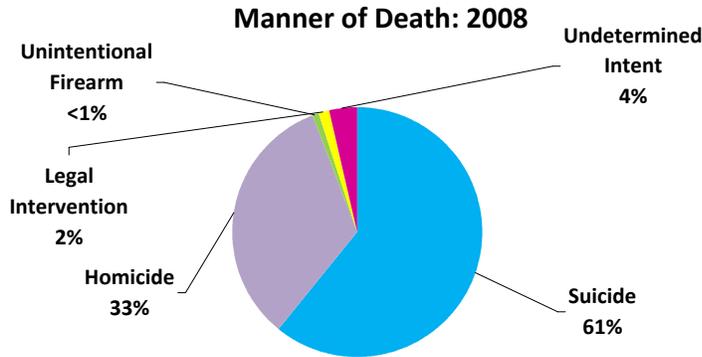


VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA

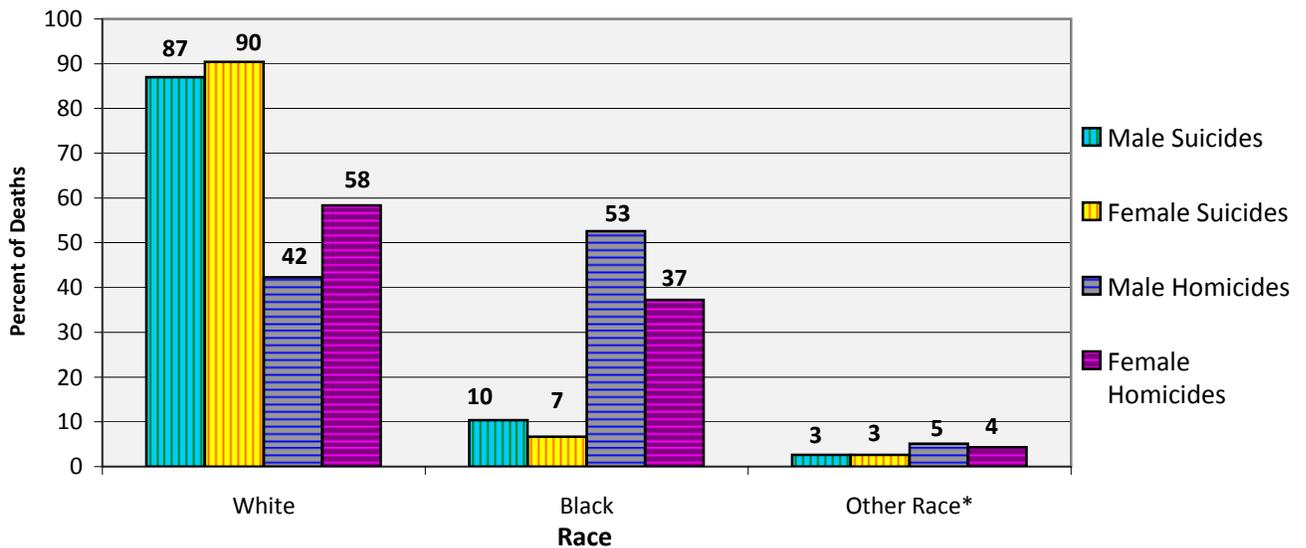
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes all deaths from violence among N.C. residents for 2008.



- In 2008, 1,884 N.C. residents died by violence.
- There were 1,148 suicides (61%), 627 homicides (33%), 14 unintentional firearm deaths (<1%), 28 deaths from legal interventions (2%), and 67 deaths of undetermined intent (4%) in 2008.

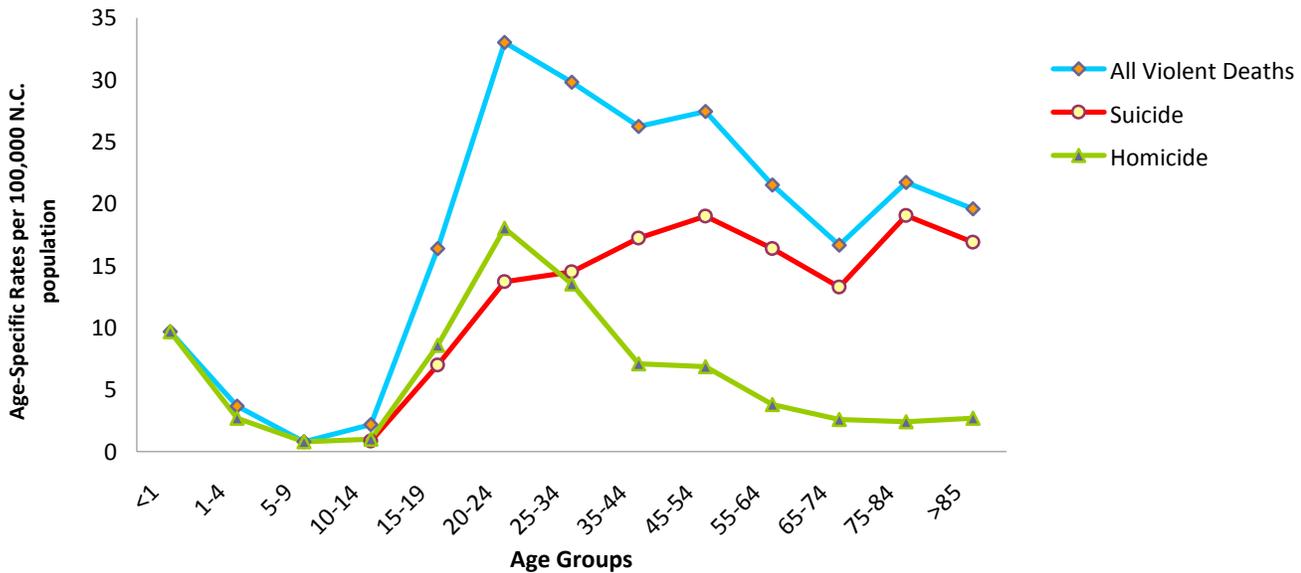
- The pattern by sex was the same for both suicides and homicides; approximately three-fourths of victims were male and one-fourth of victims were female.
- Patterns of suicides and homicides differed by race. Most suicide victims were white (88%), while 9 percent were black.
- In contrast, approximately 49 percent of homicide victims were black, and 46 percent were white.

Violent Deaths by Gender and Race: 2008



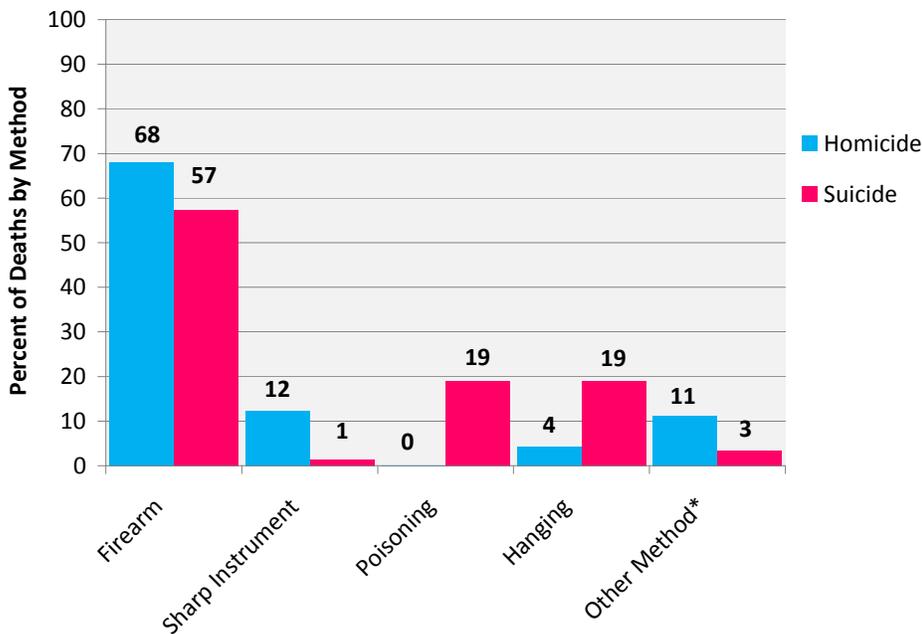
*Other includes American Indians, Asians, and other races.

Violent Death Rates by Age Group: 2008



- Suicides and homicides displayed different age patterns.
- Homicide rates peaked in the 20 - 34 year age group, with a smaller peak in infancy.
- Suicides rates rose steadily between 10 - 44 years of age and then varied with age.

Method of Death: 2008



- The majority of homicides (68 %) and suicides (57 %) were committed using firearms.
- The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (12 %).
- The second most common method of suicide was poisoning and hanging (19 %).

*Other includes fire/burns, unarmed assault, blunt trauma, falls, and other methods of death.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE423098-08 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



N.C. Division of Public Health / www.ncpublichealth.com / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425 / www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov
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