

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death
Reporting System
Wake County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths 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 findings from Wake County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

This report was supported in part by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE423098-07 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SECTION I: OVERALL

Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	272	73.1	17.7	15.6 - 19.8
	Female	100	26.9	6.4	5.1 - 7.7
Race					
	American Indian	2	0.5	*	*
	Asian	8	2.2	5.7	1.8 - 9.6
	Black	100	26.9	15.5	12.5 - 18.5
	White	262	70.4	11.4	10.0- 12.8
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	23	6.2	9.7	5.7 - 13.7
	Non-Hispanic	349	93.8	12.2	10.9 - 13.5
Age Group					
	< 1	5	1.3	10.0	1.2 - 18.8
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	3	0.8	*	*
	15 - 19	17	4.6	8.1	4.2 - 12.0
	20 - 24	40	10.8	17.8	12.3 - 23.3
	25 - 34	71	19.1	15.0	11.5 - 18.5
	35 - 44	83	22.3	15.7	12.3 - 19.1
	45 - 54	73	19.6	16.1	12.4 - 19.8
	55 - 64	50	13.4	17.1	12.4 - 21.8
	65 - 74	17	4.6	12.7	6.6 - 18.8
	75 - 84	11	3.0	14.5	5.9 - 23.1
	85 +	2	0.5	*	*
Total Deaths		372	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

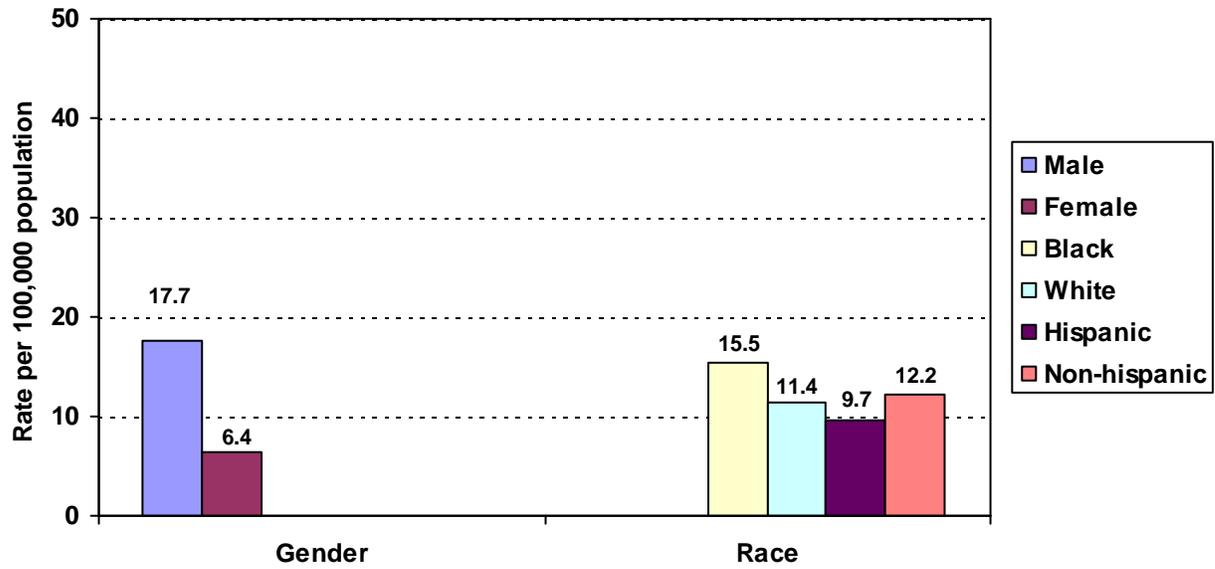
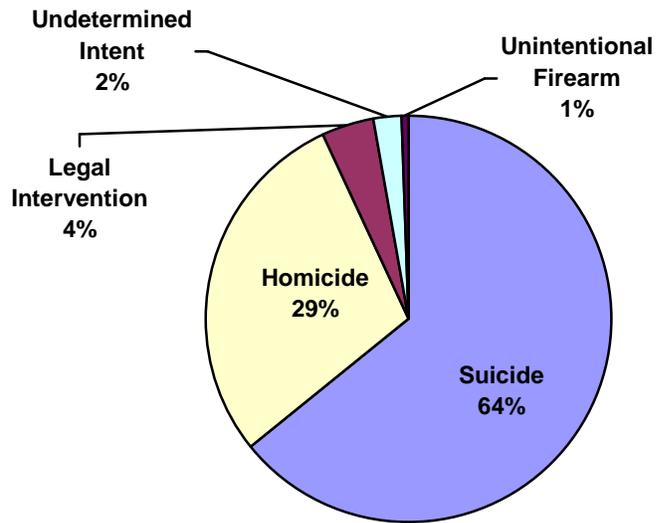


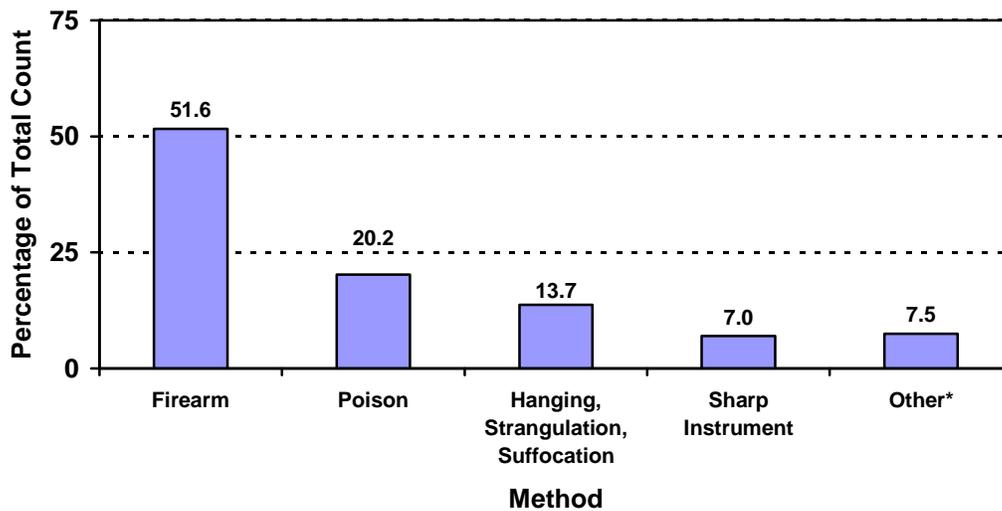
Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	239	64.2
	Homicide	107	28.8
	Legal Intervention	16	4.3
	Undetermined Intent	8	2.2
	Unintentional Firearm	2	0.5
Method			
	Firearm	192	51.6
	Poisoning	75	20.2
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	51	13.7
	Sharp Instrument	26	7.0
	Unarmed Assault	8	2.2
	Blunt Instrument	6	1.6
	Fall	3	0.8
	Motor Vehicle	3	0.8
	Drowning	2	0.5
	Fire or Burns	2	0.5
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.3
	Unknown	3	0.8
Total Deaths		372	100

**Manner of Violent Death,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



**Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Race	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
American Indian	2	0.7	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	0.5
Asian	5	1.8	7.1	0.9 - 13.3	3	3.0	*	*	8	2.2
Black	78	28.7	25.7	20.0 - 31.4	22	22.0	6.4	3.7 - 9.1	100	26.9
White	187	68.8	16.2	13.9 - 18.5	75	75.0	6.6	5.1 - 8.1	262	70.4
Total Deaths	282	100			100	100			372	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

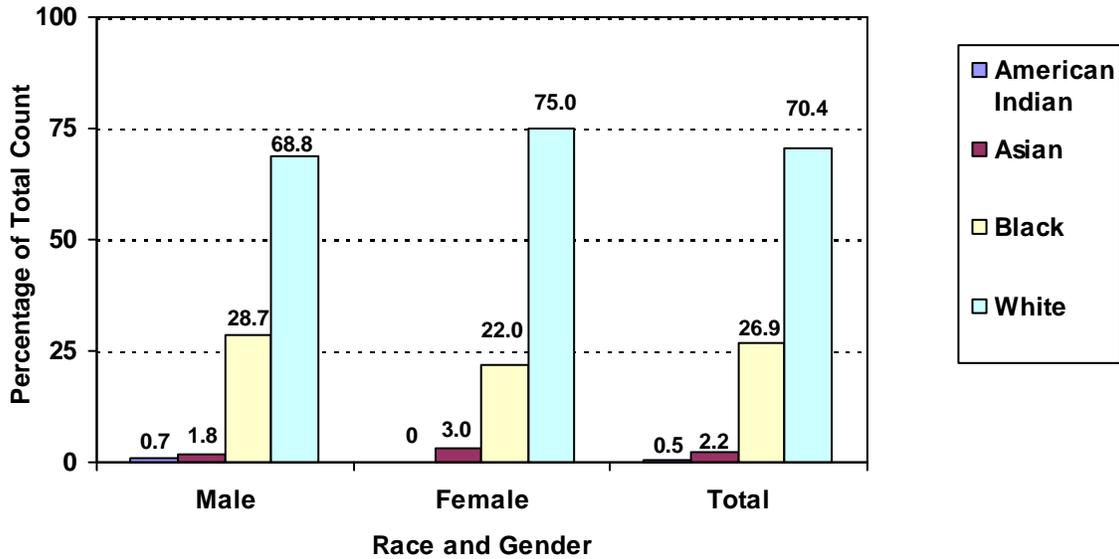
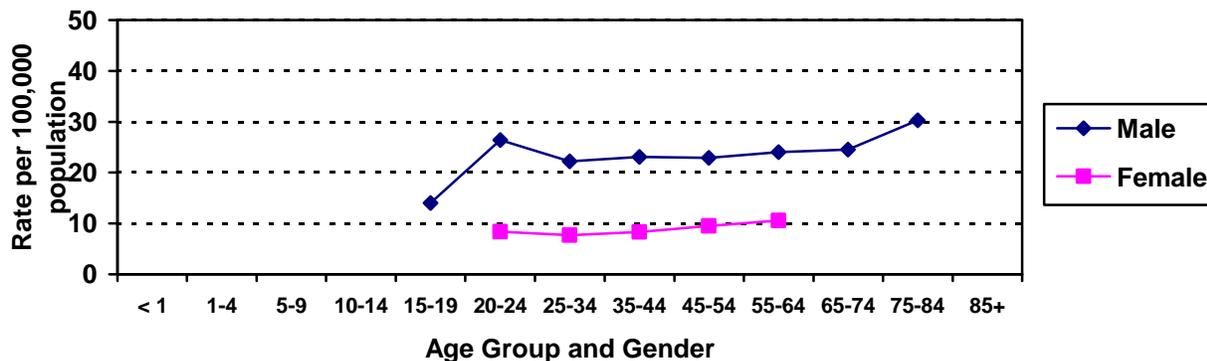


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Age Group	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
< 1	2	0.7	*	*	3	3.0	*	*	5	1.3
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
5 - 9	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	1	0.4	*	*	2	2.0	*	*	3	0.8
15 - 19	15	5.5	14.0	6.9 - 21.1	2	2.0	*	*	17	4.6
20 - 24	31	11.4	26.4	17.1 - 35.7	9	9.0	8.4	2.9 - 13.9	40	10.8
25 - 34	53	19.5	22.2	16.2 - 28.2	18	18.0	7.7	4.2 - 11.2	71	19.1
35 - 44	61	22.4	23.1	17.3 - 28.9	22	22.0	8.3	4.8 - 11.8	83	22.3
45 - 54	51	18.8	22.9	16.6 - 29.2	22	22.0	9.5	5.5 - 13.5	73	19.6
55 - 64	34	12.5	24.0	15.9 - 32.1	16	16.0	10.6	5.4 - 15.8	50	13.4
65 - 74	15	5.5	24.5	12.1 - 36.9	2	2.0	*	*	17	4.6
75 - 84	9	3.3	30.3	10.5 - 50.1	2	2.0	*	*	11	3.0
85 +	0	0	*	*	2	2.0	*	*	2	0.5
Total Deaths	272	100			100	100			372	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims, Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	172	72.0	13.2	11.2 - 15.2
	Female	67	28.0	5.0	3.8 - 6.2
Race					
	American Indian	1	0.4	*	*
	Asian	5	2.1	4.3	0.5 - 8.1
	Black	35	14.6	6.5	4.4 - 8.6
	White	198	82.8	10.1	8.7 - 11.5
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	7	2.9	4.0	1.1 - 6.9
	Non-Hispanic	232	97.1	9.4	8.2 - 10.6
Age Group					
	10 - 14	2	0.8	*	*
	15 - 19	7	2.9	3.3	0.8 - 5.8
	20 - 24	17	7.1	7.6	4.0 - 11.2
	25 - 34	40	16.7	8.4	5.8 - 11.0
	35 - 44	57	23.8	10.8	8.0 - 13.6
	45 - 54	53	22.2	11.7	8.6 - 14.8
	55 - 64	36	15.1	12.3	8.3 - 16.3
	65 - 74	14	5.9	10.5	5.0 - 16.0
	75 - 84	11	4.6	14.5	5.9 - 23.1
	85 +	2	0.8	*	*
Total Deaths		239	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

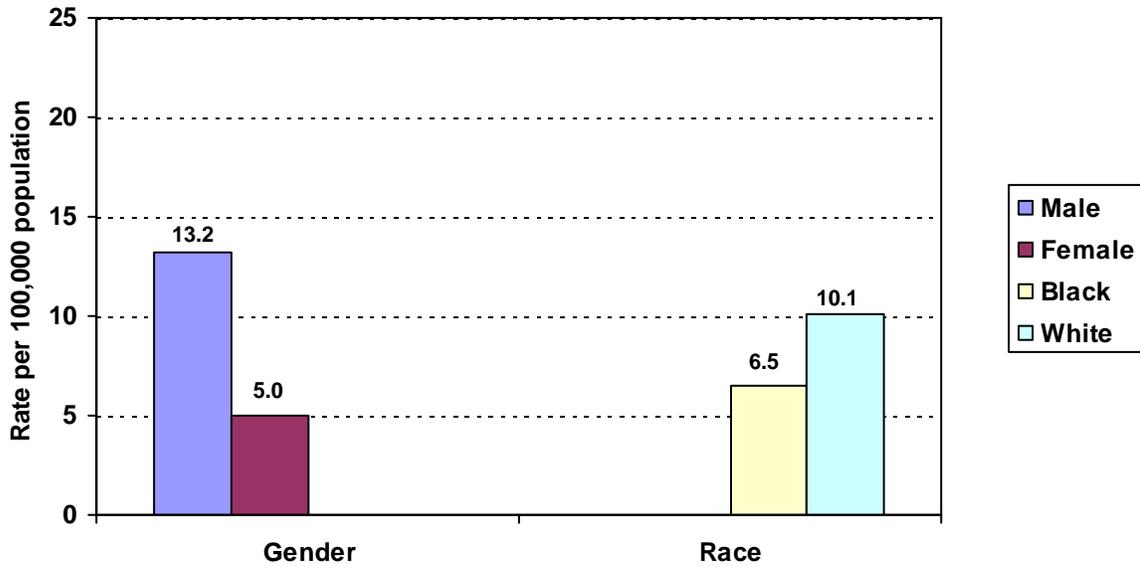
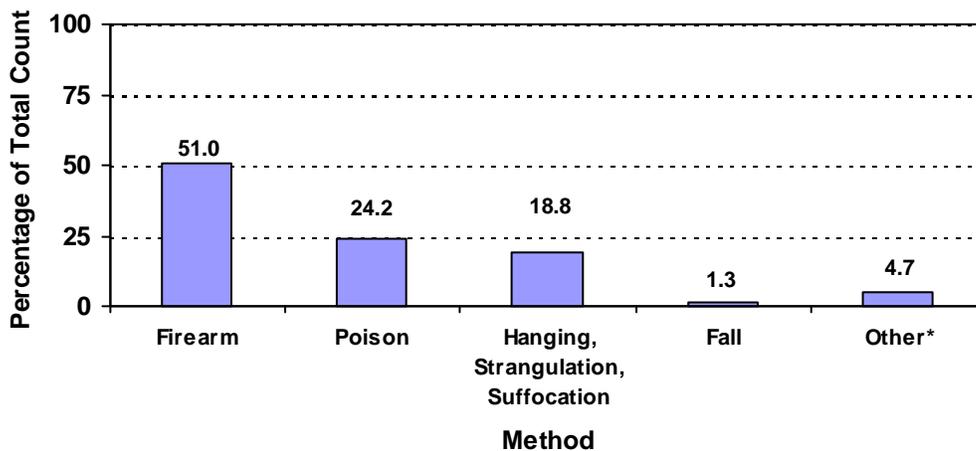


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	122	51.0
	Poisoning	58	24.2
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	45	18.8
	Fall	3	1.3
	Sharp Instrument	3	1.3
	Drowning	2	0.8
	Fire or Burns	2	0.8
	Motor Vehicle	1	0.4
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.4
	Unknown	2	0.8
Total Deaths		239	100

**Method of Death for Suicide Deaths,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, motor vehicle, sharp instruments, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Race	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
American Indian	1	0.6	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.4
Asian	2	1.2	*	*	3	4.5	*	*	5	2.1
Black	28	16.3	11.2	7.1 - 15.3	7	10.4	2.4	0.6 - 4.2	35	14.6
White	141	82.0	14.3	11.9 - 16.7	57	85.1	5.8	4.3 - 7.3	198	82.8

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

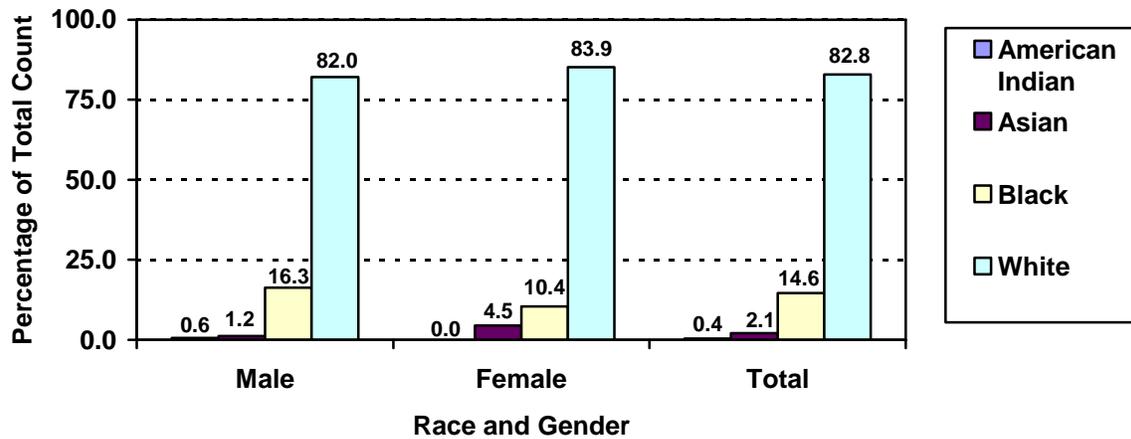
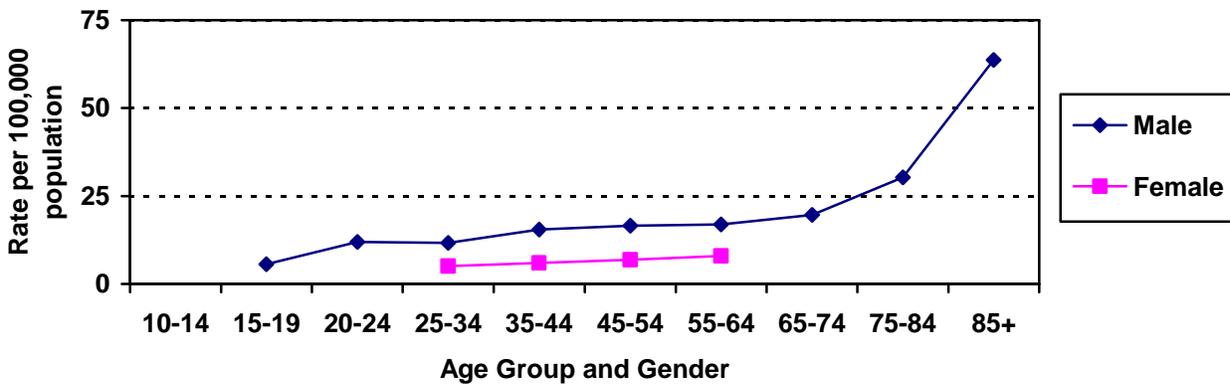


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Age Group	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
10 - 14	1	0.6	*	*	1	1.5	*	*	2	0.8
15 - 19	6	3.5	5.6	1.1 - 10.1	1	1.5	*	*	7	2.9
20 - 24	14	8.1	11.9	5.6 - 18.2	3	4.5	*	*	17	7.1
25 - 34	28	16.3	11.7	7.4 – 16.0	12	17.9	5.1	2.2 – 8.0	40	16.7
35 - 44	41	23.8	15.5	10.8 - 20.2	16	23.9	6.0	3.0 – 9.0	57	23.8
45 - 54	37	21.5	16.6	11.2 – 22.0	16	23.9	6.9	3.5 - 10.3	53	22.2
55 - 64	24	14.0	16.9	10.1 - 23.7	12	17.9	8.0	3.5 - 12.5	36	15.1
65 - 74	12	7.0	19.6	8.5 - 30.7	2	3.0	*	*	14	5.9
75 - 84	9	5.2	30.3	10.5 - 50.1	2	3.0	*	*	11	4.6
85 +	0	0	*	*	2	3.0	*	*	2	0.8
Total Deaths	172	100			67	100			239	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims, Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007



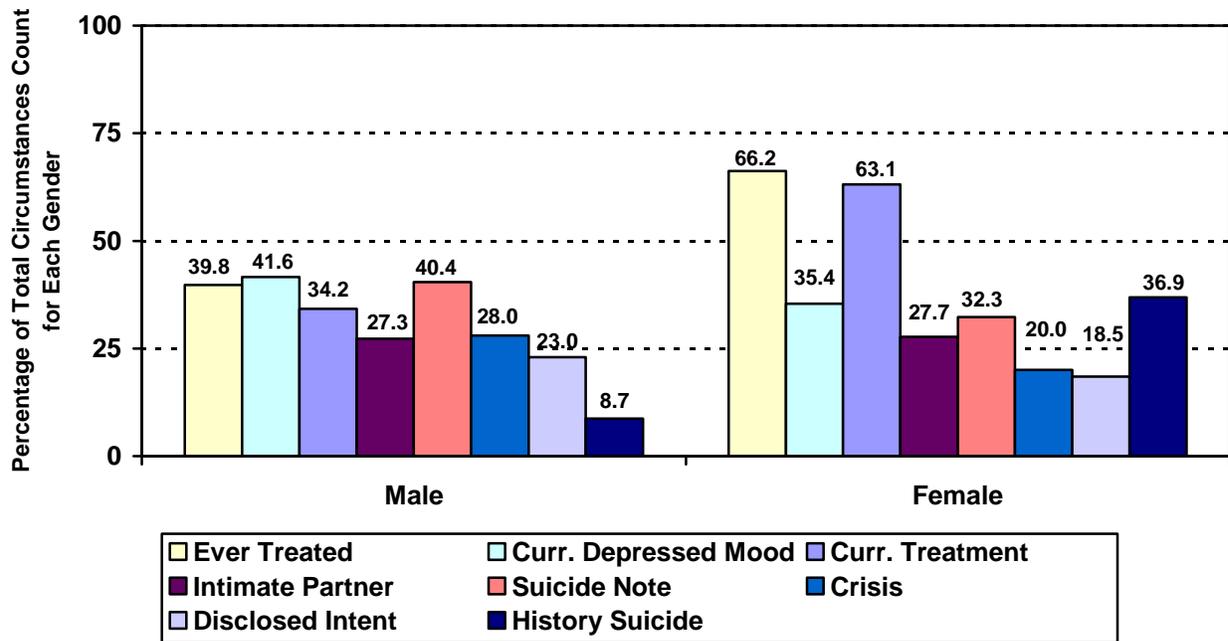
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	67	41.6	23	35.4	90	39.8
Current treatment for mental illness	55	34.2	41	63.1	96	42.5
Ever treated for mental illness	64	39.8	43	66.2	107	47.3
Alcohol problem	24	14.9	5	7.7	29	12.8
Other substance problem	21	13.0	5	7.7	26	11.5
Left a suicide note	65	40.4	21	32.3	86	38.1
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	37	23.0	12	18.5	49	21.7
History of suicide attempts	14	8.7	24	36.9	38	16.8
Crisis in past two weeks	45	28.0	13	20.0	58	25.7
Physical health problem	27	16.8	6	9.2	33	14.6
Intimate partner problem	44	27.3	18	27.7	62	27.4
Other relationship problem	13	8.1	3	4.6	16	7.1
Job problem	15	9.3	1	1.5	16	7.1
School problem	2	1.2	0	0	2	0.9
Financial problem	25	15.5	4	6.2	29	12.8
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	2	1.2	0	0	2	0.9
Other death of friend/ family	7	4.3	1	1.5	8	3.5
Recent criminal/ legal problem	15	9.3	2	3.1	17	7.5
Other legal problems	7	4.3	0	0	7	3.1
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	14	8.7	0	0	14	6.2
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	1	0.6	2	3.1	3	1.3

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	47	32	79
Bipolar Disorder	13	7	20
Unknown	5	3	8
Anxiety Disorder	5	2	7
Other	4	1	5
Schizophrenia	4	0	4
ADD or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	2	1	3
Eating Disorder	0	2	2
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	1	0	1
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder	1	0	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	75	70.1	4.9	3.8 – 6.0
	Female	32	29.9	2.1	1.4 - 2.8
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	3	2.8	*	*
	Black	57	53.3	8.8	6.5 - 11.1
	White	47	43.9	2.0	1.4 - 2.6
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	16	15.0	6.7	3.4 – 10.0
	Non-Hispanic	91	85.0	3.2	2.5 - 3.9
Age Group					
	< 1	5	4.7	10.0	1.2 - 18.8
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	1	0.9	*	*
	15 - 19	9	8.4	4.3	1.5 - 7.1
	20 - 24	20	18.7	8.9	5.0 - 12.8
	25 - 34	27	25.2	5.7	3.6 - 7.8
	35 - 44	19	17.8	3.6	2.0 - 5.2
	45 - 54	17	15.9	3.7	1.9 - 5.5
	55 - 64	7	6.5	2.4	0.6 - 4.2
	65 - 74	2	1.9	*	*
	75 - 84	0	0	*	*
	85 +	0	0	*	*
Total Deaths		107	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Homicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

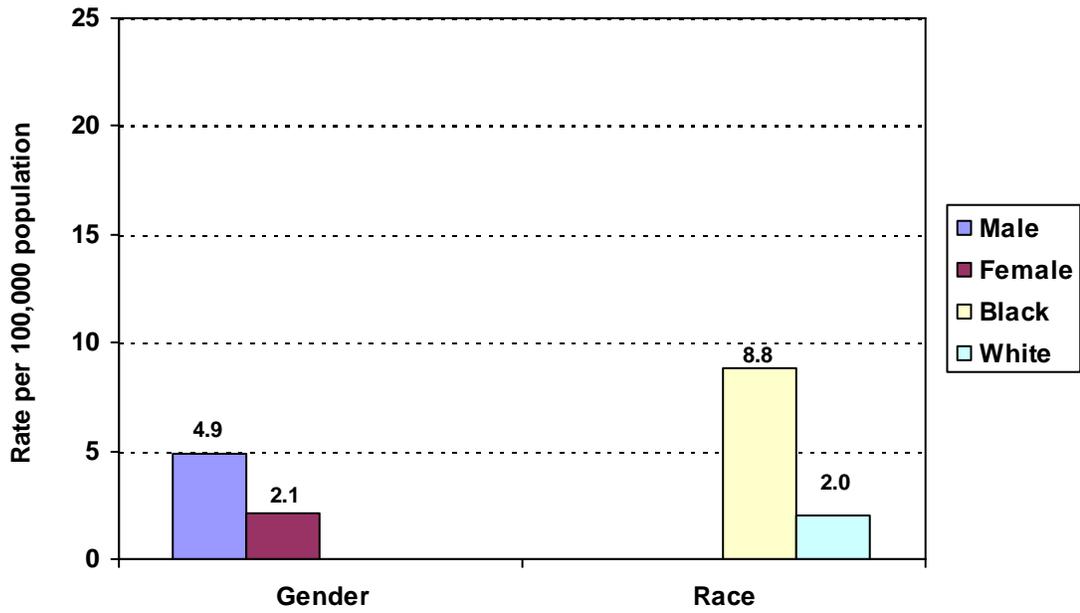
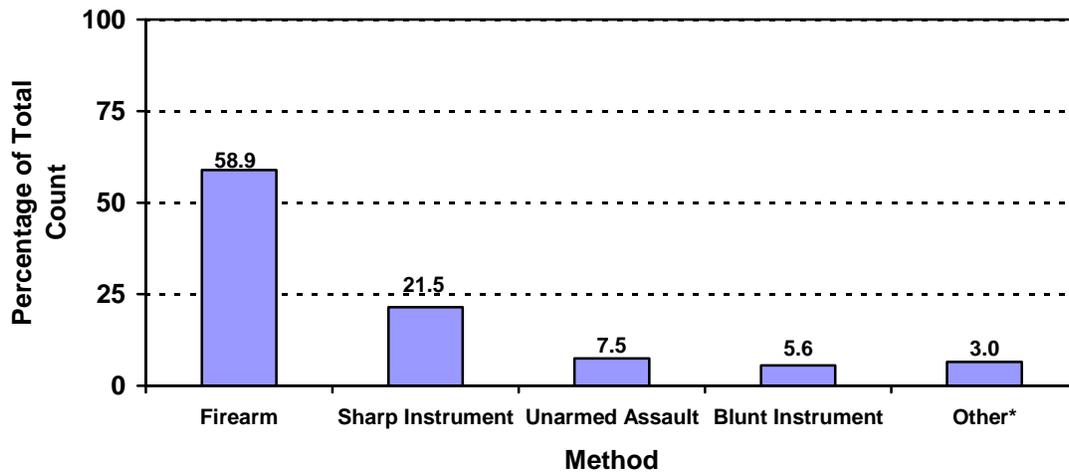


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Method	Number	%
Firearm	63	58.9
Sharp Instrument	23	21.5
Unarmed Assault	8	7.5
Blunt Instrument	6	5.6
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	6	5.6
Motor Vehicle	1	0.9
Total Deaths	107	100

Method of Death for Homicide Deaths, Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007



* Other methods include: hanging/ strangulation/ suffocation, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Race	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Asian	3	4.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	2.8
Black	42	56.0	13.9	9.7 - 18.1	15	46.9	4.4	2.2 - 6.6	57	53.3
White	30	40.0	2.6	1.7 - 3.5	17	53.1	1.5	0.8 - 2.2	47	43.9

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

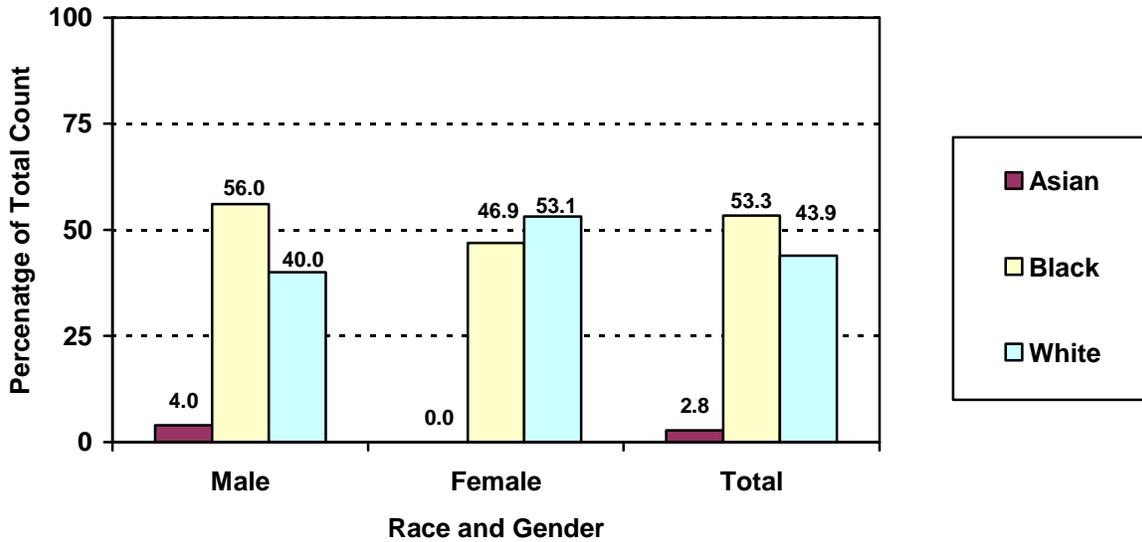
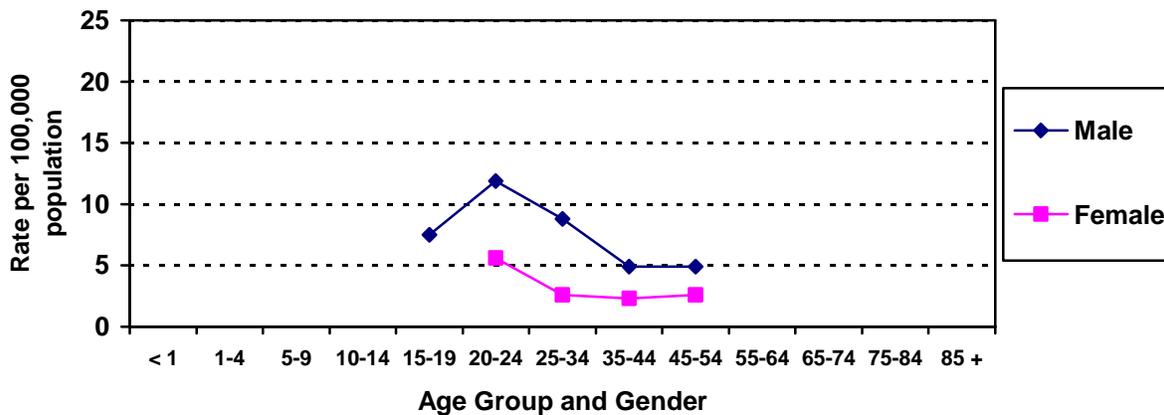


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Age Group	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
< 1	2	2.7	*	*	3	9.4	*	*	5	4.7
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
5 - 9	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	0	0	*	*	1	3.1	*	*	1	0.9
15 - 19	8	10.7	7.5	2.3 - 12.7	1	3.1	*	*	9	8.4
20 - 24	14	18.7	11.9	5.6 - 18.2	6	18.8	5.6	1.1 - 10.1	20	18.7
25 - 34	21	28.0	8.8	5.0 - 12.6	6	18.8	2.6	0.6 - 4.6	27	25.2
35 - 44	13	17.3	4.9	2.2 - 7.6	6	18.8	2.3	0.5 - 4.1	19	17.8
45 - 54	11	14.7	4.9	2.0 - 7.8	6	18.8	2.6	0.5 - 4.7	17	15.9
55 - 64	4	5.3	*	*	3	9.4	*	*	7	6.5
65 - 74	2	2.7	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.9
85 +	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
Total Deaths	75	100			32	100			107	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims, Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	37	39.4
	Precipitated by another serious crime	28	29.8
	Intimate partner violence related	25	26.6
	Drug Involvement	13	13.8
	Gang related	12	12.8
	Argument over money or property	6	6.4
	Jealousy (lovers triangle)	5	5.3
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	11	11.7
	Victim was a police officer on duty	1	1.1
	Intervener assisting a crime victim	1	1.1

*The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	13	4	17
Burglary	4	1	5
Drug Trade	3	1	4
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	2	4
Other	1	1	2
Rape, Sexual Assault	0	1	1
Assault, Homicide	0	1	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Wake County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	122	51.0	63	58.9	2	100.0	3	18.8	2	25.0	192	51.6
Poisoning	58	24.3	0	0	0	0	13	81.3	4	50.0	75	20.2
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	45	18.8	6	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	13.7
Sharp Instrument	3	1.3	23	21.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	7.0
Unarmed Assault	0	0	8	7.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.2
Blunt Instrument	0	0	6	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.6
Fall	3	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.8
Motor Vehicle	1	0.4	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	1	12.5	3	0.8
Unknown	2	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12.5	3	0.8
Drowning	2	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
Fire or Burns	2	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Total Deaths	237	100	107	100	2	100	16	100	8	100	372	100

**Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Wake County, NC; 2004 – 2007
For Firearm Deaths Only**

Firearm Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	82	67.2	46	73.0	1	50.0	3	100.0	2	100.0	134	69.8
Rifle	11	9.0	2	3.2	1	50.0	0	0	0	0	14	7.3
Shotgun	29	23.8	7	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	18.8
Unknown Firearm Type	0	0	8	12.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.2
Total Deaths	122	100	63	100	2	100	3	100	2	100	192	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.ncpublichealth.com • www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov

The Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. 3/10