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. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of occurrence rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the ocurrent 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 Cabarrus County for the years 2008-2017.

- In Cabarrus County, the suicide ratio was 3.6 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.5 times higher in males than in females.

- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be Non-Hispanic white than NH black. NH whites had 18.9 suicides per 100,000 population versus 5.5 suicides per 100,000 population in NH blacks. All other racial groups combined had 11 suicides.

- In contrast, NH blacks had 11.1 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 3.1 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 12 homicides.

- For the years 2008-2017, there were 341 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Cabarrus County. Of these 341 deaths, 326 were N.C. residents (95.6%) and 306 were Cabarrus County residents (89.7%).

- There were 244 suicides (71.6%), 87 homicides (25.5%), one unintentional firearm death (0.3%), two deaths from legal intervention (0.6%) and seven deaths of undetermined intent (2.1%).

VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA:
CABARRUS COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2008-2017

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• Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 14.3 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 85 and older with 30.3 suicides per 100,000.

• Most homicides (72.4%) and more than half of suicides (56.6%) were committed using firearms.

• Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 23.0% of homicides and 22.1% 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 (81.5%) than male (55.7%) victims.

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30.1% of male and 27.3% of female Cabarrus County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

76.4% of female and 46.0% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

Females (29.1%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (17.1%).

Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (50.9%) than for female homicides (20.0%).

20.0% of female homicides and 30.2% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 56.0% of female homicides, but only 9.4% of male homicides.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 94.7% of cases had circumstance information. Thirteen males and zero females were missing circumstance information.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 89.7% of cases had circumstance information. Thirteen males and zero females were missing circumstance information.

*Use caution-There were less than 5 deaths.