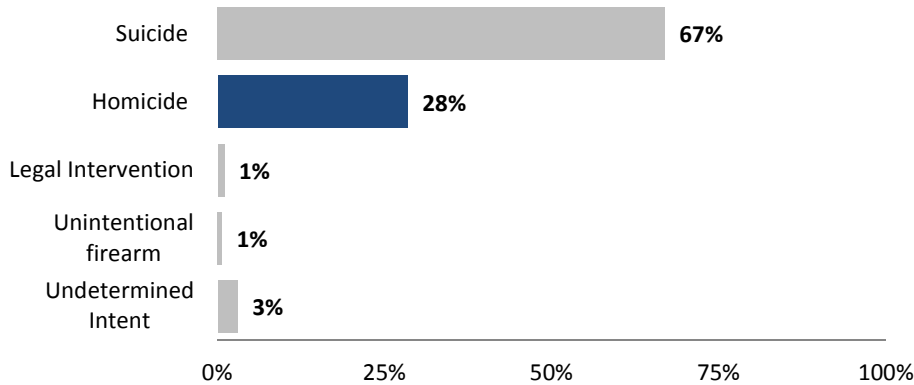


HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2015

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 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. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes homicides among North Carolina residents for the year 2015.

Manner of Death: NC-VDRS, 2015

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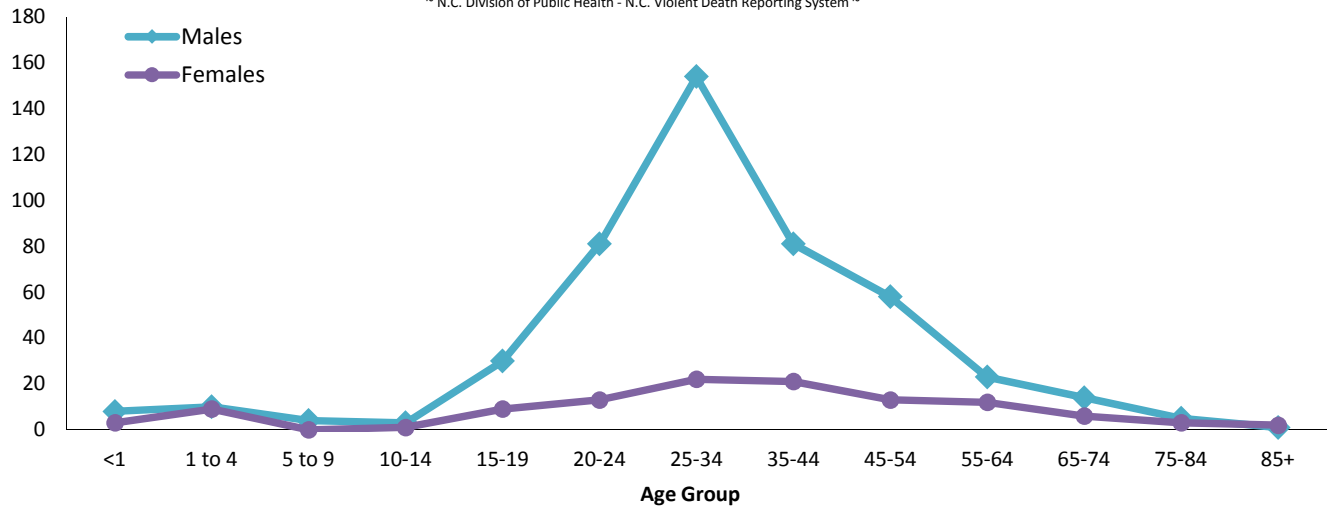


- Of the 2,062 violent deaths in North Carolina, 586 were homicides (28.4%).

- There were 1,379 suicides (66.9%), 21 deaths from legal intervention (1.0%), 14 unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%) and 62 deaths of undetermined intent (3.0%).

Homicides Stratified by Age Group and Sex: NC-VDRS, 2015

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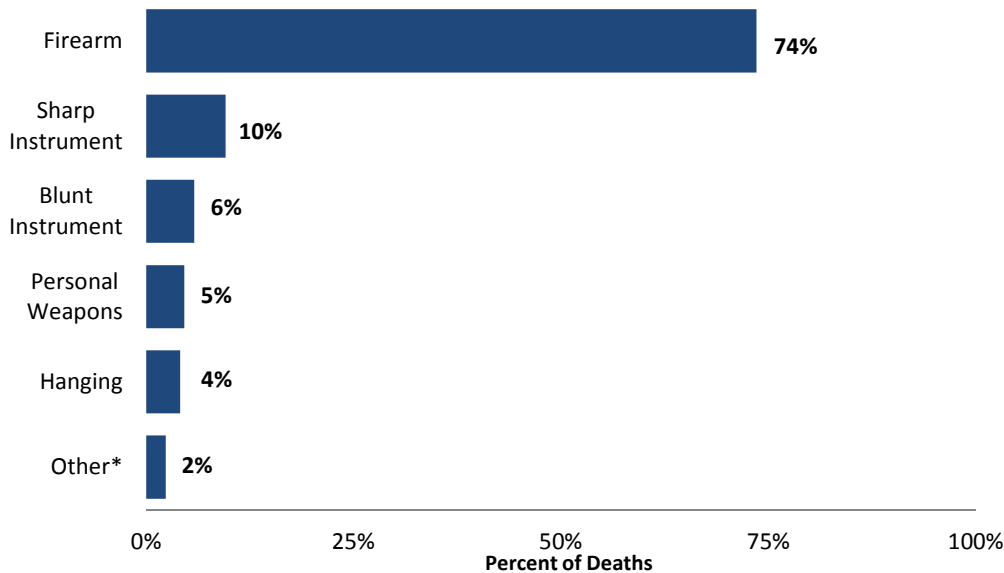


- For nearly every age group, there were more homicides for males than females. Homicides among males and females both peaked among those aged 25-34, with a rate of 23.9 per 100,000 and 3.3 per 100,000 respectively. The rate of homicides was approximately 4.4 times greater for males than females overall, and the rate for 15-24 year-olds was 4.7 times greater for males than females.

- Homicide patterns differed by race. Although non-Hispanic (NH) whites composed nearly two thirds (64.7%) of the total population, they accounted for 33.6 percent of homicides (n=197 deaths), while NH black homicide victims accounted for 59.7 percent or 350 deaths. In 2015, the rate of homicides for NH blacks was 15.8 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 3.0 per 100,000 for NH whites. NH American Indians also had a high rate of homicide, 16.6 per 100,000 (n=20 deaths).

Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2015

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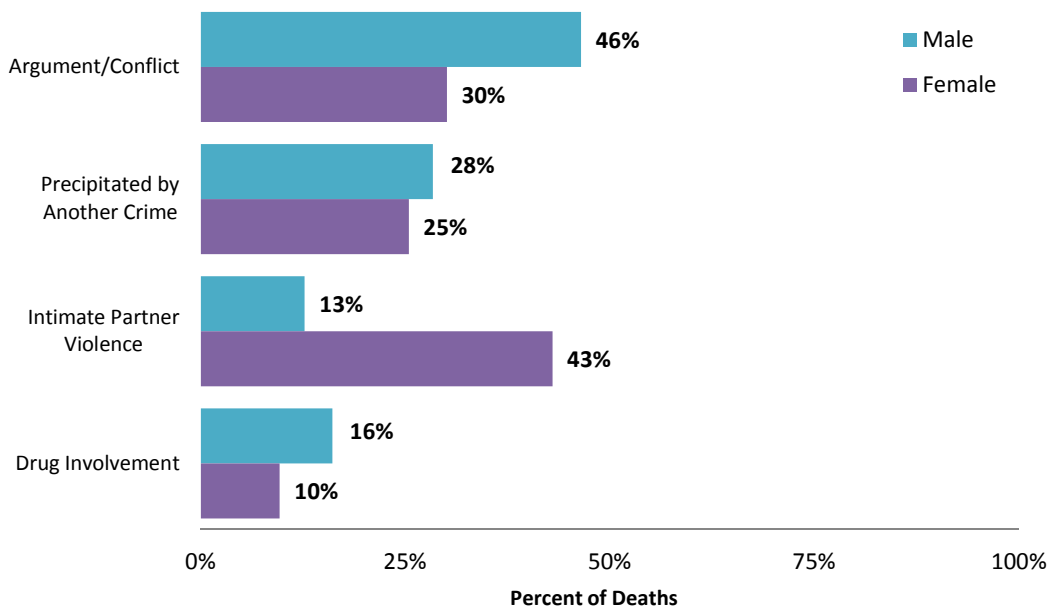
- Firearms were used in 73.6 percent of homicides, while sharp instruments were used in 9.6 percent of all homicides.

- The remaining methods used in homicides were each used six percent of the time or less.

*Other includes motor vehicle, violent shaking, drowning, fire/burns, intentional neglect, unknown method, and other causes of death.

Circumstances of Homicide: NC-VDRS, 2015

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- Argument, abuse, or conflict unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV) was noted as a contributing factor in 43.0 percent of homicides with reported circumstances.

- Twenty-eight percent of homicides were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

*Among those with reported circumstance information, 93.2% of cases had circumstance

- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 18.6 percent of homicides overall, 12.7 percent of male homicides, and 43.0 percent of female homicides.

- Drug involvement was identified as a contributing factor in 14.9 percent of all homicides, 16.1 percent of male homicides, and 9.7 percent of female homicides.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE002613-04 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
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Please see the NC-VDRS 2014 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.