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 all deaths from violence among non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian residents for the years 2008-2017.

VIOLENT DEATHS AMONG AMERICAN INDIANS IN NORTH CAROLINA: 2008-2017

• From 2008-2017, 345 NH American Indians in North Carolina died by violence.

• There were 184 homicides (53.3%), 141 suicides (40.9%), five unintentional firearm deaths (1.4%), three deaths from legal interventions (<1%), and 12 deaths of undetermined intent (3.5%).

• For the year 2017, there were 122,735 NH American Indians living in North Carolina, accounting for 1.2% of the state's population.

• NH American Indians had the highest rate of violent death by race in North Carolina for the years 2008-2017 (29.4 per 100,000 population).

• NH American Indians accounted for 3.2% of all homicides and 1.1% of all suicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2008 to 2017.

• In contrast, 54.8% of all homicide victims were NH black and 86.5% of all suicide victims were NH white from 2008 to 2017.
• Of all homicides among NH American Indians with known circumstance information, more than half (57.4%) involved an argument or conflict.

• Another serious crime (e.g., robbery, burglary) precipitated 35.5% of homicides among NH American Indians.

• Of these homicides, 12.9% were suspected to have been related to drug dealing, trade, or use.

• The majority of homicides (70.1%) and suicides (51.8%) among NH American Indians were committed using firearms.

• The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (13.0%).

• The second most common method of suicide was hanging (23.4%).

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

**Suicide Circumstances* Among NH American Indians, 2008-2017

- **Depressed mood**: 27%
- **Current mental health treatment**: 36%
- **Disclosed suicide intent**: 31%
- **Intimate partner problem**: 29%
- **Recent Crisis**: 42%
- **Other substance problem**: 17%
- **Left a suicide note**: 19%
- **Alcohol problem**: 18%
- **Physical health problem**: 14%

* 88.7% of suicide cases had circumstance information.

**Homicide Circumstances* Among NH American Indians, 2008-2017

- **Argument/conflict**: 57%
- **Precipitated by another crime**: 35%
- **Intimate partner violence**: 15%
- **Drug involvement**: 13%

* 84.2% of homicide cases had circumstance information.