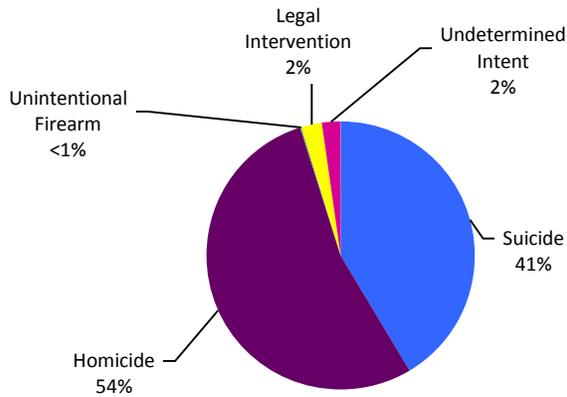


# VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: DURHAM COUNTY INCIDENTS: 2004-2013

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina 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. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of *occurrence* rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrence ratio is reported. 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 this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Durham County for the years 2004-2013.

## Manner of Death: Durham County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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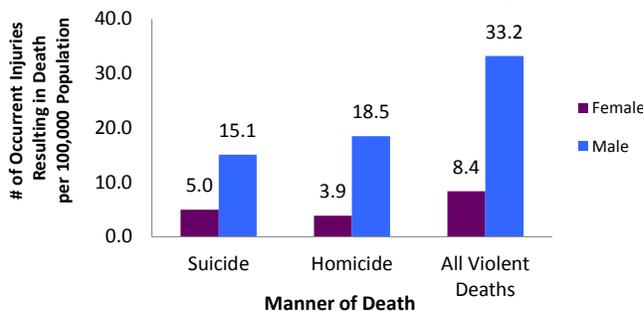
\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- For the years 2004-2013, there were 536 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Durham County. Of these 536 deaths, 529 were N.C. residents (98.7%) and 481 were Durham County residents (89.7%).
- There were 222 suicides (41.4%), 288 homicides (53.7%), one unintentional firearm death (0.2%), 13 deaths from legal interventions (2.4%) and 12 deaths of undetermined intent (2.2%).

- In Durham County, the suicide ratio was 3.0 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 4.7 times higher in males than in females.
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be white than black. Whites had 12.8 suicides per 100,000 population versus 6.1 suicides per 100,000 population in blacks. All other racial groups combined had seven suicides.
- In contrast, blacks had 20.6 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to whites who had 5.0 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had four homicides.

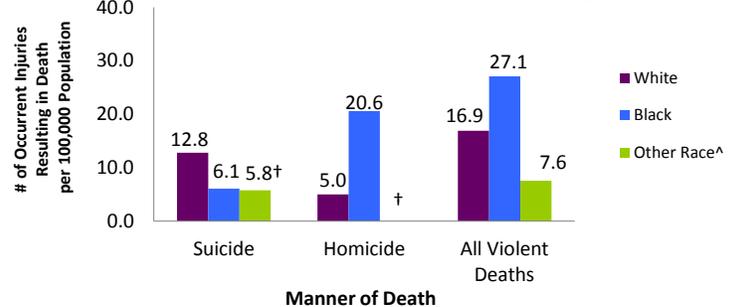
## Manner of Death by Sex: Durham County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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## Manner of Death by Race: Durham County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\*

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\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

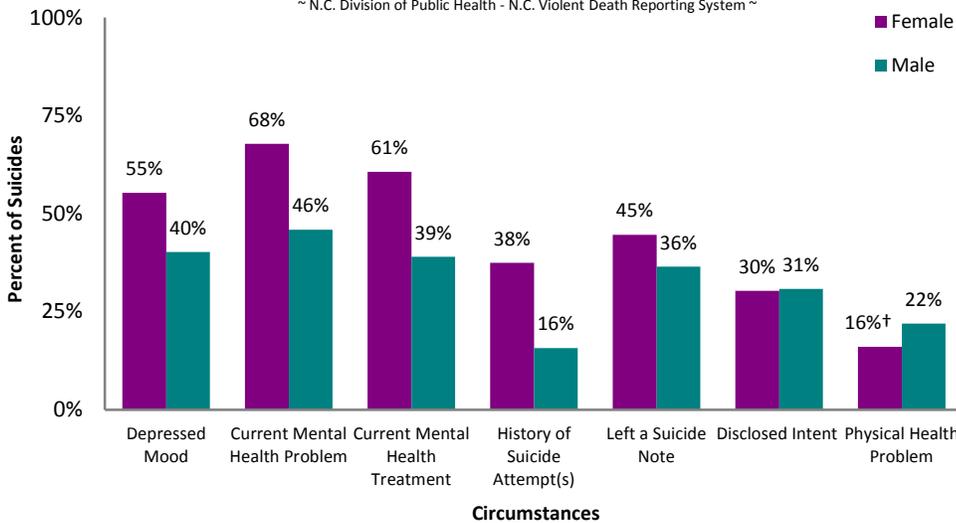
†Rates based on less than 10 deaths are considered unstable and should not be used. Rates based on less than 5 deaths are too small to support the calculation of a rate.

<sup>^</sup>Other race refers to American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 30.7 homicides per 100,000.
- Most homicides (77.4%) and nearly half of suicides (41.4%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 20.8 percent of homicides and 24.8 percent 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 (86.3%) than male (59.5%) victims.

**Circumstances of Suicides: Durham County, N.C.:**  
**NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\***

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- Forty percent of male and 55.4 percent of female Durham County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- Sixty-eight percent of female and 45.9 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (37.5%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (15.7%).

- Arguments or conflicts were slightly more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (43.5%) than for female homicides (40.4%).

- Twenty-six percent of female homicides and 41.6 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

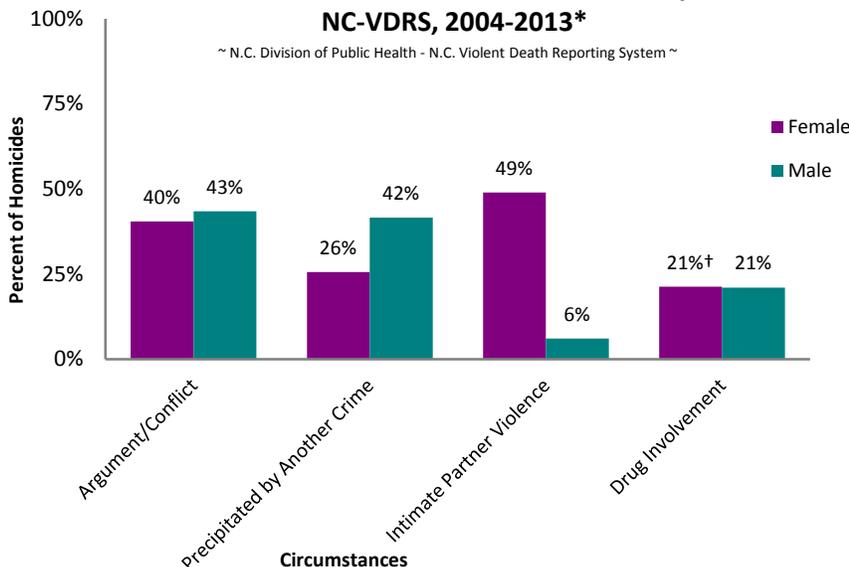
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 48.9 percent of female homicides, but only 6.1 percent of male homicides.

\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 96.8% of cases had circumstance information. Three females and four males were missing circumstance information.

†There were less than or equal to 10 deaths

**Circumstances of Homicides: Durham County, N.C.:**  
**NC-VDRS, 2004-2013\***

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\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 90.6% of cases had circumstance information. Twenty-one males and six females were missing circumstance information.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE002613-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov  
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Please see the NC-VDRS 2013 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.