North Carolina Injury & Violence Prevention Branch

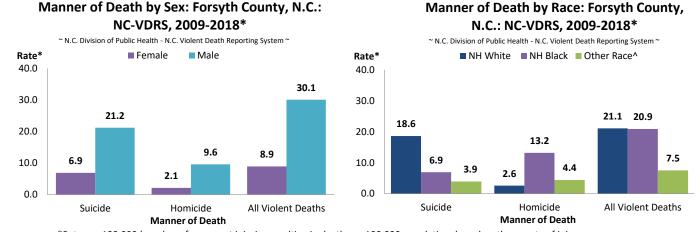
VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: FORSYTH COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2009-2018

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 occurrent 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 Forsyth County for the years 2009-2018.

Manner of Death: Forsyth County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018* $^{\sim}$ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System $^{\sim}$ 62% Suicide 30% Homicide **Unintentional Firearm** Legal Intervention **Undetermined Intent** 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

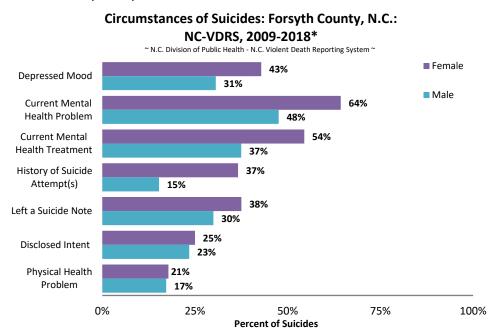
- For the years 2009-2018, there were 693 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Forsyth County. Of these 693 deaths, 683 were N.C. residents (98.6%) and 638 were Forsyth County residents (92.1%).
- There were 432 suicides (62.3%), 206 homicides (29.7%), three unintentional firearm deaths (0.4%), five deaths from legal intervention (0.7%), and 47 deaths of undetermined intent (6.8%).
- In Forsyth County, the suicide ratio was 3.1 times higher in males than in females, and the homicide ratio was 4.6 times higher in males than females.
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be non-Hispanic (NH) white than non-Hispanic Black. NH whites had 18.6 suicides per 100,000 population versus 6.9 suicides per 100,000 population in NH Blacks. All other racial groups combined had 16 suicides.
- In contrast, NH Blacks had 13.2 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 2.6 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 24 homicides.



*Rate per 100,000 (number of occurrent injuries resulting in death per 100,000 population; based on the county of injury occurrence.

^Other race refers to Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those aged 20-24 with 12.4 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those aged 55-64 with 23.3 suicides per 100,000.
- Nearly three quarters of homicides (72.8%) and more than half of suicides (50.5%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 30.6% of homicides and 21.3% 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 (85.7%) than for male (63.8%) victims.



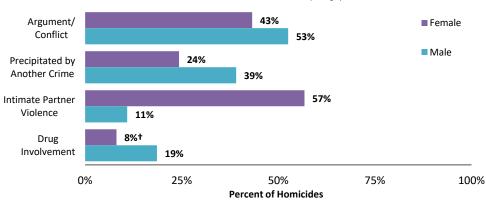
^{*}Based on the county of injury occurrence, 97.0% of cases had circumstance information. Four females and nine males were missing circumstance information.

• Thirty-one percent (30.6%) of male and 42.9% of female Forsyth County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- Sixty-four percent (64.3%) of female and 47.6% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Females (36.6%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (15.3%).

Circumstances of Homicides: Forsyth County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2009-2018*

 $^{\sim}$ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System $^{\sim}$



^{*}Based on the county of injury occurrence, 93.7% of cases had circumstance information. Three females and 10 males were missing circumstance information.

† There were fewer than 5 deaths

- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (52.6%) than for female homicides (43.2%).
- Twenty-four percent (24.3%) of female homicides and 39.1% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 56.8% of female homicides, but only 10.9% of male homicides.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).





N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432 State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 2018 FINAL DATA 8/24

Please see the NC-VDRS 2018 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.

N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425