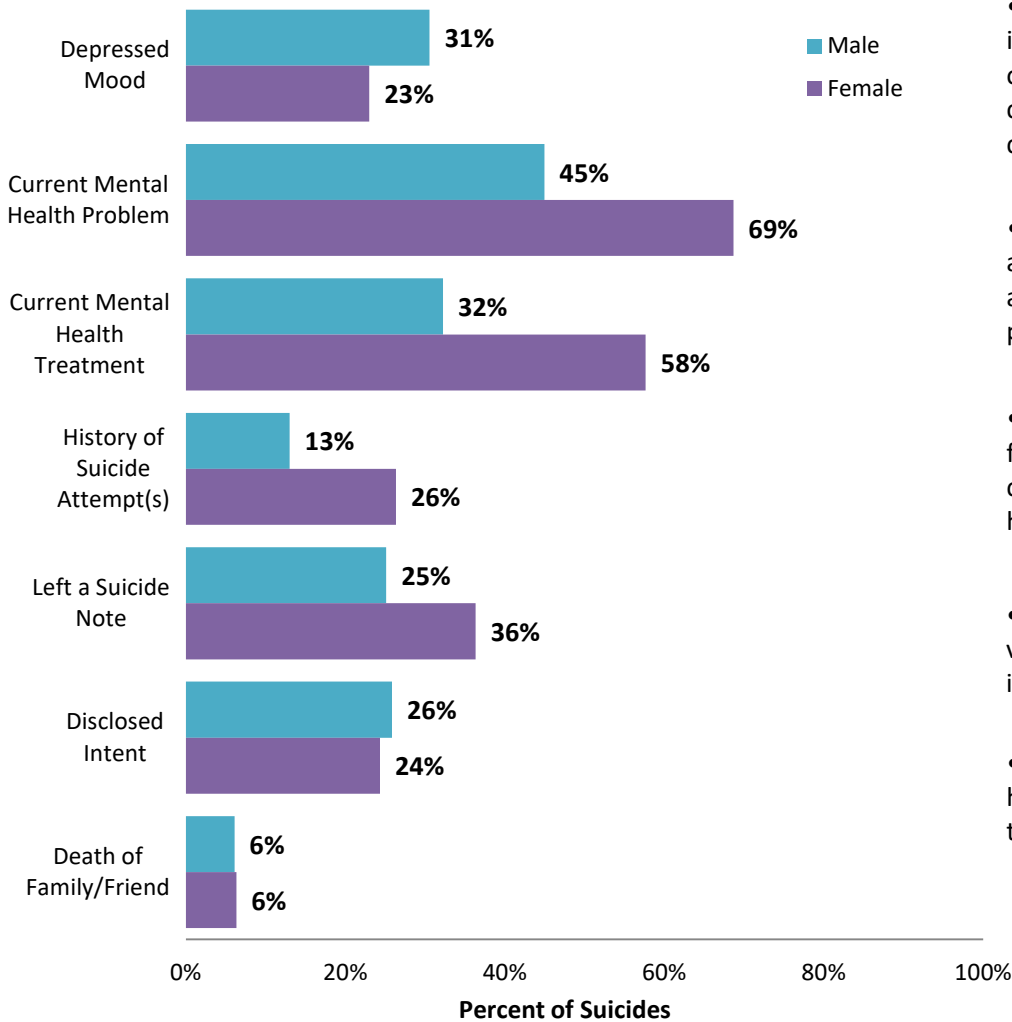
- After firearms (60.7%), hanging (21.7%) and poisoning (12.1%) were the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.

- Almost six percent (5.5%) of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

If you or someone you know needs support now,

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

Suicide Circumstances*: NC-VDRS, 2020



- Of suicide victims with circumstance information, 30.6% of males and 23.0% of females were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- Sixty-nine percent (68.7%) of females and 45.0% of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Fifty-eight percent (57.7%) of females and 32.2% of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

- Approximately 25.5% of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.

- Females (26.3%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (13.0%).

*Among those with reported circumstance information. 96.3% of cases had circumstance information. Forty-four males and nine females were missing circumstance information.

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas>

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

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

NC Division of Child and Family Wellbeing

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

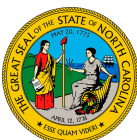
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.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.

2020 FINAL DATA 6/20/2022

Please see the NC-VDRS 2020 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:
<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 Division of Public Health

